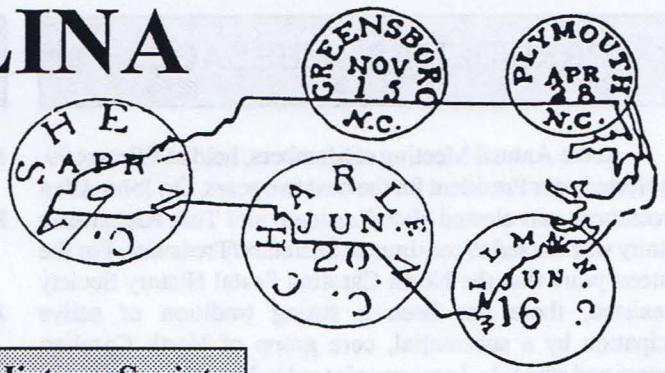
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 18, No. 1 Summer 1999 Whole 68

North Carolina Postal History Exhibit Opens . . .

Affiliate #155 of the American Philatelic Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the Annual Meeting of Members, held at Winpex 99, I was elected your President for the next two years. Dr. John Allen of Greensboro was elected Vice-President and Tom Richardson of Trinity was elected to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. For the seventeen years that the North Carolina Postal History Society has existed, there has been a strong tradition of active participation by a substantial, core group of North Carolina collectors and students. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to join that group and help guide the society as we approach our twentieth anniversary.

The three new Society officers were also elected to the Board of Directors at the same meeting. Since the terms of all our previous directors had lapsed without replacement, I asked three previous directors to stay on for one additional year until we could find replacements. They agreed and the Board approved the action. The six current directors and the years their terms expire are shown in another part of this journal. If you are interested in serving as a director, please contact me and I will give your name to the Chairman of the Nonimating Committee. This committee will prepare a ballot later in the year to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Members next spring. The Board has also selected Winpex 2000 as the site of our next Annual Meeting of Members. The time and date will be announced later.

In this issue of the journal, you will read about the active participation of NCPHS members in the North Carolina Postal History Commission and in the creation of the new North Carolina Postal History exhibit. Through the continuing efforts of our members, who are serving on the commission and working in the State Archives, the society has received a great deal of visibility within the state, especially in Raleigh, as well as outside

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REMINDER
TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES

THE 1999 DUES FOR THE NCPHS ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. PLEASE SEND YOUR $15 TO THE SOCIETY TREASURER.

If there is a red check-mark on your address label, your dues are late!

North Carolina Postal Historian

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 Treasurer. Submissions for the News-letter or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENS

Shortly after noon on July 20th, more than a hundred people gathered in the lobby exhibit area of the North Carolina Museum of History for the ceremonies opening the North Carolina Postal History Exhibit. Betty Ray McCain, Secretary of Cultural Resources, cut the ribbon and opened the exhibit which will run until October 31, 1999. She was assisted in the ceremonies by Richard F. Winter, Vice-chairman of the North Carolina Postal History Commission and USPS District Manager Ronald M. Campbell.

The exhibit, which has been eighteen months in preparation, is the result of cooperative effort by the North Carolina Postal History Commission, the North Carolina Museum of History, and the North Carolina State Archives. The exhibit was funded by a grant from the State Legislature. A majority of the commission were drawn from the membership of the North Carolina Postal History Society. They are Representative Michael P. Decker, Chairman, Richard F. Winter, Vice-Chairman, Dr. John W. Allen, Brian Green, Tony L. Crumbley, Pierre Oldham, Tom Richardson, Vernon S. Stroupe, Harvey G. Tilles, and Ruth Y. Wetmore.

The commission's work was divided into two groups: a sub-committee for the preparation of the exhibit, and a collections sub-committee for the sorting and preparation of a postal history collection within the N.C. Archives. Vernon Stroupe was appointed chairman of the exhibit sub-committee and Richard Winter, chairman of the collection sub-committee.

The exhibit sub-committee was required to utilize covers for the exhibit from the N.C. Archives, primarily from covers accumulated by the archives over many years. Where this source was deficient, covers from primary archival sources were used, supplemented by covers loaned by private individuals. The resulting exhibit shows the mails, rates, and transportation from Colonial North Carolina to the present. The material is presented in twelve free standing panels. When the exhibit is removed from the Museum of History on October 31, it will be available for travel to other museums, libraries, schools, post offices and events.

The collections sub-committee has formed a Postal History Collection within the North Carolina Archives. It has set up a computer data base in which thousands of covers have been described by post office, county, date, and supplementary markings. The data base will eventually be made available on the internet through the North Carolina Archives web page. The work of the collections sub-committee is on-going and members who can volunteer their time in this work are urged to contact Dick Winter.

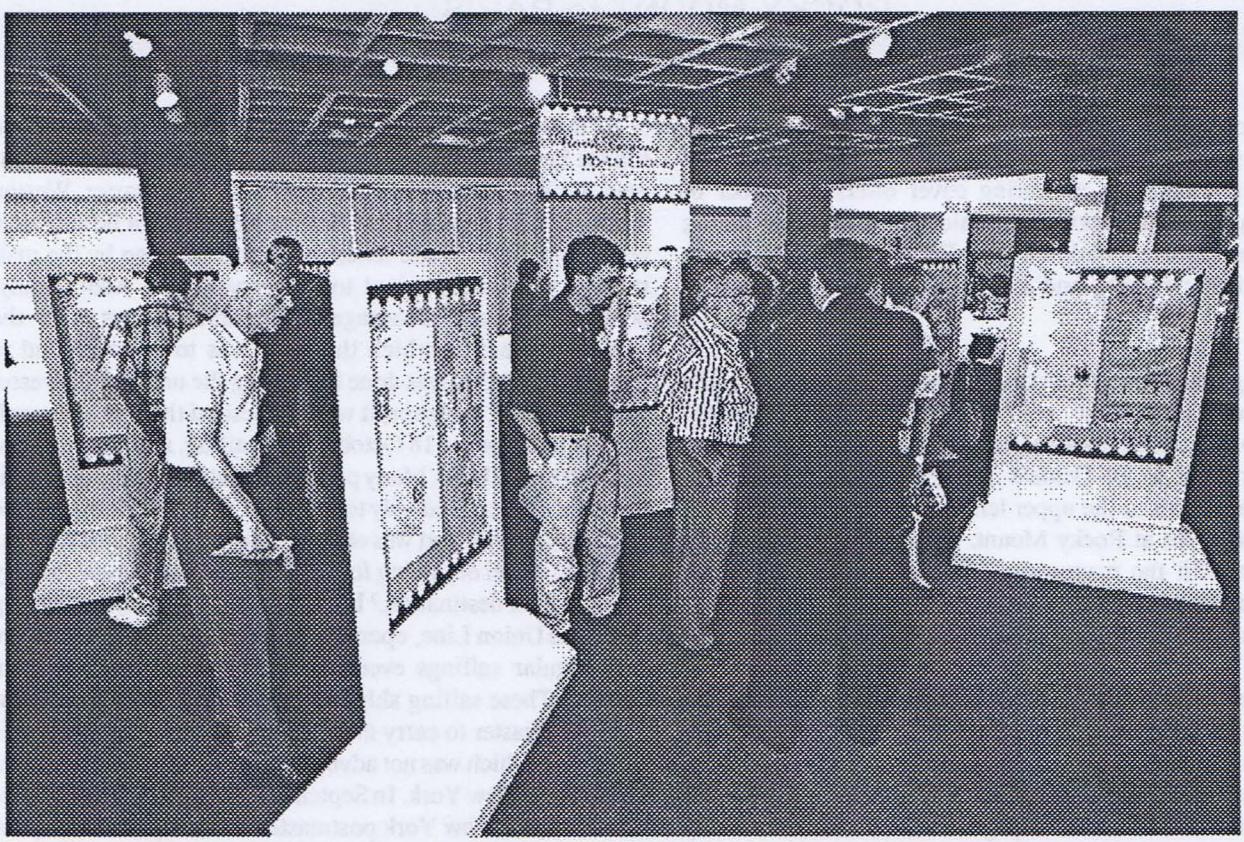


Exhibit attendance including NCPHS members Tom Richardson, center, Harvey Tillers, striped shirt, and Tony Crumbley, back to camera.

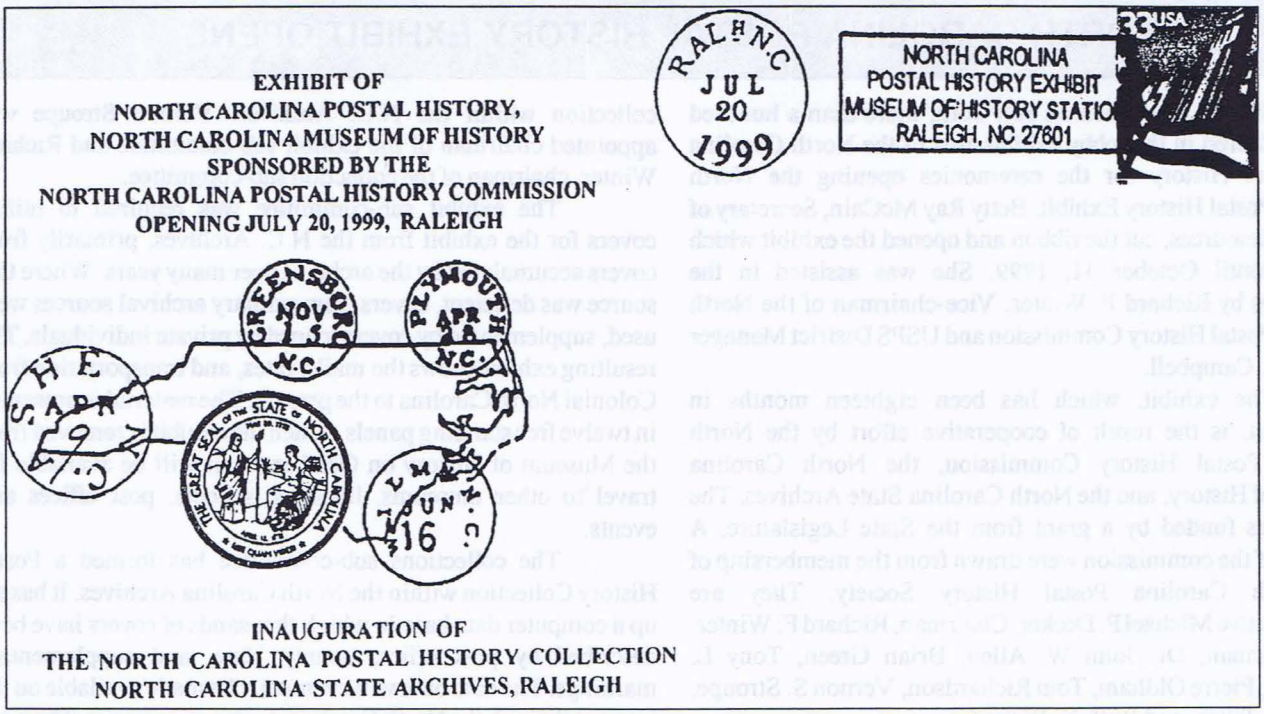


Exhibit First Day Cover with Exhibit cancel. A limited number of covers are available at the North Carolina Museum Gift Shop, 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 - 1011.

ROCKY MOUNT to PARIS

by Richard F. Winter

North Carolina Postal History Society member Richard Weiner has submitted the cover featured in this article for explanation. This plain appearing cover offers a number of different types of markings to discuss along with some interesting aspect of mail delivery within a large European city. Of course, the transatlantic routing and rating of the cover can also be explained.

Figure 1 illustrates the front of an envelope posted in the Rocky Mount post office on 24 September 1851. Malachi Weston, postmaster of Rocky Mount (Edgecombe County) from 16 October 1844 to 10 October 1853,[1] wrote the manuscript postal endorsement in the upper left since a circular datestamp was not yet in use at Rocky Mount. He also showed the letter prepayment with the manuscript "3/Paid" in the upper right corner. This was the correct amount to pay the United States inland fee to the port of New York.

Postmaster Weston was either very clever or ignorant of the postage rates to France. A year earlier, the New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company began operating ocean steamships between New York and Havre, France. These steamers carried United States mails on each voyage. Their scheduled monthly sailing dates from New York were advertised in newspapers in all the large cities. The information was often available in many small post towns as well. Postmaster Weston may have known the next sailing of this line from New York was on 18 October 185 1,[2] or he may not have known. The fee for a half ounce letter to France by one of the steamers of this line was 200, however, only 30 was paid for this letter. Was Postmaster Weston ignorant of the required fee? He may have been, or he may have been very clever. If the letter was intended to go by the mail steamer to France, it had to be prepaid 200. Additionally, postmasters were encouraged to endorse letters with the particular route by which the letter was to be forwarded to Europe. Often this was done by writing the name of the vessel on the letter. If, however, it was not desired that the letter wait in New York for the 18 October mail sailing, another course of action was available. Many postmasters at the time knew that if they sent a letter, paid only to the East Coast departure port, the postmaster at that port was obligated to put the letter on the next available vessel departing for a destination convenient to carry letters to their destination.[3] In 1851 a very reliable line of sailing ships, the Union Line, operated between New York and Havre with regular sailings every week by one of their eighteen vessels.[4] These sailing ships were routinely used by the New York postmaster to carry mails to France. The cost to use this mail route, which was not advertised, was just the United States inland fee to New York. In September 1851 this fee was 30. For his efforts, the New York postmaster was compensated, by the Post Office Department in Washington, DC., 10 for each letter placed on the non-contract vessel. The fees collected in France were the same for all incoming American ship letters, whether carried on contract or non-contract vessels. Postmaster Weston

Figure 1. Envelope from Rocky Mount, 24 September 185 1, to Paris, France, prepaid 3 0 for U.S. inland fee to New York only. Red OUTRE-MER LE HAVRE showed arrival date as ship letter at Havre, France. Postage due in Paris marked at Havre as 6 decimes, the ship letter rate for a location beyond the arrival port. Manuscript "audos" tells reader to turn letter over for notations on the reverse.

saved the letter sender 170 on this letter, either by plan or by accident, without seriously affecting the time the letter took to reach its destination.

This letter was included in a mail bag placed on board the Union Line sailing vessel *St. Nicholas* (797 tons), Captain John Brogden, which sailed from New York on 1 October 1851[5] *St. Nicholas* arrived at Havre on 30 October 1851.[6] The mail bag was delivered on the day of arrival to the Bureau Maritime, Havre, where it received the red double circle, entry marking OUTRE-MER LE HAVRE/3 O/OCT/5 1. The letter was also marked for a postage due of 6 decimes, the fee to be collected at destination. This was the correct rate for a ship letter weighing less than 7½ grams going beyond the arrival port. As a measure of the improvement that steam transit created over sail, had the letter waited in New York for the Havre mail steamer of 18 October, it

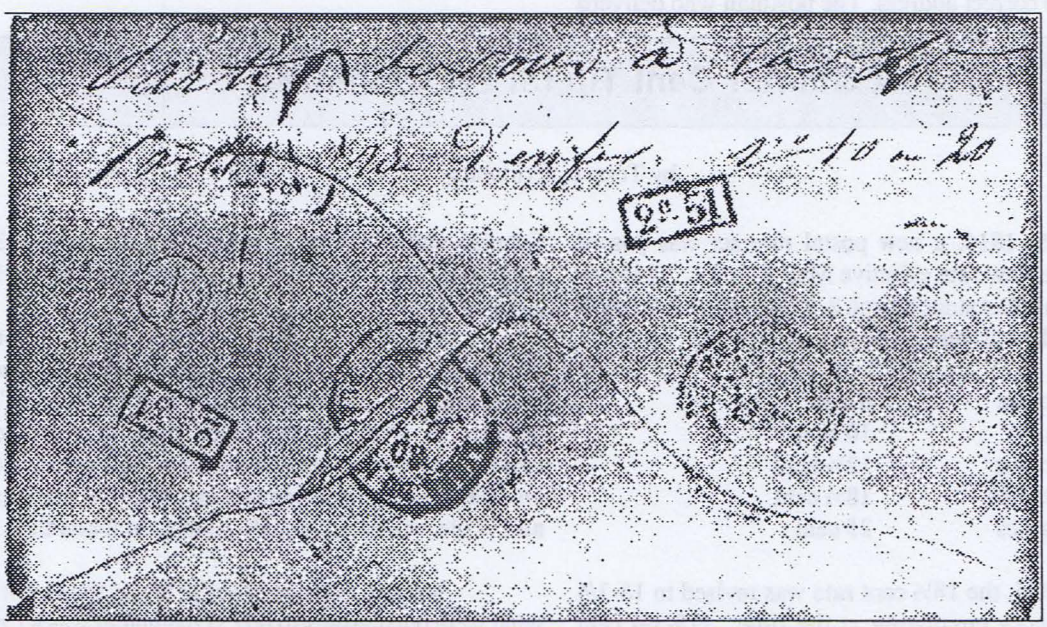


Figure 2. Envelope reverse showing LIGNE DU HAVRE railroad marking and various Paris distribution markings. Manuscript notations across top, referred to by "audos" on front, written by postman who tried to deliver letter.

would have arrived at Havre just two days later then this letter carried by sailing ship which departed 17 days earlier. Transit time had improved by two weeks with steam!

Just to the left of the Havre arrival marking is a manuscript marking, "audos," used by the French to indicate the letter must be turned over for there was more postal information on the reverse. This often meant a new address for a letter. Figure 2 shows the reverse of the cover. The markings are not particularly well-struck and clear, but they can be identified. The double circle marking in black reads LIGNE DU HAVRE/30/ OCT/5 1/1. This was a railroad marking applied to the letter on the train from Havre to Paris.[7] Carroll Chase explained that the numeral at the bottom of the marking, the numeral "1," was the number of the postal "brigade" or team that sorted the mail and applied the marking. Each team was made up of several employees who always worked together. Usually the team made one trip each twenty-four hours, one day from Paris and the next day returning.

Upon arrival in Paris the letter went to the Bureau Central where it was marked for distribution within the extensive postal delivery service of Paris. Figure 2 shows a small, red boxed marking, "2ᵉ31," struck twice at the Bureau Central in Paris. This marking was used to indicated that the letter was to be delivered in distribution district 2 on the 31ˢᵗ day of the month. The manuscript writing at the top of the reverse side of the envelope, referred to by the "audos" notation on the front, indicated that the letter left that evening for the stated address, Doctor N. J. Pittman at Rue de la Puit No. 22. Apparently, this was no longer the correct address for Dr. Pittman. The second manuscript notation indicated that the letter went out again by the postman to an address on the Rue d'Enfer, either number 10 or 20, which presumably was the correct address. The postman who deliverd the letter struck his mark on the reverse also, a small, black circular marking with the numerals 2 over 9, faintly struck to the right of the railroad marking. This identified the postman as number 9 in the 2ⁿᵈ district. Descriptions of the various Paris markings may be found in Catalogue des Marques Postales et Obliterations de Paris 1700-1876 by Andre' Rochette and Jean Pothion, published in 1958. The indistinct red, circular marking to the left of the railroad marking was an offset of a Havre entry marking applied to the front of another letter upon which this one rested. Offsets were common since the ink took time to dry.

Again, as with most of the other transatlantic covers that I have described in the past, the accumulation of the various markings on the cover tells us a great deal of the postal history of the item. In this case we have seen how a letter went from Rocky Mount in Edgecombe County, North Carolina to a street address in Paris in 1851.

[1]Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina, Colonial to USPS, Volume II (Charlotte, North Carolina: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996), p. 2-5, 2-6.
[2] Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75 (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Inc., 1988), p. 111.
[3] Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States ofAmerica 1847, Wierenga Reprint, Chapter 63 - "Foreign Mails - How made up," pp. 64, 65.
[4]Carl C. Cutler, Queens of the Western Ocean (Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1961), pp. 394-396.
[5]New- York Daily Times, 2 October 1851, p. 4.
[6] Lloyd's List, 4 November 1851, p.2.
[7] Carroll Chase, "The Railroad Postmarks of France," Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. XVI, No. 3, July 1937, p. 227.

A Quarter Cent Tip for the Postmaster

by Tony L. Crumbley

On April 9, 1816, a new postal rate act was passed placing into effect a new rate effective May 1, 1816. This law replaced the rates in effect since March 2, 1799. These new rates reduced several of the old rates. The new rates were:

Under 30 miles	6 cent
30 to 80 miles	10 cent
80 to 150 miles	12½ cent
150 to 400miles	18½ cent
Over 400 miles	25 cent

On May 1, 1825, the 18½ cent rate was revised to 18-3/4 cent to fit the currency circulating at the time. (18-3/4 cent equivalent to 1½ reales.) This rate change was caused by the chronic shortage of specie of the 18½ cent value. Spanish and Mexican 1½ reales were common place and were valued at 18-3/ 4 cent. Likewise, the 6 cent rate had no equivalent specie. The Spanish and Mexican ½ reales and the British 3 pence coin commonly circulated in the states were valued at 6¼ U.S. cents.

The Spanish medio real coin was commonly known in the southern states as the "picyune" after the Daily Picayune newspaper in New Orleans which sold for ½ real. The common practice of chopping pieces of eight into smaller pieces for making change introduced the term "bit" into American usage. One half pieces of eight equals four reales or four bits thus 50 cent and ¼ pieces of eight equals 2 reales or 2 bits thus 25 cent.

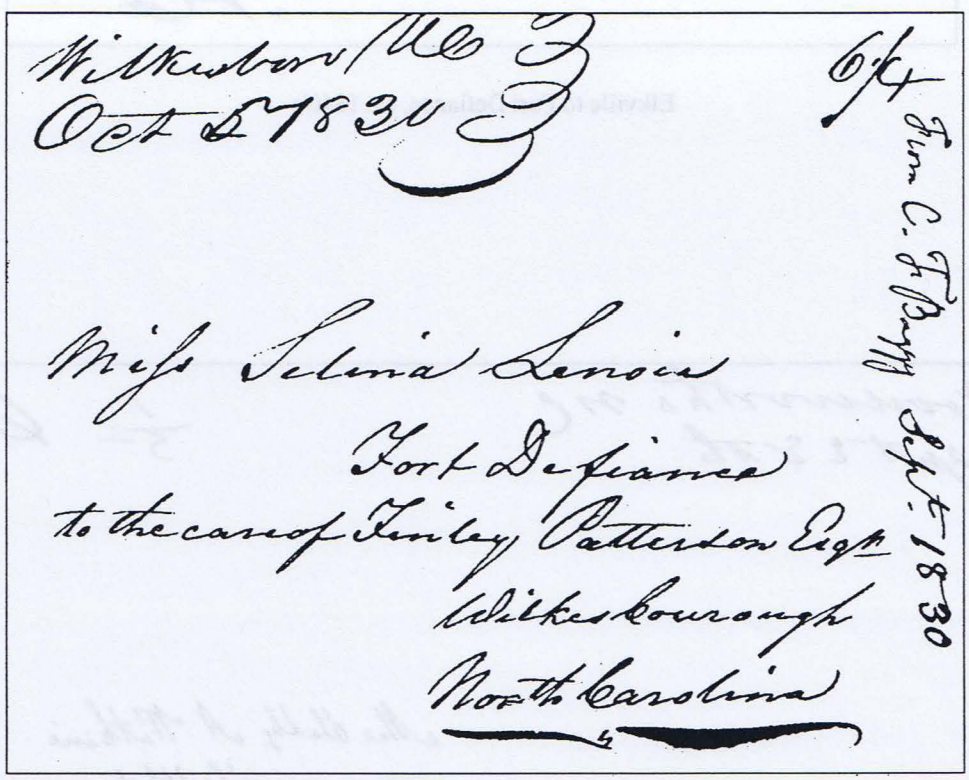
With no coinage or script to pay the 6 cent postage rate, what were postmasters to do? If the mailer was a frequent visitor to the post office, an account could be run and be paid when it equaled an appropriate amount. Another practice was to take picayune script as payment and mark the postage paid as 6¼ cent. Thus providing the postmaster a quarter cent tip.

Just how common are these 6¼ cent covers from North Carolina? A survey of four major N.C. stampless collections found five remaining covers. In the authors collection, 20% of the 6 cent rate covers of this period were marked 6¼ cent. An indication that this overpayment was a rather common practice, yet only 10 covers are known to have survived. Six of these are from Morganton from the Lenior correspondence.

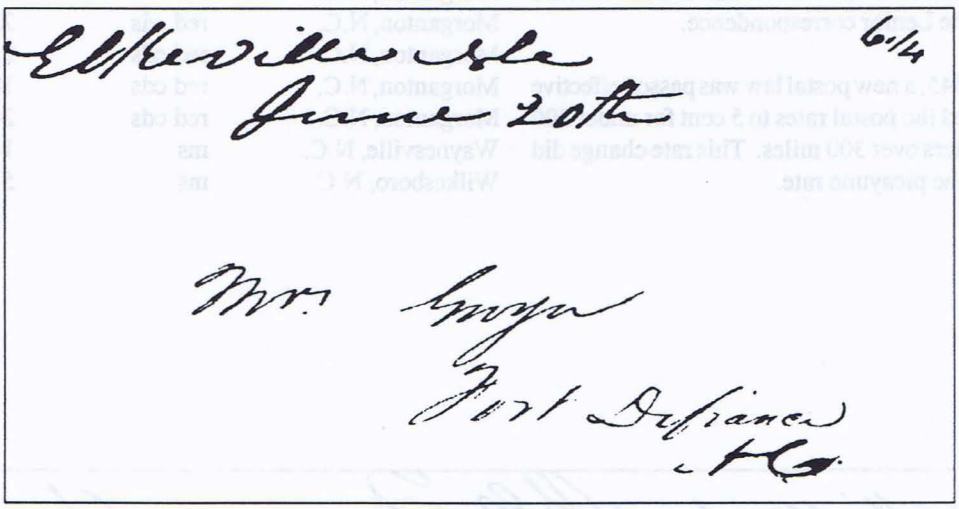
On March 3, 1845, a new postal law was passed effective July 1, 1845 that changed the postal rates to 5 cent for under 300 miles and 10 cent for letters over 300 miles. This rate change did away with the need for the picayune rate.

The known North Carolina 6¼ cent covers are:

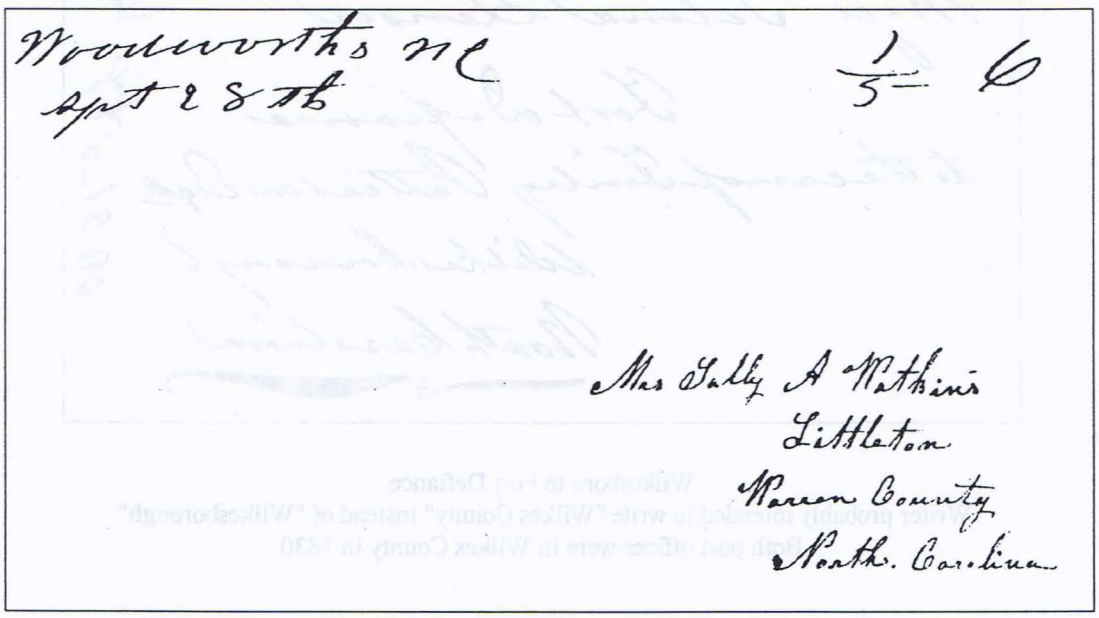
Elksville, N.C.	ms	20 June
Johns River, N.C.	ms	5 March 1834
Morganton, N.C.	ms	30 July
Morganton, N.C.	ms	23 Dec 1821
Morganton, N.C.	red cds	23 Feb 1837
Morganton, N.C.	red cds	28 May 1834
Morganton, N.C.	red cds	18 Feb ca. 1840
Morganton, N.C.	red cds	26 Feb ca. 1840
Waynesville, N.C.	ms	14 July 1841
Wilkesboro, N.C.	ms	5 Oct 1830



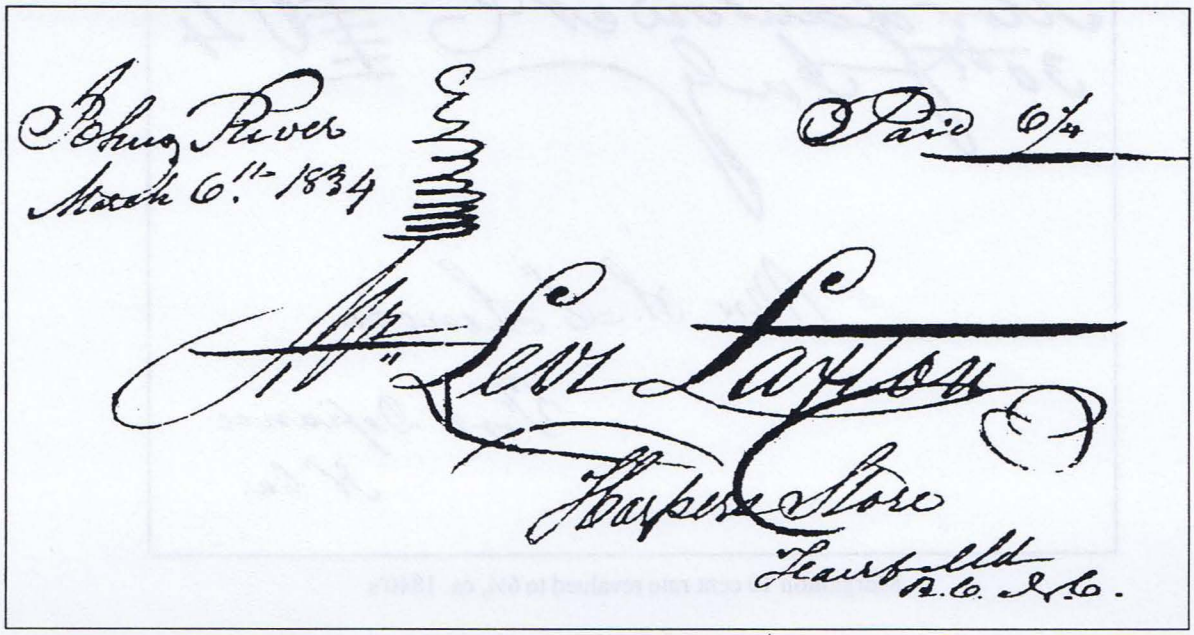
Wilkesboro to Fort Defiance
Writer probably intended to write "Wilkes County" instead of "Wilkesborough".
Both post offices were in Wilkes County in 1830



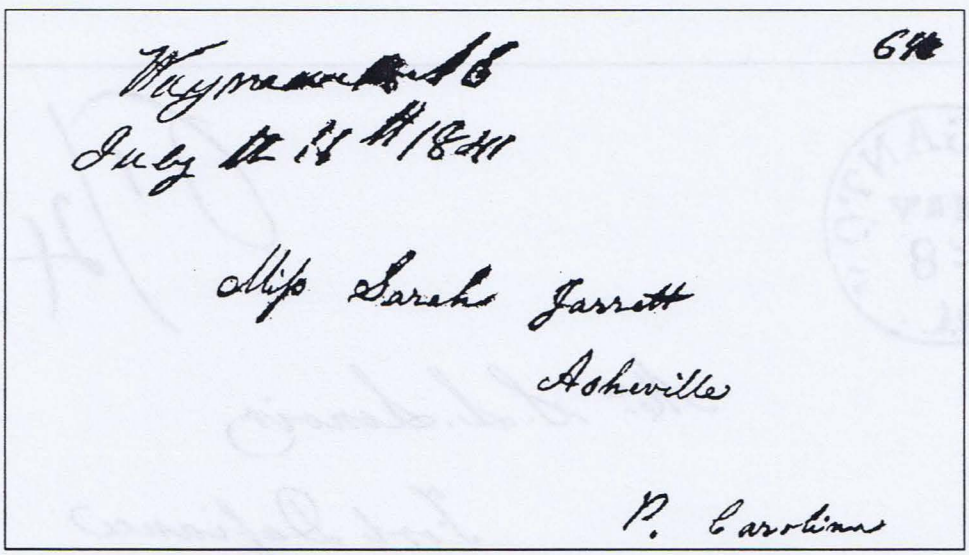
Elkville to Fort Defiance, ca. 1840's



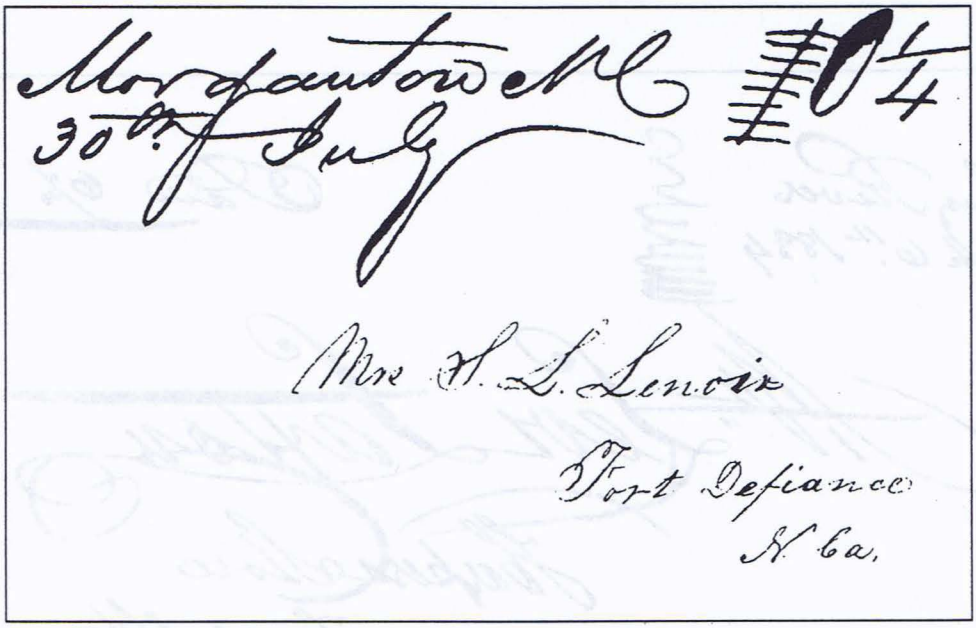
Woodworth to Littleton, ca. 1840's
The 1/5 instead of 1/4 is unexplained



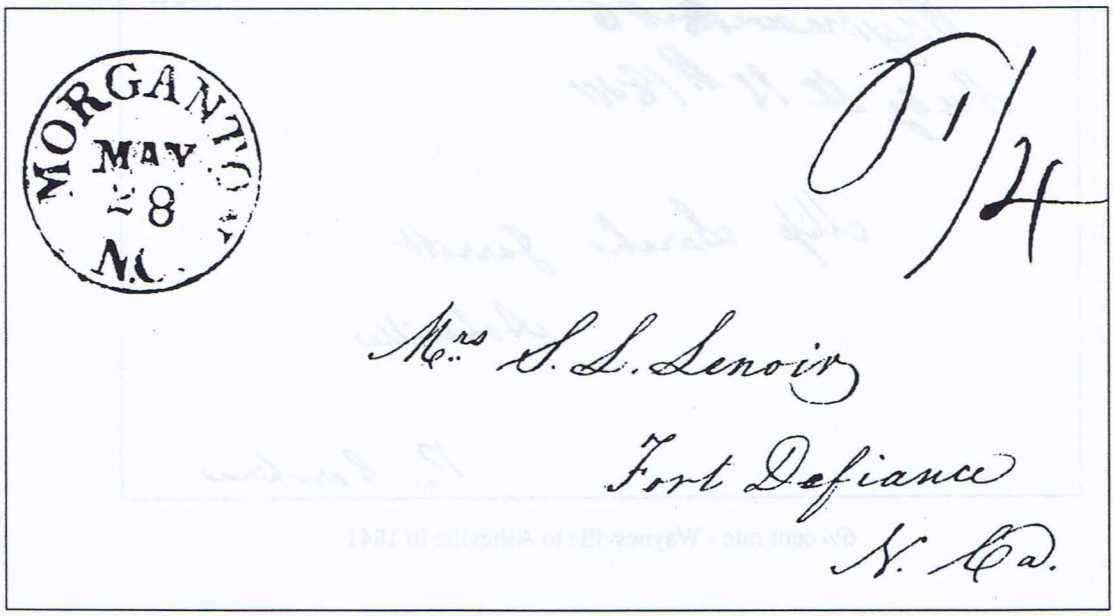
John's River to Harper's Store, Burke County



6¼ cent rate - Waynesville to Asheville in 1841



Morganton 10 cent rate revalued to 6¼, ca. 1840's



Morganton to Fort Defiance, ca. 1835 - 45

MOUNT TIRZAH, AN 18TH CENTURY POST OFFICE

by Harry L. McDowell

Lot #1039 in the Siegel sale of December 13, 1994, was a little stampless cover with manuscript postmark of Mt. Tirzah, N. C., dated February 9, 1798, with rate markings of "25" and "2/2". 1 was intrigued by both the early date and the town name, but moreso by the name "Mt. Tirzah". I have been familiar with this tiny community in the hills of Person County between Roxboro and Durham for many years since my late wife was a native and grew up there. I had spent many happy hours in the community in days gone by.

In spite of my familiarity with the community, I had never been aware that there was ever a post office in existence there, or that there might be covers with the town postmark out there somewhere, so I was quite surprised to see this cover listed in Siegel's sale. I placed a realistic bid, and in due time, was pleased to be successful in procuring the cover. Thus began my research into the origins and background of the Mt. Tirzah Post Office.

Before getting into the facts about the P.O.perhaps it would be interesting to look at the name "Mt. Tirzah". Those readers who are the more astute biblical scholars will recognize that in the Book of Numbers (26:33 - 27:1), Tirzah is described as one of the five daughters of the Israelite Zeophehad, who had no sons to leave his lands to; instead, he left all to the five daughters, which was against the Jewish law at the time. Women were not allowed to inherit property, which caused so many protests that the Levites soon changed the law. The name Tirzah was later given to a Canaanite city, the capital of the Northern kingdom under King Jereboam. It was supposed to have been a city of great beauty, located on a mound, or "mount", near the ancient city of Nablus.

The community of Mt. Tirzah in Person County was given that name by General Stephen Moore in 1775 when he built a home on his 3,000 acre estate in the area. The great beauty of the surrounding countryside reminded him of the "beautiful" city described in the old Testament so he called his estate "Mount Tirzah".

During the period before his move to North Carolina in 1775, and after his Canadian service, General Moore lived for a short time on lands given him by his father near West Point, N. Y. On these lands, the government built a fort for defense of the Hudson river, failing to compensate Moore. Having been appointed Deputy Quartermaster General of the Army in North Carolina in 1783, he petitioned the government for compensation, and after some seven or eight years of negotiation, he was finally paid about $11,000. for 1000 acres. It was on these lands that the government established the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

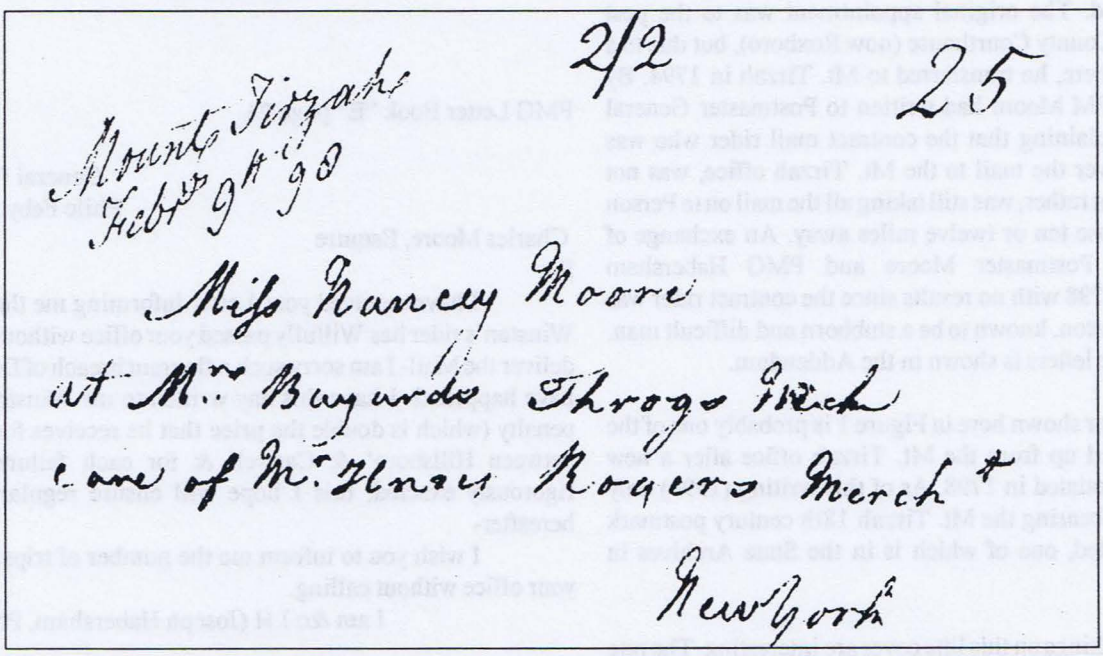


Figure 1. An 1898 folded letter from Mt. Tirzah to New York (City) with manuscript 25 rate and 2/2 local currency.

General Stephen Moore, one of the more colorful characters of this period in North Carolina history. General Moore was a native of New York who had a checkered career in New York and Canada up until about 1775 when he moved south to Granville County, North Carolina . Since he had received a military commission and fought in the French and Indian War in 1756, he was appointed in 1779 to command a regiment of North Carolina troops. This regiment of green and ill-trained young patriots was sent by General Gates to take part in the Battle of Camden, S. C., where they were soundly defeated by Lord Cornwallis. General Moore was captured and imprisoned at Charleston, S. C. until 1781. Upon his release he returned home to Mt. Tirzah and opened a general store.

In 1793 General Moore was elected to serve as a Congressman from North Carolina in the 3rd U. S. Congress, and it was while in this position that he was influential in having the post office established at Mt. Tirzah, and his brother Charles appointed the first Postmaster. Charles Moore continued as Postmaster until 1802 when he was succeeded by Thomas Moore, another family member. The names of all postmasters who served the Mt. Tirzah Post office are listed herein. It is interesting to note that, with the exception of James Clayton in 1817, all of the postmasters were named either Moore or Noell, all related by blood or marriage. Descendants of both families still reside in the area. The post office was dis-established in 1906 while Joseph W. Noell was postmaster, and the mail service was handled out of Rougemont. A post office was established at the nearby hamlet of Timberlake and the Mt. Tirzah community has been served ever since from there on an RFD basis.

Charles Moore, the first Postmaster at Mt. Tirzah was brother of General Moore, who had used his influence to have his brother appointed. The original appointment was to the post office at Person County Courthouse (now Roxboro), but due to a lack of activity there, he transferred to Mt. Tirzah in 1794. By February 1796, PM Moore had written to Postmaster General Habersham complaining that the contract mail rider who was supposed to deliver the mail to the Mt. Tirzah office, was not stopping there, but rather, was still taking all the mail on to Person County Courthouse ten or twelve miles away. An exchange of letters between Postmaster Moore and PMG Habersham continued until 1798 with no results since the contract rider was one Thomas Winston, known to be a stubborn and difficult man. A sample of these letters is shown in the Addendum.

The cover shown here in Figure 1 is probably one of the first letters picked up from the Mt. Tirzah office after a new contract was negotiated in 1798. As of this writing (1999) only two other covers bearing the Mt. Tirzah 18th century postmark have been recorded, one of which is in the State Archives in Raleigh.

The markings on this litte cover are interesting. The rate in 1798 to New York was correctly shown as "25"; however, the other marking shown, "2/2", is unusual at this late date since it probably indicated "2 shillings and 2 pence" in North Carolina Colonial currency, which was not in general use in 1798 since pennyweights and grains of silver as the method of expressing returns from postmasters was discontinued in 1791. The addressee, Nancy ("Ann") Moore, was a relative of PM Charles Moore, and it is pretty certain he was the originator of the cover.

Postmasters at Mt. Tirzah

Charles Moore	1796
Thomas Moore	1802
James Clayton	1817
Post office discontinued	1821 to 1823
Philip Moore	1826
Alonzo R. Moore	1840
William T. Noell	1848
William T. Noell (CSA)	1861
Joseph W. Noell	1866
William T. Noell	1873
Joseph W.,Noell	1905
Discontinued	1906

This early cover from an obscure little North Carolina community is not only a scarce NC postal history piece, but it is as well an historical relic of another time period when the mails were not taken for granted as they are today.

I am indebted to Bob Stets, Vernon Stroupe, and my brother-in-law, T. Reade Tillett of Burlington, who is a descendant of the Moores and Noells and grew up in the Mt. Tirzah community, for supplying me with many of the details contained herein.

Addendum

PMG Letter Book "E" page 21

General Post Office
Phile Feby 11th 1796

Charles Moore, Esquire
Sir,

I have received your Letter informing me that Thomas Winston's rider has Wilfully passed your office without calling to deliver the Mail- I am sorry such a flagrant breach of Duty should have happened- I have this day written to mr Winston that the penalty (which is double the price that he receives for each trip between Hillsboro' & Caswell & for each failure) will be rigorously exacted; this I hope will ensure regular attention hereafter-

I wish you to inform me the number of trips he passed your office without calling.

I am &c J H (Joseph Habersham, PMG)

PMG Letter Book "E" page 21

General Post Office
Phila Feby 11th 1796

Mr Thomas Winston,
Sir

The Post Master at Mount Tirzah, Person County, informs me that your rider refuses to deliver him the Mail & has passed his office regularly without delivering it. This appears to be such a wilful breach of the sixth article of your Contract, that I cannot avoid rigorously exacting the penalty for what is past, which is double the value of carrying the Mail between Hilsborough and Caswell Court House- I hope sir that I shall hear no further causes of complaint, & that you will have your Contract fairly performed.

I am &c J H (Joseph Habersham, PMG)

PMG Letter Book "E" page 101

Phila April 12, 1796

Mr Thomas Winston
Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 27 of February last and I am sorry to observe that the Complaints against you for not complying with the terms of your Contract are very general.

Mr More (sic) of Mount Tirzah writes me that your rider omitted calling at his Office five times from the beginning of January till the 9th of March.- Mr Lash of Bethany says that great irregularities in the conveyance of the Mails still exist as the Post riders come and go as suits them, and he must be content when whole trips are not lost, as has been the case since the first of January . . . . . .

. . . . . You have stipulated in your Contracts to pass both by Person Court House and Mount Tirzah on your route from Hillsborough to Bethania but as no person can be got to hold an Office at Person Court House I do not wish your rider to call at that place though it is named in the Law, until someone will act as Post Master there . . . . . .

PMG Letter Book "F" page 301

May 18, 1797

Charles Moore esqr
Sir,

I should have replied sooner to your former representation respecting Mr Winstons Conduct in not calling at Mount Tirzah with the Mail, but on referring to his Contract, I find it is left optional with him whether he goes by Person or Mount Tirzah, and I could not make the Schedule otherwise, as Person Court House is named in the Law. I find that as long ago as the 12th of April 1796 1 informed Mr. Winston that there was no occasion for his rider sending the mail by Person Court House and requested him to take the road by Mount Tirzah, for the accomodation of the Inhabitants in that Neighbourhood- Mr. Winston, however, has shewn no disposition to accomodate the Public on this occasion, and unfortunately I cannot compel him to call at Mount Tirzah, though I am convinced it is the most proper place for an office; and ought to have been designated in the route from Hillsborough to Bethania.

I beg, Sir, you will be so good as to explain this business to your Neighbours that I may be exonerated from all censure.

If the Route from Hillsborough to Bethania is not as accomodating as it may have been, the fault is not mine, nor can I apply a remedy for it. I will make another application to Mr Winston on the Subject, let the result of it be what it may, but more than this, I cannot do.

What difference does it make in the Ride whether Mr Winston goes by Mount Tirzah? I am informed that it is the shortest route, but to induce him to gratify you with calling regularly at Mount Tirzah with the Mail, I have offered him an additional compensation at the rate of Thirty Dollars a Year during the remainder of his Contract.

I am &c J. H.

PMG Letter Book "F" page 301

General Post Office
May 18 1797

Mr Thomas Winston

Sir,

I requested you in my Letter of the 12th of April 1796 to direct your rider to leave the Mail at Mount Tirzah instead of passing by Person Court House where there is no office, nor any neighbourhood to be accomodated with the Mail. I find that it is left optional with you to go by Person or Mount Tirzah, but independent of my request I should have supposed that you would have taken that Route with a view of gratifying your Neighbours at Mount Tirzah and I hope you will direct your Rider to call at that place regularly with the Mail as the difference in the ride whether he goes by Person or Mount Tirzah I have always understood is very trifling indeed it is said to be the shortest route. You shall be allowed at the Rate of Thirty Dollars a Year for the remainder of your time if you will leave the Mail regularly at Mount Tirzah.

I am &c J. H.

PMG Letter Book "G" page 78

November 23d 1797

Mr Charles Moore
Sir..

In a few weeks I shall advertise the North Carolina Post Roads for new Contracts in Mr. Hodges paper at Halifax and Fayetteville; and Mount Tirzah shall be included in the Route from Hillsboro' to Bethania. in such a manner as to put it out of the power of the Contractor to avoid it-

I will endeavour to place the next Contract in the hands of a person who will be more regardful of the public accomodation than the present Contractor has been-

I am &c J. H.

North Carolina Postal History Society Board of Directors Meeting

The NCPHS Board of Directors met at CHARPEX on July 24, 1999. Pres. Richard Winter, Vice-Pres. John Allen, and Directors Vernon Stroupe, Alan Vestal, and Ruth Wetmore were present, constituting a quorum.

1. Officers were elected during the annual meeting at Winston Salem earlier this year. The Board approved the officers. Due to an oversight, the terms of several Directors had lapsed. New elected Directors from the 1999 annual meeting, Dick Winter (Pres.), John Allen (V.Pres.) and Tom Richardson (Sec.-Treas.) will serve for three years with terms ending 1 June 2002. Directors Vernon Stroupe, Alan Vestal, and Ruth Wetmore agreed to continue serving one more year, with terms ending I June 2000. Three new Directors must be elected at the annual meeting in 2000. Adoption of this action was moved by Vernon Stroupe, seconded and approved unanimously by the board.

With regard to appointed officers, it was reaffirmed by the Board that Tony Crumbley and Vernon Stroupe are the two editors of the Society publication. The Nominating Committee currently has no chairman. Pres. Winter will appoint one.

2. Following discussion, several By-laws were amended as shown below. Deletions are shown in brackets, additions in parentheses.

A motion for the following changes in Article 1, Section 2 was made by Vernon Stroupe, seconded by John Allen, and passed unanimously.

Article 1 Directors, Section 2. Term of Board.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot by the members at its annual meeting for a term of three years. They shall be divided into three triennial classes in such manner that as near as possible an equal number of trustees shall be voted upon at each annual meeting. Any director may be re-elected without limitation as to the number of terms he may serve, [and in any event shall continue to serve until his successor has been chosen.] (Directors shall assume their duties on the first day of the month following their election.)

A motion for the following changes in Article V, Section 2 was made by Alan Vestal, seconded by John Allen, and passed unanimously.

Article V Appointive Officers, Section 2. Nominating Committee

The President shall appoint not less than [120] (90) days before the end of each fiscal year, a Nominating Committee of [three, 3] (two, 2) members of the Society who will nominate at least [six, 6] (two, 2) members of the Society for election to the Board and prepare a ballot for submission to the membership. The Nominating Committee will consider any nominations received from the members and if a nomination of any member shall be seconded, it shall be mandatory to place such nomination on the ballot.

A motion for the following change was made by Alan Vestal, seconded by Ruth Wetmore, and passed unanimously.

Article XI Official Publication

The [first] official publication of the Society shall be [a newsletter] called the North Carolina Postal History Society [Newsletter] (Historian). It shall contain membership and financial reports, news of the Society and its members, articles pertaining to the Postal History of North Carolina and related areas, brief classified and "Help Wanted" advertisement. Its editor(s) shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board. Additional official publication may be authorized by the Board at a later date.

Article 6, Section 4 of the By-Laws specifies that an annual audit be made in order to maintain the Society's non-profit status. Several names were suggested, and Pres. Winter will contact a Society member for this purpose.

3. The policy for distributing complimentary copies of the North Carolina Postal Historian was discussed. Seventeen complimentary copies are being mailed currently. In the past, complimentary copies have been sent to individuals, rather than to the publications they edit. The Board consensus is that

(1) Complimentary copies should be sent to publications, not individuals;

(2) It is desirable to continue sending complimentary copies to authors, libraries, and publications with which we exchange journals.

(3) The mailing list should be reviewed periodically to keep it current. With regards to sending the journal to non-paying members, the Board agreed this area had to be reviewed. Several names will be dropped from the mailing lists for continued non-payment of dues.

4. Mail Auction

The Society voted at the 1998 annual meeting to resume the NCPHS Mail Auction. This auction is circulated in the North Carolina Postal Historian. To date, the auction has not been restarted. Pres. Winter will pursue this with the journal editors.

5. NCPHS Annual Meetings

The next annual meeting will be held at WINPEX, as it has been for a number of years. Other possible locations were mentioned, including CHARPEX, or dealers bourses at Tarboro, Raleigh, Greensboro, and Asheville. A desire to provide more

Society visibility at the two current North Carolina stamp shows was also discussed.

6. New Business - N.C. Postal History Commission Exhibit

Coverage of the North Carolina Postal History Exhibit, which opened earlier this week at the History Museum in Raleigh, will appear in the next issue of the N.C. Postal Historian. Pres. Winter reported the Post Office was preparing a video and doing interviews at the opening ceremony in addition to publicity by TV channels 5 (Raleigh) and 11 (Durham). There was some question about the availability of this material to the N. C. Postal History Commission and N. C. Postal History Society.

The disposition of the exhibit itself, after modification and use as a traveling exhibit, was also considered. Possible venues, including museums, and stamp shows were mentioned, and the logistics of storage, transportation, and exhibit space were discussed. It was also suggested that the N. C. Postal History Commission and N. C. Postal History Society share a booth at state stamp shows and bourses to promote North Carolina Postal History.

Submitted
Ruth Y. Wetmore, Acting Secretary

President's Message, continued

the state. In addition, we have been contacted by postal historians in at least one other state to learn more about how to create such a commission in their state. All of our the society members can be very proud of the efforts of the ten NCPHS members who have contributed directly to the commission projects. Besides proving much needed postal history expertise, they have brought to public attention the capabilities of this society. There is no doubt in my mind that, in the long term, this will prove to be very beneficial to the society. On behalf of the society, I wish to thank all those who have worked so diligently to advance the cause of North Carolina postal history within the state-authorized commission.

In. the past, we have continued sending copies of the journal to members who were delinquent in paying their annual dues. It had been hoped that this action would help retain members who simply forgot to pay their dues; however, it has turned out to not be helpful in clearing the problem of dues non-payment. We are now sending reminders to members who have fallen behind in the payment of their dues. If you received one of these reminders and wish to continue membership, please send your payment to Tom Richardson. Prior members, who have fallen seriously in arrears with the payment of annual dues, have been dropped from the mailing list and will no longer receive the journal.

I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the society. Please feel free to call me at home (336 545-0175), send me an e-mail message, or write to me. Both my e-mail address and my mailing address appear in this journal.

Dick Winter

F. Y. I.

PHILATELIC ALMANAC

The PHILATELIC ALMANAC is a handy reference work for stamp collectors and students of postal history. It contains 248 pages of basic, hard-to-find facts about the hobby of stamp and cover collecting in an easy to read, large format and it is available in either a spiral bound or three-hole punched version.

For those collectors wishing to buy new issues directly from the stamp-issuing country there is a 50 page directory listing of all the world's stamp issuing entities complete with mailing addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and for the first time ever, Internet contact information for those countries on the world wide web.

The PHILATELIC ALMANAC goes on to list some political and economic organizations, national Antarctic offices for collectors of polar postal history, postal museums and libraries around the world, federal state and foreign duck stamp offices, specialist philatelic societies and their publications as well as unaffiliated philatelic publications around the world, a glossary of philatelic terms easily explained, an explanation of the terms used in describing a stamp's condition and its grade, some abbreviations used by cover collectors, over 30 different foreign alphabets used in philately, the monetary units of the world and their largest fractions, a section translating inscriptions found on foreign stamps and, some useful foreign postal and philatelic terms in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and, of course, English.

The endpaper is a reprint from the February 1996 issue of the American Philatelist on the preservation of stamps and covers. An invaluable aid to the serious and not-so-serious collector.

The PHILATELIC ALMANAC is available for just $49.95 plus $10.00 postage and handling anywhere in the world. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. Payment must be by check or money order in US funds.

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CALLING ALL MEMBER CYBER-PHILES

THE *POSTAL HISTORIAN* IS COMPILING A MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL DIRECTORY

PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

EDITOR VERNON STROUPE
at
VSStroupe@worldnet.att.net

NEW MEMBERS

No New Members have been reported !!

1996 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Lindsey T. Cooper, IV
Tony L. Crumbley
James H. Davis, Jr.
Warren Dixon
Robert F. Doares, Jr
Dr. Fred C. Frostick
Donald G. Freeman
Elizabeth Howard
Robert H. Hunt
Willard E. Jones
Robert Outlaw
Tom Richardson
Jim Scott
Vernon S. Stroupe
Harvey Teal
Richard Weiner
Ruth Y. Wetmore
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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NCPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term ending 2002
Richard F. Winter
John W. Allen
Tom Richardson

Term ending 2000
Alan Vestal
Ruth Y. Wetmore
Vernon S. Stroupe