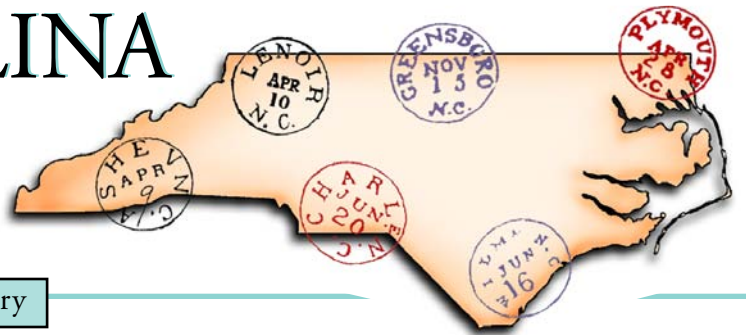


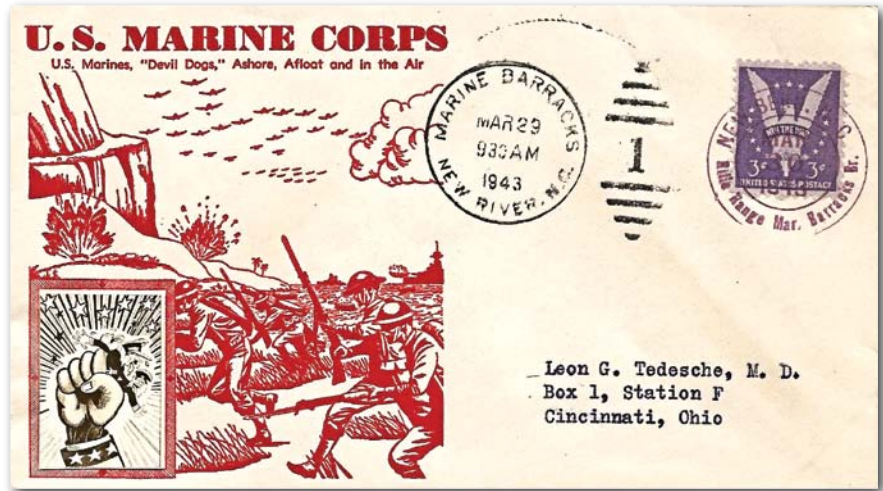
NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

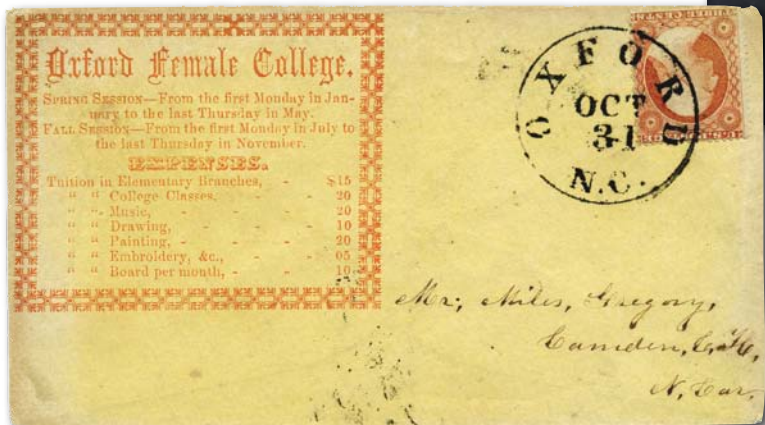
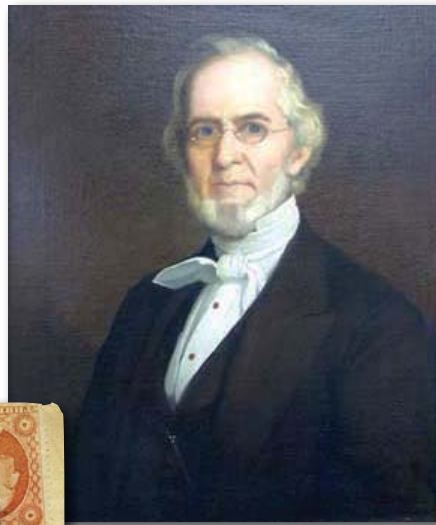
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The Postal History of Camp Lejeune



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More on Edgeworth Female Seminary



Oxford Female College, Oxford NC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with a lot of trepidation that I attempt to follow Dick Winter as President of the North Carolina Postal History Society. Dick wears many other hats in our society including updating the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog* and creating and improving the society web site. While President, he has presided over a period of stable membership and continued production of our high quality publication, the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. The journal has continued to amaze me with the variety and quality of articles written by the society's members, and that it is regularly sent out on time. I know of no other postal history journal that equals it.

I hope to follow Dick's path in continuing to help in any way to maintain and grow the society and to seek out and respond to the members' suggestions. With the invaluable assistance of society members, he has kept expenses in check and dues have not increased in recent years. The cost of producing and mailing the society's journal has been contained. Dick has not only written many excellent articles based on his extensive maritime postal knowledge but he has sought out high quality articles for publication. He has professionally edited the journal and has been an able mentor. He has taught me a great deal about composing an article and writing informative captions. Dick will continue to support the society as editor and researcher, as well as updating the postmark catalog. If anyone has any new county postmarks or suggested revisions, please contact Dick at rfwinter@triad.rr.com or at (336) 545-0175.

Our dues remain unchanged this year at \$15.00. Since we are a non-profit organization, any amount over the basic membership fee is tax deductible. Although we have found ways to keep printing costs low for the journal, which is our major expense, donations help keep a buffer against unexpected

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costs. If anyone has not yet renewed their membership, they are encouraged to send it in now. If you have not received a renewal reminder, please let me know.

Many of the members were able to attend the CHARPEX 2015 this past July 25-26 in Charlotte. Attending the stamp shows is an excellent way to meet members. In addition, attending bourses, such as the ones at Raleigh or Charlotte, always are interesting because our own Tony Crumbley invariably has a wealth of postal material to offer as well as a textbook of information. I have met many members and fellow collectors at these bourses and urge the members to attend. I will try to make sure the schedules of these events are available through our web site. As I try to assist the society in my role now as President, I will follow Dick's lead in trying to seek out and incorporate the members' suggestions and input. If anyone has comments or suggestions regarding the society or the journal, please contact me at fhall@suddenlink.net or (252) 527-5843. My mailing address is 120 King Heights Boulevard, Kinston, N.C. 28501.

A red dot on your mailing label means we have not received your dues.



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The Postal History of Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base



by Charles F. Hall, Jr.

When North Carolina ratified the United States Constitution in 1789, it had only one permanent military post, Fort Johnson at Smithville (Southport today). Construction on Fort Macon in Carteret County, another permanent fort, began in 1826. During the Civil War, a number of fortifications were built, most notably Fort Fisher on the Cape Fear peninsula, but none of the new camps or forts built during the war survived. Forts Johnson and Caswell protecting the entrance to the Cape Fear River and Fort Macon in Carteret County continued to be maintained by the United States Army. The interval between the Civil War and World War I saw some temporary camps during the Spanish American War and several National Guard training sites in New Hanover, Brunswick and Carteret counties. North Carolina's entry into World War I on April 4, 1917, prompted two large, temporary training camps, Camp Greene in what is now metropolitan Charlotte and Camp Polk in Raleigh. The first permanent land installation was Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville. It started as Camp Bragg on August 21, 1918, as a field artillery training cantonment and firing range. In 1922, it became a permanent installation and was re-designated Fort Bragg. Between the world wars, Fort Bragg remained a field artillery base but saw little growth. It would be the eve of the Second World War before North Carolina had another large, permanent military base. That was Camp Lejeune at Jacksonville on the New River in Onslow County.



In the late 1930s when it became apparent that war was looming in Europe and Asia, the United States realized that its military was unprepared in numbers, tactics and technology if the country became involved in a major war. When war in Europe started on September 1, 1939, and tensions in the Pacific with Japan intensified, the United States reinstated the draft in 1940 and military camps swelled with new recruits and trainees. Fort Bragg grew from 5,406 soldiers in June 1940 to over 67,000 in 1941. Just as all the services grew significantly in 1940-41, the Marines also experienced rapid growth. When the United States became actively involved in World War II as a result of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the importance of the Marines really became apparent. The geography of the Pacific made it obvious that naval and amphibious forces would play a significant role in holding and capturing the strategic islands in the Pacific Theater. The amphibious doctrine and tactics of the Marine Corps fit the nature of the new war exactly.

This article is the first of two that will tell the postal history of two major Marine installations in eastern North Carolina, Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. The postal history of these two bases is much more varied and

complex than the other large military base in North Carolina, Fort Bragg. Although Fort Bragg was established as Camp Bragg in 1918, it used only one postal marking at a time to cover mail operations on the entire base. Fort Bragg did have two satellite bases during WWII and they had separate postal markings, but Bragg itself used only one.

Camp Lejeune, on the other hand, used a wide variety of markings for the separate base units and facilities. This variety provides the historian with a very interesting but somewhat challenging task to identify and list all the markings in chronological order. To complicate the postal history even further, the Marine base located at Jacksonville in Onslow County, was under the postal administration of the New Bern post office in Craven County, 32 miles away. It did not become a branch of the Jacksonville post office in Onslow County until 1948. Another fact of interest to the postal historian is that since the Marine Corps is a branch of the U.S. Navy Department, some of the supporting units based at Camp Lejeune used a variety of U.S. Navy branch cancellations. It is hoped that future historians will expand on the information in this article. The illustrations used are in the author's collection unless otherwise credited.

At the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Marines were a relatively small force of one brigade of three regiments, numbering 19,432. Their historic role had been to keep order on naval ships, serve as sharpshooters and gun crews during naval actions, and act as naval infantry ashore. The more well-known Marine Corps actions were at Tripoli during the Barbary Wars, their role in the Mexican War in Mexico City, defending the American Legation in Peking during the 1900 Boxer Rebellion, serving with the American Expeditionary Force in France in WWI, and protecting American business interests in Central America and the Caribbean during the "Banana Wars" of the 1920s and 30s. During the 1930s, the Corp's modern role evolved with the formation of the Fleet Marine Force. This concept involved mobile and amphibious light infantry, supported by Marine Aviation and naval gunfire.

Lt. General John A. Lejeune, for whom the base was named, was a native of Louisiana, who served over 40 years in the Marine Corps and oversaw the development of the Fleet



▲ **Figure 1.** 1929 press photo of Lt. General John A. Lejeune.

Marine Force, which was so successful in World War II. He has been called “the greatest of all the Leathernecks.” Lt. General Lejeune is pictured in a 1929 press photo (Figure 1) and depicted on a U.S. commemorative postage stamp issued in 2005 as one of four distinguished marines illustrated on a sheet of commemorative stamps (Figure 2).

Even though President Franklin D. Roosevelt and some other military and political visionaries such as General Billy Mitchell forecast the imminence of another major World War, when Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941 by the Japanese, the United States was found to be unprepared. It soon became obvious that the Pacific War would consist of a series of naval and air actions and an “island hopping” campaign. It would become a bloody and relentless series of battles to first defeat the Japanese Navy and then gradually conquer the islands they occupied to build air bases and naval logistical support centers. The eventual goal was to defeat the Japanese military on their mainland.

Since the Pacific war was predominantly a naval war, the Marine Corps needed new facilities for housing and training the greatly enlarged force in amphibious operations, including the growing Marine air wings. In 1940, the Marines had training bases at Parris Island, South Carolina, and San Diego, California. A Marine Corps board was convened on February 21, 1941, to study and recommend a site for an East Coast Fleet Marine headquarters and training center. On April 10, 1941, the board recommended the current location of Camp Lejeune in a large area in rural Onslow County near Jacksonville, North Carolina.



Figure 2. ▲ U.S. commemorative postage stamp issued in 2005 as one of four distinguished marines illustrated on a sheet of commemorative stamps.

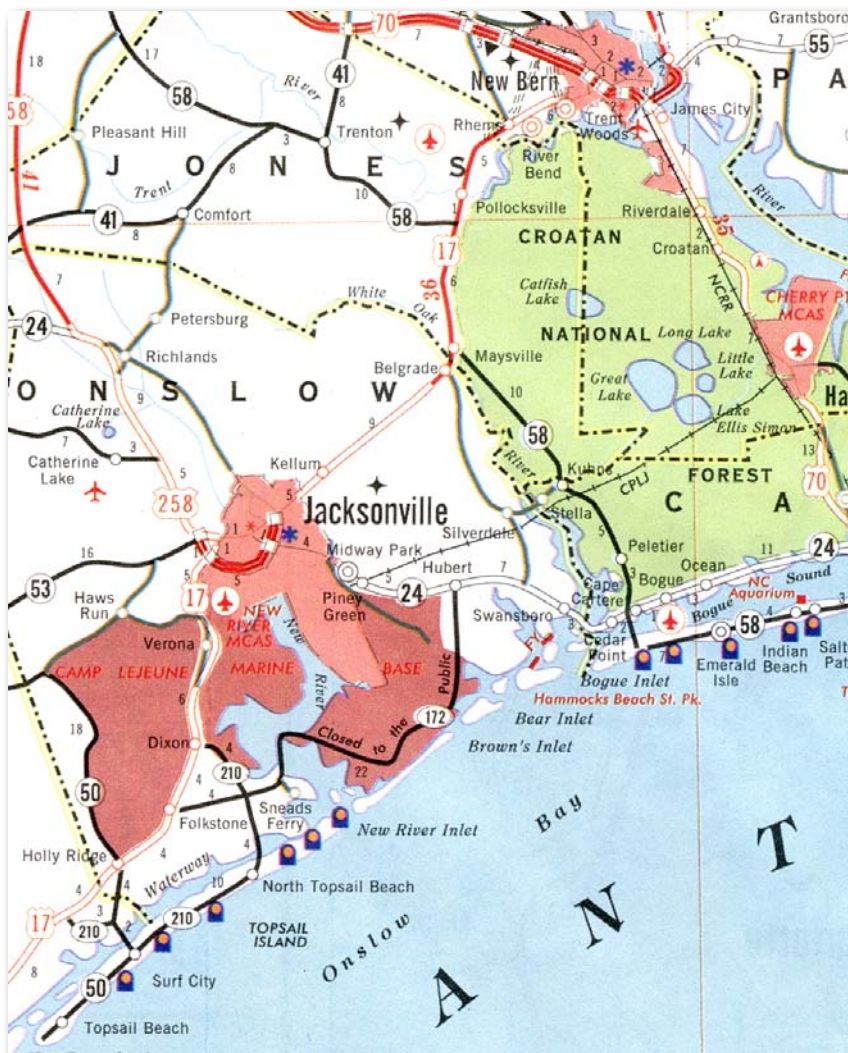
Once the site was selected, construction began quickly. By the end of April 1941, construction began on the first troop cantonment area, Tent Camp No. 1, and the First Marine Division began to move into the tent camps, which offered only the most basic protection from the elements and abundance of insects. By the end of 1942, over 1,400 permanent buildings and 1,000 huts were projected to be built as well as sanitation facilities, training areas, firing ranges and a 1,370 bed naval hospital. The 11,000 acre site originally was called the Marine Barracks, New River Base, but was officially designated Camp Lejeune at the end of 1942. Many combat arms and support schools and facilities were started at Camp Lejeune during the war, all designed to train, deploy and support combat operations in the vast Pacific Ocean theater. Figure 3 shows the location of Camp Lejeune on a modern road map as well as its position relative to New Bern and Jacksonville, with which it had postal connections.

Camp Lejeune ultimately comprised 246 square miles with 14 miles of beaches for practicing amphibious landings, the tactical operation which made the Marines famous in World War II. The location near Jacksonville was on a major north-south highway, US 17, and was supported by major rail lines. Nearby Morehead City and Wilmington each provided deep water ports from which to transport men and material.

Ironically, a post office named “Marines,” located in Onslow County 16 miles south southeast of Jacksonville near the mouth of the New River, operated in a community later to be incorporated into Camp Lejeune. It was open from 31 August, 1885 to September 30, 1941, and was named for a local family. The first postmaster was Wiley N. Marine. When his post office opened, it was certainly unforeseen that the site would later

become a major Marine Corps base. Figure 4, for example, is from the last day of operations of the Marines post office.

Camp Lejeune was named for the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John A. Lejeune. He had quite a distinguished career. Born January 10, 1867, in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, he continued the family military example set by his father, Ovide Lejeune, a captain in the Confederate Army. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy second in the class of 1888. After a two year cruise as a midshipman, he chose the Marine Corps as his career and was commissioned a second Lieutenant in 1890. He served in a very wide range of sea and land based



▲ **Figure 3.** Location of Camp Lejeune on a modern road map also showing its position relative to New Bern and Jacksonville, with whom it had postal connections.

Revolution, and World War I on the Western Front. During War World I, he commanded the United States Army 2nd Division, one of only two Marine Corps generals to command Army divisions. Following the war, he served as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1920 to 1929. Following his retirement in 1929, he served as the superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute until 1937. His final rank was achieved after retirement when he was made lieutenant general on the retired list in 1942, nine months before he died.

Camp Lejeune is adjacent to Jacksonville, the county seat of Onslow County. The first post office established there was named Onslow Court House, and it

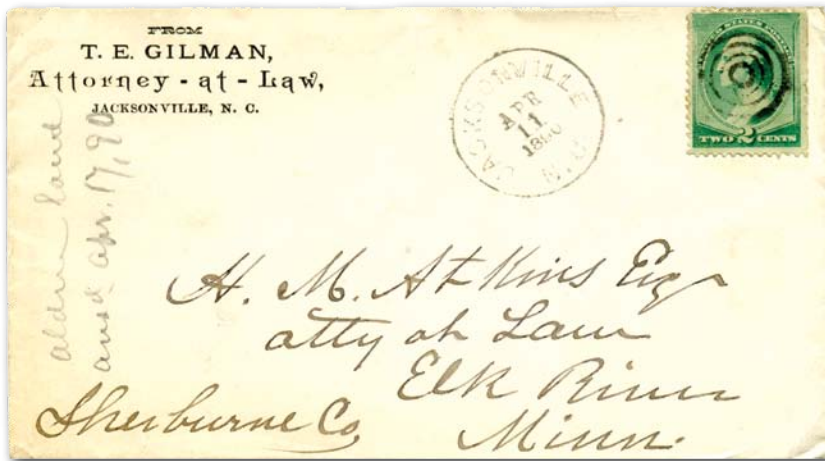
opened on January 1, 1806, with Arthur B. Gregory as the postmaster. Its name was changed to Jacksonville on August 20, 1873, and still operates today. Figure 5 illustrates an early cover from Jacksonville to Elk River, Minnesota. It was posted on April 11, 1890, and was canceled with a Type 1 circular



◀ **Figure 4.** Last day of operations of the Marines post office in Onslow County, illustrated on this envelope posted September 30, 1941. While named “Marines,” this post office was not connected in any way with the Marine Corps.

assignments, first in the Spanish-American War and later in campaigns of the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican

datestamp with a separate target killer. The domestic rate was paid with a 2 cent green 1887 stamp.



◀ **Figure 5.** Early cover from a Jacksonville lawyer to another lawyer in Elk River, Minnesota. The cover was posted on April 11, 1890, and was canceled with a Type 1 circular datestamp with a separate target killer. The domestic rate was paid with a 2 cent green 1887 stamp.

Figure 6. ▶ The new base was originally named "Marine Barracks, New River N.C.," shown by 30.5 mm metal duplex handstamp dated July 2, 1941, on a cover to Los Angeles, California. This was about three months after the first construction began.



The Marine Corps Base was composed of several distinct facilities or installations and several have been renamed over the years. Although the base is located at Jacksonville in Onslow County, its post offices operated as independent branches of the New Bern post office in Craven County. This continued until January 16, 1948, when Camp Lejeune's post offices became branch offices of Jacksonville, as reported in the *Postal Bulletin* No. 19094 of January 6, 1948. The original base area was named "Marine Barracks, New River" when it was established in 1941, and the base carried this name as a branch of New Bern until 1944, when the post office name officially

to Los Angeles, California. The cover was sent just a few months after base construction began.

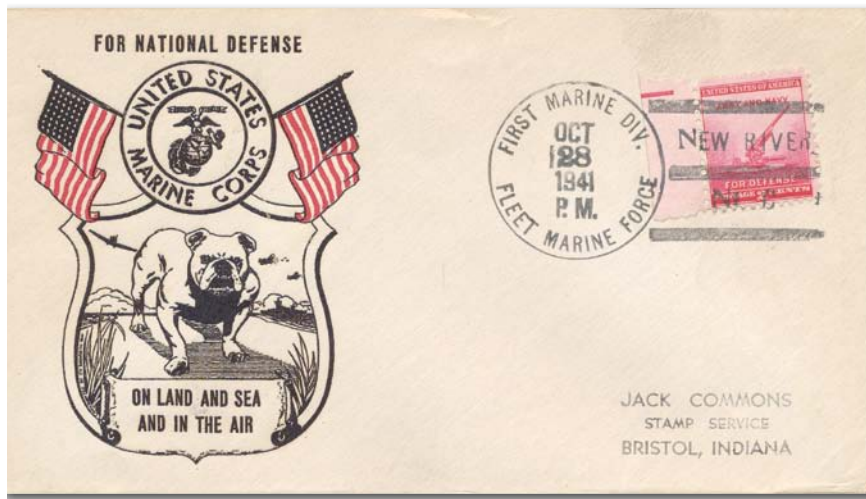
The postcard shown in Figures 7a and 7b was canceled by a Universal Machine Type DT 300 postmark with the name "New River, N.C./Marine Barracks," dated October 3, 1944. This machine cancel has been recorded from November 19,



Figures 7a & 7b. ▶▶ October 3, 1944, postcard canceled by Universal Machine Type DT 300 of "New River, N.C./Marine Barracks." The machine cancel has been recorded from November 19, 1941, until March 19, 1945, long after the base was renamed "Camp Lejeune." The postcard shows an iconic image of Marine infantry charging the beach on the 14 miles of beaches at Camp Lejeune.

1941, until March 19, 1945, several months after the base was renamed “Camp Lejeune.” The postcard picture side shows an iconic image of Marine infantry charging the beach after disembarking from an early version of the LVP (Landing Vehicle Personnel), probably the Landing Vehicle Tracked, LVT-1. This version did not have a drop ramp in front and the men had to jump over the side to exit the vehicle. Later versions had a ramp that dropped down giving more protection. This training would have been conducted on the 14 miles of beaches at Camp Lejeune. This scene was later enacted on many Pacific islands, among them, Saipan, Tarawa, Peleliu, Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

The troop housing area originally was named Tent Camp and later, Tent Camp I and Tent Camp II. As the name suggests, it was composed of hundreds of pyramid squad tents with wooden frames hurriedly erected in 1940/41 for both the First Marine Division and the Army First Division. The First Marine



▲ **Figure 9.** Patriotic cachet on cover with a circular datestamp of the First Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, New River, N.C. dated October 28, 1941, posted over a month before Pearl Harbor.

Division was formed in 1940 from existing regiments, and paved the way to victory in the Pacific in the first major amphibious assaults and battles of Guadalcanal. In 1941, the First Marine Division and the First Army Division practiced amphibious operations on the nearby Onslow Beach. At one point 25,000 troops were landed on the beaches in three and a half hours. This was the beginning of many amphibious operations for both the Marines and the Army. After the Army and Marines finished conducting large scale amphibious training, the First Marine Division occupied all of Tent Camp. Conditions in this tent city were rudimentary, even by early WWII standards. One marine account reports that the tents

were heated by kerosene stoves that barely worked. They were cold and drafty in the winter and hot and exposed to swarms of mosquitoes in the summer. Intentionally or not, this was good training for future jungle warfare in the Pacific Theatre.

Figure 8. ▶ December 26, 1945, enlarged postmark in magenta ink from the branch office at the first troop housing area, called Tent Camp, which was composed of pyramid squad tents. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski).



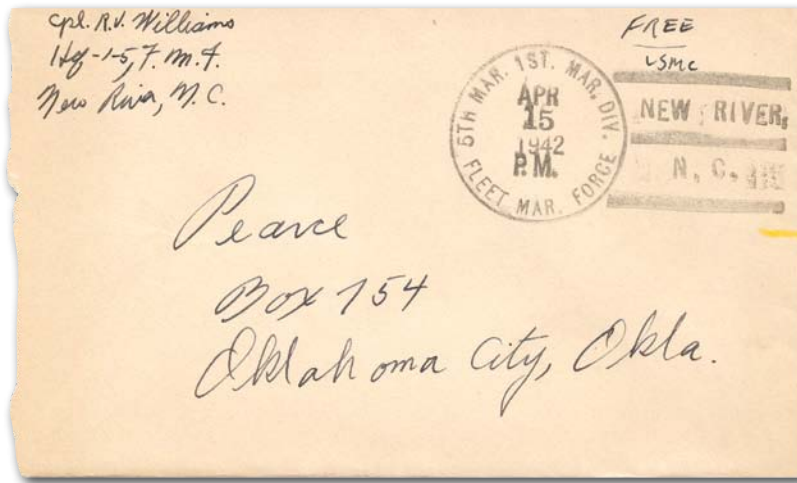
For a short while, Tent Camp Branch had its own cancellation. Figure 8 illustrates an enlarged postmark used at the Tent Camp Branch post office of Camp Lejeune on December 26, 1945. It is illustrated enlarged. This branch office was opened on July 5, 1944. Four months later on November 1, 1944, it was renamed Tent Camp, Camp Lejeune. Tent Camp, the first troop housing area at Camp Lejeune, was renamed Camp Geiger in 1953, after another prominent WWII Marine Corps general, Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger. Camp Geiger is another separate installation and is now a facility for advanced infantry training. One of the eight current post offices at the Marine Corps Base at New River is located at Camp Geiger.

The Fleet Marine Force grew out the amphibious doctrine developed by 1933. Figure 9 illustrates a cover with a patriotic cachet, and carries a circular datestamp of the First Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, dated October 28, 1941. This was still over a month before Pearl Harbor.

The cover shown in Figure 10 was from a corporal in headquarters, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, New River. The cover has the circular datestamp of the “5th Mar. 1ST. Mar. Div./Fleet Mar. Force” dated April 15, 1942. It was sent free, authorized at the time for active duty military personnel. By May 1942, the First Marine Division was on its way to New Zealand and then into history at the critical Guadalcanal campaign.

Another early 1st Marine Division circular datestamp is illustrated in Figure 11. This example is from the 1st Marine Regiment. The 1st Marine Division was made up on the 1st, 5th and 7th regiments along with supporting elements. Specific regiment and division postal markings are uncommon.

Figure 12 shows a cover from a private first class in Company B, 1st Pioneer Battalion to Skaneateles, New York. It was



◀ **Figure 10.** Envelope from a corporal in the headquarters, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, at New River. The cover has the circular datestamp of the “5th Marines, 1st Marine Div., Fleet Marine Force” dated April 15, 1942. It was sent free, a privilege free frank of all wartime active duty military.

canceled with the Universal Machine cancellation of the First Marine Division on April 27, 1942 with “Fleet Marine Force” in the killer portion of the device. The pioneer battalion would be today’s combat engineers. Notice the manuscript “Free” that was the privilege free frank of all wartime active duty military.

Montford Point was a 1,600 acre tract that began as a training center for the first African American Marines. Thousands of African American Marines were trained there during WWII. It was later named Camp Johnson, after First Sergeant Gilbert



▲ **Figure 11.** August 7, 1941, another early 1st Marine Division circular datestamp (enlarged) from the 1st Marine Regiment. The 1st Marine Division was made up on the 1st, 5th and 7th regiments along with supporting elements. Military postal markings for specific regiments and divisions are uncommon. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski).



◀ **Figure 12.** April 27, 1942, cover from a private first class in Company B, 1st Pioneer Battalion, Marine Base, Camp Lejeune to Skaneateles, New York, sent free and canceled with Universal Machine cancel of First Marine Division (Fleet Marine Force in the killer portion). The pioneer battalion would be today’s combat engineers.

“Hashmark” Johnson, an early prominent NCO. The Figure 13 postmark (enlarged) dated October 7, 1946, was a 4-Bar handstamp used during the period. This branch was opened from November 1944 until June 30, 1947.

The New Bern N.C./Rifle Range, Marine Barracks Branch postmark appears in magenta ink on a March 29, 1943, patriotic Marine Corps envelope to Cincinnati, Ohio, illustrated in Figure 14. The cover also has a black, metal duplex circular

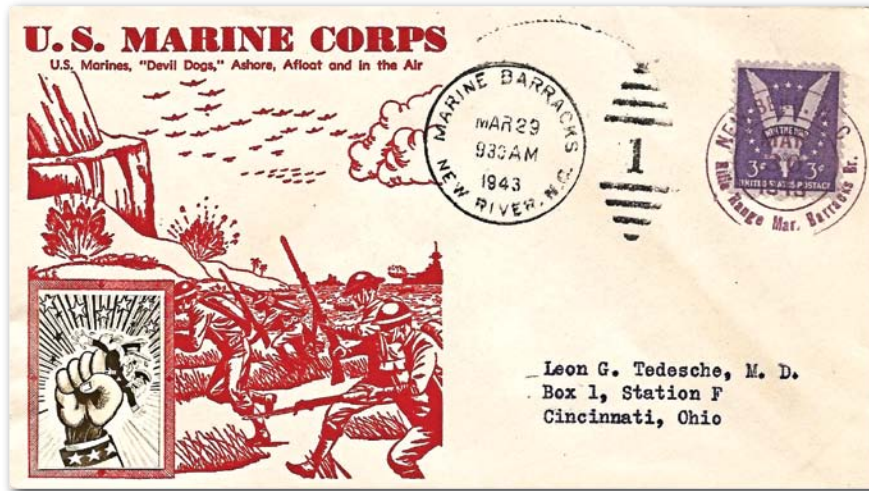
datestamp of the Marine Barracks, New River. Both offices were branches of the New Bern post office. The Rifle Range was completed in the fall of 1942. A post office branch was established

there on January 15, 1943. In March 1944 the name was changed to Rifle Range Battalion, Training Center, New River with Navy and Marine Corps Post Office branch number 12017. On November 1, 1944, the name again was changed to Rifle Range, Camp Lejeune. It still exists today as the Stone Bay Rifle Range.

The Barrage Balloon Group Branch office of New Bern was established on February 1, 1943. On March 1, 1944, it changed



◀ **Figure 13.** Camp Lejeune, Montford Point Branch post office 4-Bar cancel (enlarged) dated October 7, 1946. Montford Point was a 1,600 acre tract that began as a training center for the first African American Marines. It was later named Camp Johnson, after First Sergeant Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, an early prominent NCO. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski)



◀ **Figure 14.** March 29, 1943, Marine Corps patriotic envelope posted at the Rifle Range Marine Barracks Branch of the New Bern post office, addressed to Cincinnati, Ohio. The cover also has a metal duplex circular datestamp of the Marine Barracks, New River, N.C. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski)

to Amphibian Base Battalion Training Center, Camp Lejeune, New River, with Navy and Marine Corps Post Office branch number 12018. On November 1, 1944, the name again was changed to Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune. Figure 15 illustrates an example of the Barrage Balloon Group circular datestamp (enlarged) in magenta ink. During early WWII, the military used large balloons that were tethered above both land targets and ships. Barrage balloons were blimp shaped balloons that were suspended above potential targets to protect them from enemy planes which would have to stay clear of the balloons and their cables. Figure 16 illustrates a postcard with an October 11, 1943, circular datestamp showing troops exercising their barrage balloons at the Camp Lejeune, Marine Base, New River.

Courthouse Bay became another subdivision of Camp Lejeune during WWII and occupied the former Barrage Balloon Branch area. The



▲ **Figure 15.** Barrage Balloon Group Branch circular datestamp (enlarged) in magenta ink dated October 11, 1943. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski)

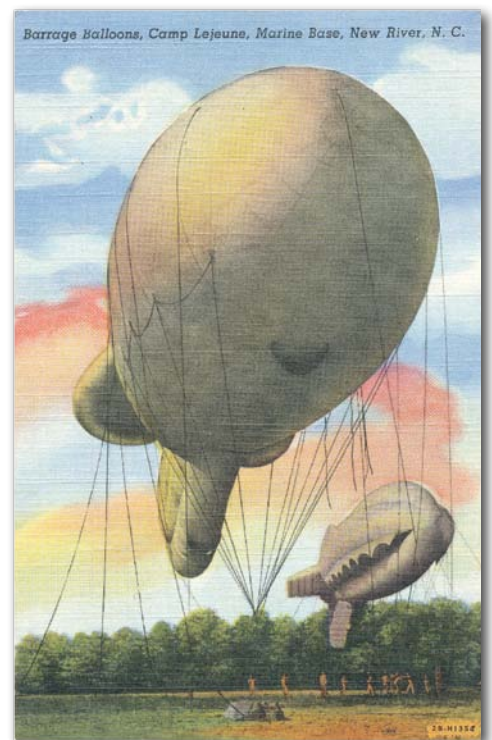


Figure 16. ▶

October 11, 1943, postcard showing troops exercising barrage balloons at Camp Lejeune, Marine Base, New River. These blimp shaped balloons were suspended above potential targets to protect them from enemy planes which would have to stay clear of the balloons and their cables.

Figure 17. ▶

May 10, 1945, postcard from a Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune and posted at the Courthouse Bay Branch. This office opened on November 1, 1944, until July 21, 1947. The Marine could have used the free frank, but paid the 1¢ post card fee instead with a postage stamp. He states he was in an engineer battalion and attending a photolithography school.

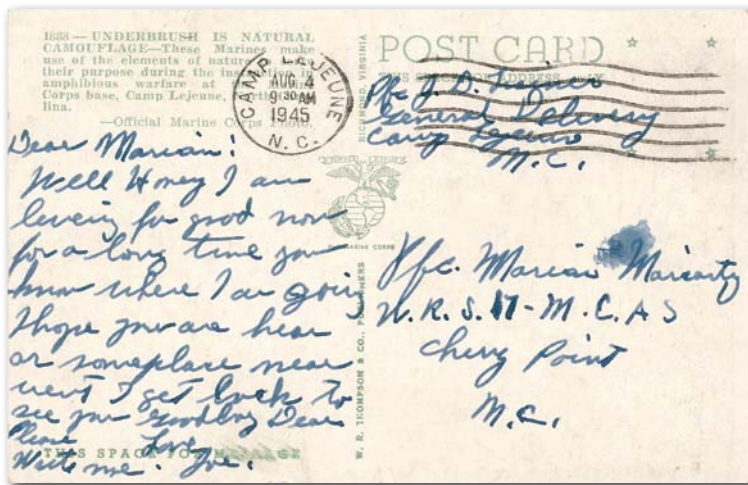


postcard shown in Figure 17 was dated May 10, 1945. Postage was paid with a 1 cent postage stamp. The message on the reverse is clearly from a Marine who could have used the free frank. He states he is in an engineer battalion and in a photolithography school. The partial strike of a magenta postmark is that of Portsmouth, Virginia, the destination of the postcard. Today, Courthouse Bay is home to the Marine Corps Engineer School and the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion.

The Marine Barracks, New River Branch name was changed to Camp Lejeune Branch on November 1, 1944. The base name had been changed officially in late 1942 in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, who died on November 20, 1942; however, the branch post office name did not change for quite some time after his death. It was still a branch of the New Bern Post Office until January 16, 1948, when it was designated a branch office of the Jacksonville post office. The postcard illustrated

as late as March 2007; however, the Zip Code is no longer an active code indicating the branch office has been shut down. Figure 19 illustrates a postcard used on July 14, 1960. It was canceled by an International Machine Type J30 canceling device, an electric machine. The front of the postcard shows the 2nd Marine Division Band Corps on parade, stating it is one of the finest in the military services.

Camp Lejeune currently is the home of the 11th Expeditionary Force, the 2nd Marine Division, the 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and numerous other supporting elements, including a large naval hospital. The envelope illustrated in Figure 20 shows an August 11, 1978, 4-bar cancel of the 2nd Marine Division, The envelope was addressed to the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Winston-Salem (Forsyth County).

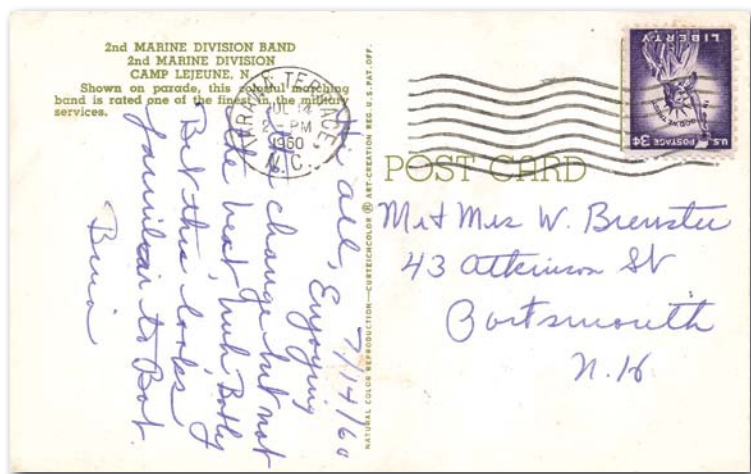


◀ **Figure 18.** August 4, 1945, postcard canceled Camp Lejeune, formerly Marine Barracks, New River Branch, with a Universal Machine Type DT 300 datestamp used from May 19, 1945 until January 16, 1948. The card was addressed to another marine assigned to the Marine Corp Aviation Station at Cherry Point, N.C. and sent free for active duty military.

in Figure 18, dated August 4, 1945, was canceled with a Universal Machine Type DT 300 datestamp used from May 19, 1945, until January 16, 1948. The card was addressed to another Marine assigned to the Marine Corp Aviation Station at Cherry Point, N.C. and sent free for active duty military.

Tarawa Terrace was established as a family base housing area by the 1950s and became a branch post office of Jacksonville beginning June 16, 1954. Postmarks from this office are known

Since the Marine Corps is a part of the Department of the Navy, Camp Lejeune has hosted a variety of tenant naval support units over the years. There are several naval postal markings from Camp Lejeune, which could be the subject of a separate study. The envelope in Figure 21 was postmarked on June 12, 1944, with the U.S. Navy circular datestamp, Locy Type 3, a standard naval postmark used during WWII with a 3-Bar killer. The letter was sent by a sailor in the U.S. Coast Guard Detachment at Camp Lejeune, New River. He wrote “free” in the upper right corner, exercising his privilege frank to a young lady in Chicago, Illinois.

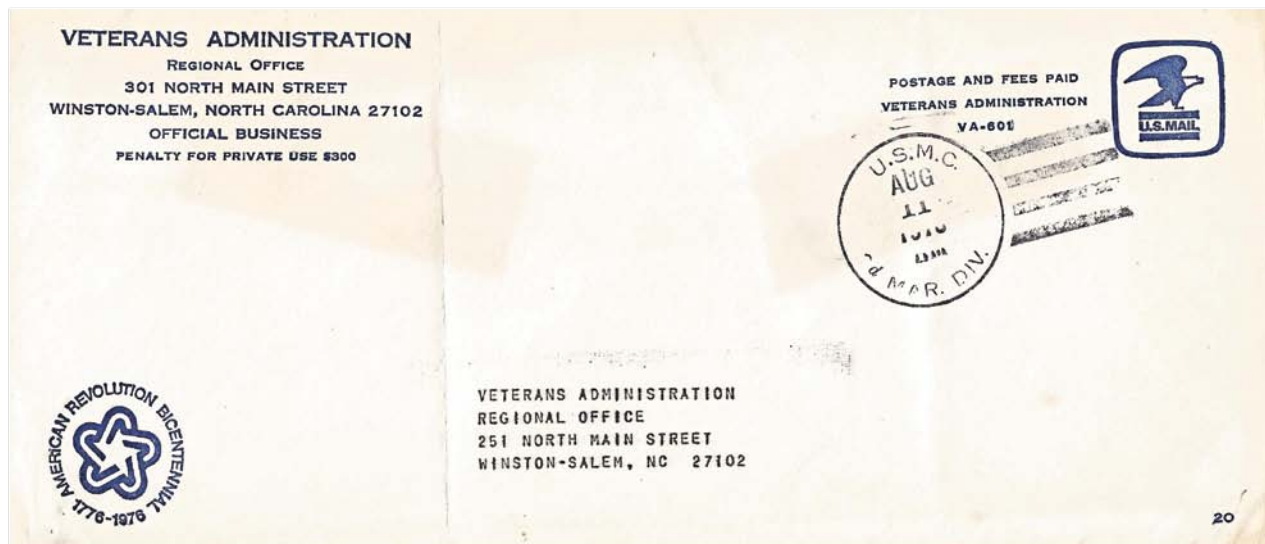


◀ **Figure 19.** July 14, 1960, postcard from the Tarawa Terrace Branch office to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The cancel was created by an International Machine Type J30 canceling device, an electric machine. The front of the postcard shows the 2nd Marine Division Band Corps band on parade.

The name of the Marine Corps Air Station, New River, was changed in 1972 to McCutcheon Field for Brigadier General McCutcheon, one of the fathers of Marine Corps helicopter aviation. A branch post office of Jacksonville operates there today as one of Camp Lejeune's eight functioning post offices. Figure 22 shows the postmark of this branch post office from

hosts helicopter units using the CH3E Super Stallion heavy lift and transport helicopter and the V-22 Osprey, an innovative vertical aircraft that uses two tilt wing mounted engines. It offers the vertical takeoff and landing of a helicopter and the horizontal flight capabilities of a fixed wing aircraft. The Marine Corps Air Station at Havelock, 28 miles northeast of MCAS Camp Lejeune, is the home of the fixed wing Marine air units, fighter and transport aircraft.

Today, Camp Lejeune operates the Marine Corps Outlying Field Camp Davis, near Holly Ridge, in Onslow County. It occupies about 955 acres, using the airfields built for Camp Davis, a large World War II Army anti-aircraft training facility.



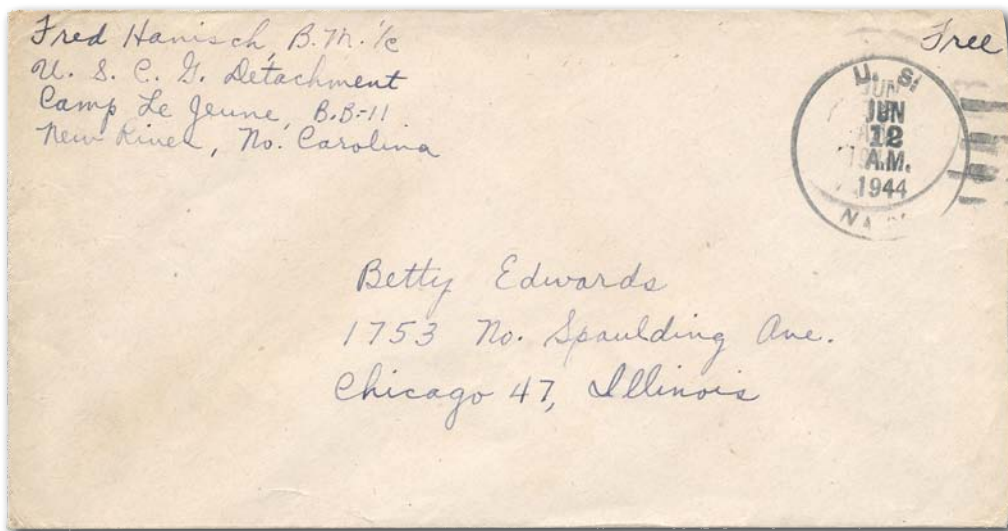
▲ **Figure 20.** Official envelope of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Winston-Salem sent back to that office with an August 11, 1978, 4-bar cancel of the 2nd Marine Division. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski)

a December 5, 1978, use on an official mail cover. The envelope originated from the Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2d MAW, FMF, Atlantic, NCAS, (Helicopter), New River, Jacksonville, N.C. 28545, one of the units stationed there.

The Marine Corps Air Station at Camp Lejeune is located on the northeastern side of the Marine Corps Base and currently

Camp Davis opened in December 1940, and closed for training in 1944. The Marine Corps leased the Camp Davis airfield in 1954 as a training site for helicopter and tilt wing aircraft. Although Camp Davis had post office markings during WW II, there are no known markings under Marine Corps tenure.

Camp Lejeune remains North Carolina's second largest military base, after Fort Bragg near Fayetteville. In 2014, Camp



◀ **Figure 21.** June 12, 1944, envelope with the U.S. Navy circular date-stamp, Locy Type 3, a standard naval postmark during WWII with a 3-Bar killer on a cover to Chicago, Illinois. The letter was sent by a sailor in the U.S. Coast Guard Detachment at Camp Lejeune, New River, with a “free” manuscript frank.



▲ **Figure 22.** December 5, 1978, official envelope from McCutcheon Field Branch post office. The envelope originated from the Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2d MAW, FMF, Atlantic, NCAS, (Helicopter), New River, Jacksonville, N.C. 28545, one of the units stationed there. (Courtesy of Greg Ciesielski)

Lejeune’s total population was 137,514, of which 39,365 were active duty military personnel. The base now encompasses 246 square miles. It has four satellite facilities, at Camp Geiger, Stone Bay, Camp Johnson and the Greater Sandy Run Training Area. All together, Camp Lejeune contains a formidable set of housing and training facilities to support its forces.

As mentioned early in this article, Camp Lejeune had several different base units and facilities that had their own post offices. Many of these were branch offices of the New Bern post office in Craven County until after World War II, when they became branch offices of the Jacksonville post office in Onslow County. The branch offices often changed their names,

providing difficulties for the Post Office Department, who had to make announcements of these post offices in their *Postal Bulletins*, mostly during the war years. Since many of these offices were opened only for short periods of time, collectors often have difficulty finding examples of their postmarks. Table 1 has been prepared to list all the branch offices found in the *Postal Bulletin* announcements. Shown also are the Post Offices assigned numbers for each, as well as the Navy & Marine Corps location numbers, and the former names of the offices when assigned. Occasionally the Navy & Marine Corps location numbers will appear in postmarks, but the post office assigned numbers were for administrative use only. ■

New Bern

P.O. No.	Navy/MC P.O. No.	Name	Former Names
77104		Camp Lejeune Branch (1 Nov 1944)	Camp Lejeune, Marine Barracks, New River (2 Jun 1941)
77115		Cherry Point (1 Jun 1942)	
77117	12017	NPO for Rifle Range, Camp Lejeune (1 Nov 1944)	Rifle Range, Marine Barracks (15 Jan 1943); Rifle Range Battalion, Training Center, Camp Lejeune, New River (1 Mar 1944); Range Battalion, Camp Lejeune (15 Jun 1944);
77119	12018	Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune (1 Nov 1944)	Barrage Balloon Group, New Bern (1 Feb 1943); Amphibian Base Battalion Training Center (1 Mar 1944)
77127	10129	Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune (15 Jun 1944)	Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, NPO (1 Nov 1944)
77129	12007	Montford Point, Camp Lejeune (1 Nov 1944)	Montford Point Camp, Montford Point, Camp Lejeune (15 Jul 1943)
77133	12009	Area One, Camp Lejeune, NPO for Women's Reserve Schools (1 Nov 1944)	MC Women Reserve Schools, Camp Lejeune (16 Aug 1943)
77136	12010	NPO for the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Facility, Pollokville (1 Nov 1943)	NPO for the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Facility, Oak Grove (30 Mar 1945)
77138	12016	Area Four, Camp Lejeune, NPO for Engineering Battalion (1 Nov 1944)	Engineering Battalion Training Center, Camp Lejeune, New River (1 Mar 1944)
77139	12021	NPO for Assembly and Repair Building, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point (15 May 1944)	
77144	12023	Tent Camp, Camp Lejeune (5 Jul 1944)	Tent Camp, Camp Lejeune NPO (1 Nov 1944)
77154	12030	NPO for Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point (1 Nov 1944)	
77168	12025	Distribution Branch, Camp Lejeune (1 Nov 1944)	
77172		Midway Park, Camp Lejeune (1 Mar 1945)	
77173	12040	NPO for Marine Corps Air Station Distributing Branch (1 Jun 1945)	

NPO - Naval Post Office

▲ Table 1. New Bern Branch post offices at Camp Lejeune showing Post Office Number, Navy/Marine Corps Post Office Number, Name, and Former Names

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New Markings

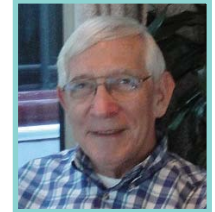


Enlarged scan

A new postmark for Wadesboro (Anson County) recently was found on eBay. The postmark has tentatively been identified as Type 4a. It is a 23.5 mm magenta circular datestamp of 7 December 187x (probably 1872 based on other postmarks used at Wadesboro). A marking of this style has not been seen before. Besides its small size and magenta color, it is a very early postmark showing time, but no year in the date. The marking is on a cover to General M.W. Ransom, U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C.

Northampton County lawyer Matthew Whitaker Ransom took a seat as a U.S. senator from North Carolina on 24 April 1872, replacing Zebulon B. Vance, who had been elected but denied his seat because of political disabilities as an ex-Confederate (war Governor). He continued as a North Carolina senator until 1895, when he lost his seat to an Populist party candidate. Soon thereafter, he received a presidential appointment as Ambassador to Mexico, a position he held for the next two years and then retired to North Carolina.

More on Edgeworth Female Seminary



by Richard F. Winter

In the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Winter 2014-2015, Whole No. 129 issue, I wrote a short article about the Edgeworth Female Seminary, a prominent Greensboro school for ladies in the 1840s and 1850s. Besides locating the school, which was destroyed by fire in 1872, I provided some details on the curriculum and the expenses involved with attending this highly regarded school. Much of this informa-

died on 9 October 1844 at the age of 36. Morgan and his wife were in charge for the next five years before Professor Richard Sterling took charge in 1850. The folded document was posted at the Greensboro post office on 28 October, receiving the Greensboro Type 5 circular datestamp in blue ink and a small circle 5 handstamp, also in blue ink. Since this item was not prepaid, it was marked at Greensboro for postage due of 5 cents to be paid by the recipient. The absence of a notation or handstamp indicating the item was paid meant that the postage stated on the cover was the postage due. This amount was the correct postage for a ½ oz. letter going a distance of up to 300 miles. This domestic letter rate had become effective on 1 July 1845, a few months earlier.



Figure 1. ▲

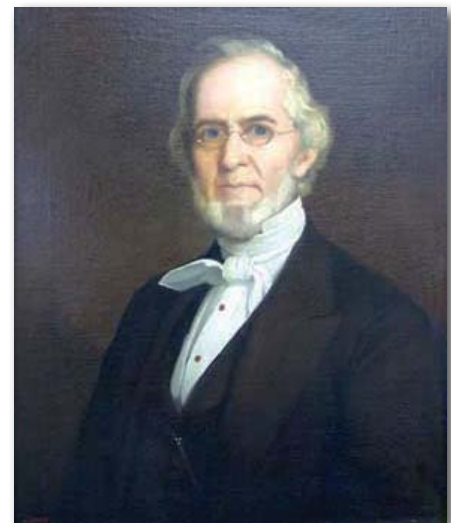
28 October 1845, document folded into a letter shape from Greensboro to Rev. Drury Lacey, Raleigh. The cover was marked in blue ink with a Greensboro Type 5 circular datestamp and 5 cents postage due from addressee.

Reverend Drury Lacy, Jr., pictured in Figure 2, was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. Born on 5 August 1802, he was the son of a prominent Presbyterian minister and scholar associated with the Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. The son, Drury Lacy, Jr., studied at the Union Theological Seminary, near Ararat, Virginia. He was ordained an evangelist by the East Hanover Presbytery in 1831. From 1834 through 1836 he was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in New Bern, North Carolina, before becoming the pastor of the church in Raleigh, where he was pastor from 1837 until 1855. Five of his seven children by his first marriage reached adulthood. His wife

tion was provided from the pamphlet, *Annual Catalog of the Teachers and Pupils of Edgeworth Female Seminary* of 1854.

Soon after publishing the article, I came across more details related to the expenses of the school from an unexpected source, a Greensboro cover. This was not really a letter but a page from an expense account book maintained by the school's principal. The sheet was folded into letter form, sealed on the reverse with a wax wafer, and posted as an unpaid letter. Because it provides an "inside look" at the operation of the school, I thought it appropriate to supplement the original article with this new information.

The cover is pictured in Figure 1, addressed to "The Reverend, Drury Lacey, Raleigh N.C." It was dated inside "October 1845" and signed by Gilbert Morgan. In my original article I stated that the Reverend Gilbert Morgan and his wife assumed management of the school in 1845 after the death of Miss Mary Ann Hoye. She was the first principal of the school, who



▲ **Figure 2.** Rev. Drury Lacy, Jr., pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Raleigh from 1837 to 1855, to whom cover was sent.

died of tuberculosis in 1849 at age 40. He remarried three years later and had three more children. The only female child of his first marriage was Elizabeth (Bessie) Rice Lacy, who was born in 1832. She would have been 13 years of age in 1845 and had to be the one attending Edgeworth Female Seminary. In 1855 Rev. Drury Lacy took over as President of Davidson College near Charlotte, leaving in 1860 to become a Chaplain in the NC 47th Regiment during the Civil War, seeing action in Virginia. In addition to his field activities he ministered to wounded soldiers at Confederate military hospitals in Raleigh and Wilson, North Carolina. After the war, he returned to Raleigh, where he and his second wife were educators at the Presbyterian-founded female school in Raleigh, the Peace Institute. This school eventually became the present-day Peace College.

Since his only daughter at the time, Elizabeth, was undoubtedly the student for which the document was sent to Rev. Lacy, we can now look at the document more closely because it provides a lens to the Edgeworth Female Seminary operations. In my original article I documented the basic expenses for attending the school that were stated in the school's 1854 catalog. By placing the 1854 expenses in today's dollars, and those of a typical North Carolina wage-earner in 1854, it was clear that this was an expensive school to attend. The mission statement of the school, presented in the catalog, also made it clear that the curriculum was intended to provide a very a comprehensive education to the young ladies in attendance. Based on the expenses of the school, Rev. Lacy either had a handsome salary as the Raleigh church pastor or had substantial outside income.

As I said earlier, the cover consisted of a page from an account book on which were listed the accumulated expenses incurred by his daughter and sent to Rev. Lacy to be paid, covering the five-month session from June through October 1845. Figure 3 illustrates this document. Examining the expenses recorded on this document, it is easy to understand that a careful record was kept of every little expense incurred, which then was summarized for the session and sent to the parent of the student. It turns out that there were a considerable number of "small" expenses above those outlined in the catalog, which listed primarily the room and board, and the cost of extra courses above the standard course. A sampling of expenses from this invoice follows:

Blank book for composition	30¢
<i>Davies Arithmetic</i> [text book]	50¢
Blank book for French	12¢
Postage on letters	12½¢
[a June 12th date for this entry indicates the new postal rates of 1 July 1845 had not yet gone into effect in Greensboro]	
Lead pencil	6¢
1 yard of lace	12½¢
Gloves	37½¢
More entries for letter postage at 5¢ each	

Cash for a fair	37¢
Cash paid for fruit several times weekly in August	75¢
Letter paper	12¢
<i>Addicts Elements of French</i>	50¢
Cash for mending parasol	12½¢
Steel pens, quills, pencils, ink for term paper	25¢
115 pages of music	\$5.75

With some adjustments, the total of the miscellaneous expenses for the session was \$15. To this amount was added the term bill for Board & Tuition of \$75, Instruction in Music \$20, Instruction in French \$10, use of the piano for daily practice of \$3, and Instruction in Latin of \$10, totaling another \$118. Another adjustment was made for time and for a cash advancement of \$50. Apparently, there was another advancement of \$20, perhaps on these sundry expenses. This left a balance of \$53, which Rev. Lacy was asked to send by mail to the bank of Messrs. J & F Garrett of Greensboro. He was offered the opportunity to make a deposit on the account or send a check for the full amount of \$53.

While Gilbert Morgan's accounting on this document isn't completely understood, the invoice does provide a picture of additional expenses for Rev. Lacy's daughter at this term of instruction. Again, placing these expenses in perspective in today's dollars, Rev. Lacy was paying the equivalent of \$3,797 for this one term, or about \$7,600 for the year. This amount was about 245% of an average year's wages in the southeast using the estimating technique of the original article.

Had I not written the original article on the Edgeworth Female Seminary, I would not have had sufficient understanding of the school and its operation to appreciate the value of the document that I later acquired. Pulling together apparently unrelated pieces of information to reach a fuller understanding can sometimes achieve a very satisfactory conclusion to a postal history pursuit. ■

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Rev Drury Lacy

June	12	Blank book for compositions	30
		Davies Arithmetic	50
		Blank book for French 12; Vigil, Cooper 1, 87	2 00
		Bushings black tipped at cost 1.25;	1 25
July		Postage on letters 12½; on papers 05; Sad pencil 06;	2 3½
	12	Cash for Ladies Sewer 50; 14 ^d Lace 12½; Gloves 37½; Paper 06;	1 06
Aug		Paper letters 12; Cash 03; Postage letters 10	31
		Cash paid for fruit several times weekly during Aug	75
		Blank book 12; Letter paper ½ quire 12; Cash for fair 37½	62
Sept	9	Postage 05; 24 th 05; several papers 06; 26 th 2 letters 10;	26
		Addict. Elements of French; a Mad in June.	50
		Cash for mending for school 12½;	12 ½
		Washers work, Silks at 8 times	58
October		fruit since August 15; Cape 12½; ½ quire letter paper 12	42
		Steel pens, quills, pencils, ink for the term, paper, & c.	25
		Postage letters & papers 10;	10
		115 Pages of Music	5 75
		(The 75 value of B's change shall cancel the 3.12½)	15 00
Term bill board of tuition			75.00
Instruction in Music			20;
" in French			10
Use of Piano for daily Practice			3
Instruction in the Latin Language			10
			118
Deduction for time (Month by usage)			10
			108
Or by Cash advanced June 12 th			103 00
:			50
			53 ..
Or by Deposit in Bank to the Order of Messrs Garrett, Quakers			53
N. B. Rev. Drury Lacy will send by mail to Messrs J. & J. Garrett the deposit a check for			
Edgeworth			Gilbert Morgan
1845			

▲ **Figure 3.** Contents of the 28 October 1845 cover from Greensboro (Guilford County) to Rev. Drury Lacy in Raleigh (Wake County), an account book page with accumulated small expenses of Rev. Lacy's daughter for the five-month session from June to October 1845 at Edgeworth Female Seminary.

Oxford Female College, Oxford, NC



by Tony L. Crumbley

It is not often one can add a North Carolina college cover to one's collection from a school not seen before. That was recently the case for me thanks to the astute eye of member Larry Baum who spotted a college cover not previously reported and notified me about it.

In William Powell's book, *Higher Education in North Carolina*, his chronological list of schools has Oxford Female College as the 17th institution of higher learning within the state. The school received its charter in 1851 and opened the same year as a Baptist college. It was located in Oxford, the county seat of Granville County. Samuel Wait was the school's first president. He was a Baptist minister and educator. He served as president until 1857, when the school was sold to John H. Mills because it had accrued so much debt and could no longer operate. Mr. Mills continued to operate it as a private institution. A series of owners operated it until 1880 when it was purchased by F.P. Hobgood who converted it to Oxford Female Seminary. Mr. Hobgood had operated the Raleigh Female Seminary for the previous ten years and now applied his administrative skills to upgrading this school's stature. The school now divided its courses of study that prepared young ladies for college as well as having college level courses. Hobgood was very successful. His school was so popular in Oxford that following a fire in 1904 that destroyed the school, the Oxford citizens raised the necessary money to have it rebuilt. Hobgood died in 1924 and the school was closed in 1925.

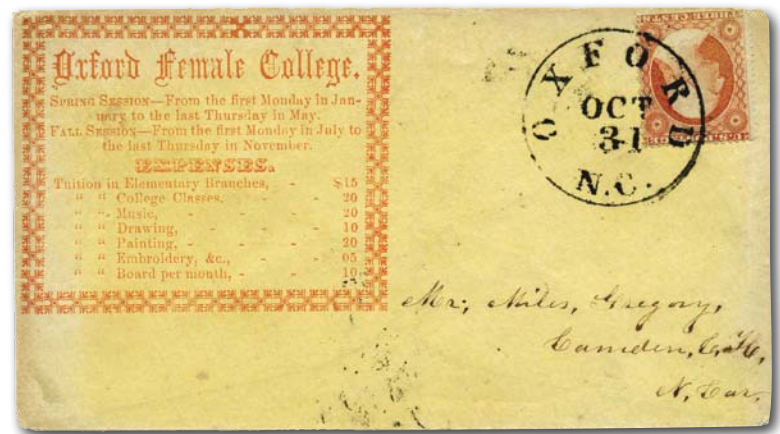
There is evidence that Mr. Hobgood purchased the Raleigh Female Seminary and merged it in with the Oxford Female Seminary around 1881.

The Figure 1 cover is the only recorded example of an illustrated cover from this school. Posted on October 31st, late 1850s, this envelope has an illustrated corner card advertising the Oxford Female College. This printed corner card identifies the two annual sessions available and provides the tuition expenses for the various courses taught. The envelope was addressed to Camden Court House (Camden County). Since the 3 cent dull red stamp was issued in September 1857, it is not clear if this is a corner card produced under Baptist ownership



or under Mr. Mills ownership. One would expect, however, it was produced after Mr. Mills purchased the school and began to market it.

A second cover is a folded letter, the date-line of which was "Oxford Female College Apr. 24th 1852" (Figure 2). This is another cover from this elusive North Carolina female school. The outside of this folded letter is shown in Figure 3. The letter was posted at the Oxford post office on April 28th and was addressed to Whiting, Addi-



▲ **Figure 1.** October 31, late 1850s, illustrated corner card envelope advertising Oxford Female College, posted in Oxford and addressed to Camden Court House (Camden County). The corner card identifies the two annual sessions and provides the tuition expenses for the various courses taught.

son County, Vermont. The letter was from a music instructor at the college who is about to leave the school as she is unhappy with her treatment by another female instructor. Her three-page letter is to her mother and brother in Vermont outlining her decision and her future plans. ■

References:

William S. Powell. Editor. *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.



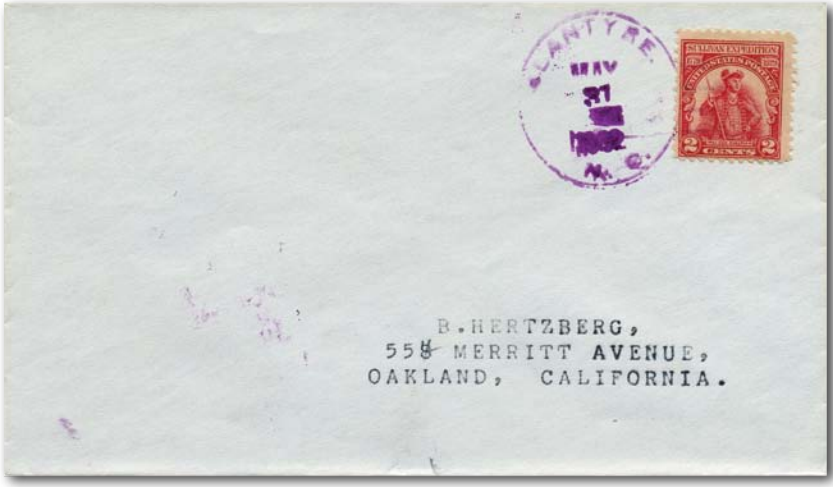
▲ **Figure 2.** Dateline of folded letter, "Oxford Female College Apr 24th 1852," another cover from this elusive North Carolina female school.



Figure 3. ▶

.April 28, 1852, folded letter from Oxford (Granville County) to Whiting, Addison County, Vermont. The letter was from a music instructor at Oxford Female college, who is about to leave the school as she is unhappy with her treatment by another female instructor.


Mystery Cover



Poor management of postmark device use, in this case over-inking, can sometimes make it difficult to identify postmarks. Can you identify the post office where this marking was used and explain its significance on the cover?

Send your answers to Tony Crumbley or Dick Winter

Have You Checked Our Web Site?
The North Carolina Postal History Society's web site is located at www.ncpostalhistory.com
Take a look and let us know how you feel about it.




a.k.a. CoverCrazy2

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North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update

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Alamance through Scotland
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