

MAIL SERVICE FOR THE CONFEDERATE ARMY ON THE HATTERAS COAST 1861-62

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With the secession of North Carolina from the Union on May 20, 1861, the state government quickly realized the need to defend its coast from possible Federal incursion – a long coast, stretching almost 300 miles from Currituck Island to Cape Fear. There were four forts along the southern half of this coast: Forts Hatteras and Clarke at Hatteras Inlet and Fort Morgan at Ocracoke Inlet, the three controlling access to Pamlico Sound, and Fort Macon on Bogue Banks, protecting Morehead City (Figure 1). Figure 2 illustrates the Beaufort area with Fort Macon guarding the seaward entrance to Beaufort, Morehead City, Carolina City and Bogue Sound.

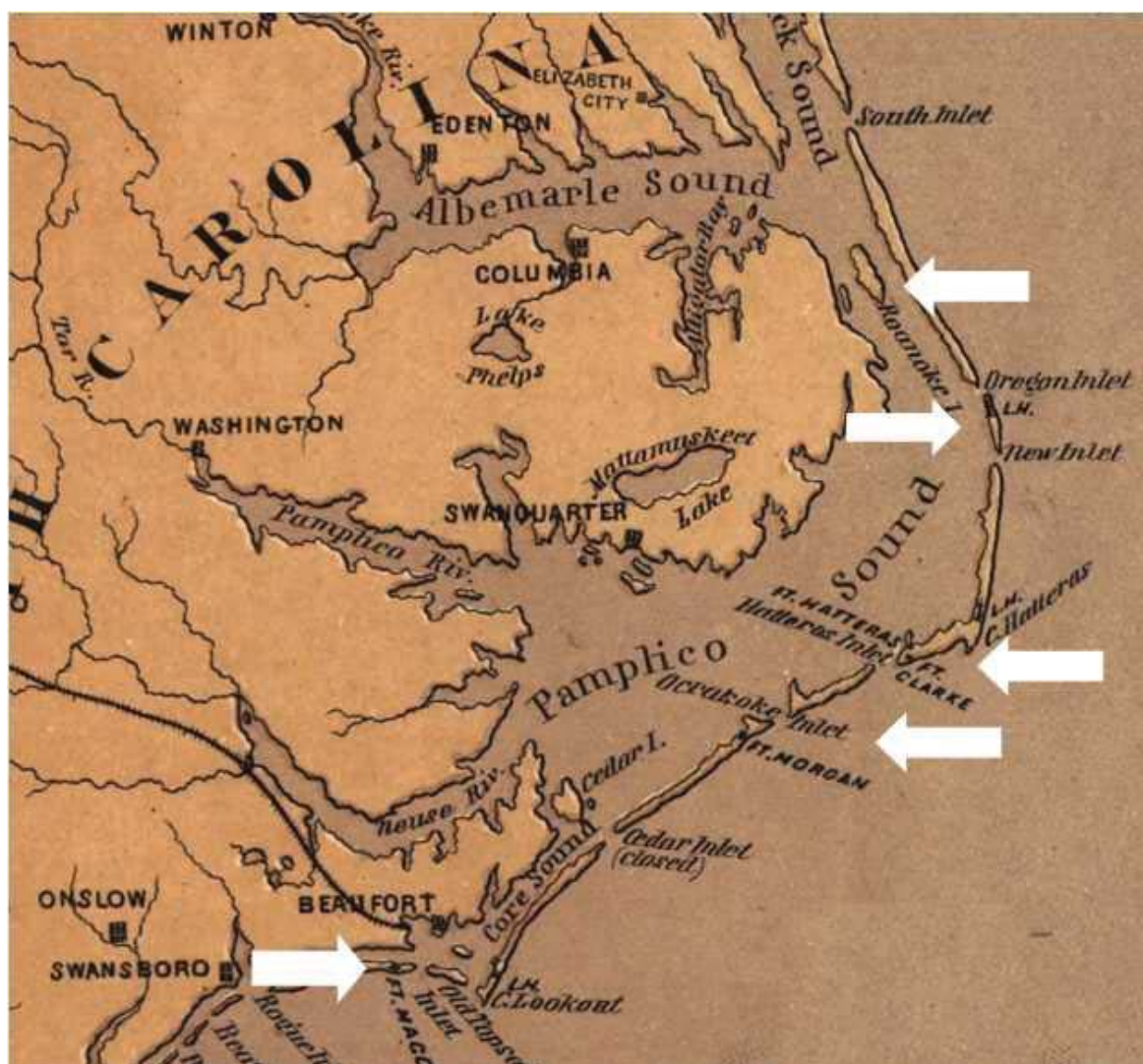


Figure 1. Map of the defenses of the Outer Banks. White arrows indicate concentrations of Confederate troops in the summer of 1861. (From Burnside's Expedition Map, published by L. Prange & Co., Boston, Library of Congress.)

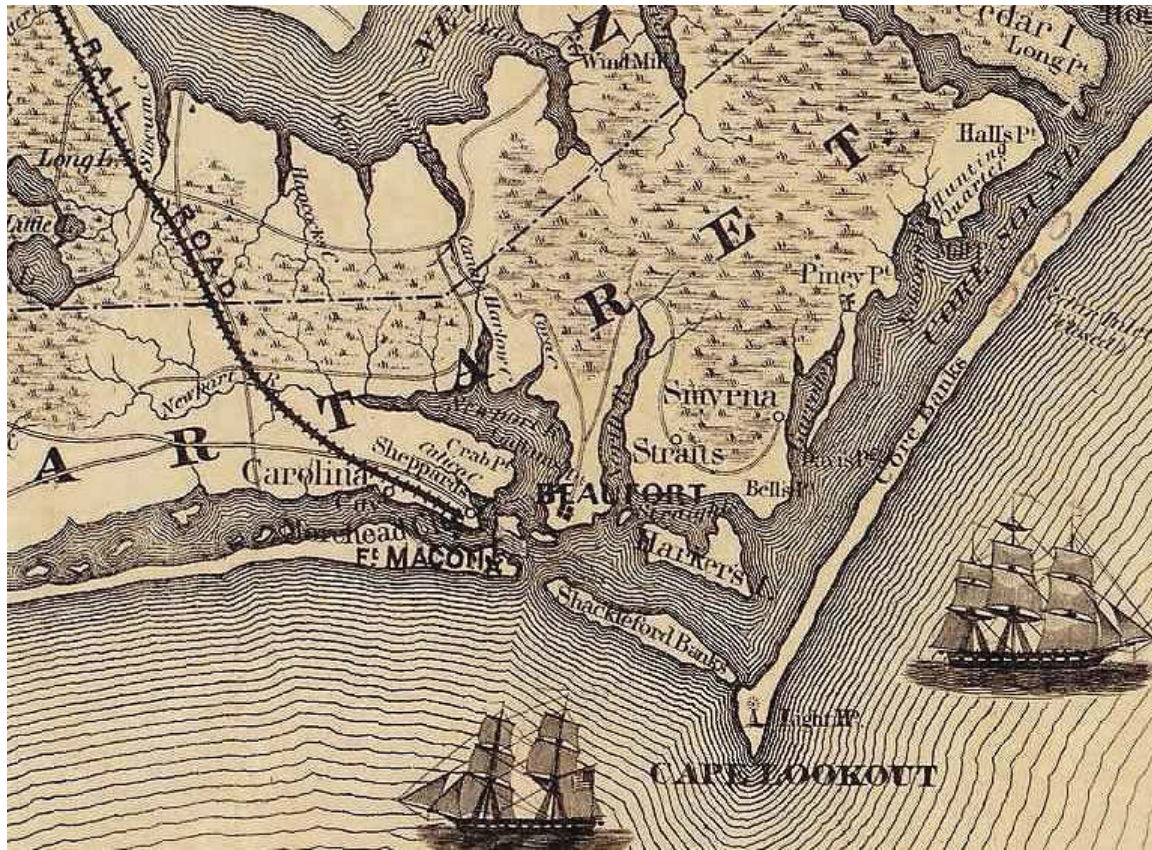


Figure 2. Enlarged view of Fort Macon, Carolina City, Morehead City and Bogue Sound (from Colton's New Topographical Map of the eastern Portion of the State of North Carolina, 1863. J.H. Colton, New York. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.).

In past articles I dealt with mail service for the Confederates on Roanoke Island. In this article I will consider service for the troops at Portsmouth (Forts Morgan, Hatteras and Clark), Fort Macon, Carolina City and Morehead City. To properly interpret the postal history of this period and identify letters, especially prepaid, ostensibly civilian letters, one must understand the military history.

In the 1850s, entrepreneurial interest was directed to Beaufort Harbor as a seaport. Across from Beaufort, Shepherd's Point, a long peninsula of land formed by Bogue Sound and Calico Creek, attracted attention because it was ideal for a port town, providing an 18-foot draft, whereas Beaufort could only handle ships with 9- to 10-foot draft. In 1853 John Morehead purchased the 600-acre Shepherd's Point. In June of that year other investors incorporated Carolina City Land Company and purchased 904 acres of land three miles west of Shepard's Point.

The North Carolina General Assembly authorized a railroad extension, known as the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, from Goldsboro, to terminate at Beaufort Harbor in 1854-55. The stockholders of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad decided to terminate the railroad not at Carolina City's site but Morehead's development at Shepherd's Point, with its deep-water access. Morehead City was developed in late 1857, with the railroad connection being completed in June 1858. Nevertheless, Carolina City was platted out, extending almost a mile along Bogue Sound. (When completed, the railroad did pass through town.) A landing was built on Bogue Sound with a railroad spur extended from it to the main line. A fine three-story hotel, the Carolina Hotel, became a popular resort. The 1860 census listed 187 males, 210 females and 23 slaves, for a total

of 420 people, whereas Morehead City held 316. In contrast, the 1860 census for Beaufort listed 1,611. A post office was established in Carolina City on Dec. 30, 1858, with Richard Bright as the first postmaster. Post office business was not inconsiderable, although dwarfed by Beaufort (Table 1, Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6).

Office	Compensation (3 Qrs. FY1861)	Prewar P.M.	C.S. PM
Beaufort	\$237.56	W.J. Potter	J.J. Davis 1 Jun 61, Wm. J. Potter 6 Jul 61
Carolina City	\$27.51	Jos. R. Franklin (also Agent, Atlantic & North Carolina RR)	W.S. Long (1 Jul 61) Jos. R. Franklin (4 Jul 61)
Morehead City	\$74.40	John W. Collins	John W. Collins (6 Jul 61)
Portsmouth	\$18.89	Wilson F. Piver	Wilson F. Piver
Ocracoke	\$7.24	D. Tolson	–
Smyrna	\$8.47	W. Davis	W. Davis (6 Jul 61)
Shephardsville (Newport)	\$22.95	N. D. Adams; D. McCain	D. McCain (14 Nov 61), C.F. Thomas (21 Nov 61)

Table 1. Post office data for offices in the lower Hatteras area. Note: Postmasters' compensation at such a small office was 60% on the first \$100 postage, 50% on the next \$300 and 50% of all newspaper postage collected. Thus, for example, Carolina City saw approximately \$45.85 postage collected July 1, 1860- April 1, 1861. If one assumes almost all were first-class letters (3¢), that amount represents approximately 1,500 letters sent. For Morehead City the estimate is approximately 4,100 letters mailed.

What about Hatteras? For its part, it was described by a Union soldier:

“Several hundred people are scattered along this bar, who get a living, such as it is, by fishing, gathering oysters, picking up a wreck now and then, and doing a little piloting. Most of the people were born there and had never seen any other locality. Ignorance is bliss, and these people are supremely happy. The center of the universe is at Hatteras ... Somewhere up the bar, is a meeting house with a little church organization and a little burial place with wooden head-boards to the graves. There are women here who never wore shoes. They seldom see any money – indeed don't need it and are happy without it. It's a paradise for those who have no money and no expectation of any.”

Another description provides some amusing insights:

“Hatteras Island was, and possibly still is, inhabited by a hardy, raw-boned, tough-looking people, with rough, weather-beaten countenances, and possessed of a good stock of native shrewdness. There are few deaths among them, the chief disease is consumption ... The women are pale, frail, attenuated creatures, who apparently never grow old. Tradition has it that they gradually shrink up, and at some remote period are blown away. The men are ostensibly pilots. Every house boasts its “lookout” ... The coast is a treacherous one, the best possible for wreckers, and in the use of decoy or false lights these worthies are well versed. Many of

Figure 3 (facing page, top). Another, “aerial” view of the Fort Macon area. Blue arrow indicates where Burnside's Expedition landed on March 13 to attack Newbern (From Bird's Eye View of North and South Carolina and Part of Georgia Panorama of the Seat of War, New York, John Bachmann, c. 1861, Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.).

Figure 4 (facing page, bottom). A sketch of Carolina City “taken March 23rd 1862.” (From a Sketchbook made by J.N. Shadek, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Conn.)

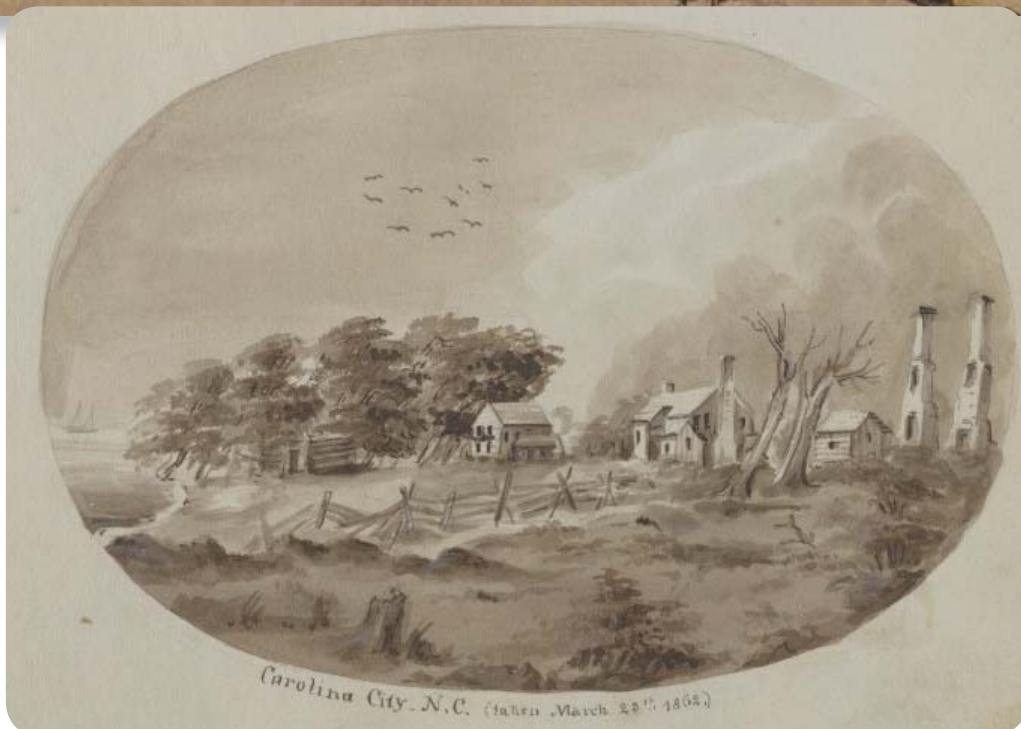
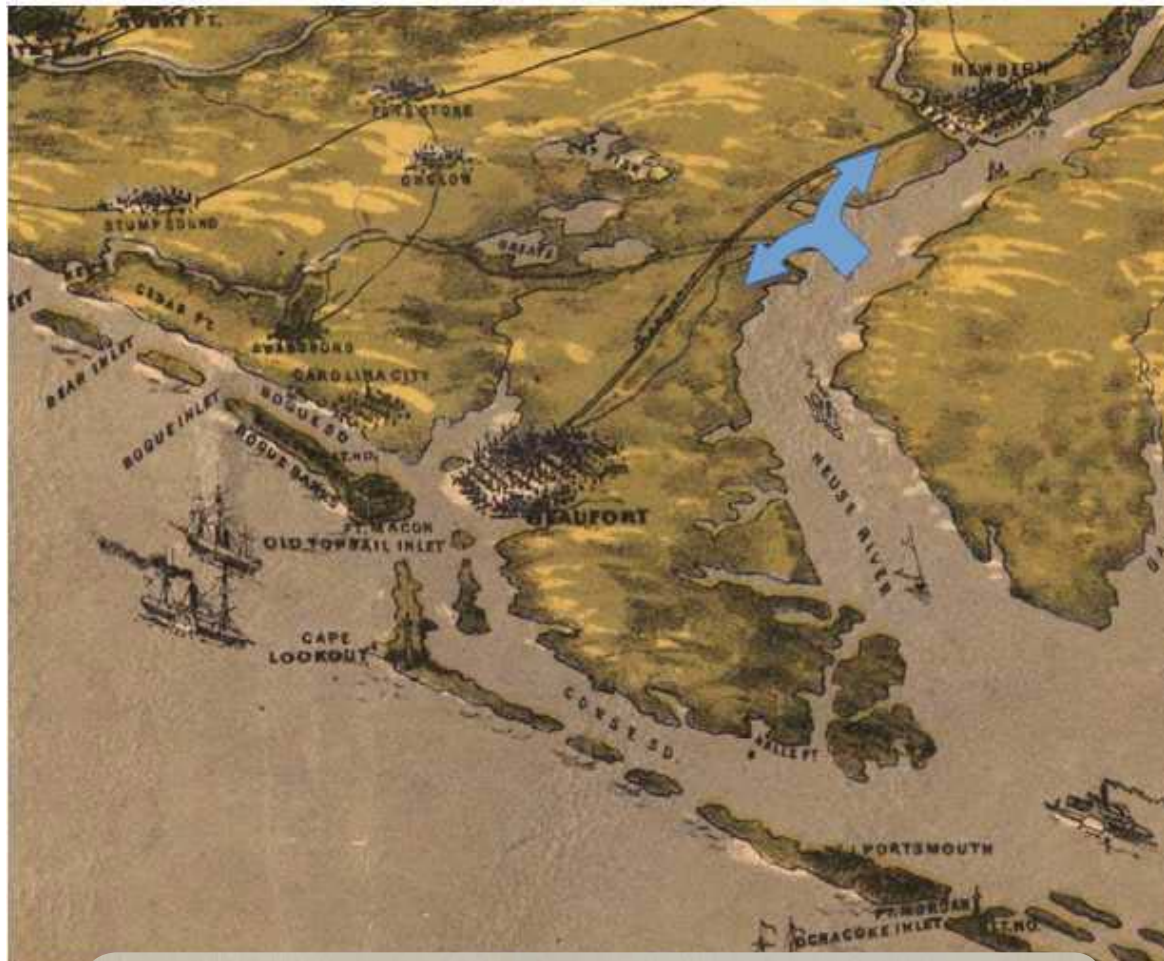
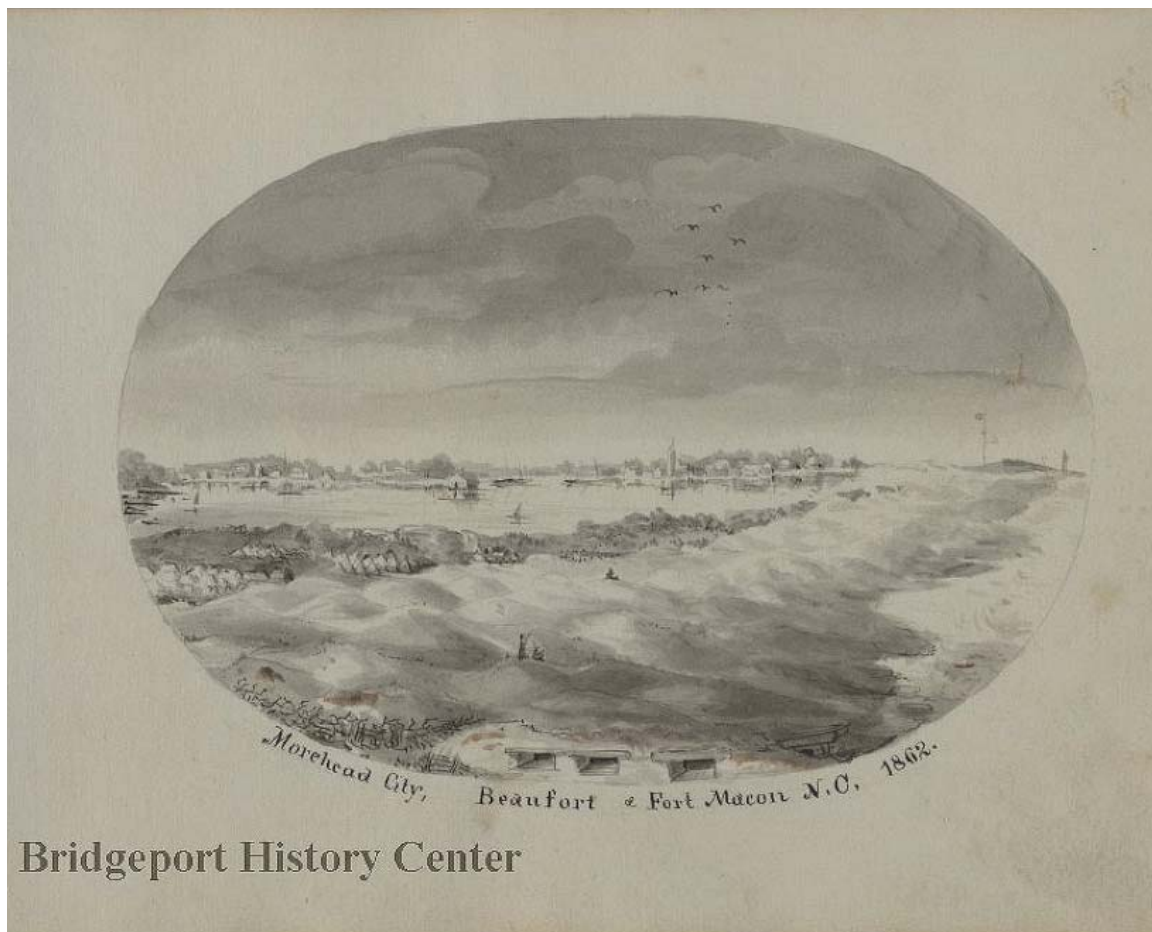





Figure 5 (above). View of Morehead City “from the balcony of the Macon House, Morehead City,” with Fort Macon in the distant background. (From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)

Figure 6 (below). View of Bogues Bank and Fort Macon, with Morehead City and Beaufort in the distance. Note the tents of the Confederate camps in the left side of the image. (From a sketchbook made by J.N. Shadok, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Conn.).





the stranded hulls with which the coast is strewn, owe their destruction to the actions of bad men ... A peculiar characteristic of the ladies of Hatteras is the dreadful habit snuff-dipping, to which they are all, married and single, addicted ... The female islander smokes also, and spits 'just like a man.' Every house on the island seems to be built after the same model, by the same builder, and many hundred years ago ... square in shape, one story high, with a porch sliced into one corner, without cellars ... there are no foundation walls, because there are no stones to make them. Piles or large props are driven into the sand, and upon these the houses are erected ... There are no plastered walls, although many houses have a lining of paper. The staple articles of food are fish and sweet potatoes. Corn, pigs and poultry are raised by some. Garden cultivation is very primitive and exceedingly careless ... They are a religious people, in their own peculiar way ... If their stock of provisions be short, they think it right and proper to pray that the coast may be strewn with wrecks laden with the kind of provisions most needed."

Portsmouth, founded in 1753, was a major transshipment port in the antebellum years, with almost all northern coastal North Carolina trade passing through it. It was also distinguished for its Marine Hospital (built in 1847), lighthouse and fort. The 1860 census lists 685 people, mostly fisherman and mariners, living in 105 dwelling houses. There were even two physicians (at the Marine Hospital) and two teachers. Ocracoke, on the opposite side of the inlet, was a town of about 600 people. Both had post offices.

Military aspects

War came to the area early – Fort Macon, on Bogue Island and virtually abandoned since 1849, was occupied by the Goldsborough Rifles and Josiah Pender's Beaufort Harbor Guards on April 15, 1861, a full month before the state seceded from the Union, undoubtedly surprising the lone ordnance sergeant who was stationed there. An amusing story of the actual occupation is related by a Fort Macon-related website.

A number of North Carolina companies, which became the 7th North Carolina and later renamed the 17th North Carolina, were stationed at Portsmouth and Ocracoke, manning Forts Morgan, Hatteras and Clark. The Washington Grays were the first to arrive, landing at Portsmouth Island in late May, followed by Independent Grays at Hatteras. More men and supplies arrived to build or rebuild the forts there. Additional companies – the Tar River Boys, Hertford Light Infantry, Confederate Guards and Hyde County Rifles – were added as soon as these companies were mustered into service. The location of the various Confederate units during the summer and autumn of 1861 is listed in Table 2.

Locating the various units is important in understanding which post offices may have processed their mail. The initial garrison at Fort Macon in April 1861 consisted of the Orange Guards (Co. C, 9th North Carolina), Goldsboro Rifles (later Co. A of the 27th Infantry), Wilson Light Infantry (Co. B of the 2nd) reinforced by Latham's Artillery. This garrison soon swelled with arrival of work parties and more troops. Evidently there was even a company of "free negroes" from Hillsborough, the "Orange Blacks." Meanwhile local volunteers organized as steps toward war progressed. In early May the first troops arrived at Portsmouth. The Independent Grays (Capt. Cohoon) arrived at Hatteras at about the same time.

Union troops moved against these forts in August 1861, capturing first Ft. Hatteras, then Clark (Figure 7). With those defeats, Fort Morgan was abandoned. Most of the 500 inhabitants of Portsmouth and 600 of Ocracoke fled, leaving "ghost towns" for the Federal occupiers. These events left the Confederate defenders concentrated in the Fort Macon-Carolina City-Morehead City area.

Unit (Commanding Officer)	County of Origin	Initial location	Subsequent unit
Roanoke Guards (Lamb)	Martin	Hatteras	Co. A, 17th N.C.
Hamilton Guards (Clements)	Martin	Hatteras	Co. G, 17th N.C.
Lenoir Braves (Sutton)	Lenoir	Hatteras	Co. K, 32nd N.C.
Independent Grays (Cohon)	Pasquotank	Hatteras	Co. E, 7th N.C., later Co. B, 32nd N.C.
North Carolina Defenders (Luke)	Camden	Hatteras	Co. H, 32nd N.C.
Jonesboro Guards (Duke)	Camden	Hatteras	Co. I, 32nd N.C.
Morris Guards (Gilliam)	Washington	Beacons island, Hatteras	Co. H, 17th N. C.
Currituck Atlantic Rifles (Lindsey)	Currituck	Oregon Inlet	Co. L, 17th N.C.
John Harvey Guards (Johnson)	Perquimans	Oregon Inlet	Co. I, 17th N.C.
State Guards (Martin)	Pasquotank	Oregon Inlet	Co. F, 17th N.C.
Currituck Atlantic Rifles (Lindsey)	Currituck	Oregon Inlet, Hatteras	Co. E, 17th N.C.
Confederate Guards (Swindell)	Beaufort	Ocracoke Island	Co. K, 17th N.C.
Hertford Light Infantry (Sharp)	Hertford	Fts. Ocracoke and Hatteras	Co. D, 17th N.C.
Tar River Boys (G.W. Johnston)	Pitt	Ft. Ocracoke	Co. C, 17th N.C.
Hyde County Rifles (Leith)	Hyde	Portsmouth, Swan's Quarter, Ocracoke	Co. B, 17th N.C.
Washington Grays (Sparrow)	Washington	Portsmouth Island	Battery K, 10th N. C. Artillery Battalion
Orange Guards	Orange	Fort Macon	Co. G, 27th N.C.
Goldsboro Rifles (Cration)	Wayne	Fort Macon	Co. A, 27th N.C.
Guilford Grays (Sloan)	Guilford	Fort Macon	Co. B, 27th N.C.
Guion's Battery (Guion)	Craven	Fort Macon	Battery B, 10th N.C. Artillery
Beaufort Harbor Guards (J. Pender)	Carteret	Fort Macon	Co. G, 10th N.C. Artillery
Andrew's Battery (Andrew)	Wayne	Beaufort	Battery F, 10th N.C. Artillery Battalion
Elizabeth City Rifles	Pasquotank	Newbern	?
Latham's (Branch) Artillery (Latham)	Craven	Craven County	Co. H, 40th N.C. Artillery (3rd N.C. Artillery)

Table 2. North Carolina Troops assembled in the Bogue Sound, Oregon Inlet and Hatteras areas in summer-autumn 1861.

Meanwhile, Camp Wilkes and Camp Burgwynn, on Bogue Island, the first located two miles from Fort Macon and the second at present-day Atlantic Beach, were established in early September. Figure 6 shows tents of the Confederate camps. In Carolina City, an army encampment called Camp Argyle seems to have been established at the beginning of October. In November a second camp, Camp Vance, was set up one mile west of the town to serve as winter quarters for the troops. Yet another camp, Camp Canal in Morehead City, is listed but without any further information. These camps held the 7th and 26th North Carolina regiments (except for Companies D and E of the 7th that were detailed to Hyde County, at Juniper Bay and Lake Landing). In December, several companies of the 7th North Carolina (Companies B, C, F, G, H, I, K) were moved to winter quarters at a Camp Graham, located on the Neuse River opposite Shepardsville (just north of Morehead City), with Companies C and D moved to Middleton. These several winter camps remained occupied until mid- to late-February 1862, when Federal movements instigated concentration of Confederate troops at Newbern.

Several Confederate regiments were quartered at the Newbern Fairgrounds through the fall and winter of 1861 – the 27th N.C. (except Companies A, B and G, which were at Fort Macon), the 33rd (except Companies D and E, which were in Hyde County) and the 37th N.C. Table 3 lists the locations of the Confederate units during the fall and winter of 1861.

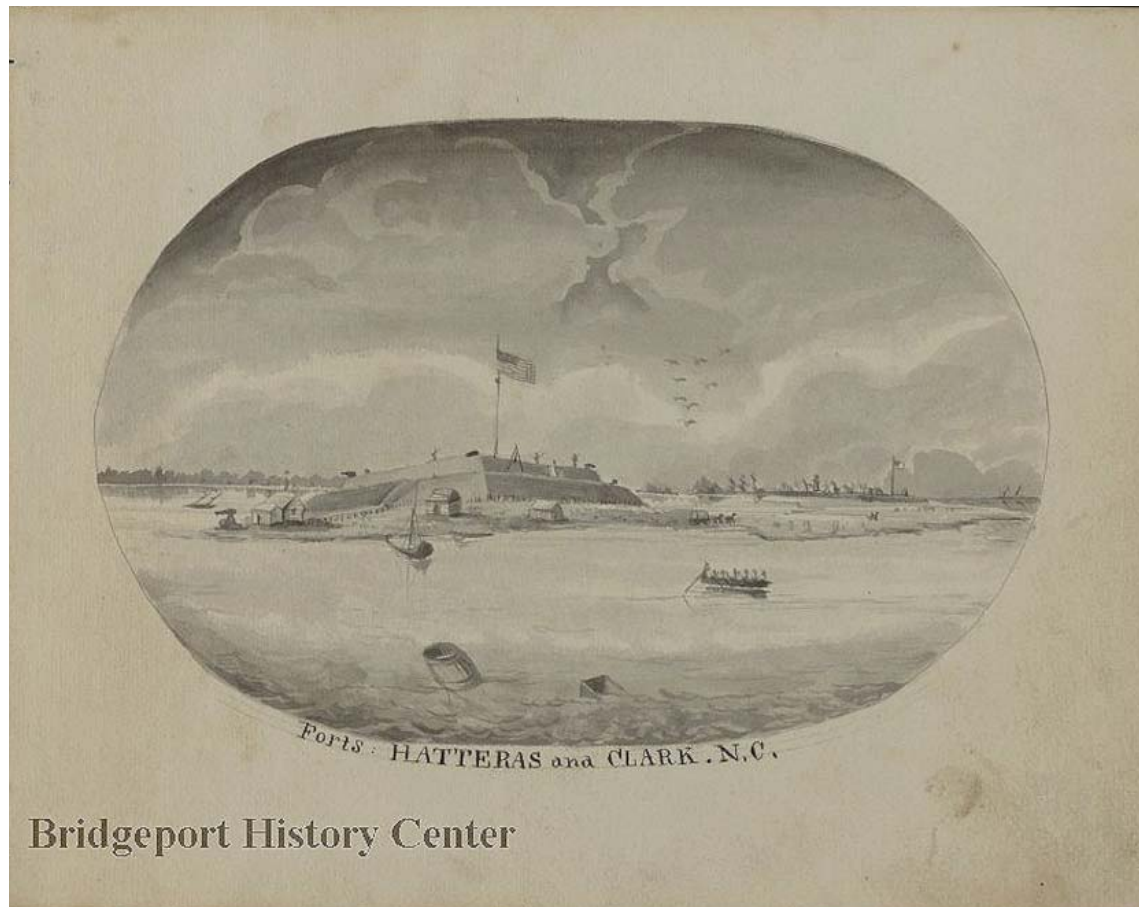


Figure 7. Forts Hatteras and Clark after Federal occupation. (From a sketchbook made by J.N. Shadek, 8th Connecticut Volunteers 1861-1862, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Conn.)

In February, as Burnside's intentions became more manifest, Confederate forces began concentrating on Newbern. Only the garrison of Fort Macon remained in place.

On the March 13, 1862, the Burnside Expedition forces steamed up the Neuse River, landed at Slocum's Creek near Havelock (see map, Figure 3) and advanced towards Newbern. Whatever Confederate forces remained on Bogue Sound were now cut off. The battle of Newbern followed shortly after, ending in a Union victory. General Branch's Confederates retreated to Kinston. Union forces occupied Newbern on March 14th.

After the battle of Newbern and the Confederate withdrawal to Kinston, the garrison at Fort Macon became isolated, but still held out. The garrison at this time consisted of Companies (batteries) B, F, G and H of the 10th North Carolina Artillery Battalion, and Company F of the 40th North Carolina Regiment. Federal advance guard arrived in Carolina City on March 22, demanding the fort's surrender. A detachment of Union troops then landed at Hope Pole Creek on Bogue Island, opposite Carolina City, cutting all land communications for the Confederates; Morehead City and Beaufort were also occupied by the Federals at this time. The Confederates, however, refused to surrender until April 26. Subsequently, the 5th Rhode Island Regiment and Second U.S. Artillery occupied the fort. At the end of these events, Confederate control of the Hatteras coast ended.

Unit	Locations	Time periods
17th N.C.	Forts Hatteras, Clark, Morgan (Portsmouth, Ocracoke)	Late May until Aug 29, when captured
7th N.C.	Bogue Island; Carolina City	Sep–Dec 1861
(Except Co's D and E)	Shepardsville (Newport)	Dec 1861–28 Feb 1862
7th N.C., Co's D and E	Hyde County	Sep 15–14 Oct 1861
	Middleton	Dec 1861–Feb 1862
7th N.C. Co's A, B, G	Fort Macon	Sep 1861–28 Feb 1862
26th N.C.	Bogue Island	Sep–Nov 1861
	Carolina City	4 Dec 1861–28 Feb 1862
33rd N.C., Co's B and F	Hyde County	Sep 15–14 Oct 1861
27th N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
33rd N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
35th N.C.	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
37th N.C.	Newbern	Sep 1861–Mar 1862
Rodman's Battery (Co. C, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Tripp's McMillan Artillery (Co. B, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Whitehurst's Artillery (Co. I, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Latham's Branch Artillery (Co. H, 40th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
Brem's Battery (in 10th N.C. Artillery Regiment).	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862
19th N.C. Cavalry	Newbern	Feb–Mar 1862

Table 3. Locations of Confederate units during the fall and winter of 1861.

Postal Aspects

The Confederate Post Office Department took charge of offices in the seceded states on May 31, 1861. Confederate postmasters were soon appointed at Morehead City and Carolina City (Table 1). Initially, the Carolina City postmaster canceled mail in manuscript. Maurice Bursey, Tony Crumbley and I have recorded only five covers with the manuscript postmark – between Sept. 13-30 – and in two variants – “C Cty” and “Carolina City” (Figures 8 and 9). It is tempting to speculate that the abbreviated postmark was due to having to process a large volume of mail from the troops, as happened at Tudor Hall, Va., and other small rural offices located near major army concentrations. If true, then there should be more manuscript Carolina City covers awaiting discovery. One question remains – why are the earliest known covers “so late,” i.e., two months after the Confederate Post Office Department took over the post office? What happened during the two months during which the post office presumably operated and there were a few hundred Confederate troops in the vicinity? Certainly, the appearance of the hand-stamped devices at Carolina City coincided with the establishment of the major army encampment at Carolina City, Camp Argyle and the arrival of the 7th, 17th and 26th North Carolina regiments.

In early October, the Carolina City postmaster evidently obtained a homemade circular postmarking device, the earliest use of which seems to be Oct. 7. The crudeness of this device, much cruder than ones being furnished, suggests local manufacture.

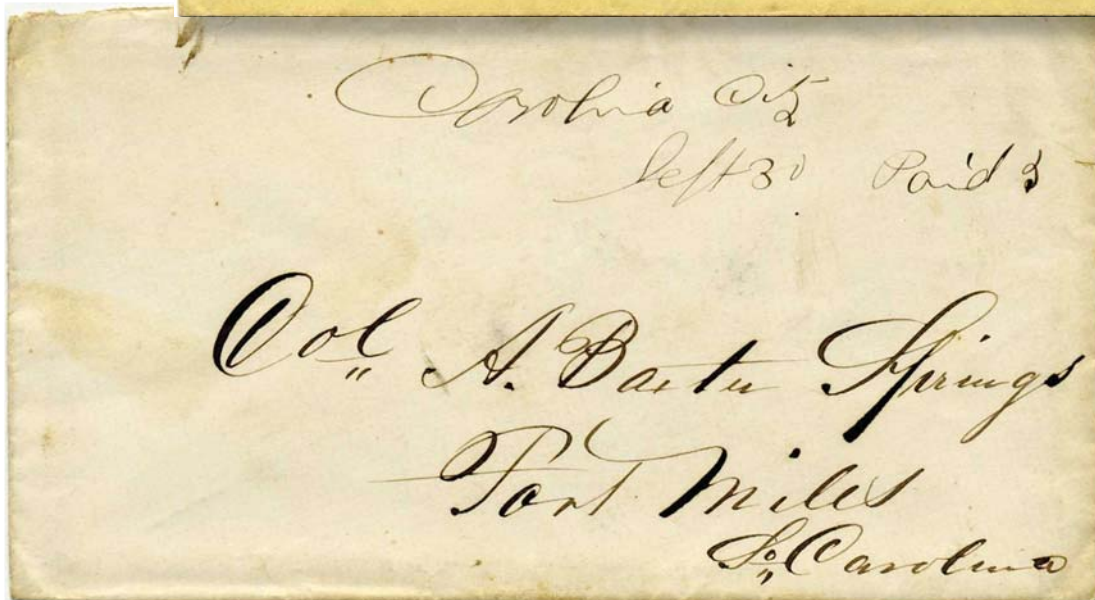
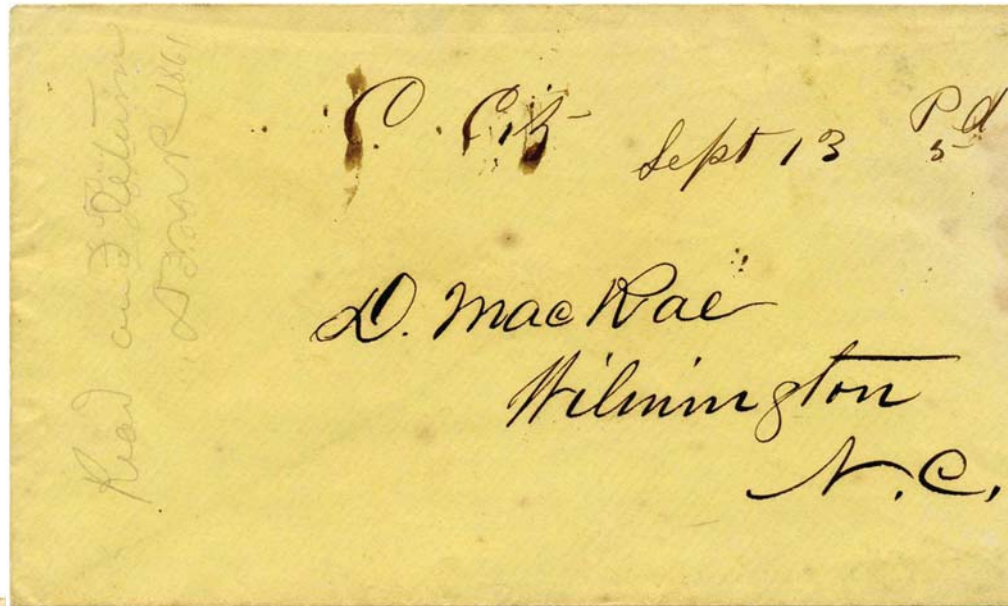


Figure 8 (top). Manuscript “C City” (Carolina City) “Pd 5” (Paid 5) cover from Capt. Henry MacRae to his brother. The cover, dated Sept. 13 [1861], is currently earliest-known use from Carolina City. Capt. MacRae was stationed with his company at Camp Carolina. The MacRae correspondence is housed at Duke University (Courtesy T. Crumbley).

Figure 9 (above). Another manuscript Carolina City paid cover, this time with the office name spelled out. It is dated Sept. 30 [1861]. The manuscript “Pd 5” indicates postage paid on the letter. The extensive A.B. Springs papers probably include the letter once contained in this cover. Those papers are housed at the Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill (Courtesy T. Crumbley).

In addition, Postmaster Franklin evidently instituted the practice of selling envelopes upon which the postage was provisionally paid in advance – a postmaster’s provisional. Toward this end he would apply a straight-line “Carolina City N.C.” handstamp as a control marking and a “PAID 5” in circle (Figure 10) to envelopes at time of purchase to denote postage paid. When the letter was subsequently deposited in his post office, he postmarked it with his regular device. These postmaster’s provisional envelopes are extremely scarce; only two have been recorded.

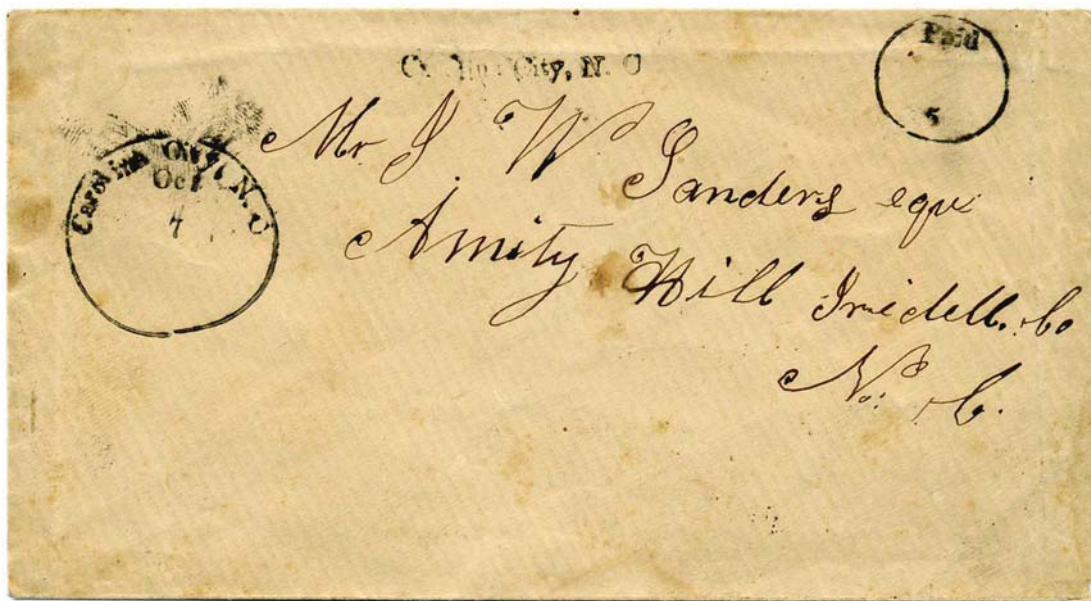


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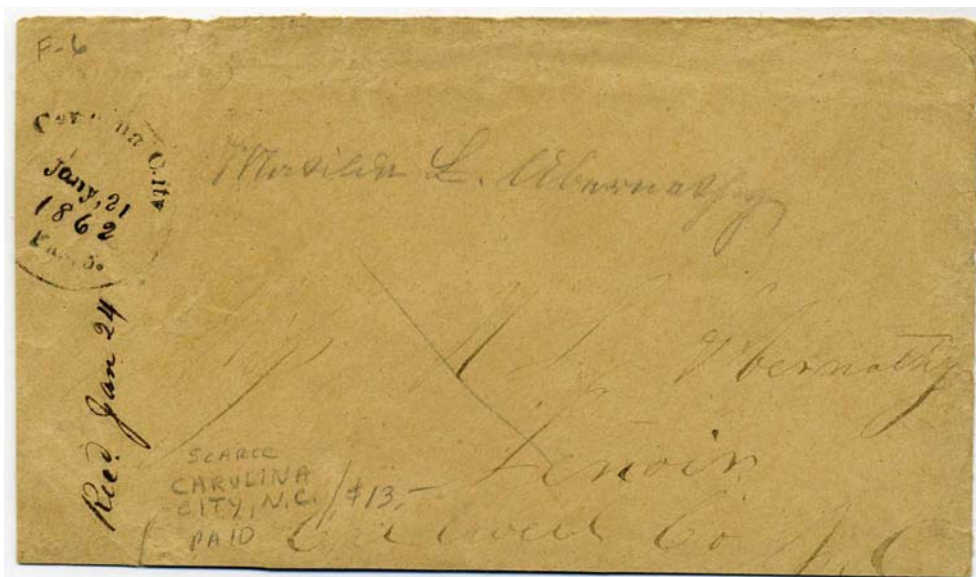
Figure 10 (above). An example of the Carolina City postmaster's provisional use. Envelopes were prepared by hand-stamping them with a straight-line control marking, "Carolina City, N.C." and a circular "Paid 5" marking, indicating the 5¢ postage was prepaid. Later, when the letter was posted, a dated postmark was added, here dated Oct 7 [1861]. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)

Figure 11 (below). The NCPHS Type 2 postmark, with the "5. paid" integral to the device and dated Nov. 11 [1861]. The manuscript notation in the cover's upper left, "5 ct. paid" was probably the army company mail clerk's notation that the sender had given him specie for the postage along with the letter. This practice was very common in the Confederate Army, to differentiate due letters from prepaid ones. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)

Figure 12 (right). Illustrated corner card of the Hillsborough Military Academy postmarked with the Type 2 Carolina City postmark, dated Oct. 8 [1861]. (Courtesy T. Crumbley)



Figure 13. Here is an example of the Type 3 marking, dated Jan. 21, 1862, to Lenoir N.C., possibly from a member of the Lenoir Rifles, which later became Co. K, 32nd North Carolina.



According to Crumbley, the Type 1 marking, presumably used as postmaster's provisional, has been recorded only between Oct. 4-8. A second device seems to

have been put into use about Oct. 8. The rate marking, "5. Paid," was incorporated into the canceling device (Figures 11 and 12). Only one 5¢ rating device is known; no 10¢ use has yet been recorded. This is perhaps not surprising, because the large majority of post office customers were Tarheel soldiers; no non-North Carolina units were stationed in the lower Hatteras coast; 10¢ postage would have been charged only for letters exceeding 1 ounce or addressed to a post office more than 500 miles away, an unlikely occurrence. Covers with this Type 2, postmark are known until Dec. 9, 1862.

A third postmark type seems to have been introduced in January 1862, with earliest-known use being Jan. 17 (Figures 13 and 14). It also incorporated the rate marking a "Paid 5." into the postmark. A 10¢ rate has not yet been seen. Latest recorded use is March 3, 1862.

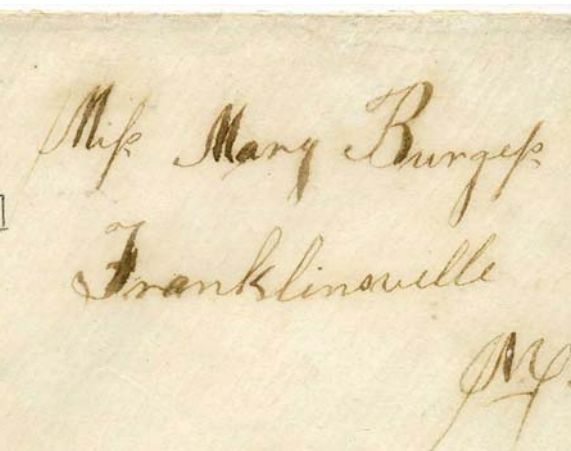
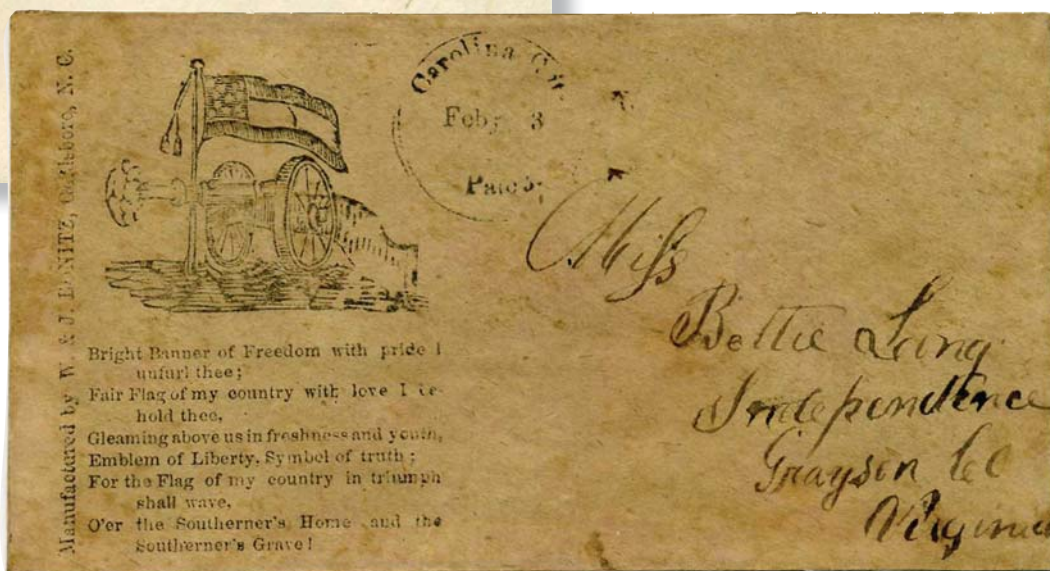


Figure 14. Another example of the Type 3 postmark, dated Feb. 3 [1862], on cover going to Miss Bettie Long in Independence, Va. This is one of four letters to Long in the Carolina City/ Morehead City cover census (Courtesy T. Crumbley). Sutlers accompanying the army frequently sold patriotic envelopes along with sundry other "necessities" to the soldiers.



A fourth device, being a larger, sans-serif postmark, much in the style being furnished by the Confederate Post Office Department in 1862, is listed in the *North Carolina Postmark Catalog*, accompanied by a separate “PAID 5” rate marking, with one known date of use, March 1. Since the town was abandoned by the Confederate forces March 22, the use of this device was very short, and because of the Union presence between Carolina City and Newbern from March 13, very little mail may have gotten in or out in March. I would be interested in hearing from anyone with examples of this postmark.

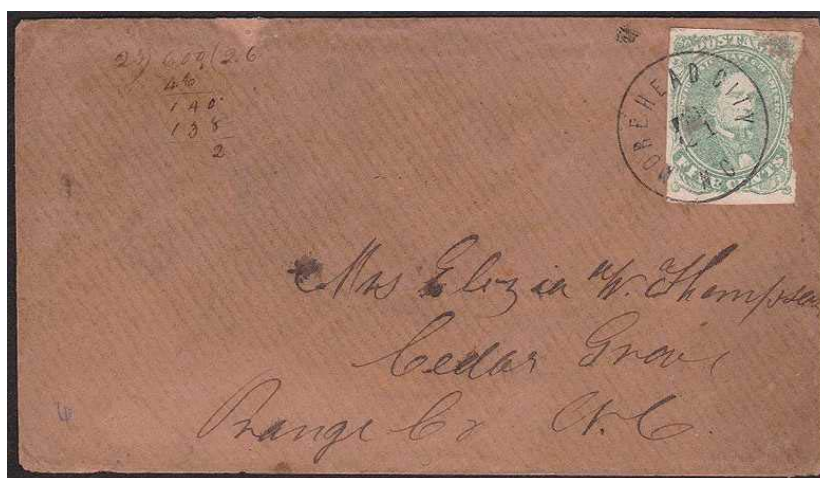
The Morehead City postmaster had a 26-mm diameter postmarking device and obtained a PAID in oval handstamp (Figures 15 and 16). This postmarking device was the only one used during Morehead City’s Confederate operations. Earliest recorded date is June 31, 1861, and the latest known use is Feb. 17, 1862.

Based on my census of Carolina City and Morehead City covers, based on records kindly supplied by Tony Crumbley and Maurice Bursey, as well as my own, there are 59 Carolina City covers versus 26 More-



Figure 15. Morehead City used a separate “PAID” in oval rate marking on its prepaid mail. Here the postmark is dated Dec. 17 [1861]. Interestingly, very few Morehead City handstamped paid covers have a rate marking, contrary to postal regulations. This letter is from David Thompson, 26th North Carolina. He was in Fort Macon at the time, based on his correspondence in the Southern Historical Collection.

Figure 16. Another Thompson cover from Carolina City, this one bearing a 5¢ green lithographed General Issue, postmarked Feb. 21 [1861]. By this time David Thompson was located in Morehead City.



Post Office	NCPHS type	Number of covers	Periods of Use
Carolina City	manuscript	6	Sep 13–30, 1861
	1	3	Oct 4–8, 1861
	2	34	Oct 8, 1861–Jan 17, 1862
	3	14	Jan 17–Mar 10, 1862
	4	2	Mar 10–(13), 1862
	Unknown	2	
Morehead City	1	26	Sep 3, 1861–Feb 23, 1862

Table 4. Tabulation of known covers from Carolina City and Morehead City.

head City covers. Thus, it would seem that the former office processed the bulk of the army mail. My research into the Morehead City covers, however, indicates that many originated at Fort Macon or the camps on Bogue Island. A brief tabulation of the types and use dates is in Table 4.

Very few of the surviving covers bear Confederate General Issue postage stamps. For Carolina City I have recorded only five examples, all sent during February-March 1862. There are only six Morehead City covers with postage stamps, all being sent after Jan. 21. All the rest are hand-stamped paid. Given the amount of army mail from Carolina City and Morehead City, I find it surprising the Post Office Department did not furnish stamps as soon as they were printed in October of 1861. Post offices serving nearby troops as well in big cities were given first priority when the stamps came out.

There is only one soldier due cover among the recorded items, which is strange given the ubiquitous use by Confederate soldiers elsewhere. Perhaps the troops on the Carolina coast were being paid promptly or had sufficient money to send their letters prepaid.

Mail from the soldiers at Fort Macon and on Bogue Island was undoubtedly carried by an army clerk to either post office. Letters from David Thompson, 27th North Carolina, which are preserved at the Southern Historical Collection, give us some information about mail handling. Many of Thompson's letters were hand-carried to Hillsboro, rather than mailed, because people seemed to be going back and forth constantly. One contemporaneous account notes that visitors and mail were daily occurrences.

The cover shown in Figure 15 was sent by David Thompson to his mother in Cedar Grove. He was on Bogue Island when he sent it. Figure 16 shows another Thompson correspondence cover, this with a copy of the Confederate 5¢ lithograph issue postmarked Feb. 21[1861], when he was in Morehead City. Mail from Fort Macon is difficult to identify. No soldiers' due covers with their obligatory sender's name and unit inscribed thereon have been recorded. Only through discovery of the correspondence in an archive, like with the Thompson correspondence, or a genealogical research of the addressee can reveal the cover's origin. The county in which each unit was organized (Table 2) can be linked to the address on a cover. One problem with researching via the addressee is that many of the covers are addressed to a Miss --- who may have been related to the sender but more likely was a lady friend. The cover illustrated in Figure 17, addressed to a soldier in Carolina City, is probably typical in direction, but it is the only one I have seen.

Figure 17. Cover from Carthage, N.C., postmarked March 13 or 18 [1862], addressed to H.S. Caddell, Carolina City, N.C., in care of Capt [W.P.] Martin 26 R[egt].
Postage paid was rated at 5¢, in manuscript.
Burnsides' Expedition landed below Newbern on March 13, cutting off the coastal area from that city. Presuming several days in transit, this letter would have arrived after the battle of Newbern (March 14) and only a day or two before Federal forces occupied Carolina City. By this time the 26th was in Kinston.



Camp Wilks Bogue Island

Nov 24th 1861

Dear Brother & mother

I take my pen in hand to inform you
that I have got to the camp safe and sound
and I am well as common and I hope when
these lines reaches your hand you will find

you all well me and Jim went to the

camp Saturday and for the boys

were except nook pick but he is getting

and John G. there most of

we can and shoe he said

island But over the sea

of it for I will be a great deal better

for us there is no vessels in sight to day and

every thing seems to be quiet we got to morehead

city last Friday night about 8 o'clock and I learnt

that Newton Raelly was Dead and I enquired where

he was and me and Jim went and stayed

with Hornady that night and hope put Raelly

on the cars yesterday morning for home to be

Buried



M. to Ab. McDaniel
Beaumont
Chatham County

Figure 18. The presence of a letter is a real bonus because the origin of the envelope is now documented. Here the origin of the Carolina City hand-stamped "PAID" cover (Type 2 postmark) is Camp Wilks, Bogue Island, Nov. 24, 1862. The postmark is dated Nov. 26, two days later.

The cover with letter shown in Figure 18 is a “lucky break.” While the enclosed letter sheds a little light on the time of the soldiers, it gives typical instructions for directing correspondence to them – Carolina City.

*Camp Wilks Bogue Island
Nov 24th 1861*

Dear Brother & mother

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I have got to the camp safe and sound and I am well as commn and I hope when thes lines reaches yor hand they may find you well. Me and Jim Ward got to the camp Saturday and found all of our boys well except Noah Fields He has got the mumps But he is getting Better. John Bright, John Hurt and John Thomas and all of our mess is well. There is a few in the hospital sick yet But the most of the company is getting along very well. We carried our furlows to the colonel this morning and showed him what Doctor Hanls said and he said it was all Right. We are yet on Bogue Island But the Colonel says we will move tomorrow over the sound near carolina city and I am glad of it for I think it will be a great deal Better for us there is no vessels in sigt to Day and every thing seems to be quiette. We got to Morehead City last night about 8 oclock and I learnt that newton Hadley was dead and I enquired where he was and me and Jim went and stayed with Hornady that night and hope put Hadley on the cars yesterday morning for Home to be Buried.

I have no other news that I no of at this time. O.D. Vestal says tell his folks that he is well and harty and getting first Rate.

----- I want you to write to me soon and let me no how you all are getting on and if you Come down to see us. I want you to write when you are coming so I can Direct you how to come as we are going to move over the sound near morehead city and will not Be at this place. I will close for this time as I have no news of interest. Write to me soon. Direct to Carolina City. No more at present good By

J.W. McDaniel

At least some mail to the Fort Macon garrison seems to have been addressed there, rather than to Carolina City or Morehead City, based on very few existing examples. The cover shown in Figure 19 is the only one I have seen. Letters in the David Thompson correspondence indicate that letters to Thompson should be directed to Fort Macon. Such mail would have been initially received by either Morehead City or Carolina City, and possibly transported further by the army. No evidence of an official postal route to Fort Macon has been found. On the other hand, I have found several letters directing correspondents to address their letters to Carolina City, then the addressee's unit. Undoubtedly all the mail to the troops on Bogue Island were dispatched to Carolina City where they were forwarded, possibly via regimental mail clerks, to the troops.

The Newbern post office seems to have serviced mail to and from the units stationed in and around that town. Mail service for Companies D and E of the 7th, detailed to Hyde County, at Juniper Bay and Lake Landing, may have been handled by the tiny post office at Lake Landing, or sent by courier to the nearby post offices of Swan Quarter or Washington. I have not yet been able to document how mail was handled for companies B, C, F, G, H, I and K of the 7th North Carolina, in winter quarters at Camp Graham, on the Neuse River opposite Shepardsville. Presumably their mail was carried by courier to Morehead City or Carolina City.



Figure 19. A "Fort Macon cover." Hillsborough hand-stamped "PAID," dated Sept. 7, 1861, to a soldier at Fort Macon, Strudwick Faucette, of the Orange Guards (later Co. G, 27th North Carolina).

I have yet to identify any mail from troops at Portsmouth or Ocracoke, namely from the 700 soldiers in the 17th North Carolina regiment (Confederate Guards, Hertford Light Infantry, Tar River Boys, Hyde County Rifles and Washington Grays). What post offices could have been used? Portsmouth was evidently a Confederate post office with the prewar postmaster taking up the Confederate service (Table 1). The Ocracoke post office also operated until the war, with D. Tolsen as postmaster. Both offices were on the prewar route 2853 from Washington, N.C., with weekly service, but this route would have been disrupted as soon as U.S. naval vessels began operating in Pamlico Sound. I have been unable to discover any mention of mail service to either office in the surviving Confederate Post Office records. No Confederate covers from Portsmouth or Ocracoke seem to have been recorded. Newbern, up the Neuse River, was a major supply base and headquarters of the District of the Pamlico; Beaufort was also possible, with mail to either being carried by steamers that supplied the troops on Ocracoke. Carolina City was a major clearinghouse for army mail, but Morehead City could also have been used. The latter was the terminus of the postal route as well as the railroad. In the year before the war, Shephardsville, adjacent to Morehead City, had considerable business, as much as Carolina City. Only careful research into the addressees of covers from Newbern, Beaufort, Morehead City and Carolina City, in an effort to link with the otherwise anonymous senders, will disclose the mail handing situation.

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An important note to all CSA members—

As per a decision made by the Trustees of the Confederate Stamp Alliance at our annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in August, we have enacted new privacy rules governing where and when the CSA may publish members' personal information in its roster, official publication(s), and other occasional publications.

You will find an insert with Third Quarter 2018 *Confederate Philatelist*. I urge you to read it over, check the appropriate box(es), sign the form, and return it to the CSA Secretary, **Larry Baum, 316 W Calhoun St, Sumter SC 29150-4512**. Alternatively, you may send your completed form via email to Larry at csaadcovers@frontier.com, or request a new one.

Deane R. Briggs MD
President, Confederate Stamp Alliance