

Synopsis for “Rural Free Delivery in North Carolina” from the *NCPHIS Postal Historian*.

TREATMENT

This two-part article is a comprehensive look at the Rural Free Delivery service in North Carolina. The first part examines the development and history of the service in the state. The second part reviews the known cancels from the state. The article was published in two parts for space reasons; it was too big for one issue of the society journal.

SIGNIFICANCE

This was written for the North Carolina Postal History Society. There has always been collector interest in RFD cancels, but little information was published on them. The markings are hard to find from North Carolina, so no collector had a great deal of information on them. This article gathers all known information and much new information into one place.

ORIGINALITY

This is the only in-depth article done on the RFD service in the state. Previously there had been small items that discussed some aspects of the service or specific cancels, including some by this writer.

RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE

The majority of this North Carolina specific information is from original documents. The writer spent many hours reviewing original documents from the USPOD on the subject. The compilation of the table of establishment dates was a major effort. Note that only a portion of the table (the section from 1896 to 1903) was printed in the article for space reasons. The entire table from 1896 to 1911 was made available on the society web site. It was important to print the routes existing in 1903 because this is the cut-off date for government-issued cancels. The writer has kept a census of known markings for many years. He has one of the larger accumulations of these markings. The survey of known markings enabled the writer to demonstrate there were areas of the state that used very similar carrier-supplied cancels. The writer's research corrected some errors in Richow's *Encyclopedia of RFD Cancels*, which is an overview of the entire country.

TECHNICAL

Writer cannot claim credit for layout of article. The editor of the journal was responsible for that. Some typos may have been introduced from the same source. The writer selected the illustrations, but editor made final captions for them.