

Post Office History

When the compilation of the history of this post office was begun, we did not realize that its origin reached back 156 years to the presidential administration of Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, but it was interesting to learn that the president post, office at Mount Holly, North Carolina, was originally established as Huntersville, Lincoln County, on February 4, 1801, with the Rev. Humphrey Hunter, pioneer Presbyterian minister who served both Goshen and Unity Churches, as postmaster. The post office was located at the Hunter home (now a part of the T.W. Springs estate), which was on the direct route from Charlotte to Lincoln by way of Tuckasee Ford.

Mr. Hunter was postmaster continuously until his death in 1827, at which time James F. Tomkies was appointed, effective October 16, 1827. He served until 1834, when under the Democratic administration of Andrew Jackson, Robert Gasten was appointed September 30, 1834. During Mr. Gasten's service the name of the office was changed to Woodlawn, Lincoln County, on June 21, 1836, and the location was changed to the approximate site of the Larkin Stowe home on Hawthorne Street.

Succeeding postmasters of the Woodlawn office and their dates of appointment are as follows:

F.S. Hoffman - Sept, 3Q 1841
Robert Rankin - Sept. 26, 1851
James C. Rudisill - Feb. 7, 1854
James F. W. Freeman - July 27, 1858
Enoch P. Clemmer - Nov, 6, 1858
Frederick Nims - Jan. 5, 1860
Miss Angelina Shields - May 29, 1866
Martin S. Merrill - March 26, 1867
Joseph Alcorn - Nov. 30, 1869
John Prendergast - Mar. 12, 1872
Robert C. Love- Jan. 7, 1874
Daniel E. Rhyne- Aug. 26, 1878

During Mr. Rhyne's service as postmaster, the depot was moved uptown to North Main Street, on a lot now occupied by West Charlotte Avenue, and on July 15, 1879, the office was designated Mount Holly, Gaston County, North Carolina.

Since the post office name was changed to Mount Holly, the following postmasters have served this office:

Mr. James C. Hamlette- Feb. 26, 1883

Mr. Albert P. Lentz- Aug. 10, 1885

Mr. R.P. Rutledge- Aug. 6, 1888

James W. McKee- Oct. 31, 1889

Washington F. Holland- ,1891

Miss Ada Dunn- April 9, 1894

Washington F. Holland- May 10, 1898

John Joy- May 22, 1902

Rufus Jenkins- Jan. 31, 1907

Robert Gardner- Aug. 15, 1913

Forney L. Abernathy- Oct. 1, 1921

William Fred Ballard- May 15, 1923

O.L. Hoffman- May 4, 1936

J.W. Nantz, Sr.- May 31, 1951

During the 78 years the post office has been called Mount Holly, it has occupied many uptown locations. On North Main Street, in addition to the highway location at the railroad, it has been located on the lot now occupied by the service station lot, in a part of the building now occupied by Smith Variety Store and in a building formerly standing where Rhyne Grocery now stands. On the opposite side of the street, there once stood a frame building where the A & P tea Company is now located, and the post office was operated there.

On South Main Street, the office was once located in a frame building where Summey Drug Company now stands and of particular interest is the fact that about 1895, while Miss Ada Dunn was postmistress, the post office was located for a time in a building that stood on the spot where we are now gathered.

The building last occupied by the late Dr. B.C. Taylor was the home of this office during World War I and until the late 1920's, when the move was made to the McCay building, the location immediately previous to this.

The Mount Holly Post Office received its second class rating July 1, 1941 and city delivery was established January 16, 1951. Mounted city route service was established February 9, 1957, and on April 29, 1957, the first government owned vehicle was placed in postal service here.

The move to this building was made December 27, 1956; the building is leased from a private owner but the new, modern equipment is furnished by the post office department.

The present force includes the postmaster, four clerks and three carriers, which shows the progress made here in the past twenty years, when the entire service was rendered by the postmaster and one clerk.

-From the files of Hollis E. Dunn