

POSTOFFICE WAS FOUNDED IN 1823

Postmaster Wiley G. Hartzog Secures History Since Founding in 1823 as Council's Store; Name Changed to Boone in 1850

In 1825 the postoffice of Boone, then known as Council's Store, had as postmaster's compensation for the office the sum of \$3.83, according to information made available to Postmaster W. G. Hartzog by K. P. Aldrich, chief inspector of the Postoffice Department in Washington, D. C. The succeeding years were a little better: 1829, yielded \$4.16; in 1833 he had \$8.89. Boone was growing! But in 1835 the postmaster's income suffered a set-back when the compensation fell to \$8.35, fifty-four cents less than the preceding year.

Income for some of these same years is equally amazing compared to the \$14,878 worth of post office receipts shown by Boone at the end of the calendar year for 1937. That's a far cry, indeed, from the \$5.08 taken in in the year 1827. Or the \$4.58 which the office yielded in 1828. The year 1830 showed some improvement with \$8.15 as a total net income and by 1835 it had grown to then astonishing figure of \$17.25.

From these and other data it seems that Boone is the oldest post office in Watauga county. Through the years the town has shown a steady growth if the post office receipts be accepted as an index. For the four quarters ending March 31, 1915, the net receipts were \$2,109; by the end of the calendar year of 1925 they had reached \$9,314. In 1926 they went over the ten thousand dollar mark with a showing of net receipts of \$10,601. Except for 1933 when they receded somewhat the net receipts have increased steadily up to 1936 which set a record with \$14,955, an amount in excess of the net receipts for 1937. It is hoped that 1938 may see the station exceed the fifteen thousand dollar mark.

Post Office Department records indicate that the Boone post office was established July 20, 1823, as Council's Store, with Jordan Churchill as first postmaster. The earliest record of service to the office indicates that in 1824 it was on Route No. 147, described as follows: From "Greenville or Grayson Courthouse, Virginia, by Ashe Court House, North Carolina, to Council's store." The name of the carrier, the frequency of service, and the mode of transportation are not shown in available records.

The postage rates in effect at the time the office was established were as follows: For every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 and not exceeding 150 miles, 12 1/2 cents; over 150 and not exceeding 400 miles, 18 1/2 cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, or two pieces of paper, double said rates; every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, triple said rate; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates, and in that proportion for all greater weights.

No records exist of the various locations of the offices and records of the receipts for 1888, 1898, and 1908 are missing. The records show that the Boone post office was advanced to third class on January 1, 1916 and to second class on July 1, 1926.

Jordan Council continued as postmaster for nine years after the change of name of the station from Council's Store to Boone in 1850. When in 1859 he gave over the office he was succeeded by Joseph C. Council who served one year when Jordan Council again took over the office and continued as postmaster until 1866. Postmasters of Boone and their dates of appointment follow: Henry Hardin, June 19, 1866; David Sands, May 7, 1867; John W. Hall, February, 1869; William C. Coffey, June 13, 1873; Marion F. Monphey, October 2, 1882; John T. Lippard, February 28, 1883; Leander G. Storie, February 8, 1884; James F. Amos, October 20, 1884; Daniel B. Dougherty, December 15, 1885; Mrs. Mattie Greene, July 15, 1889; Robert C. Rivers, July 26, 1893; Thomas C. Blackburn, August 28, 1897; Manly B. Blackburn, February 16, 1903; Sallie J. Rivers, April 3, 1914; M. P. Critcher, June 27, 1916; John E. Brown (Acting), April 1, 1919; John E. Brown, July 28, 1919; William D. Farthing (Acting), August 4, 1923; William D. Farthing, December 19, 1923; Atner W. Smith (Acting), December 31, 1927; Atner W. Smith, February 20, 1928; and Wiley G. Hartzog, June 7, 1934, who is postmaster at present.



A uniquely beautiful picture taken atop Grandfather Mountain at the summit of the first peak. This scene shows the wild and rugged grandeur of this oldest mountain on the North American continent, second in height to famed Mount Mitchell. (Photo by Weston)

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS ANNUALLY

Second Highest Peak East of Rockies Long a Sight-Seers Mecca; Scenic Toll Road Leads to Lookout Platform, Permitting Magnificent View of Linville and Surrounding Country

Among the oldest mountain peaks in the world, and second in height only to Mt. Mitchell among the peaks east of the Rockies, Grandfather Mountain has been a place of pilgrimage for lovers of beautiful scenery for almost 200 years. When on August 30, 1794, Andre Michaux, famous French botanist exploring America for his government, declared in his diary that he had climbed the highest mountain in North America, only time defeated his accuracy. Later geologists determined scientifically that at one time Grandfather Mountain had been higher than any mountain now existing in North America! Even today it is only slightly more than 700 feet under the height of Mt. Mitchell and its virgin forests, preserved with care by the Linville Improvement Company, are still among the oldest in existence.

There can be little doubt that Grandfather Mountain's scenic attractions would have been despoiled long since had it not been for the foresight of the Linville Improvement Company in acquiring the site and building a toll road making it more accessible to the modern tourist. Even with the toll road its three peaks still challenge the ingenuity and stamina of mountain climbers and attract many of these annually. But it was not the difficulty of scaling Grandfather Mountain that gave it its popularity among tourists but the magnificent panorama visible from its height. From the top of Grandfather Mountain the famous Flat Rock is visible as is Blowing Rock, the Brushy Mountains, the South Mountains and many other peaks and ranges of scenic and historic importance. It is claimed that on a clear day with the aid of field glasses it is possible to see for a distance of fifty to sixty miles and sight Hickory and Morganton, N. C.

The sides of Grandfather Mountain are a happy hunting ground for botanists, ornithologists and other nature students. Geologists find it a place of fascination. It is estimated that Grandfather Mountain was in existence many millions of years before Lake Itasca.

This and the profile of a bearded man which it presents from certain vantage points justify its grandparental designation. It is one of the ancestors of the Mississippi River, forming as it does, a part of the watershed between the Mississippi Basin and the Atlantic Slope, and contributing volume to the Great River through the many streams that rise on the northerly slopes. The principal one of these is the Watauga River which flows into the Tennessee River system. On the westerly slope rise the Linville River and its tributaries while the southeastern slopes are drained by the Johns River and its tributaries. These are a part of the Catawba River system which ulti-

mately empties into the Atlantic. These streams provide the excellent fishing for which Linville is noted among anglers throughout the country.

It is supposed that Grandfather Mountain was formed by a great westerly movement of the crust of the earth encountering an immovable section of crust. The result was an upward crumpling; this presumably took place 140 millions of years ago. Capable geologists claim this is a conservative estimate. Some of the surface rocks are at least 200 million years old according to geologists.

Surface rocks on Grandfather Mountain are of two origins: igneous and sedimentary. The former resulted from great lava flows which were thrust up through the earth cracks and the latter of material washed down the sides of the mountain and deposited here when the area was submerged near the eastern shores of the great epi-continental sea.

Now that it is available with ease over the toll road more and more tourists and students are finding their way to it particularly during the vacation season. Last year thousands of automobiles headed up the mountain over the winding, well kept toll road and shared the breath-taking beauty of the view from Grandfather Mountain.

The Bible is a book of faith, and a book of doctrine, and a book of religion, and a book of morals, of especial revelation from God.—Webster.

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