



NJPH

The Journal of
NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
 ISSN: 1078-1625

Vol. 32

No 4

Whole Number 156

November 2004

Newly Recorded Newark Colonial Manuscript Marking!!



From the collection of William H. Johnson

While Newark had a post office as early as 1766, there has been a dearth of markings known. For more information on this newfound 1771 Colonial Period cover from David Ogden to New York, see page 143.

~ CONTENTS ~

President's Message	Robert G. Rose	126
Elihu Doty's Garden ~ New Brunswick, Borneo, & China.....	Jean R. Walton.....	127
Discover of Newark Colonial Manuscript Postmark	Robert G. Rose	143
The Montague NJ Post Office	Len Peck	145
New Jersey Private Express Companies: Part 5B		
Wells Fargo & Company's Express	Bruce H. Mosher.....	147
A Genealogical Look at NJ Postal History in the Stampless Era	Henry A. Hudson, USNR-Ret.	158
Some Interesting New Jersey Markings: Gibbstown, NJ	Gene Fricks.....	165
Auction Report.....	Arne Englund.....	166
Treasurer's Report	Andy Kupersmit.....	167
New Members.....		167
Word Puzzle.....		168
Classified Ads.....		169
Literature Available		Back Cover

NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.

APS Affiliate #95 - PHS Affiliate #1A - NJFSC Chapter #44S ISSN: 1078-1625

Annual Membership Subscriptions \$15.00

Website: <http://members.aol.com/njpostalhistory/phsindex.htm>

OFFICERS

President: Robert G. Rose, P.O. Box 1945, Morristown, NJ. 07962-1945 rrose@PitneyHardin.com

Vice President and Editor Emeritus: E.E. Fricks, 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Treasurer: Andrew Kupersmit, NJPHS Treasurer, 143 Woodbridge Ave. Metuchen, NJ 08840

Secretary: Jean R. Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830 Njpostalhistory@aol.com

Auction Manager: Arne Englund, PO Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865 alenglund@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief/NJPH Robert G. Rose, P.O. Box 1945, Morristown, NJ. 07962-1945 rrose@PitneyHardin.com

Layout Editor Jean R. Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830 Njpostalhistory@aol.com

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues time again! Enclosed with this issue of *NJPH* is your Society membership dues notice for 2005. Although *NJPH* printing and mailing cost rise yearly, the Society has held dues to \$15.00 per year. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution with your dues payment. It will help ensure your Society's economic well-being in the year to come. Dues should be sent to our Secretary, Jean Walton at 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830. Each paid member is entitled to place two free classified ads per year in *NJPH*. Just complete the enclosed form and return it with your dues.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Society has been active over the last several months. In the American Philatelic Society's literature competition held at StampShow '04 in Sacramento this past August, your Society's Journal, *NJPH*, was awarded a silver medal for the four issues published in 2003, the highest medal level achieved by any state postal history society. We continue to seek to improve the content and appearance of the Journal, and I believe that this issue, the last of Volume 31, rounds out the year with a number of significant contributions to the study of New Jersey's postal history.

In October, your Society participated in a tri-state postal history competition together with The Empire State and the Pennsylvania Postal History Societies at the Philadelphia National Stamp Show. Each Society was permitted to show six-one frame exhibits. I wish to thank the following members of our Society for participating: Jean Walton for her "Samuel Southard" exhibit; Arne Englund for his "Doane's Postmarks;" Andy Kupersmit for his "Metuchen, NJ;" Don Chafetz for "Morris County;" and Jim Mason for "Atlantic City." Yours truly rounded out the field with his "Stampless Manuscript Postmarks."

Thanks also to Arne Englund for running another successful Ebay auction in October for the benefit of our membership. His report is included in this issue.

It is with much regret that we note to passing of Howard G. Applegate of Canutillo, Texas. He will be missed.

In editing the articles for this issue, I was struck by the number of research sources found on the internet which have been cited by the authors. Whether it is local history or biography, as well as manuscript resources from libraries, museums and historical societies, the full extent of the volume of information now readily available on the web to students of postal history is simply startling! Why not take advantage of those resources in putting together a short article about one of your favorite covers?

Finally, it is time to collect dues for 2005. Although the cost of publication continues to rise, we have been able to hold dues to \$15.00 per year, in large part as result of the many of you who have generously contributed to the Society. I again ask for your support. Please return the enclosed dues notice with a tax-deductible contribution.

My very best wishes to all of you for a Happy, Healthy and Joyous Holiday Season.

ROBERT G. ROSE

ELIHU DOTY'S GARDEN ~ New Brunswick, Borneo, and China**By Jean R. Walton**

The collecting of stampless folded letters offers the extra bonus of collecting pieces of history. Some feel that the content of the letters has little to do with philately, and should therefore not be considered as a part of postal history. I disagree - the message often explains the ratings, or how it traveled, important factors in the mail. And sometimes it leads to further discoveries, to which we would never have come without the content.

About a year ago I acquired some letters from New Brunswick, which interested me because they represented a body of correspondence, and might perhaps have a story to tell. The postal markings were not extraordinary. The correspondence represented the letters of a young man from Bern [now Berne], New York, writing home from Rutgers College. It occurred to me that these letters might lead to others, and as it turned out, such was the case.

The letters I acquired [seven in total] were all written from 1830 to 1833 from New Brunswick, New Jersey to Jacob Settle in Bern, by Elihu Doty. They were quite religious in nature, and the last were written from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, not Rutgers College. A young man headed into the ministry should not be too hard to track. I did not however expect that the trail would lead so far away.



Fig. 1. Letter from Elihu Doty to Jacob Settle, postmaster at Bern, NY in 1830 - the red New Brunswick cancel appears to be Coles N22, with a type f FREE handstamp.

Elihu Doty was born into an indigent farm family in Bern, NY in 1809, the oldest of eleven children. At age 14, he was apprenticed to a local shopkeeper, Jacob Settle, Jr., "to learn the art, trade, and mystery, or occupation of a merchant." Doty contracted to serve for six and a half years, until he was 21; while apprenticed, playing cards and dice were not permitted, "taverns, or ale houses, he shall not frequent; fornication he shall not commit; matrimony he shall not contract." Upon completion, he was to receive "fifty dollars and a suit of clothes..."¹

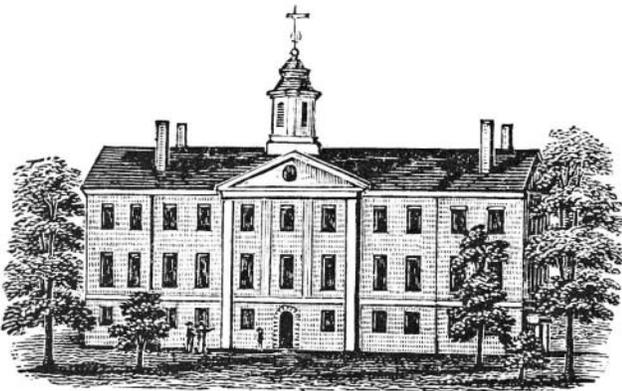
DOTY'S GARDEN ~ Jean R. Walton

Young Doty did not complete his apprenticeship – not because of these stringent requirements, but on the contrary because it became apparent as he matured that he was highly devout, and wished to dedicate his life to the church. Jacob Settle released him from his apprenticeship, and the Dutch Reformed Church undertook to pay for his education, as the Doty family was unable to bear that burden. Thus he might be considered an early scholarship student at Rutgers College. Doty and Settle remained friends for the rest of their lives.



Fig. 2. 1832 letter - Note what appears to be a larger C in "WICK"; FREE marking appears to be type v.

Doty was an able student who progressed easily in his studies, continuing to avoid the sins of the flesh: "Pray for me for I am surrounded by many, very many temptations, and need much spiritual might to deny myself ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live holy and righteous before Him." He boarded with 10 other students in the home of a widow, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. Despite the lack of worldly pleasures, his life there seems to have been pleasant enough:



Rutgers University, 1840's²

Our room is in the upper story of the house in the rear, which has windows commanding a prospect of surrounding objects. Immediately upon looking out, the eye falls upon three different gardens adorned with fruit trees & shrubbery, and enriched with the perfume of the lilac and other flowers which are pleasing to the eye and agreeable to our other senses. The beautiful peony roots stand with swelled buds and in a few days will deck the gardens with additional grandeur, and will probably decorate our room by their crimson hues, and perfume it with their exhilarating fragrance.

Revivals were popular at this time, but not in New Brunswick. There seemed little support for this kind of activity, to Doty's disappointment. But he was encouraged about the state of affairs at Rutgers and the Theological Seminary, and wrote in 1833:

The affairs of college are more encouraging than ever before. There are now about 80 students connected with the college, 50 in the grammar school, and about 20 in the Theological Seminary, making in all 150.

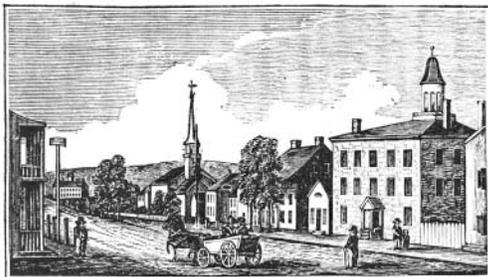


Fig. 3. N24 stencil New Brunswick cancel, on letter from Theological Seminary to Bern, Alb.Co. NY (type v FREE)

So what became of this young man? Seeking out and finding answers to this question led me to chapters in his life well beyond the seven New Brunswick covers that piqued my interest.

Around this time, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church - and an ardent proponent of missions to foreign lands - was lecturing in the US. David Abeel, a native of New Brunswick, NJ, and also a graduate of Rutgers and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, had joined the American Seaman's Friend Society to minister to seamen and foreigners in Canton, China, and after a year's service, placed himself under the direction of the American Board of Commissioners

for Foreign Missions. He returned home for health reasons about the time Elihu Doty completed his education. Abeel was eager to enlist new men to the cause of overseas missions. Elihu Doty doubtless heard him speak, and was moved to consider this as his calling. While he began his career ministering to a Dutch Reformed Church in Schoharie, he soon left that church to serve as a missionary.⁴



Southeast view in the central part of Schoharie.

Schoharie, N.Y. - where Doty might have chosen to serve.

From Barber & Howe³

In May 1836, he married Clarissa Dolly Ackley of Washington, Connecticut,⁵ and in June, under the auspices of the Mission Board, the couple set sail for the Dutch East Indies with three other young missionary couples, to establish a new

mission at a place as yet undesignated. Peter Vroom, then Governor of New Jersey, spoke at the solemn ceremony which sent them on their way. The voyage itself, around the Cape of Good Hope, took ninety-eight days, during which time they were out of sight of land until three days before landing at Batavia⁶ [now Jakarta], on the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies archipelago (modern day Indonesia).

Doty describes, in his diary, the trials of this voyage, August 23, 1836:

*Gales and squally weather almost constantly for the past week. On Saturday evening we experienced a most tremendous tempest. The gloominess of the midnight storm at sea is indescribable. The tempest commenced about 8 o'clock and continued during the night. Lightening in livid glare flashed in quick succession followed by the awful thunder clap. The winds drove through the ship's tackling with frightful roar. All sails were furled and the helm lashed, and our rocking, trembling, groaning ship, with naked spars, was committed to the mercy of the waves. The billows ran high, sporting with our floating habitation, now raising her to the heavens and then plunging her into the depths or broke with tremendous crash against her trembling sides or over her deck. About 2 o'clock a heavy sea came over the poop and quarter deck, deluged the cabin of the officers and leaking down into one state room soon expelled us from our berths and left us to seek shelter in some other place.*⁷

The missionaries wrote many letters to their home churches and to the Mission Board in New York City. Many of these were reprinted in the *Christian Intelligencer*, and they are preserved in the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions [ABCFM] archives, housed in Houghton Library at Harvard University. A letter from one of them in October of 1836 describes what they found in Batavia.

*The missionary field here seems immense—beyond description. The number of people is so great, and they are of many nations, and kindred and tongues. The principal are the Malays, the Sundas, the Javanese, the Chinese and Europeans...The Chinese and Europeans, however, are very much mingled, through intermarriages, with those of other nations. The Malays...are scattered in vast numbers along the coasts of a large part of...the Archipelago.... The Chinese...have little attachment to their religion. They are sufficiently intelligent to see its folly; but they have not been told of a Saviour, and in their darkness what can they do?... The Malays and Sundas and Javanese are Mahometans; but all that the great mass of people know of this religion is [the name of its founder] and a few outward observances.*⁸

Because such letters existed back to New York, it seemed logical that some might also exist back to New Jersey, and this led me to contact the archivist for the Reformed Church of America (current name for the former Dutch Reformed Church), at the Gardner A. Sage Library in New Brunswick, part of the New Jersey Theological Seminary. I was rewarded by three, which I illustrate below, used with the kind permission of the RCA archivist, Russell Gasero. They are all addressed to the Society of Inquiry on Missions, a student organization whose members had an interest in becoming future missionaries, or at least, of learning more about such a life. They are also interesting examples of incoming foreign mail to New Jersey.

Figure 4 on the following page illustrates one of these letters, carried by favor of a returning missionary, and put into the mail stream at Salem, Massachusetts. It is rated at 37 cents, a double rate letter carried 150-400 miles from Massachusetts to New Jersey. Because it was carried "by favor," no ship fee applied. Rev. Arms, the carrier who likely is the person who put this letter in the U.S. mail, was returning to Vermont for reasons of health.



Courtesy RCA Archives⁹

Fig. 4. A letter from Elihu Doty and William Youngblood, written in November 1837, from Singapore to New Brunswick. It was carried back to the States by a returning missionary, Rev. William Arms. Dr. Arms was a medical doctor from Vermont, and a missionary to Borneo.

These missionaries were beset by a number of obstacles, the greatest of which was the Dutch colonial government. They were restricted to Batavia for a full year before they were permitted to go elsewhere in the Dutch East Indies. Where they would be allowed to go, once this period ended, was to be determined not by their own choice of the best area for their teachings, but by where the colonial government would allow them to go. Doty writes in this 1837 letter:

Doubtless you will learn from communications lately forwarded by us to the Board of Mission, the present state of our affairs, and the prospects of our Mission. In consequence of the refusal of the Dutch Government to allow us to locate on the eastern part of Java, Celebes, & the Molucca islands, we are now in Singapore, whence we had expected to proceed to Borneo to search out the land, in order (Deo volente) to [establish] a permanent settlement.

Doty writes of Java:

Java... is doubtless one of the most beautiful islands in the world, & one too possessing the most salubrious climate within the tropics. Every fact we have gathered and our little observations convince us that it presents a most inviting and desirable field for Missionary effort. Those who have the means of obtaining the most correct information, state the present inhabitants of Java to be near 8,000,000. The great majority of these are Javanese, a very interesting race of people & said to be in the advance of all other natives of the archipelago, at least in civilization and probably in education. These are the agriculturalists of Java. Tho nominally Mohammedan, not bigoted. They are docile, affable & possess an air of honest sincerity. It is supposed that the Missionary might reside and labour among them with perfect safety, and also anticipate great encouragement and success. The unwillingness of Government at present appears to be the only & perhaps insuperable barrier. The Sundas, Malays, and Chinese also afford a noble field for Missionary devotedness & toil.

He also includes descriptions of various possible sites on Borneo¹⁰ for a mission. Several British and foreign missionaries had preceded them to this area of the world, and this close-knit group offered much help and knowledge during this interim period. Their time was spent overcoming the language barrier, and preparing for their future mission. In this area, there was not one language but three. The Malays spoke one language, the Chinese another, and the interior island populations had still a third. At first, these missionaries concentrated on Malay, as the language of commerce and of the largest number of people in the islands. However, it was later decided that they should divide themselves into two groups, one studying the language of the Malays and the other learning Chinese - with an eye to reaching the large Chinese population in the islands. It was not a matter of just being able to speak to the natives in their own language - the missionaries foresaw the need to put their religious tracts into the language that would be understood.



Courtesy RCA Archives

Fig. 5. This letter from Singapore, written by Doty on April 25, 1839, was carried by the ship Pessore, and entered the U.S. mail stream in New York City on September 20, 1839. It carries a New York SHIP cancel, and is rated at 22 cents, a double rate for 30-150 miles, plus a 2¢ ship fee. In fact, this letter was 3 sheets and should have been rated at 32¢, but since it arrived sealed by ship, the postmaster probably had to guess.

Figure 5 shows a second letter, which left Singapore in late April of 1839, but did not reach New York until September. The ship is noted at lower left. The letter describes the importance of a native ministry:

The great burden of going forth ... compelling the heathen to come in, must devolve upon a native ministry. They, being adapted to the climate, habituated to the manners, customs, modes of thought of their own people, & having enjoyed the advantages of a good missionary, theological education, will occupy the vantage ground of all foreigners, to an inconceivable degree. A foreigner will always be such, however great and adapted his qualifications, & whatever may be his acquisitions of native languages & their mysterious lore. The missionary must give direction, and for a time hold the helm of the gospel barque. The natives must work the vessel.

At the end of their year's stay in Batavia on the island of Java, they sought permission to travel to other places, in order to choose a site for their mission. The Dutch colonial government handled these requests by simply ignoring them, and it was only after many petitions, when they were on the verge of striking out on their own without permission, that the Dutch finally relented, and allowed them to settle on the island of Borneo - this might not have been their own choice, but they accepted it as the will of God.

Borneo is the third largest island in the world, occupying some 300,000 square miles and straddling the Equator, and therefore very tropical in nature. Its population was made up at that time of the Malays and the Chinese, both of whom occupied the coastal regions, and the Dyaks, the people of the interior. The Dyaks had no written language and were occupied mostly in hunting and agriculture, and practiced a kind of spirit worship which included head-hunting, which they kept for trophies and protective spirits in their homes. While Doty and his fellow missionaries were not the first missionaries to visit Borneo, few had preceded them, and none currently were in the Dutch section of Borneo.

Doty wrote when prospecting locations amongst the Dyaks:

Human heads hang all around us and some are suspended over our sleeping place. . The heads are considered to ward off evils and procure blessings, [so] it is no matter of surprise, that they are loathe to part with them.¹¹

Settling finally on Borneo, the missionary families chose different locations, according to which language they had learned and the population distribution of the island. Doty was originally at Sambas, north of Pontianak, attempting to set up a mission at nearby Monterado, which had a large Chinese population. By August of 1841, however, he had taken over the mission set up at Pontianak, near the western coast of Borneo, which also had a fairly large Chinese population. A son was born to the Dotys in 1838, followed by a daughter, born at Pontianak in 1843.

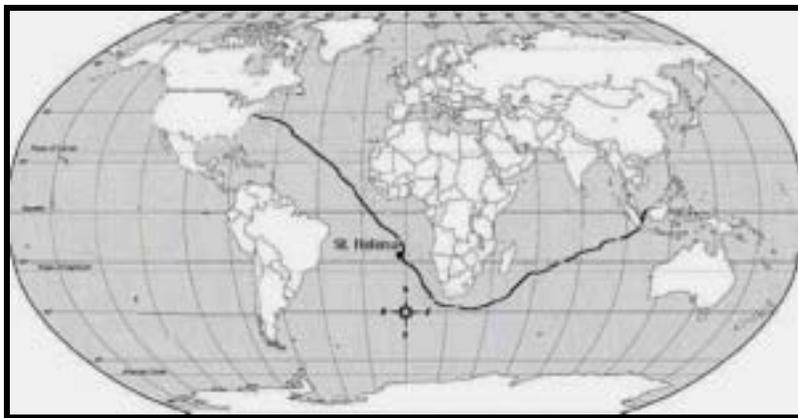


Fig 6. Map showing route of mail from Borneo, transferring at St. Helena.

This map and *Figure 7* on the following page emphasize the long route these letters home had to travel. This one probably left Sambas for Pontianak, on Borneo, and from there to Batavia on Java, or perhaps to Singapore, as the main supply port of the area, thence west around Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, in this case, likely changing hands at St. Helena in the

South Atlantic, arriving finally in New York. This letter was an impassioned plea for more men to enter the missionary field, for Doty felt there was so much to do, and not enough manpower.



Courtesy RCA Archives

Fig. 7. This letter, written by Doty in January of 1840, from Sambas, Borneo was probably carried by more than one ship. It is noted as “Forwarded from St. Helena [So. Atlantic] by W. Carrol, U. States Consular Agent,” and did not enter the U.S. mail stream at New York until September 2. It is rated 12 ¢ - 10¢ for a single rate letter for 30-150 miles, plus a 2¢ ship fee.

Despite these pleas, this letter to the Society for Inquiry of Missions went unanswered until July of 1841. The indifference Doty felt was apparently fairly real, as in answer [a letter without the address side, perhaps from a letter copy book), a member of the Society writes:

But you want more for your station. You have heard of the arrival at Batavia of brethren Van Doren and Stryker and Mrs. Van Doren, destined for Borneo. Steele and Sheffield of the same class intend to sail for the same place sometime during this year. Others will gradually succeed, though none probably from the present Senior Class may be expected at present. We all hope and pray that we may be employed just where and in what it is the Lord's will to employ us.In regard to Missions, the Church in many places seems to regard them as an oft told tale which dies upon the ear.¹²

It is hard to imagine the trials they faced, living in the heat of this equatorial country, speaking a difficult language which they first had to learn, dealing with unfamiliar customs and coping with insects and diseases. Yet they worked hard with no complaints, despite the fact that, while the locals came to listen, there were no converts to Christianity made during this time, and in fact, none during the entire history of the mission to Borneo.

Doty wrote home to the Classis of Schoharie in 1842:

*Our message seems to have fallen upon the ears of our hearers as an empty, at best a novel tale. Our most solemn and earnest appeals come lifeless to the heathen heart. We are constantly made to feel the most in our power is to plant and water. Of our auditors, many politely hear, acknowledge the truth of our doctrine, say it is all good, and go their way. Others, more rude and reckless, ridicule our message...*¹³

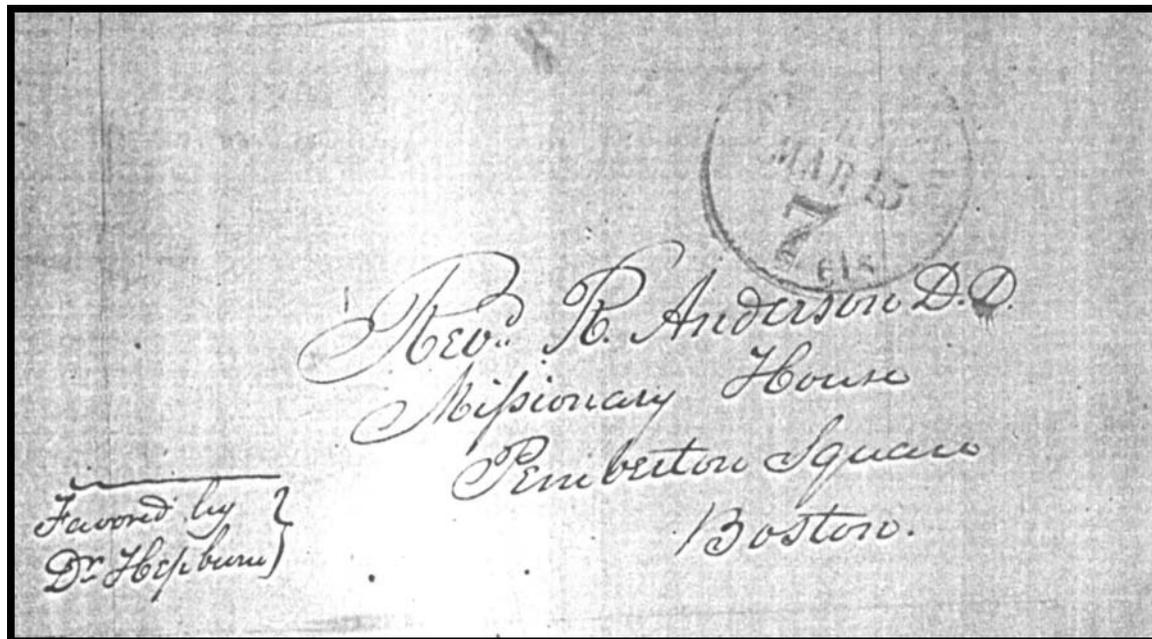
Doty satisfied himself that he was doing the work of God, and that he planted the seed that would one day grow into a flowering garden.

Political changes were occurring in this area of the world. China, which had previously had a single port open to foreigners, and many restrictions on foreigners living even there, was forced by the First Opium War with the British (1839-42),¹⁴ to open its doors, and four more ports were added to those admitting foreigners; some restrictions were also lifted. David Abeel, seeing the meager success that was being achieved in Borneo, and the vastness of China where he hoped to work, encouraged the mission board to remove the missionaries from Borneo, particularly those that spoke Chinese, to Amoy (present day Xiamen - on the coast of China opposite the island of Taiwan). So after much work setting up schools, ministering to the sick, and learning the customs and language of Borneo, the Dotys now found themselves en route to China. They arrived there in June of 1844, leaving behind the Malay-speaking missionaries to maintain the Borneo Mission. The Borneo mission continued until 1849, when it was closed, with not a single convert.

The last chapter of Doty's life began with his China service. The only covers from this period I have found are a part of the ABCFM collection of missionary documents, available to me only on microfilm. These documents are largely addressed to the Missionary Rooms of the ABCFM in Boston.¹⁵

When the Dotys and Pohlman arrived in China from Borneo in 1844, it was with high hopes of working in a fertile and larger field, but only three weeks after their arrival, their first-born son would die at the age of six. This was by no means the first such loss - on Borneo and Java, several missionary wives and a number of children had died, and the missionaries all suffered failing health at one time or another. While Amoy was not tropical like Borneo, it suffered from disease. A third child was born to the Dotys in January of 1845, but by October, Doty's wife Clarissa had died. She was 39 years old. William Pohlman suffered similar losses. His wife died one week before Doty's, so in 1845, it was Doty's sad duty to return to the States with his two girls, and the motherless children of Pohlman as well, while Pohlman remained to direct the mission in Amoy.

Doty's letters from Amoy and Macao chronicle the deaths of his wife and Pohlman's, and his departure with his own and Pohlman's children.



ABCFM Archives

Fig. 8. A letter from Macao sent on November 22, 1845, which arrived in Boston on March 17, 1846, carried by Dr. Hepburn who put it into the U.S. mail stream. Unfortunately the CDS is not easily read. Doty writes: "I arrived here on the 17th Inst with my charge of four motherless little ones, two of Br. Pohlman's and two my own."

He remained in the States for almost a year, visiting his parents, and the relatives of his dead wife, arranging for homes for his daughters, and in New Jersey, speaking in favor of the missions at New Brunswick. In 1847, he prepared to return to China, and sent the following letter from New York to the Missionary Rooms in Boston:



ABCFM Archives

Fig. 9. Feb 3, 1847 letter from Doty to Anderson in Boston - a wedding invitation.

The Lord I trust has provided a suitable companion for me of whom as I am aware you have heard somewhat thru her pastor, the Rev. J. Ford. Our union D.V. [deo volunte] will take place the 17th Inst in a public manner in the Church at Parsippany, Morris Co. Can you not make it in the way of your business to visit New York at that time, & give us the pleasure of your presence? Be assured you would be a most welcome guest. On the morning of that day, take the 9 o'clock car for Morristown from the foot of Courtland Street. Upon arrival at Morristown, conveyances will be ready to take friends to Parsippany. Next day return to N. York by 2 o'clock train from Morristown.¹⁶

Doty's second marriage took place in Parsippany on February 17, 1847, to Eleanor A. Smith of Troy [Hills], New Jersey. Leaving his young daughters with friends, he then returned to China with his new wife, just 24 years old, to continue the work at the mission in Amoy.¹⁸ John Talmage, also from New Jersey and a protégé of Doty's, returned with them aboard the ship Heber. Doty wrote on his return to Amoy on September 7th, 1847:

Happy am I in the privilege of addressing you again from my Chinese home. The voyage of the "Heber" has proved the most speedy made this season, being 110 days to Macao.

Many of the letters in the ABCFM papers from China do not bear postal markings, and some covers are not pictured. However some interesting information included in the letters from Doty and Pohlman from China helps explain how some of these were carried. In a letter to Dr. Anderson in Boston, Doty writes in 1846:

Mr. Hill kindly informs us that letters can now be sent direct via overland without the intervention of an agent in London, the postage being prepaid. It is the unanimous desire of our Mission that any letter directed to us marked overland may be so forwarded and the postage be charged to the Mission. Mr. Hill will recollect that I left \$100 with him....

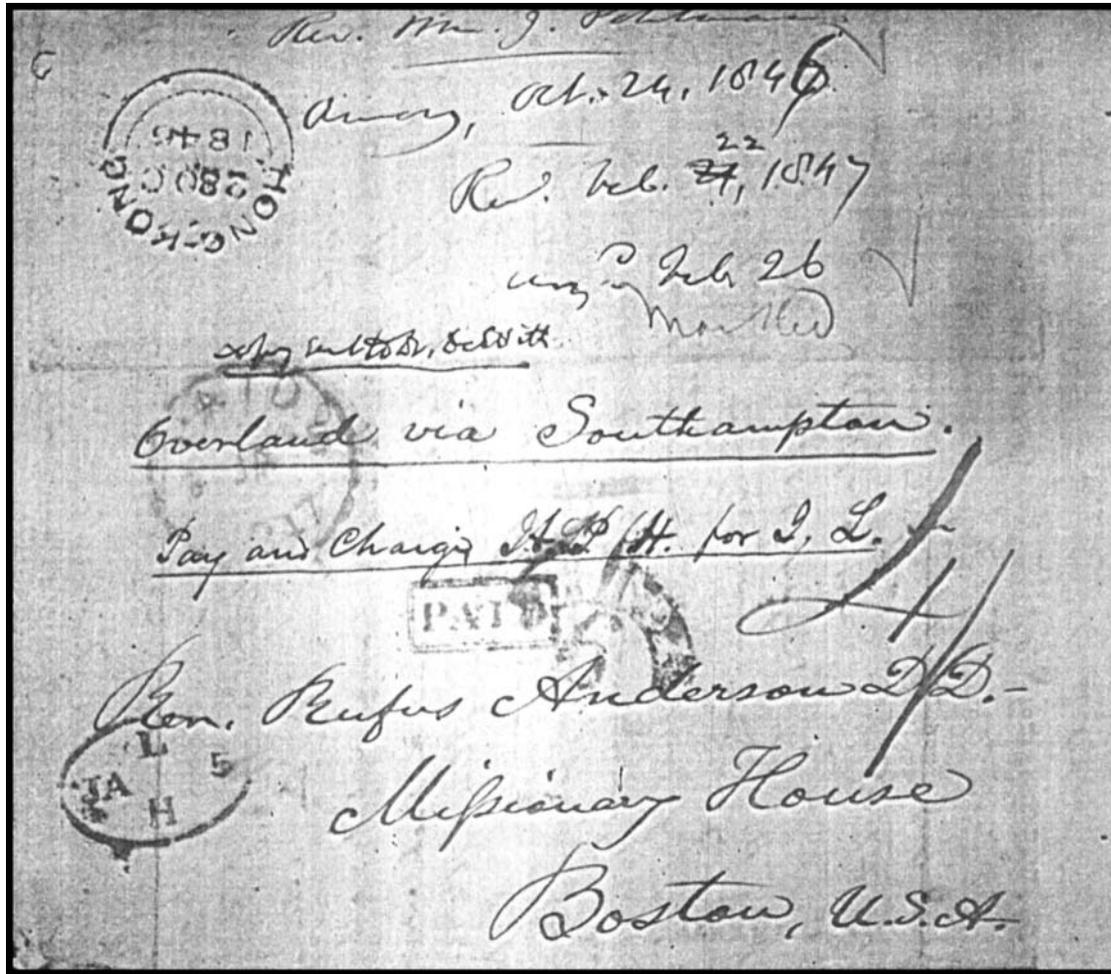
And apologizes later:

Perhaps you do not devise the reason of our troubling you with the care of our private letters. It is to save postage, as this whole package will cost us no more overland postage, i.e., \$1.00, than the letter to yourself. Will you kindly have them forwarded?

Hence it is apparent that many letters are being carried under cover - rather than individually, in order to save on postage. I was struck however by the phrase "sent direct via overland" in reference to mail from China, and show below a cover from Pohlman that was marked in this manner:



Rev. & Mrs. Elihu Doty - the second Mrs. Doty - Eleanor Smith of Troy Hills, N.J. Courtesy RCA Church, & digitally restored.¹⁷



ABCFM Archives

Fig. 10. The letter, mailed from Amoy on October 24, 1846 during Doty's absence, bears the marking "Overland via Southampton."

Unsure just what an "Overland" marking meant applied to mail from China, I made some inquiries and received expert help from Richard F. Winter, co-author with Walter Hubbard of *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*. This letter traveled first to Hong Kong, where it entered the British postal system. From there it went to Ceylon, where it transferred to a ship to Suez, traveling overland to Alexandria, thence by ship to Southampton. From there it went to London and then to Liverpool, where it was put on a ship to the U.S. Richard Winter explains:

The reference "Overland via Southampton" defined the route. "Overland" referred to the land route over Egypt and "Southampton" indicated a steamship directly to Southampton. ... The letter was carried privately to Hong Kong, where it was posted. It was paid 2x2 shillings = 4 shillings for a double rate letter (1/2-1 oz. weight) for all transit fees by the British mail system to the U.S. arrival port. The letter was marked with the boxed handstamp PAID in Hong Kong. At Boston the letter was marked for 6¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter. The 6¢ ship letter fee to the port was the same regardless of the weight of the letter.

Richard Winter noted further that:

This letter was received in Liverpool [the oval marking] on January 5, apparently too late to be posted on board a ship departing that day, and thus did not leave Liverpool for the States until almost a month later, on February 4. It would appear that sometime earlier (perhaps in 1845 when steamship mail was possible to and from China) the British started allowing prepayment to the U.S. of 1 shilling from China to the U.K. and 1 shilling from the U.K. to the U.S. Previously, from the comments of Mr. Hill, it appears that mail from China had to be sent to an agent in London, who then paid the transatlantic packet postage to the U.S.¹⁹

This letter followed a very different route to the States than we showed previously.

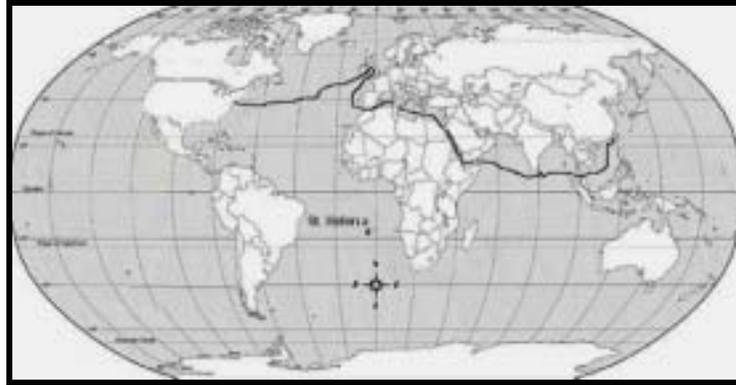


Fig. 11. Overland route from China, 1846.

Doty's second wife would bear him six children, only four of whom survived to adulthood. The first, a boy, died at 7 months, and the last, a girl born in February of 1858, would die soon afterwards. Eleanor Doty's death in 1858, at 34, preceded her daughter's. Thus Doty made another sad trip back to the States in 1859, to bring these four children home to his wife's family in New Jersey. He then returned to Amoy and labored on, despite these losses, never doubting the will of the spirit that guided him.

The China mission started on a better footing than the mission in Borneo, and the efforts of the Dutch Reformed Church were combined with those of the London Missionary Society and English Presbyterian Missionaries. David Abeel located there at the close of the First Opium War in 1842, and was joined in his endeavors by two doctors. The presence of the doctors made a very favorable impact on the Chinese, and the clinic and hospital, such as they were, were always crowded. Medical treatment was free, although patients' families were expected to provide food and aftercare; this generosity of spirit on the part of the mission went a long way towards convincing the Chinese that not all foreigners were there only to exploit them. Even so, it would not be until 1846 that the first two converts to Christianity were baptized and joined the church. It would be another three years before another three were added. Gradually however, the church began to grow, and in 1848, the first Protestant church was built, supplementing the rented houses and buildings which had served as meeting places until that time.

It should be noted that, despite the lack of converts in the early years of the Amoy mission, these missionaries did not lower their standards for baptism and church membership. Candidates who did show interest were carefully examined, and if not ready, were advised to "further examine

their souls,” and study further. Doty had, as a young man, been attracted to revivalism, but as he grew older, he understood the need for true commitment. Few of the Amoy converts were backsliders; once committed to Christianity, they were truly committed.

Two especially important policies, fathered by Doty and Pohlman, were of great importance in the growth of the church. The first was their ecumenical approach. They joined with the British missionaries and divided responsibilities between themselves, so as not to duplicate efforts. Denomination did not appear very important in this far-flung land, compared to the word of God and the duties of teaching and ministering to the population. In the 1850's, they formalized this arrangement. The Dutch Reformed Church was uneasy with this approach, but was forced to succumb by default.

Secondly, the missionaries strove to educate the converts they did make in the skills of the ministry, knowing that the lessons they hoped to teach, coming from the mouths of the native Chinese, would be more impactful than their own efforts. They even went so far as to ordain their own ministers, and while this again was looked on with some trepidation by the home church, it is probably the single most important element that preserved the Christian Church in China. By the time Doty left China in 1864, the foreign missionaries were very useful but not necessary to the continued existence of the church in China. When the foreign missionaries were forced out in years ahead, it did not mean the extinction of the church.



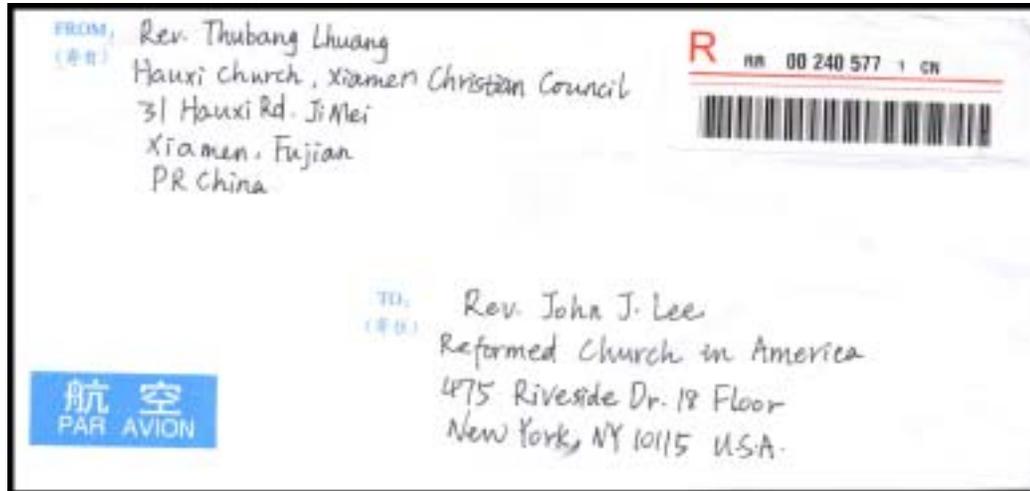
*Fig. 12.
Map of Southeast Asia,
showing the locations
where Doty served as a
missionary:
Java (Jakarta) - 1836-38
Borneo - 1838-44
(Sambas lies just to the
north of Pontianak)
China (Amoy) - 1844-64*

*The Times Atlas of World
History, Hammond,
Maplewood, NJ 1978, p.261*

After the death of his second wife, Doty devoted himself to his dictionaries of the Chinese language,²⁰ and to transcribing not only Christian texts, but schoolbooks as well, into a form the people could read. One of the most important endeavors of Elihu Doty and his fellow missionaries was the development of a system for Romanization of the Chinese language - that is, transcribing the Chinese language in Western letters representing its phonetic pronunciation.²¹ Hence many hours were spent in creating dictionaries for this purpose, one of which Doty authored, continuing Pohlman's work, entitled the *Anglo-Chinese Manual With Romanized Colloquial In The Amoy Dialect*²², published in Canton, China in 1853.²³ [Pohlman had been lost at sea in 1849, while visiting more distant outposts.]

The church in China continued to grow over the years. Its ministers were Chinese, who studied for the ministry in China. That they were a "free-standing church," not closely tied to the original Dutch Reformed Church, allowed them to serve the needs of the Chinese, and to survive the political climate in China over the next 150 years. In the 1950's, when Communism drove the foreign missionaries from China, the church did not collapse, but went underground. In the 1980's, after Mao's death and when Deng Xioping began to open doors to the West again, it was there to rekindle. That first Protestant church in China still operates in Xiamen, the modern name of Amoy. Every Sunday it is filled with more than 2,000 attendees during its two regular services,²⁴ and today there is a Protestant Christian population in China estimated in the millions.²⁵ Doty would have been pleased with his garden.

Doty's health forced him to return to New Jersey in 1864, and he was within four days of landing in New York when he died. He is buried in Parsippany, New Jersey in the Vail Cemetery.²⁶



Courtesy Dr. Lee. RCA headquarters in NYC

Fig. 13. Current day cover from the Xiamen [Amoy] Christian Council to the Reformed Church of America.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Meyer, Rev. John H. *200 Years of Discipleship, 1765-1965, a History of the Berne - Beverdam Reformed Churches*, New York, courtesy of Harold Miller, www.Bernehistory.org
- ² Barber, John W. & Howe, Henry, *Historical Collections of New Jersey, 1845*, illustrations reprinted in *Early Woodcuts of New York and New Jersey*, Dover Publications, NY, NY 1975.
- ³ Barber, John W. & Howe, Henry, *Historical Collections of New York, 1841*, Ob cit. Dover Publications, 1975.

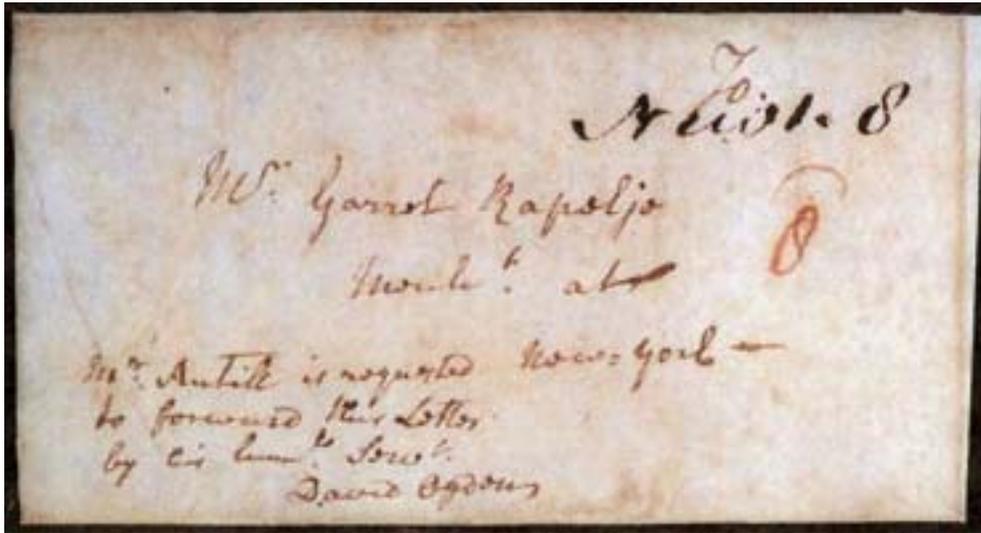
- ⁴ Doty, Ethan Allen, *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, originally published in Brooklyn, NY, 1897 reprinted 1984. A short biography written by one of his daughters and included here.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ De Jong, Gerald, *Mission to Borneo*, The Historical Society of the Reformed Church in America, Occasional Papers No. 1, Historical Society, RCA, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1987. The material on the Borneo mission and its establishment comes principally from this source.
- ⁷ Diary of Elihu Doty, published in *Historical Highlights*, Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church in America, Winter 1980, Vol 1, No. 1 - continued in Vol. 1, Nos 2, 3, and 4.
- ⁸ De Jong, *Mission to Borneo*, ob cit.
- ⁹ Used with permission, from the Archives of the Reformed Church of American, Gardner A. Sage Library, New Brunswick, NJ. My thanks to Russell Gasero for his help.
- ¹⁰ The Island of Borneo is today divided between three nations, Malaysia [the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak] and Brunei [independent] - both in the North, and Indonesia [the provinces of East, South, Central and West Kalimantan]. The RD Church's "missionary field" was in what is now West Kalimantan, in Sambas and Pontianak, on the west coast of the island of Borneo.
- ¹¹ The Papers of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions [ABCFM], on microfilm, reel 230. The Papers of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, are archived at Harvard University, reels 230-232. These files illustrate many interesting incoming foreign mail during the stampless period. Beyond the stampless period, the letters are, for the most part, collected in books and the covers are no longer present.
- ¹² RCA archives, ob. cit.
- ¹³ De Jong, *Borneo*, ob cit.
- ¹⁴ For an excellent discussion by Dr. Bill Brown called "[Lords of Opium--a History of the Opium Wars](http://amoymagic.mts.cn/OpiumWar.htm)" which forced China to open its ports to the West and to the influx of opium, I suggest the following website: <http://amoymagic.mts.cn/OpiumWar.htm>. Fought with the British to prevent opium from entering China, this loss forced the Chinese to open ports to the West.
- ¹⁵ Papers of the ABCFM, ob cit.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., reel 232
- ¹⁷ RCA Church website: <http://www.rca.org/aboutus/archives/gallery.php> June 22, 2004.
- ¹⁸ De Jong, Gerald F., *The Reformed Church in China 1842-1951*. The Historic Series of the Reformed Church in America, No. 22. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 1992. The history of the China mission at Amoy here is taken largely from that source.
- ¹⁹ Email from Richard F. Winter, detailed the route of this letter. This last comment is based on information in Lee C. Scamp in his *Far East Mail Ship Itineraries*; information above he credits as follows: P&O sailing data is from R. Kirk, *British Maritime Postal History, Vol 2, The P&O Lines to the Far East*. The Atlantic sailing data is from Walter Hubbard & Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*. My sincere thanks to Mr. Winter, and to Leonard H. Hartmann who put me in touch with him.
- ²⁰ Doty, Ethan Allen, *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, published in Brooklyn, NY, 1897 reprinted 1984.
- ²¹ De Jong, Gerald F., *The Reformed Church in China 1842-1951*. The Historic Series of the Reformed Church in America, No. 22. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. 1992.
- ²² Doty notes in the introduction to this book that it is based largely on Pohlman's work. Pohlman had to give up his efforts, as his eyesight failed him.
- ²³ While this particular form on Romanization is not used today, it no doubt laid the groundwork for other similar systems, notably Wade-Giles, in use for over a hundred years. The current form, now embraced by the Chinese government itself and the Library of Congress, is called pinyin. These changes in the forms of Romanizing of Chinese are the reasons for the changes experienced over our lifetime in such word as Peking and Beijing, and Mao Tse Tung and Mao Zedong, <http://lweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpsoc/china.html> June 12, 2004.
- ²⁴ CatholicCitizen.org at <http://catholiccitizens.org/platform/platformview.asp?c=10994> June 23, 2004, reprinting an article, "In China, a nation of a billion souls, the pews are packed: Beijing is wary as Christianity counts up to 90 million adherents" by Robert Marquand, that first appeared in the Christian Science Monitor 12.29/2003
- ²⁵ The Chinese Christian Council states 12,000,000, but other sources estimate a much higher number. It is currently not advantageous for the Chinese to advertise their large numbers. http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_70.html
- ²⁶ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~njmorris/cemeteries/vail1.htm> June 17, 2004

DISCOVERY OF COLONIAL NEWARK MANUSCRIPT POSTMARK

By Robert G. Rose

(The author wishes to thank William H. Johnson, the cover's proud owner, for bringing it to our attention. Please report any new stampless cover markings to njpostalhistory@aol.com).

Although a colonial post office is known to have existed in Newark as early as 1766, no postmarks have been reported until 1799, when the United States Post Office provided a circular brass handstamp to the city's post office.¹ The earliest use of a manuscript postmark as recorded by Coles is 1812.² In the 20 years since publication of the Coles study, there have been no reports of earlier usages of postmarks until the recent discovery of a previously unreported manuscript colonial marking, illustrated below.



From the collection of William H. Johnson

Earliest documented use of Newark postmark in 1771.

This folded letter first appeared in a recent auction conducted by David G. Phillips.³ According to its description, the letter is dated January 26, 1771, with the town of origin torn away and missing from the letter sheet.⁴ The letter is postmarked “New” in manuscript with a matching rate marking of “1.8” and a second rate marking in red manuscript with what appears to be an “8” marking. The first rate marking is based on the distance from Newark to New York, the letter's destination, and is expressed in penny weights and grains of silver for a single letter sheet with a distance not exceeding 60 miles. The second rate marking, noted as “8d” in the auction description, is most probably the rate in sterling expressed in local tenor. The back of the cover is stamped with a circular January 26 “Franklin” marking in brown which was applied by the post office in New York upon its arrival on the same day as its posting in Newark.

Confirmation of its Newark usage is consistent with the residence of the letter's author. David Ogden was born in Newark in 1707 and graduated from Yale in 1728.⁵ He became a noted colonial attorney and judge with a residence in Newark. A loyalist, he fled to New York in 1777 and eventually to England with the coming of the American Revolution. In England he became a member of the Board of refugees in 1789 and acted as an agent for prosecuting claims for loyalists whose property was confiscated by the patriots during the Revolution, as was his own residence in Newark.⁶ He later returned to New York and died in Whitestone in 1802.

END NOTES

- ¹ William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, p. 218 (Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983). No colonial markings from Newark are listed in either the *American Stampless Covers Catalog*, Vol. I, p. 223 (5th Edition, 1997) or Alex L. ter Braake, *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America*, II-61-68 (American Philatelic Research Library, 1975).
- ² Coles, *op cit*, p. 218.
- ³ David G. Phillips Co., Inc., Sale No. 112, October 25, 2003, Lot 618.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁶ Joseph Atkinson, *History of Newark*, Chap. 13, "Essex County in the Revolutionary War," (1884), excerpted on www.getnj.com/hudsex/hudsex14.shtml. Oct. 27, 2004

COLES UPDATE GOING FAST!

If you have not already ordered your copy of Don Chafetz's *Coles Update* of William C. Coles, Jr.'s 1983 work, *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, it would be wise to do so soon. Current supply is running out. This book is designed to be a companion volume to the original work. Don Chafetz has carefully gathered together the necessary information and updated the listings, in each case, indicating the reason for the addition or change. There are 28 pages of additions, both postmarks and new dates. To order this book, please complete the order form below, or download it from our website at <http://members.aol.com/njpostalhistory/phsindex.htm>.

In addition to the printed version, we also offer a CD in .PDF [Acrobat Reader] format. This allows you to search the data by town, date, etc., and to print out the pages on your own computer. The listing is alphabetical by town name; the Table of Contents in the PDF version is designed to take you directly to the beginning of the listing for a particular letter, with return to the Table of Contents available as a bookmark on the left.

You may order the book alone for the price of \$10 postpaid. The CD is available for an additional charge of \$5.00. Simply mail the order blank below with your check, indicating your preferences, and we will send it on to you. The cost of the CD alone, if the print edition of the book is not purchased, is the same as the print edition.

Please send me _____ copies of **print edition only** @ \$10.00 each \$ _____
 Please send me _____ copies **print edition and CD** @ combined price of \$15.00 \$ _____
 Postage included.
 Checks in US funds only, payable to **New Jersey Postal History Society** **TOTAL:**\$ _____

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send to Jean Walton, Secretary, 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830, or email NJPostalHistory@aol.com.

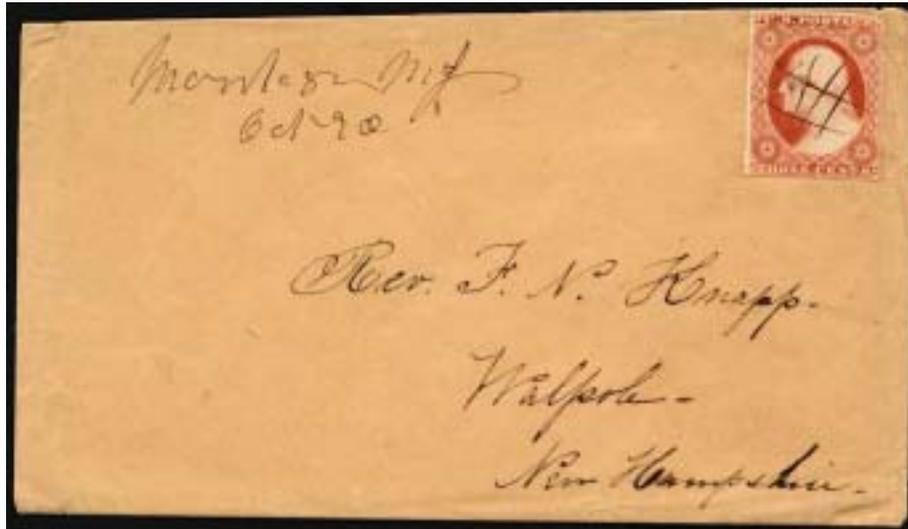
THE MONTAGUE, NEW JERSEY POST OFFICE

By Len Peck

[This article by Len Peck, longtime collector of Sussex postal history, continues the discussion begun by Chet Smith and Arne Englund ("Elusive Early 19th Century New Jersey Post Offices" in the February 2004 NJPH (Vol. 32 No. 1) and addresses some of the questions raised by Arne in his original article, with regard to the Foster's Ferry-Brick House-Montague conundrum - what appeared to be three post offices existing simultaneously within a mile of each other in Sussex County.]

Montague, in Sussex County, N.J., got its first post office on January 6, 1815 on an application filed by Samuel Hull, who became the first postmaster. Through an error, the Postmaster General's office in Washington, D.C. also listed Brick House (the building in which the Montague post office was to be located) as a post office as well.

Another application for a post office in the Montague area was also filed at about the same time by Julius Foster, for a post office named Foster's Ferry. This post office was authorized and established in error on January 13, 1815.



Courtesy Arne Englund

Early 1850's cover from Montague, NJ

At the time that applications for these post offices were being processed by the Postmaster General's office in Washington, D.C., conditions were in great turmoil. The War of 1812 had only just come to an end, and Washington, D.C. was still recovering from the fire of 1814, set by the British, which destroyed much of the city. The General Post Office headquarters suffered the loss of many of their records, including their complete repository of all incoming reports and correspondence from the field. They were only able to save their letterbooks containing the scribe's recordings of copies of outgoing letters from the Postmaster General. Because of this turmoil, a number of small post offices were authorized during this period, which otherwise would not have happened. Two such post offices in Sussex County were Brick House and Foster's Ferry -- Brick House because it was one and the same as Montague, with the same postmaster, Samuel Hull; and Foster's Ferry because of its close proximity (of only ½ mile) to the Montague post office, and the fact that Julius Foster, who had

MONTAGUE, NJ POST OFFICE ~ Len Peck

filed as the postmaster, never filed his bond. It was not until 1823 that Brick House and Foster's Ferry were officially removed from the records because no returns had ever been made from either post office.

Montague continued operating as a class 4 post office until February 29, 1908, when, because of rural free delivery, the Postmaster General felt the area could be better serviced from Port Jervis, N.Y. There was considerable opposition at first to this change, with New Jersey rural free delivery mail coming from New York State, but the convenience of rural free delivery quickly overcame the inconvenience of having to travel to the post office to pick up the mail. Thus, Montague continued without its own post office until 1981, when a new post office was opened in Montague as a branch post office of Branchville, N.J. However, it is not unusual for homes near the border of a state to receive their mail from the adjacent state. This has gone on ever since rural free delivery was established.

Following is a list of the postmasters who served the Montague post office, together with dates of their appointments. Each postmaster served until the next postmaster was appointed. Longest serving was Thomas Cole - 34 years.

<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Postmaster</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Postmaster</u>
Jan. 6, 1815	Samuel Hull	Sept. 6, 1861	Thomas J. Bonnell
Mar. 24, 1819	James Stoll	Apr. 10, 1863	Andrew J. Coykendell
Apr. 16, 1840	John Hull	Sept. 4, 1864	George H. Wells
June 21, 1841	James Stoll	June 9, 1868	George W. Phillipa
July 10, 1845	Horatio N. Gustin	May 18, 1869	Andrew J. Coykendell
Dec. 8, 1847	Eben Owens	July 23, 1869	Peter N. Jacobs
Oct. 22, 1849	Henry R. Brodhead	June 3, 1872	Andrew J. Coykendell
Dec. 6, 1851	James B. Armstrong	Mar. 18, 1873	Job C. Ellett
June 10, 1853	Jacob L. Vandausen	Apr. 6, 1874	Thomas V. Cole

[Discontinued February 29, 1908 and serviced from Port Jervis N.Y. From 1815 until 1823, this P.O. was also known as Brick House. This P.O. was re-opened in 1981 as a branch of Branchville P.O.]

(Our appreciation to Arne Englund for interviewing Len and submitting this piece from Len Peck's enormous store of philatelic information. It should be an inspiration to us all that at 94 years old Len is still an active researcher of NJ postal history. Subsequent to the first article outlining the problems with the Montague/Brick House/Foster's Ferry P.O. relationship, Len contacted Washington, D.C. in order to find out the status of each in the official records.)

REFERENCES

Len Peck's list of Sussex post offices comes from the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration [NARA], Washington, D.C. [The National Archives and Records Administration lists its contact address as 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; Telephone toll free at: 1-866-272-6272 or 1-86-NARA-NARA. For online availability, see article by Henry Hudson, p. 164].

NEW JERSEY PRIVATE EXPRESS COMPANIES: Part 5B: Wells Fargo & Company's Express

By Bruce H. Mosher
© 2004 Bruce H. Mosher

[The article is continued from NJPH August 2004, Vol. 32, No 3, which covered the foundations of Wells Fargo in New Jersey; here Bruce covers the services offered. ~ Ed.]

Letter Carrying Service

Express letter pickup and delivery service continued to flourish in 1852 when Congress passed a law granting express companies the right to carry letters that were placed within Government stamped envelopes. Prior to 1852, many express companies were already participating in the letter carrying business, some legally (where no U.S. postal service was available), but many illegally as they chose to unlawfully compete with the Postal Office Department (POD). Beginning in 1852, the Government (i.e., the POD) derived its revenue from express forwarders the same as from their ordinary postal business—from the sale of stamped envelopes. Wells, Fargo & Company (and other private express companies) bought large quantities (i.e., millions) of stamped envelopes from the POD, and obtained its profit by selling these at an increased price after they had privately printed a paid express frank on each envelope next to the Government imprinted stamp. From 1868 to 1895, Wells, Fargo & Co. charged five cents for each two-cent (or earlier three-cent) stamped envelope they sold that carried their printed frank. Wells Fargo also bought and issued somewhat limited quantities of pre-printed franks on higher-denomination stamped envelopes, and then charged appropriate escalated prices when they were sold to the public.

Many envelope franks were issued by Wells Fargo between 1852 and 1895, but most of their express usages predate 1886. However, we do note that the last Wells Fargo-issued, envelope frank design that could have been used in New Jersey after 1886 is shown in Figure 5-7. As with all pre-printed express franks, the frank's presence on pre-printed envelopes verified that the express letter-carrying charge was prepaid. At this time, we do not know of a single usage of this franked envelope style that was initiated from a Wells Fargo agency in New Jersey, but such usage could probably have occurred.



Figure 5-7. Wells Fargo Frank that was used from 1883 through 1895.

Wells Fargo carried letters that were enclosed in these franked, stamped envelopes, after collecting same from drop boxes placed at different points in the business sections of Western towns; and then delivered them in the business districts of other towns. This pickup/delivery service was not, however, extended to any residential neighborhoods. The Wells, Fargo letter carrying business never amounted to much east of Kansas City, because the postal facilities in the East were sufficient for the public's mail service needs. But this service was definitely of great importance in the development of private business along the Pacific Coast, particularly during the first fifteen years (1852–67), or more, of its existence.

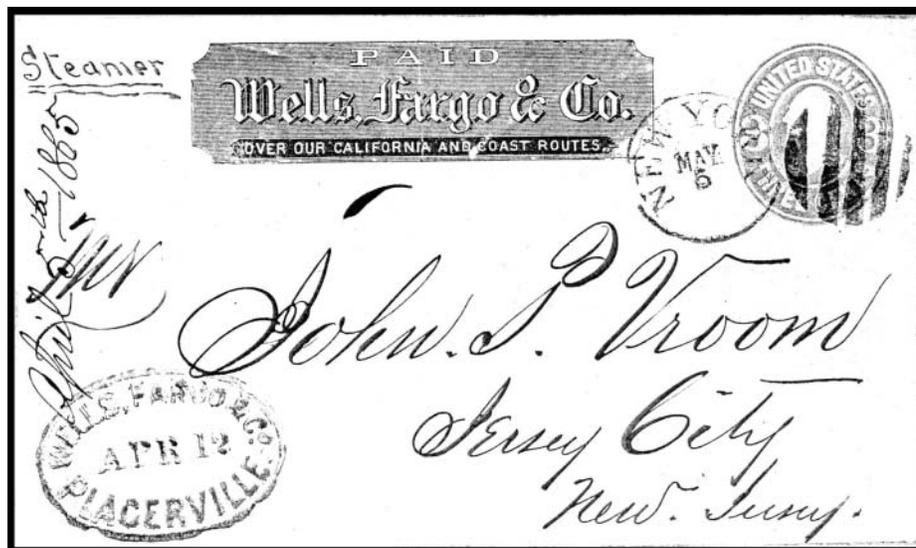
On May 5, 1895, Wells, Fargo and Company announced that they would discontinue letter carrying in the United States. Wells, Fargo & Co., President, John J. Valentine, gave this rationale when he announced the end to their letter conveying service.¹

“—The improvement of the general postal system from year to year has rendered our letter carrying business of constantly decreasing importance, and we have decided to discontinue it in this country. We shall continue it in Mexico, where it is still of value to the communities. It has been of small pecuniary interest to us of late years, but one of the important reasons for stopping it is to preclude the possibility of the lottery companies making use of those facilities for the distribution of their literature. Although we have never made any business of carrying letters in the East, we have brought letters to Eastern cities, and we have reason to believe that some of the lottery people were conducting their operations by this means, so I told our manager to stop the letter carrying. We thought this would be more in conformity with the spirit of the anti-lottery act of Congress, to which we desire to give support.”

In addition to notification of the curtailment of their nationwide letter-carrying business, Valentine’s statements also provide these insights into their Eastern letter-carrying business:

1. Wells, Fargo & Co. probably never began collecting franked letters in New Jersey (nor any other eastern state) on a regular basis for delivery within the eastern states.
2. Wells, Fargo & Co. delivered franked letters that were addressed to New Jersey (and other eastern) towns that had been collected along their routes in the Western states. This practice probably started in the 1860’s and ended as a result of the above announcement. Most probably letters addressed to Eastern towns would have been sent to New York City by steamer and then upon arrival, given to a local express carrier for delivery, or put into the U.S. mail for upstate and out-of-state destinations. An example of such a cover is shown in Figure 5-8 that was given to Wells Fargo in Placerville, California in 1865 for delivery to Jersey City.

This cover bears the annotation “Steamer,” ostensibly the intended routing, although cover dating analysis indicates it may have instead traveled by Overland Express (23 days San Francisco to New York City). In any event, this cover was postmarked by a New York postal clerk upon arrival in the City, and then we assume the POD subsequently delivered it to John P. Vroom in Jersey City.



(Courtesy Wells Fargo History Dept.)

Figure 5-8. 1865 ‘Steamer’ cover from Placerville, Calif. to Jersey City, New Jersey.

3. Wells, Fargo & Co. probably delivered franked letters that had been deposited in Mexico or Cuba for delivery to New Jersey (and other eastern) towns, even after the 1895 notification. The cover shown in Figure 5-9 may be one early 20th-Century example of this practice (the back of this cover has not been seen to learn if there is any evidence that the cover was indeed delivered to Keyport.)



Figure 5-9. August 5, 1905 cover from Mexico City to Keyport, New Jersey.²

In order for the Figure 5-9 cover to have been delivered to Keyport, in Monmouth County, Wells Fargo would have had to transfer this letter to another express company or local carrier. Keyport was a town on the Central Railroad of New Jersey which, in 1905, had active contracts with Adams Express Company and the United States Express Company. Wells Fargo could have handed this cover off to either of these companies at Elizabeth, Jersey City or Newark for final delivery to Keyport. We doubt that it will ever be conclusively known whether this cover was delivered to the Keyport address by cooperative express company efforts, unless there is some revealing information recorded on the back of it.

The December 1878 cover illustrated in Figure 5-10 appears to be a normal use of a stamped envelope for POD mail delivery from San Francisco, California to Elizabeth, N.J. It is shown here because of the Wells Fargo frank printed on it. It appears that the sender did not want Wells Fargo Express to deliver this letter (although maybe they could have) because apparently the sender struck through the paid frank with two wavy defacing lines. U.S. mail service is strongly suspected because the stamp cancellation and circular date handstamp on it look authentic.

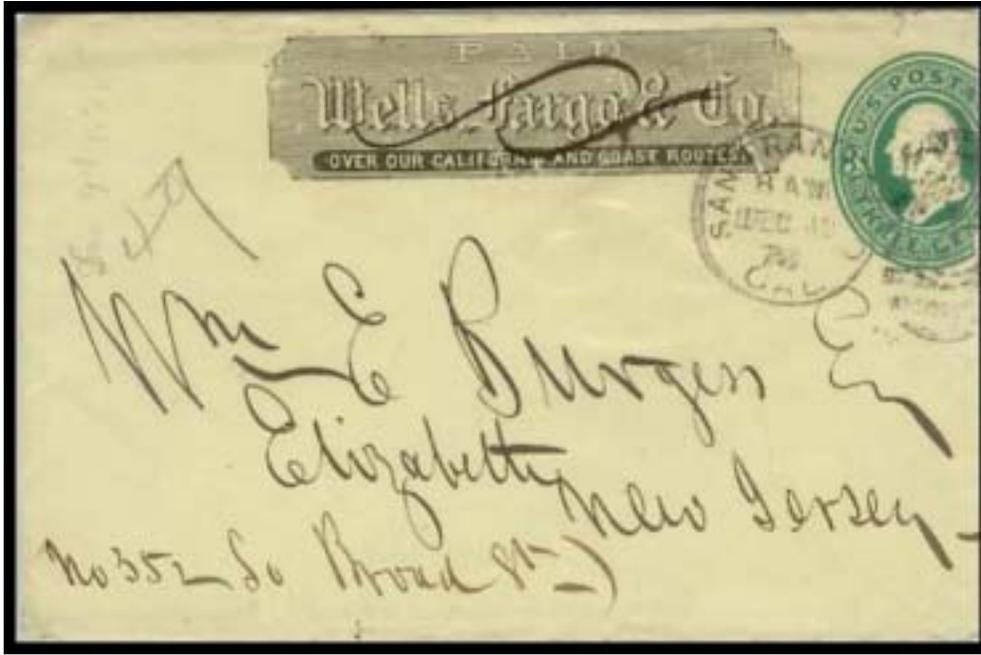


Figure 5-10. Franked envelope used as a normal USPOD mailing envelope in 1878.

There is another possible explanation for the travels of this cover. Perhaps the sender deposited the cover in a Wells Fargo pickup box and when a Wells Fargo messenger retrieved it, he then dropped the letter at the San Francisco Post Office for POD delivery, because in 1878 he knew there was no direct Wells Fargo express service to New Jersey (or maybe the messenger had some other reason). There is one telltale characteristic of this cover that tends to obviate this postulated Wells Fargo involvement—no Wells Fargo handstamp cancellation is present as is normally seen on many covers where a California Wells Fargo agent is initially involved in accepting such a letter. It may have been possible that this cover somehow avoided being struck with a Wells Fargo cancellation handstamp, but we doubt that such happened.

Two Wells, Fargo & Co. Express cover illustrations were previously published in the NJPH. The first is shown in Figure 5-11³ and in the accompanying 1984 text, Brad Arch asks for information about Wells Fargo's involvement in New Jersey. This article provides some of that requested information, albeit 20 years later. The second cover is reproduced in Figure 512 and it was published in 1985.⁴ Both of the depicted Sc. U58, franked 3¢ stamped envelopes were sold to the public by Wells Fargo from Spring 1865 to Spring 1871.

An obvious explanation for the Figure 5-11 cover involves its normal transit through the U.S. mails sometime after 1865 as a stamped envelope (i.e., ignoring the pre-printed Wells Fargo frank.) The home office of the Wells, Fargo and Co. was in New York City from 1852 to 1872 and it is very conceivable that a Wells Fargo employee (or friend/relative of an employee) from that office had access to these envelopes and simply used one in Dover, N.J. to mail a letter. Dover is in Morris County approximately 30 miles west of New York City. The destination town of Table Rock, California had an U.S. Post Office beginning in 1857, so the POD would have been able to deliver this letter via normal Government mail-service. The sender may not have given a thought about crossing out (or defacing) the frank, because there probably was no intention for Wells Fargo to become involved in its delivery.

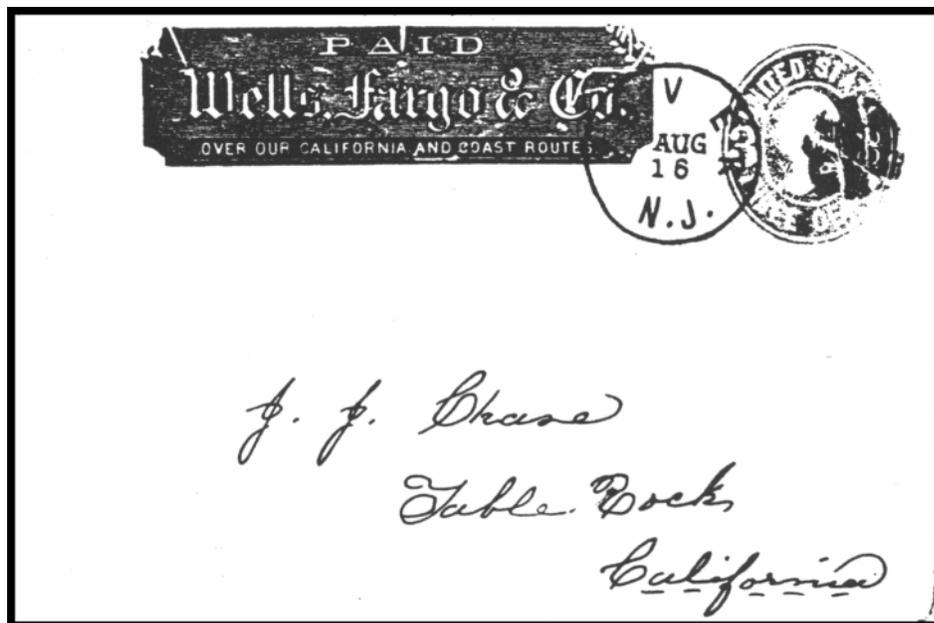


Figure 5-11. Franked envelope likely used as a normal USPOD mailing envelope from Dover, NJ.

Since the cover shown in Figure 5-12 does not bear an originating POD postmark (unless it was mailed from Elizabeth, N.J.), it could have been mailed from any town in the United States, even possibly from somewhere in New Jersey. In 1985, Jim Walker did not speculate on Wells Fargo's involvement in delivering this cover, however, he did remark that the circular Elizabeth postmarking handstamp [assumed struck by the POD] "tends to late 1860's usage." We believe that this cover is another example of a postally-used stamped envelope whose sender had no intention of depositing it with Wells Fargo for delivery. It certainly wound up in the POD's hands for final delivery as evidenced by the "FORWARDED" handstamp and the postmark style.

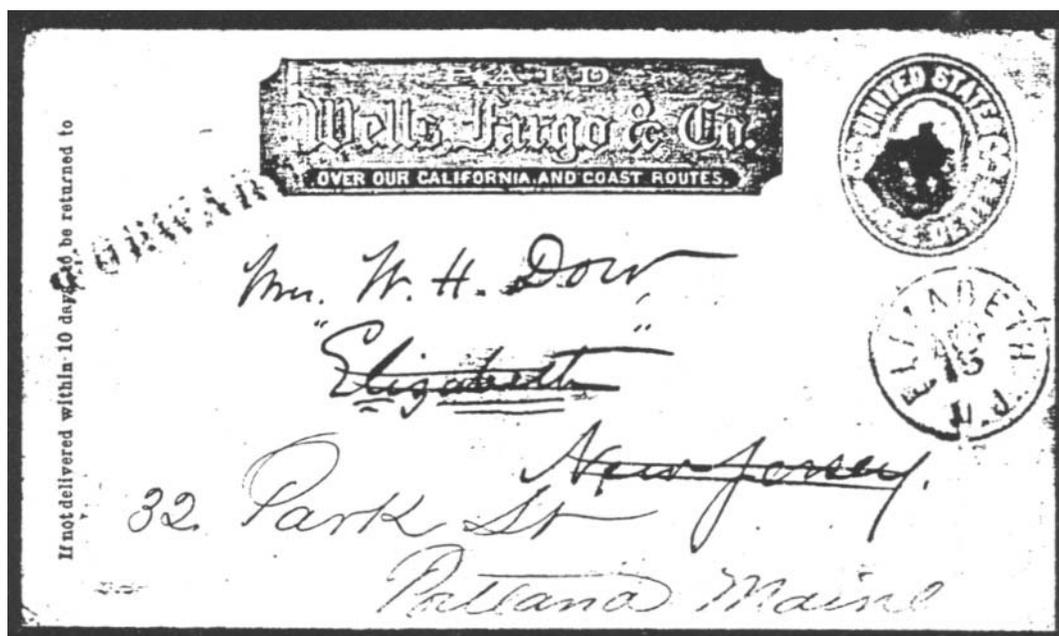


Figure 5-12. Another example of a postally-used stamped envelope.

Another possible scenario for the usage of either the Figure 5-11 or 5-12 envelope could be explained from their possession by someone who had bought them out West, but never mailed them. After returning to the East, and still having the ‘surplus’ stamped envelope with him, he decided to recover some of his purchase expense by using it to locally post a letter through the U.S. mail.

Parcel Delivery Service

A few paper remnants of the Wells Fargo Express transportation business in New Jersey have been located and are illustrated and discussed here to provide token insight into the contemporary nature of their package express business. No doubt huge quantities of Wells Fargo Express paper items were put into use during their 30 years of service in New Jersey, but finding surviving examples of such items has been a definite research challenge. This situation is contrasted by the abundance of Wells Fargo paper memorabilia that exists today from their 66 years of operations throughout the western United States.

One Wells Fargo office label has survived that bears a New Jersey town name printed on it. It was most likely used on a parcel that was expressed from Englewood, N.J. and it is shown in Figure 5-13. This label depicts the condensed Ocean to Ocean ‘mini-map’ that appears as an enlarged image in the left side of Figure 5-2. The Englewood label was issued between 1888 and 1898 (when the comma in the Wells Fargo name was dropped). Englewood was a station on the Northern Railroad of New Jersey about 15 miles north of Jersey City (see the Figure 5-5 map).

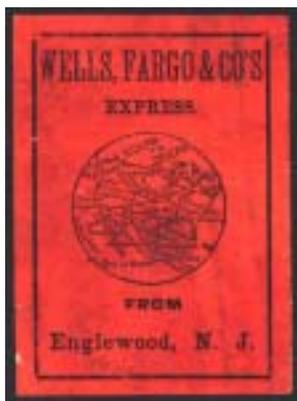


Figure 5-13. This label shows the globe seen in Fig. 5-5.

This label is printed black on red paper, imperforate, and measures 40x59 mm at the outside of its rectangular frame. This and similar labels are called ‘office’ labels because when pasted onto shipped parcels by the receiving express agent, they defined the town from which the parcel started its journey. Wells Fargo regulations demanded that all agents affix their office label on all outgoing parcels. Offices with large amounts of package business had their labels pre-printed with their town/office name. Smaller offices used blank Wells Fargo labels on which they wrote the town name. No other Wells Fargo labels with imprinted New Jersey town names are known by the author, although probably thousands (perhaps millions?) were issued and used. If you know of any of these label types with New Jersey towns on them, please send the author a color photocopy (or scan) of them. There were also general (i.e., location non-specific) labels and stamps that were issued by Wells Fargo during the 1888–1918 timeframe and many of those could have been used on expressed parcels from New Jersey.⁵

Two related Wells Fargo office labels from New York City are shown in Figure 5-14. Although these items do not carry New Jersey town names, they could easily have been used on Wells Fargo Express packages that traveled through New Jersey or maybe even went to in-state destinations. The New York Depot label is printed black on red paper and its rectangular design measures 62x103 mm. This label was probably issued in the 1888–98 timeframe. Note that this label carries the second Ocean to Ocean mini-map that is shown in the Figure 5-2 enlargement. The Brooklyn, N.Y. label is also black on red paper but is smaller at 42.5x57 mm. It was probably issued sometime between 1898 and 1917.

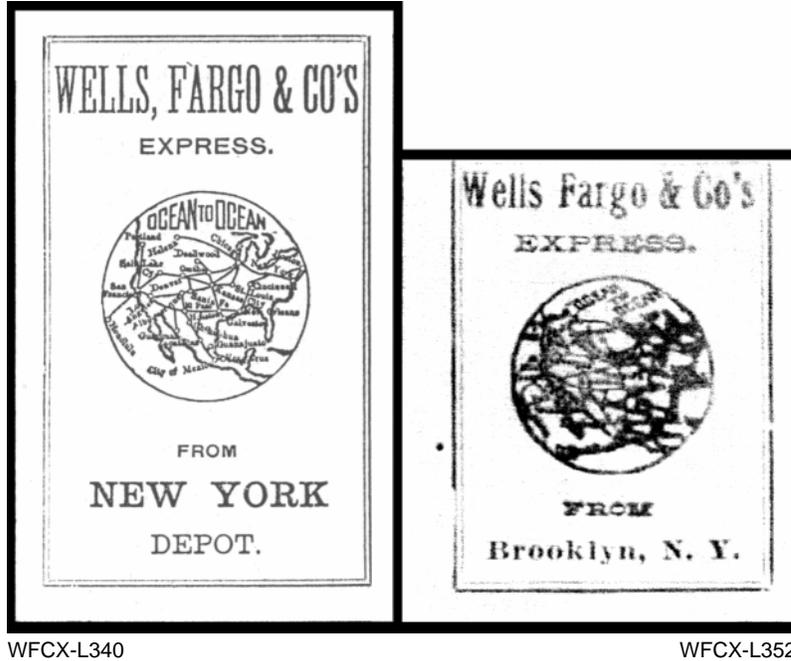


Figure 5-14. Two Wells Fargo office labels.

An interesting Wells Fargo stamp that tells a bit of express history is illustrated in Figure 5-15. Its inscription indicates that the Wells Fargo & Co. Express provided parcel delivery service aboard Erie Railroad trains that steamed into the New York City suburbs. Instructions on the stamp admonish the shipper to drop his packages at the foot of West 23rd Street or at the foot of Chambers Street in lower Manhattan. No doubt these were riverfront addresses where ferries that carried Erie trains back and forth across the Hudson River would dock. There was probably a Wells Fargo agency of some type at each waterfront address for the collection and dissemination of express packages. Thus, interestingly, the suburban destinations of the packages being transported and paid for by this stamp were actually in New Jersey!



WFCX-S40

Figure 5-15. Suburban Parcel Service to New Jersey.

This perf 12 stamp is printed black on light gray paper and its exterior rectangle measures 56x36.5 mm. There is an aqua-colored, handstamped, '2445' control number in the center. Such control numbers were probably repeated on the waybill, or receipt, to aid in tracking packages. The package express rates are listed as: 10¢ for up to 15 pounds, 15¢ for 15 to 35 pounds, 20¢ for 35 to 65 pounds, and 25¢ for 65 to 100 pounds. We do suspect that 10-cent and possibly 20-cent stamps were also issued in this style. Then the illustrated 5-cent stamp makes sense for use

NJ EXPRESS COs. Part 5B: WELLS FARGO ~ Bruce Mosher

in combination with the 10 and 20-cent stamps to makeup the 15 and 25-cent rate charges. As of 1914, the Interstate Commerce Commission was establishing and regulating express transportation rates of parcels for all the express carriers in the United States. The 1914 package rates are known to be somewhat higher than those defined on this stamp.⁶ Incidentally, no other values of this stamp have been reported at this time.

The printed express rates on the stamp sound very much like turn-of-the-century package transportation rates. So, this stamp was probably issued between 1898 and the early 1900's. These stipulated rates certainly covered parcel shipping from within the City to Hoboken, Jersey City and Newark, and probably to Paterson and Passaic plus intervening train stops. There is also the possibility that these rates were valid for package shipments throughout northern New Jersey to any existing Erie Railroad station. However, it is strongly doubted that the cited rates included transfer to another express company for final delivery, as such conjunctive routing probably entailed collection of an additional express fee.

The Wells Fargo Express receipt shown in Figure 5-16 is the only one presently known with a pre-printed New Jersey town on the dateline. In this example, this receipt blank was issued for use in the 1890's by Wells Fargo Express agents in Newark. These receipt blanks were probably printed late in the 1890's because there is no comma after 'Wells' in the header, nor in the Wells Fargo references in the fine print. The absence of a form number on this receipt seems unusual, since Wells Fargo was normally very diligent in assigning and printing form numbers on all their business forms. Does that make this a fraudulent Wells Fargo receipt? We don't know for sure, but we really doubt that it is bogus.

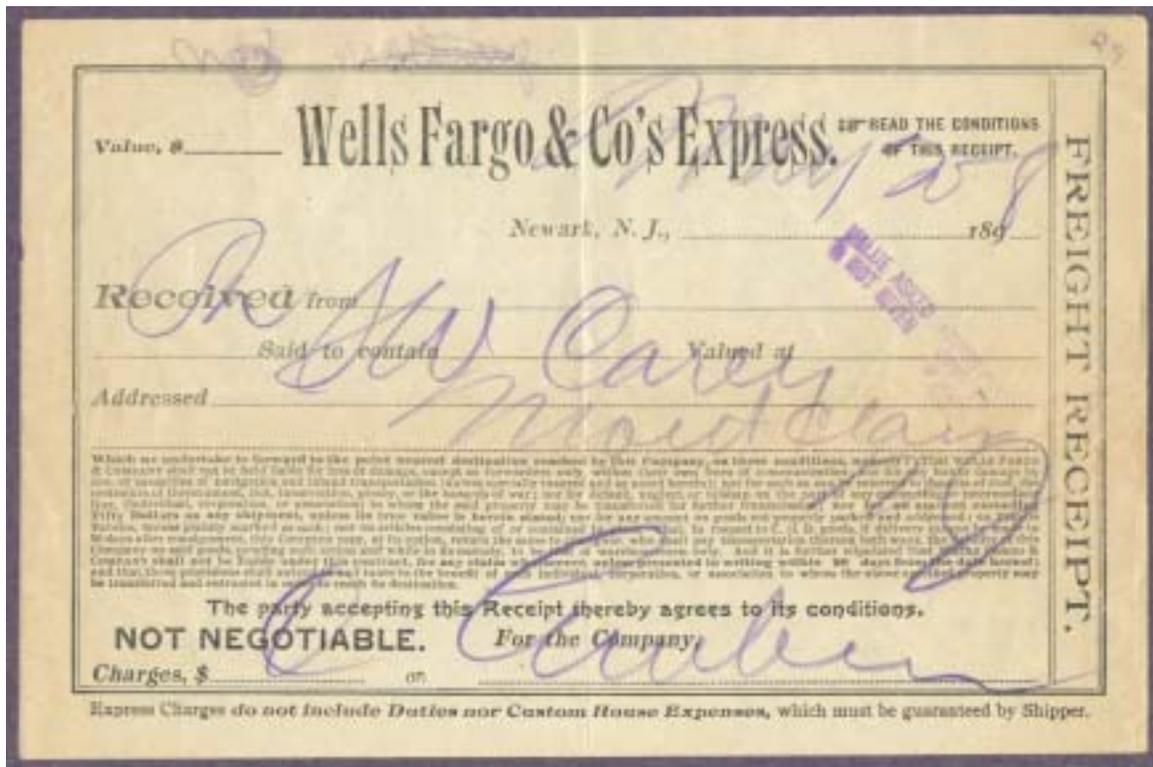


Figure 5-16.

The illustrated express receipt was used May 25, 1898 to document the shipment of one package to S.W. Carey in Montclair, N.J. (Essex County). The expressing charge is documented as “0”, indicating that this might have been an inter-company shipment that was being transported free. Newark and Montclair were both stations on the Main Line of the Erie Railroad. A violet handstamp appears under the dateline that reads “VALUE ASKED & NOT GIVEN.” It was common practice for express agents to ask the shipper to define the shipment’s value for insurance indemnity purposes. All the major expresses of the 19th Century included \$50 worth of ‘free’ shipment insurance in their express fees. So, in this case, the shipper could not claim more than \$50 in damages in the event he had to file an insurance claim. The major express companies of this era also allowed shippers to buy more than \$50 of insurance for an additional fee.

The back of this receipt is illustrated in Figure 5-17 and while it contains ‘normal advertising stuff,’ we can learn a lot about the diversity and extent of the Wells Fargo & Company Express business from this documented ‘stuff.’ One unusual entry that does leap out is the statement “Carries and Delivers Money, Valuable Parcels, Packages, Merchandise, Letters, Etc.” If this form was really printed no earlier than 1898, as we have speculated, somebody at the Wells Fargo form design office may have forgotten to remove the word “Letters” from the quoted statement. As reported above, Wells Fargo stopped carrying letters in 1895, possibly three years before this form was printed. However, one feasible reason that “Letters” was not removed is because envelopes that looked like letters, but contained valuable papers inside or envelopes with a Wells Fargo label affixed, were both treated as packages and not as letter mail.



Figure 5-17. The reverse of Figure 5-16.

NJ EXPRESS COs. Part 5B: WELLS FARGO ~ Bruce Mosher

Of historical interest, we note that the 1898 Wells Fargo Lines in New Jersey only amounted to a little over 200 total miles as estimated from the data in Table 5-I. When compared to the 36,000 nation-wide miles stated on the back of this receipt, the Wells Fargo operations in New Jersey accounted for less than one percent of the company's total expressing lines at about the turn of the century. Incidentally, "Line" in this usage included railroad, stage and steamboat travel mileage.

The L&NE tracks included a short, 2.5 mile spur that ran from Glenwood Junction, N.Y. (just above the state line) southeastward across the state line to Glenwood, N.J. The receipt shown in Figure 5-18 was issued on April 15, 1907 at the Wells Fargo Express agency in Glenwood. This receipt documents that \$3.00 was charged to, and paid by Brown & Bailey for the transportation of "1 Crt B Mch" (one crate of brass machinery?), weighing 300 pounds, from Glenwood to Andover, N.Y. The receipt contains form number "(28)" at the upper left corner.

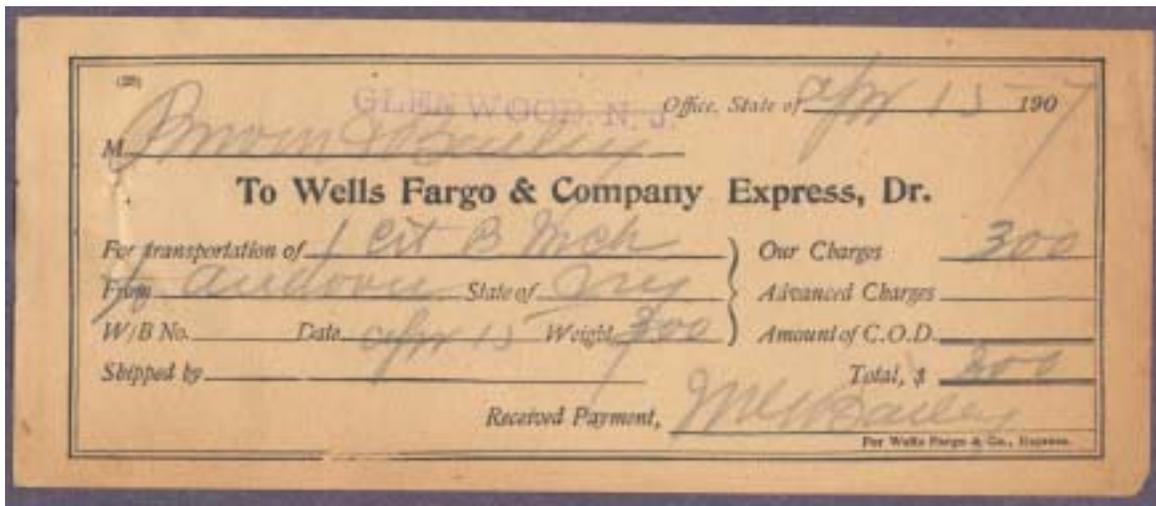


Figure 5-18

The letterhead shown in Figure 5-19 was used by Wells Fargo, Passaic, N.J., Agent C. H. Post in the early 1900's. The particular letter at hand is dated June 6, 1906. Passaic was a station on the Main Line of the New York Division of the Erie Railroad and on the Main Line of the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad. Since no specific railroad affiliation is printed on the Figure 5-17 letterhead, this stationery could have been used by Agent Post for Wells Fargo Express business involving either of these roads. We also note that form number "(18)" appears at the upper left of this letterhead.

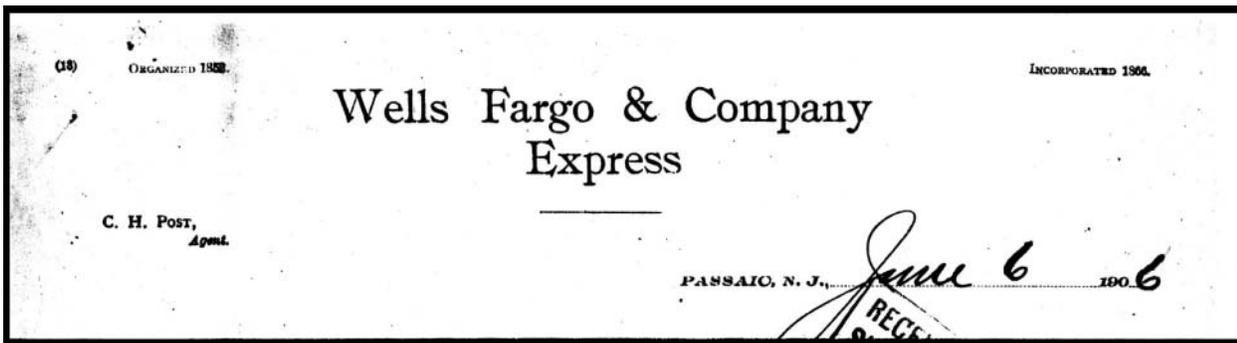


Figure 5-19

This concludes the currently researched history of the 30-year tenure of the Wells Fargo & Co. Express on the railroads within the state of New Jersey. Special thanks is given to Dr. Robert J. Chandler at the Wells Fargo Historical Services in San Francisco for researching the old Wells Fargo contracts with the railroads and for his helpful comments about, and contributions to, the material in this article.

(This report will be continued in the February 2005 NJPH)

Bruce Mosher's 223 page "Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps" is available from the author at P.O. Box 33236, Indialantic, FL 32903 for \$37.00 postpaid. U.S. Checks or Money Orders will be accepted.

NOTE: The alphanumeric numbers that appear under each label's illustration in the above article are references to the pertinent label listing numbers in Mosher's Catalog.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ "Express Mails. Wells, Fargo & Co. will discontinue its letter service." Express Gazette, May 15, 1895.
- ² Item #2932708619, sold on Ebay 9 June 03.
- ³ Arch, Brad, "Wells, Fargo Express in New Jersey," *NJPH*, September 1984, p. 50.
- ⁴ Walker, Jim, "WELLS, FARGO via NJ," *NJPH*, September 1985, p. 58.
- ⁵ Such labels and stamps are illustrated in the Wells, Fargo & Company's Express section of the author's *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*.
- ⁶ Chandler, W. H., "New Jersey Rate Sheet," Merchant's Parcel Post & Express Guide, Parcel Post and Express Charges From New York City to All Express Stations in the United States, 1914.



WE NEED ARTICLES NOW!

Articles on items in your collection, studies you are doing, or other material pertinent to

New Jersey postal history are always welcome.

**PLEASE submit these to your Editor: Robert G. Rose
at PO Box 1945**

Morristown, NJ 07962-1945

or rrose@pitneyhardin.com

A GENEALOGICAL LOOK AT NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY IN THE STAMPLESS ERA

By Capt. Henry A. Hudson, Jr., USNR-Ret., Sumrall, MS

New Jersey is a State rich in postal history. Starting in the British Colonial Period, post offices were established in Perth Amboy in 1692 and at Burlington in 1693.² The earliest known postal marking dates to June 23, 1737 when a letter was posted from Trenton.⁵ Some historians may say that the formal establishment of post offices within the boundaries of the State and the appointment of postmasters dates to September 22, 1788,⁵ when statehood began for New Jersey. Others may say that the period begins with New Jersey's ratification of the Constitution on December 17, 1787.² A case can be made, however, that the State's postal history began in 1774 when William Goddard operated a Constitutional Post or when the Second Continental Congress passed a postal act that named Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General. Even during this period both the British and Americans occupied parts of New Jersey. Regardless of which date is selected, the postal history of what is now New Jersey evolved over a period of years.

The number of post offices grew rapidly. In New Jersey there were 7 post offices in 1789; by 1798 the number had risen to 33, and to 209 by 1828.^{2, 5} Some of these early post offices have survived; many did not. Some changed their names over the years. Often they were established at crossroads, at ferry crossings, in stores, taverns, stands or in small settlements.

Postmasters often did double duty, not only serving as postmaster, but also as storekeeper, farmer or some other full-time occupation. The position of postmaster was not necessarily a full-time job although it was a very important one, for the operation of a post office was a center for information, news, commerce and government in the early settlements.

It would be well beyond the scope of this discussion to list all the post offices within the State; however a few examples will help illustrate how this information can be useful in genealogical research. The establishment dates for official post offices and postmaster appointments in the following towns were made by the Postmaster General as follows:²

<u>Name Of Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date Established</u>
Newark	Essex	1766
Morristown	Morris	October 5, 1777
Mendham	Morris	April 1, 1804
Cranberry	Middlesex	April 4, 1805
Jersey City	Bergen	January 1, 1807
Patterson	Essex	May 9, 1812

Notes: A post office for Newark is known to have existed by 1766 during the British Colonial Period. The Cranberry post office changed the spelling of its name to Cranbury on Dec. 20, 1869. Jersey City was changed to Hudson County on Feb. 22, 1840. Patterson was changed to Passaic County on Feb. 7, 1837. The spelling of its name was changed to Paterson on Sept. 26, 1829.

Not only do we see the names of the towns changing over time, we also see the parent counties changing as new counties were formed. It is quite possible for a family to never move physically but to be a resident of several different towns and live in several different counties throughout several generations. Postal records can help us unravel these mysteries. It is also important to note that the date the post office was established may not be the date that the town itself was established, as many towns pre-date the post office bearing the same name.

There were many more small towns and settlements in the state during the stampless period that were not known to have official post offices established. Mail in these towns was taken to the nearest official post office for mailing or handled on an unofficial basis. Many letters were carried by travelers, trappers, and messengers going from point to point, and never entered the postal system. These letters are usually marked "By the favor of" or "By the politeness of." Such letters are termed "Carried outside the mail." Sometimes the letters were carried for some distance outside the mail and mailed at the next post office along the way.

Postmaster appointments are genealogically significant as one family member often succeeds another in the appointment. Sometimes the town is named for the first postmaster. Often the tenure of a postmaster is not for very long. Sometimes the postmaster serves for a given period, is not reappointed, but shows up again as the postmaster after several years. One has to remember that these were governmental appointments, subject to all the ties and patronage of the period. Researchers can use this information to great advantage in their work.

For information about postmaster appointments prior to 1832, you should consult National Archives and Records Administration [NARA]⁴ microfilm publication *M1131, Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Oct. 1789-1832*. There are four rolls of microfilm, arranged alphabetically by name of post office. For postmaster appointments after 1832, consult *M841, Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*. There are 145 rolls of microfilm in this set of records, arranged by state, then by county, and then by the name of the post office. If you are interested in the specific physical location of a particular post office, consult *M1126, Post Office Department Records of Site Locations, 1837-1950*. There are 683 rolls of microfilm in this record set (NARA). These records are available at the NARA in Washington, DC and at selected branch offices. You might also want to check with the LDS Family History Center for microfilm loan. You will have to cross-reference the NARA film number/title to obtain the LDS item number.

What did early mail look like? How was the mail managed before postage stamps? As the first U.S. postage stamps were not issued until 1847, mail was sent stampless, that is, without stamps. Even with the issuance of stamps, the Post Office Department could not print enough of them for all the post offices, and stampless mail was permitted until January 1, 1856, when adhesive stamps were required on all mail.²

A GENEALOGICAL LOOK AT NJ STAMPLESS MAIL ~ Capt. Henry A. Hudson

A typical stampless letter is a letter sheet that has been folded and sealed with wax. The address was written on the outside and usually consisted of simply the recipient's name and the city and state. Only on mail going to the larger cities were street addresses used. Sometimes, only the person's name and the county are given. Only later in the stampless period were envelopes used in any great numbers, as the envelope counted as an additional sheet for which additional fees were charged. We generally see envelopes coming into use in the early to mid 1850s.

Once addressed, the letter was taken to the post office for mailing. The postmaster would post the letter using a handheld date stamp, much like what is still in use today. Various colors of ink were used with these stamps, with red, black, blue and green being the most common. Circular date stamps were the most common, but straight lines, boxes, ovals and ornamentals were also used. These date stamps were usually provided to the postmaster by the Post Office Department if revenues met certain levels. If the revenue for the particular post office was not at the specified level, the postmaster would have to purchase the stamp himself or he could resort to posting the letter in manuscript. Such postings are called manuscript postmarks. They are found in many of the smaller towns and in the early days of the history of larger towns.

Once the letter was posted, the postmaster had to apply a rate or fee to the letter. Depending on the particular rate schedule in effect at the time, the fee could be based on weight, distance the letter was to travel or a flat rate. The rate was either stamped on the letter or written in manuscript. If the fee was pre-paid at the time of mailing, the letter would be marked "Paid." If the fees were not pre-paid, the letter would still be sent, but the fees would be a due rate, payable at the letter's destination. Certain individuals, because of their position, had free-franking privileges and they could send mail without paying postal fees. Senators, congressmen, certain elected and appointed officials and postmasters made the list. Their mail is usually marked or stamped "Free," and usually bears their signature on the face of the letter.



Fig. 1. Stampless folded letter: MENDHAM, NJ. Manuscript postmark August 1, 1827, script Paid 18¾.

Figure 1 on the previous page shows a manuscript postmark from Mendham, NJ dated August 1, 1827.³ The postal rate of 18¾ cents was pre-paid at the Mendham post office and this was noted by writing “Paid 18¾” on the face of the letter in manuscript. Manuscript postmarks were used at this post office with examples found for the periods of 1807-1843.^{2, 5} Circular date stamps for this post office have been found on examples of stampless period mail during the period of 1837-1851.^{2, 5}



Fig. 2. Stampless folded letter: MORRIS-TOWN, NJ. Red circular date stamp July 15, 1833, script Free/Lewis Condict.

Figure 2 shows a red circular date stamp from Morristown, NJ with a postmark of July 15, 1833.³ There is no postal fee for this letter as the writer, Lewis Condict, had free-franking privileges due to his office as a U.S. Congressman.¹ He wrote “Free/Lewis Condict” in manuscript on the face of the letter. Morristown used circular and irregular circular date stamps on its mail with examples found as early as 1800.^{2, 5} Manuscript postmarks from this post office have been found as early as 1777.⁵

Figure 3 on the following page shows a stampless folded letter from Paterson, NJ using a blue circular date stamp dated June 12, 1837.³ The rate for this letter was 18¾ cents, this being a due rate, payable at the letter’s destination, Burlington, VT. The rate is marked in manuscript on the face of the letter. The post office at Paterson used oval and circular hand stamps in posting its letters with examples found dating from 1817.^{2, 5} No manuscript postmarks have been found for this post office.^{2, 5} The search continues.



Fig. 3. Stampless folded letter: PATERSON, NJ. Blue circular date stamp, June 12, 1837, script 18^{3/4}.

Figure 4 is a stampless folded letter from Newark, NJ using a red circular date stamp posted on July 11, 1842.³ The rate for this letter was 50 cents, this also being a due rate payable at the Terre Haute, Indiana post office. This rate is noted on the letter in manuscript. The earliest known circular date stamp used for this post office dates from 1799.^{2, 5} A double oval hand stamp was also used at the Newark post office. Until the Colonial manuscript marking chronicled in this issue [see page 143], manuscript postmarks on Newark mail dated from 1812.^{2, 5}



Fig. 4. Stampless folded letter: NEWARK, NJ. Red circular date stamp, July 11, 1842, script 50 for a double-rate letter sent over 400 miles.



Fig. 5: Stampless folded letter: CRANBERRY, NJ. Manuscript postmark Mar 8. 1843, script 12½.

An example of a manuscript posted stampless letter is shown as *Figure 5*. It is postmarked from Cranberry, NJ on March 8, 1843.³ The postage rate for this letter was 12½ cents, this also being a due rate payable at the letter's destination, Groton Centre, CT. Manuscript postmarks from this post office have been found during the period of 1813-1845.^{2, 5} Circular date stamps were also used on letters from this post office with examples found dating to 1851.^{2, 5}



Fig. 6. Stampless folded letter: JERSEY CITY, NJ. Blue circular date stamp Apr 19, 1847, script.

Figure 6 represents the use of a blue circular date stamp on a stampless folded letter. It is postmarked from Jersey City, NJ on April 29, 1847³. The rate for the letter was 5 cents, this being a due rate payable at the letter's destination, Philadelphia, PA. Circular date stamps were used at this post office with examples dating from 1827.^{2,5} Manuscript postmarks were used at this post office with examples found during the period of 1825-1832.^{2,5}

Genealogists often overlook the value of using old letters in their research. Each letter is a census unto itself, placing a sender and a recipient in an exact place at a specific time. The content of the letters may reveal valuable information about current events of the time, including crops, religious thought, politics, weather and illness. The genealogical information contained in family correspondence is perhaps the best primary source information one can find. Not only do the letters establish relationships; they also place family members in distant places that may not be evident from other sources. As an example, the Lewis Condict letter contains information about military pensions and his labors in obtaining a satisfactory decision from the Pension Office in Washington.

As a postal historian, I have often used the census, either in microfilm or CD format, to identify a post office when the date stamp or manuscript marking was unreadable. Of course, this works best the closer you are to the decennial census, and, for letters written before 1850, it works only for head-of-household, as that is all you will find on the census.

These old letters are fragile and should be handled very carefully. Never use cellophane tape on them or put them in photo albums. Only archival quality materials should be used to mount and store these documents. One should avoid unnecessary handling of the letters as moisture and oil from your hands can damage the paper. Never store them in places where there is moisture, direct sunlight, extremes of heat and cold or the possibility of insect damage. If you have questions about the display, storage or preservation of old paper documents, contact an archivist at your local library or historical society. Do everything you can to preserve these items for future generations to enjoy.

REFERENCES

- ¹ *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, Lewis Condict (1772-1862) at URL: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000668>, Sept 28, 2004.
- ² Coles, William C., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 1983.
- ³ Hudson, Henry A. Jr., and Mary Kay Hudson, *Stampless Letters*, from their private collection.
- ⁴ National Archives and Records Administration, "Post Office Records," *The Genealogy Page*, URL: http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/index.html/postal.html (2004.10.21)
[As this is a little more difficult than some searches, these directions will help:
Go to the above site, then click "Search Microfilm Catalogs,"
then click "Search the Microfilm Catalog,"
then in the block "enter Microfilm ID" type: M1126,
then click "Submit Search," then click "Display Search Results,"
then click "Full Record."]
- ⁵ Phillips, David G., *American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. 1.*, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., North Miami, FL, 1997.

SOME INTERESTING POSTAL MARKINGS: Gibbstown, NJ

By Gene Fricks



*1939 Christmas Seal used
on reverse*

Two interesting Gibbstown, NJ (Gloucester County) covers which were sent at the 2nd class rate (unsealed), one from 1939 and another from 1941, using what appears to be a parcel post cancel.



Happy Holidays!

NJPHS OCTOBER EBAY AUCTION

By Arne Englund

We had another of our Ebay auctions in October, with items starting on the 10th and ending on the 17th. There were 77 items in the auction. Fifty-two received bids, of which 49 items sold, and 3, which had reserves, did not have their reserves met. Sales were thus around 64%.

Again we had a nice selection of material. There were a number of stampless covers, both with handstamped and manuscript cancellations, half a dozen 1890s covers with Columbians to foreign destinations, a fair number of DPOs, and several fancy cancels.

The highest price realized was for an 1836 stampless letter with a bold Princeton cancel, written from James Carnahan, 9th president of Princeton University, to Philadelphia, giving the father of two students an accounting of money put out for the boys by Carnahan. The item started with a minimum bid of \$22.95, and ended with a realization of \$109.52, with 3 bids placed on it.

An 1893 15¢ registered cover from Camden, NJ to Denmark bearing a 2¢ and a 3¢ Columbian on 10¢ Columbian postal stationery sold for \$79.95, while an 1845 stampless folded letter with a bold strike of the scarce Haddonfield, NJ straightline cancel started at \$49.99, received three bids, and sold for \$75.00. An 1849 stampless letter cancelled Paterson, and containing interesting N.J. railroad content started with a minimum bid of \$14.95, and sold for \$38.54, receiving 5 bids.

Among the DPOs which sold were a Sea Plain 1885 - \$11.00; a Prospertown 1909 Doane - \$17.00; a Woodglen 1906 Doane - \$9.95; a Beatyestown 1885 - \$9.95; a Fellowship 1884 - \$16.50; and a Georgetown #65 1860's - \$9.99.

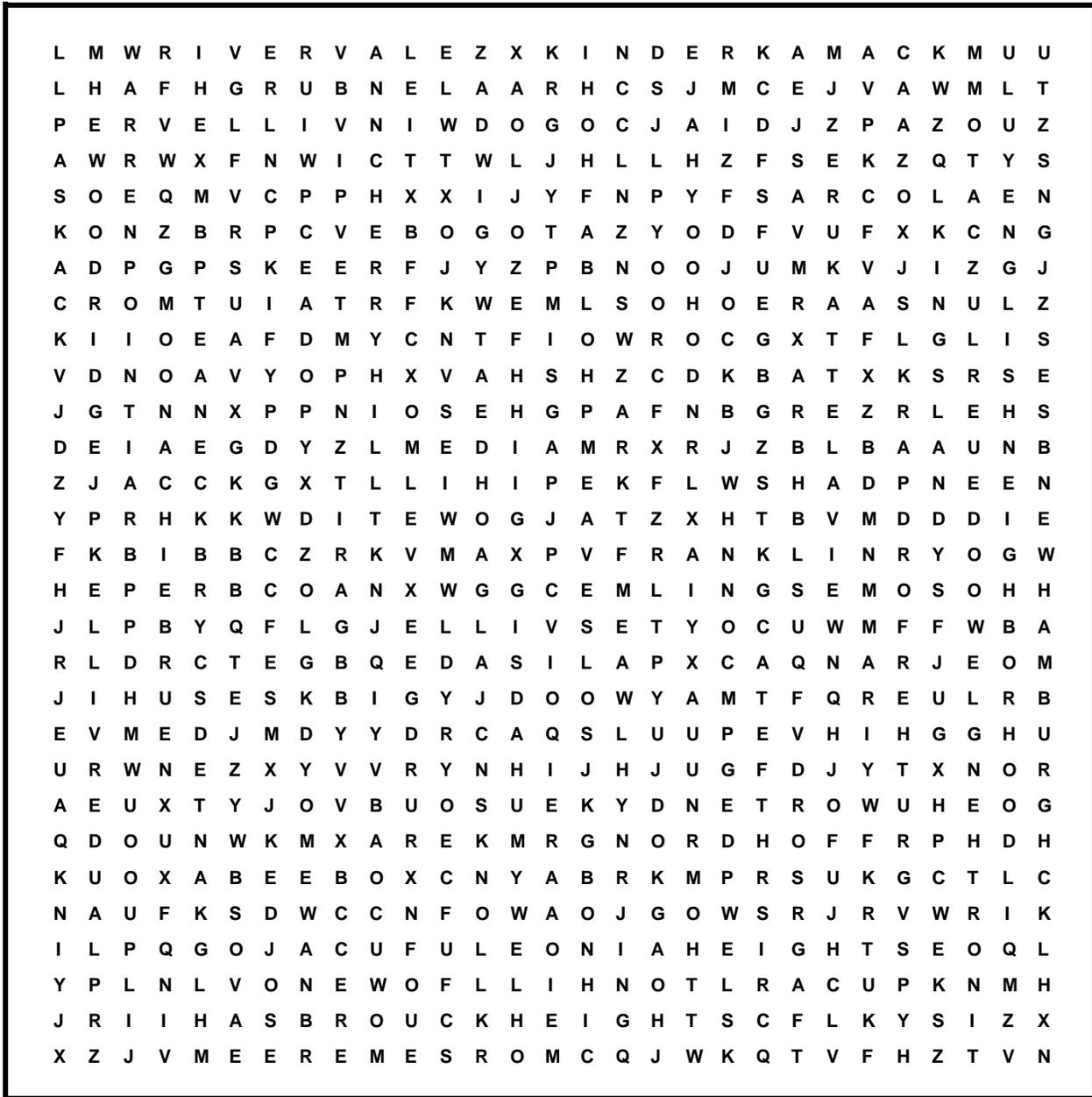
This auction was our sixth so far on Ebay, and was one of our more successful sales so far. A few quick “what's hot & what's not” reminders: stampless covers do well, Princeton and Rutgers related items also do well, particularly with regards to letter content. The 3¢ 1851-61's used from small towns or DPO's, seem to do well, judging from the few that we've listed in the auctions so far. More modern types of covers, such as events and dedications, don't seem to do all that well, as there is a lot of that type of material already on Ebay. Also, larger lots can be “iffy,” again, especially if containing more recent material, or lower end 19th century material. On the other hand, some of the lots containing a few related items of fairly nice quality, particularly 19th century, have received multiple bids.

We plan to post our next Ebay auction in mid to late March 2005. Feel free to contact me and/or to submit material at any time prior to that. You can contact me at: NJPHS@aol.com or at Arne Englund, P.O. Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865. Again, thanks to all who participated in last month's auction.



WORD PUZZLE

BERGEN COUNTY DPOs



Look for the following post offices:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Arcola | Franklin |
| Bogota | Godwinville |
| Campgaw | Hasbrouck Heights |
| Carlton Hill | Highwood |
| Cherry Hill | Kinderkamack |
| Corona | Kingsland |
| Coytesville | Leonia Heights |
| Dundee Lake | Lingsem |
| English Neighborhood | Lodex Br |
| Etna | Maywood |

* Source: New Jersey DPOs by Brad Arch

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Moonachie Br | River Vale |
| Morsemere | Rutherford Park |
| Neuvy | Schraalenburgh |
| New Hamburg | Teaneck Br |
| Nordhoff | Valetta |
| North Englewood | Warren Point |
| Oweno | West Fort Lee |
| Palisade | Wood Ridge |
| Paskack | Wortendyke |
| Plauderville | Zingsem |

This puzzle is available online at our website <http://www.members.aol.com/njpostalhistory/phsindex.htm>, in pdf format, so you can print it out separately, if you wish. The solution is also available there. Do you know of other Bergen County DPOs? We are contemplating an update to Brad Arch's NJ DPO list and all information is welcome.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING COVERS from Anna Habersham correspondence, Princeton to Savannah, pre-1845 or post-1851. HMirsky, email: CarolB212@aol.com

SEEKING COUNTY AND POST-MASTER CANCELS, foreign destinations, registered, fancy cancels, Patriotics, Confederate uses. CLEAN COVERS, SHARP STRIKES. Needed for Exhibit. Need not be only N.J. Elliott Idoff, 332 Bleecker St. #G-20, New York, NY 10014, 718-853-5226 or email postalhistory184@aol.com.

WANTED: Postal History of Camden and Atlantic Counties [no Atlantic city], Ocean City [in Cape May County]; Monroe, & Washington Townships in Gloucester County. Craig Mathewson, 114 Hayes Mill Rd, Apt D-202, Atco, NJ 08004, phone: 856/809-7484.

OUT-OF-PRINT AND RARE NEW JERSEY BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD since 1972. 8000 items, 1690's to 1990's. Visit our searchable website: www.felcone.com. Joseph J. Felcone, PO Box 366, Princeton, NJ 08542 609-924-0539; felcone@felcone.com.

WANTED: BERGEN CITY, NJ Stampless through Banknotes, strong strikes. Send copy with prices to J. Haynes, Box 358, Allendale, NJ 07481.

WANTED: ALL NJ POSTMARKS - New Collector looking for 1800 - 1925 offices. Send list to: Fred Mancuso, 17 Theodore Ave., Maple Shade, NJ 08052, 856/482-5337 email: stampking1@aol.com.

WANTED: Port Murray, Anderson, Changewater, Port Colden, Karrsville, Rockport, Beatyestown, Pleasant Grove, Stephsburg, Anthony, Woodglen. Arne Englund, P.O. Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865-3012 or alenglund@aol.com.

ANY SOUTHARD CORRESPONDENCE for sale? Always interested. Please contact Jean Walton, 125 Turtleback Road, Califon, NJ 07830; 908-832-9578 or e-mail jwalton971@aol.com.

WANTED: Clear handstamps on New Jersey stampless covers for exhibition collection. Send copies and prices to Robert G. Rose, P.O. Box 1945, Morristown, NJ 07962 or e-mail rose@pitneyhardin.com.

WANTED: BOND or FORCE FAMILIES or CENTERVILLE material. Bonds include Charlotte, Isaac, Reilly, Abby and Adelia. Forces include Jonathan III, Frank, and Anna. Contact Jack A. Gordon, the Bond Force House, 88 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland, NJ 07068 212/421-4300.

WANTED: PATRIOTIC COVERS, SHIP CANCELS FROM WWII, Morris, Sussex County covers, Sullivan, Delaware County NY State covers, and postal cards. Clean clear strikes preferred. Willard Johnson, 20142 Quail Run Dr., Dunnellon, FL 34432.

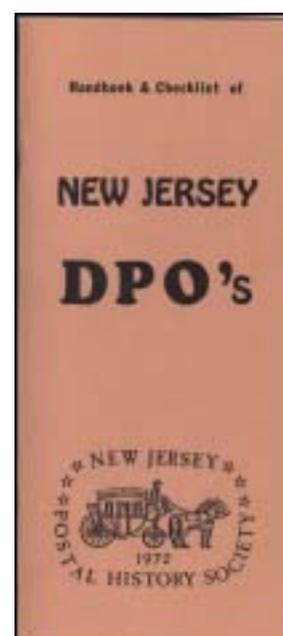
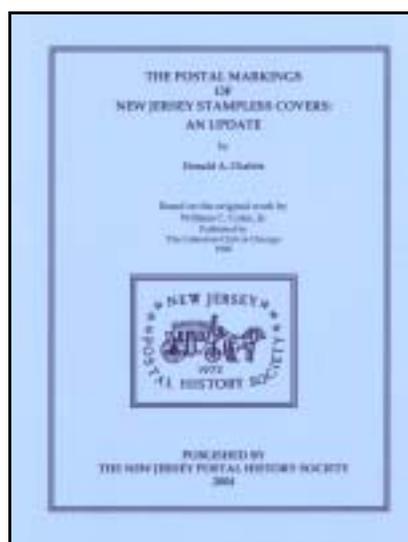
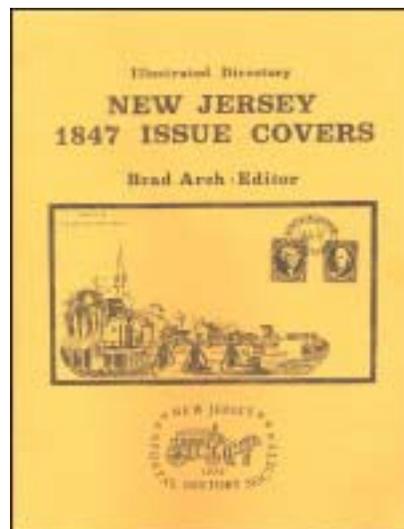
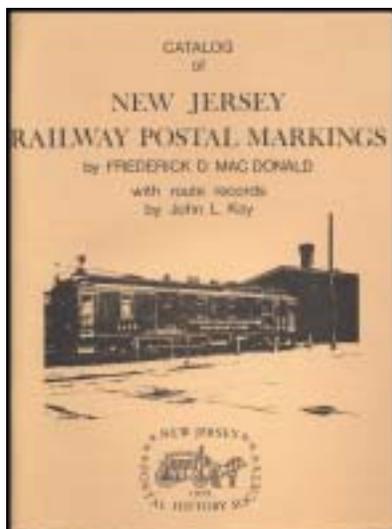
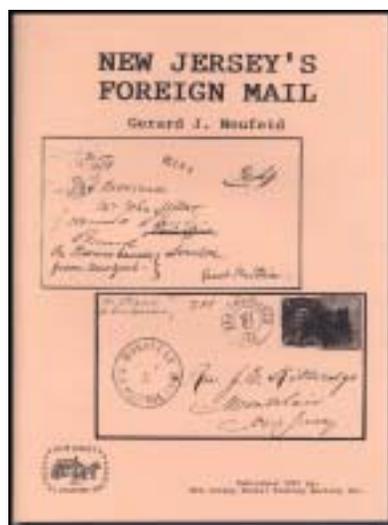
WANTED: POSTAL HISTORY OF SUSSEX COUNTY: DPO postmarks: Culvers, Cutoff, Edison (pre 1910); stampless letters, OLD DEEDS, documents, memorabilia of all kinds. Contact Leonard R. Peck, 202 Stanhope Road, Sparta, NJ 07871 973/729-7392.

WANTED: TELEGRAPH COVERS: O'Reilly, House, Bain, any lines in opposition to Morse or which merged with Morse (but no Morse covers). Steven M. Roth, 1280 21st St., NW, Suite 209, Washington, DC 20036-2343, 202/293-2563 or email stevenroth@comcast.net.

WANTED: Mountain Lakes, Boonton, Parsippany, Whippany, Hanover postal history items. Describe or send photocopies for my very generous offer. APS (Life member), NJPHS (since 1980). Peter Lemmo, PO Box 557, Whippany NJ 07981-0557.

WANTED: Hunterdon County, NJ, Bucks County, PA, postal history covers, postcard, pictures from all eras; Americana, ephemera, collateral paper items. Contact Jim Walker, 121 Wertsville Rd, Ringoes, NJ 08551-1108, phone 908/806-7883, or email jiwalker@earthlink.net.

NJPHS LITERATURE AVAILABLE NOW



PHILATELIC LITERATURE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY, Post Paid, from: Robert G. Rose, New Jersey Postal History Society, P.O. Box 1945, Morristown, NJ 07962. RRose@pitneyhardin.com

The Postal Markings Of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update by Donald A. Chafetz hardcopy	\$10.00
Same plus CD in Acrobat Reader [.PDF] format.....	\$15.00
Washington Organ Manufacturers on CD, by Len Frank -3 articles + many many illustration not in NJPH, in Acrobat Reader [.PDF] format..... [member price \$12.95]	\$20.00
Catalog of New Jersey Railway Postal Markings, 1984, Frederick D. MacDonald, 136pp.	\$10.00
Illustrated Directory of New Jersey 1847 Issue Covers, Brad Arch, ed., 1987, 44pp & Supplements	\$4.00
New Jersey DPO's, Brad Arch, ed., 1981, 22pp, pocket sized Checklist of Discontinued Post Offices	\$3.00
New Jersey's Foreign Mail, 1997, Gerard J. Neufeld, 76pp.	\$8.00
New Jersey Civil War Patriotic Covers, 1993 [NJPH Whole No. 100] 100pp, an illustrated study	\$10.00
Robert G. Kaufmann Auction Cat. of the Wm C. Coles, Jr. Collection of NJ Postal History, w/ prices realized	\$5.00
2003 NJPH Issues on CD in Acrobat reader [.PDF] format, with many color illustrations[reduced price!]	\$5.00
2004 NJPH Issues on CD in Acrobat reader [.PDF] format, with many color illustrations [member price \$5.00]	\$12.00