



# NJPH

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## *A Pretty (but fake) 5¢ 1847 Cover*



***A green Princeton, NJ postmark on a cover to Ticonderoga NY, with a matching green "5" in a box handstamp. While the stamp is genuine, the cancellation and numeral handstamp are not. For further information, see the article on the USPCS 1847 Census on page 189, which includes an updated listing of all reported covers from New Jersey with the 1847 Issue, Scott #1 and #2.***

### ~ CONTENTS ~

President's Message .....	Robert G. Rose .....	178
NJ Locals: Bayonne City Dispatch .....	Larry Lyons .....	179
Not A Morristown, NJ Cross-Border Cover .....	Robert G. Rose .....	186
1847 Cover To Newark New Jersey & 1847 Cover Census .....	Mark Scheuer .....	189
Birth of the US Post Office.....	Ed & Jean Siskin .....	197
Book Review: <i>From Indian Trails to the Birth of a Nation</i> , Douglas Clark, Ed. ....	Robert G. Rose.....	214
1937 First All NJ Air Mail Flights, Part II: Additional Communities .....	Don Chafetz.....	215
Member News: Bequest, Dues, National Postal Museum, Errata.....		228
Hometown Post Offices: Bloomingdale, NJ .....	Jean Walton.....	229
Member Ads.....		233
Literature Available .....		235

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**DUES TIME AGAIN!**

Enclosed with this issue is a form for dues payment for 2015. We encourage you to mail this right away, so it is not forgotten. Dues are still \$15 a year. Again this year you have the option of paying your dues online by Paypal (no extra fee), by going to our web site [[www.NJPostalHistory.org](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org)] where you will find a link for membership renewal in the column at left. You can also donate to the Society at the same time, if you would like. We are happy to accept your dues and donations in whatever form you find comfortable paying. We hope not to lose a single member!

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

This issue of *NJPH* will make for a good evening’s read. Larry Lyons contributes another in his series detailing New Jersey local stamps, this article surveying the Bayonne City Dispatch. We are especially pleased to include Mark Scheurer’s article which provides an illustrated census of the use of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 issue from New Jersey. I write about a stampless cover which on first blush, appeared to be a cross border cover from Morristown, NJ to Canada, but upon closer study turned out to be something else. Ed & Jean Siskin offer their article, “*Birth of the US Post Office*,” published earlier this year as part of a Spellman Museum Symposium on early US postal history. A review of the Symposium book follows. Don Chafetz shows Part II of his exhibition collection on “*1937 First NJ Air Mail*” and Jean Walton contributes another in the Hometown Post Office series, this one on Bloomingdale.

Again, at this time of year, I offer my sincere thanks to Jean Walton for her tireless effort in not only collecting, organizing, and editing our Journal, but managing our membership lists and collecting and keeping track of Society dues. Jean – we couldn’t do it without you!

We also acknowledge a bequest from the estate of Doug D’Avino, whose obituary appeared in the last issue of *NJPH*. He was a regular contributor to these pages during his life and will be remembered as a friend by his generosity in his passing.

Along with this Journal, a dues notice is enclosed for 2015 with a form for you to fill in for two free ads in *NJPH*. To continue to publish a quality, award-winning journal, the Society depends on your donations. Membership dues of \$15 raise a little more than \$1,600, but our annual cost of printing and mailing *NJPH* four times a year costs in excess of \$2,600. To close that gap, I again urge you to make a tax deductible donation along with your dues. In this digital age, the Society also offers the option of an electronic version of *NJPH*. It comes in color and with links to many of the research sources cited in the Journal’s articles. Try it out!

With the Holiday Season upon us, I wish each of you the very best.

**ROBERT G. ROSE** ([robertrose25@comcast.net](mailto:robertrose25@comcast.net))

## N.J. LOCAL POSTS: Bayonne City Dispatch

By Larry Lyons

*This is the third of a series of articles on New Jersey's local stamps. Local Posts were established as early as the 1840's by enterprising private individuals and companies who carried letters within city limits – including to and from Post Offices. They flourished for a number of years until they were finally outlawed by the government. The author, Larry Lyons, is a noted authority on United States local stamps, and is the editor-in-chief of "The Penny Post," the prize winning journal of The Carriers and Locals Society. We appreciate his contributions.*

Two fairly modern comprehensive articles have previously been written on this subject in 1989 and 2002. The first was by Robert G. Kaufmann<sup>1</sup> and the second was written by John D. Bowman.<sup>2</sup> The content of those articles are summarized in this article. This article will expand on the preceding articles with information gathered from a detailed census undertaken by this author.

### HISTORY

The Bayonne City Dispatch was a short-lived local post which was allowed to briefly function due to a lack of carrier service at four government post offices located in Bayonne, Van Buskirk, Saltersville and Bergen Point. Bayonne City Dispatch Mail is only recorded from May 9, 1883 to May 19, 1883 and on June 14, 1883. An example of the adhesive stamp is shown in *Figure 1*.



*Fig. 1: The adhesive stamp of the Bayonne City Dispatch.*

In Kaufmann's article we learn that the delivery of mail from one town to another was often done by sending the mail to New York for sorting and then back again to the town post office. Therefore it often took four or five days for a letter to be delivered even though the distance was less than one mile. You could also add a day or two for carrier delivery since very few carriers were employed. At the Bergen Point Post Office, for instance, a Richard Denver was the only carrier. Local merchants were not pleased with the situation since most of their business was announced by circulars sent through the mails. Local residents in many cases had to wait a week for mail delivery and news from only a mile away. There was undoubtedly some outrage over this condition and it gave rise to the creation of a local post called the Bayonne City Dispatch. Roswald Edward Smith was the proprietor of the post and he visited Boyd's and Hussey, the large local posts in New York, for ideas on his organizing the local post in Bayonne. The short-lived, illegal upstart local posts of the 1880s were as much about providing a service

## NJ LOCALS: Bayonne City Dispatch ~ Larry Lyons

and an attempt at some profit as about showing the government post office their shortcomings and the need for better service. Roswald Smith had to know that his activity would be quickly suppressed. The census record indicates operation over a ten-day period in May 1883 and on one day in June. *Figure 2* shows an example of a Bayonne City Dispatch cover.



*Fig. 2: A May 13, 1883 cover addressed to Philip LaTourette, Esq. at 16th Street, Bergen Point, the location of the office of the Bayonne City Dispatch. Note the killer concentric circles handstamp.*

If no government carrier service was available in Bayonne in 1883, Roswald Smith may have considered his operation to be legal. If no carrier service was available in a town, it appeared that a loophole in the postal laws and regulations existed. Without carrier service from the U.S. Post Office, a city's roads and streets might not be regarded as "postal routes" and therefore private companies might be able to deliver mail to and from the post office.<sup>3</sup>

### BAYONNE CITY DISPATCH

This local post was announced in a company circular dated April 10, 1883 and an announcement in the *Bayonne Times* of April 5, 1883. No recorded covers of this post exist before May 9, 1883, a day on which operation may have commenced. The advertised table of postage rates for letters was as follows:

South of 28 <sup>th</sup> St.	1 cent.
South of 38 <sup>th</sup> St.	2 cents.
East of Avenue F	3 cents.
South of Division St.	2 cents.
North of Division St.	3 cents.

There was also a rate card which differed from the above with the following first two lines:

South of Twentieth Street	1 cent.
South of Thirtieth Street	2 cents.

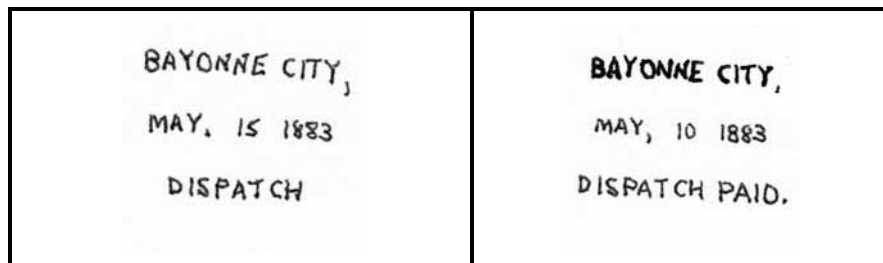
The research indicates there is only one surviving cover with two one-cent stamps. This example is a wrapper to Chas. M. Packard, 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Hook, dated May 10, 1883. (See *Figure 3.*) The area south of 30<sup>th</sup> Street was known as Van Buskirk and was nicknamed “Hook.” It would become Constable’s Hook in 1887. It seems the rate card was applied and the rate for this letter was 2 cents. No covers with a three cent rate are recorded. This one cover with more than the one cent rate is a horizontal pair and is the only recorded pair of stamps.



*Fig. 3: The only Bayonne City Dispatch cover with more than one adhesive. The double rate was for the distance to “Hook.”*

#### ISSUES OF THE BAYONNE CITY DISPATCH

The stamp was printed in black ink on white paper and was typeset with an image of a horse-drawn stagecoach. An 1885 article states the stamps were printed in a sheet of ten. John Bowman discovered two double transfer varieties. The doubling occurs most prominently in the ornament below the stagecoach and the horizontal line to the left below the stagecoach. Most used stamps are cancelled with a purple three-ring concentric killer in which the thickness of each ring increases with distance from the center. There are two types of three-line typeset handstamps. One reads “Dispatch” at the bottom and the second reads “Dispatch PAID”. (See *Figure 4.*)



*Fig. 4: The two types of Bayonne City Dispatch handstamps.*

**NJ LOCALS: Bayonne City Dispatch ~ Larry Lyons**

There is a stationery item, 9LU1 entire which is handstamped with the stamp image at the upper right in blue. The *Scott Catalogue* calls the ink color purple. (See *Figure 5*.)



*Fig. 5: An unused stationery entire, 9LU1, in blue, of the Bayonne City Dispatch.*

Two unused examples of the postal stationery are recorded and one used example is recorded addressed to Geo. Thomas, Esq., Avenue D. Bergen Point. (See *Figure 6*.)



*Fig. 6. The only recorded used example of the Bayonne City Dispatch stationery entire. Siegel (Schwartz) June 27-29, 2000, Lot 1580. Scan in black and white.*

### PHILATELICALLY IMPORTANT HISTORICAL FACTS

The Bayonne City Dispatch was organized to send messengers to call at residences and business houses of regular customers three times a day. The main office was on 16<sup>th</sup> Street near Avenue D with most of the business of the post being done with the Bergen Point Post Office. Mail boxes were placed in the LaTourette Hotel and other hotels. Many recorded covers are addressed to LaTourette at 16<sup>th</sup> Street which most probably was for his pick-up at the local dispatch office, or were forwarded to him. LaTourette's Hotel was owned by the family of Philip LaTourette and was located on the Kill von Kull at the southern end of Bergen Point. The hotel was a resort for New York and New Jersey society folk. The hotel was heavily damaged by fire in May 1916.

According to Elliot Perry, LaTourette and stamp dealer Dr. William Mitchell were friends. LaTourette authored many articles in Mitchell's journal and also advertised buying and selling of local posts. Two of the recorded covers are addresses to Wm. Mitchell. Harry Craft was also a friend of Dr. Mitchell and four of the Bayonne City Dispatch covers are addressed to him. The covers addressed to Philip LaTourette were written in many different hands and did not stem from the same source. I surmise from this that they were of a business nature. Some covers are addressed to Philip LaTourette, Jr. and some to Philip LaTourette, Esq.

Five of the recorded Bayonne City Dispatch covers were taken to the post office and entered the mails. About 17 different addressees are recorded on Bayonne City Dispatch covers. These observations strongly suggest that the post had a legitimate existence.

### THE LYONS CENSUS

Knowing that many covers would be found addressed to the same individual it was necessary to take additional steps beyond the recording of the dates and addresses when taking the census. Over a two-day period of time 275 auction results were reviewed and next to each line I recorded a sketch of the angle of the Bayonne City Dispatch stamp on the cover with the location of the 3-ring handstamp on to the stamp. If the cover was addressed to LaTourette the letters of the addressees name in relation to the stamp was also recorded. In this manner duplication could be weeded out and new sightings could be definitely confirmed. I recorded 43 different covers. I recorded the period of use as follows:

May 9, 1883	4 examples
May 10, 1883	3 examples
May 12, 1883	4 examples
May 13, 1883	5 examples
May 14, 1883	3 examples
May 15, 1883	13 examples
May 16, 1883	4 examples
May 19, 1883	4 examples
June 14, 1883	3 examples

## NJ LOCALS: Bayonne City Dispatch ~ Larry Lyons

From the above I concluded the EKU to be May 9, 1883. The covers span a period of about 10 days. We then have a gap of 25 days followed by three covers taken to the post office on June 14, 1883. It seems this was just a clean-up day for Roswald Smith. Undoubtedly the Bayonne City Dispatch was shut down on May 19, 1883 and no local deliveries were made after that date. It is assumed the government took action and hopefully heard the customer dissatisfaction and rectified the situation by hiring more carriers. This would legally make the post roads and streets off limits to the Bayonne City Dispatch and would force their closure.

### CONCLUSION

The research and census exercise provided some additional information on the Bayonne City Dispatch. I am in agreement with John Bowman who concluded in his article that the examples of this post are probably legitimate. The covers are highly collectible and the average collector would be fortunate to have an off-cover example of the adhesive and an example on cover. An off-cover used example has a catalogue value of \$275.00 and a locally delivered cover has a value \$750.00. Special examples taken to the post office with U.S. stamps paying the postage are in the \$1,500-\$3,000 range. (See *Figure 7*.) The only recorded pair on cover previously sold in the Dick Schwartz sale of Robert Siegel, in June 2000, and reappeared in a Shreve sale of June 2002, Lot 914 where it realized \$2000. 9LU1 unused is seriously underpriced in the catalogue at \$175. There are only two recorded examples.



*Fig. 7: U.S. stamps 1¢ gray blue (183) and 2¢ vermilion (206) paying the postage to New York. Siegel, November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1282.*

John Bowman received information, inspiration, and feedback from postal historian Calvet Hahn for his 2002 article. For more information on this subject the reader should read the Bowman article.

### ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Kaufman, Robert G., "Bayonne City Dispatch Company," *Postal History Journal*, No. 82, June 1989, page 48.
- <sup>2</sup> Bowman, John D., "Bayonne City Dispatch," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 10, No. 4, October 2002, pages 27-36.
- <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, page 34.





*Fig. 3: At left, a map from an 1872 Atlas of Hudson, Union & Essex showing the Bayonne peninsula; at right, an 1880 map showing Bayonne enlarged with the location of the points in question: (1) Bergen Point, (2) Van Buskirk or Constable's Hook, (3) Bayonne City and (4) Saltersville.*

Maps from Rutgers Cartography site at <http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>.

## **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 18 Balbrook Drive**

**Mendham, NJ 07945**

**or [robertrose25@comcast.net](mailto:robertrose25@comcast.net)**

## NOT A MORRISTOWN, NJ CROSS-BORDER COVER

By Robert G. Rose

Things are not always what they appear to be. Recently, I prepared a presentation of Morristown, New Jersey postal history before the Jockey Hollow Stamp Club. In selecting covers that were to be used in my PowerPoint discussion, I obtained the scan of the front of a cover as seen in *Figure 1* with what appeared to be a Morristown postmark on an 1855 cross-border usage to Canada.



*Fig. 1: But did this cover originate in Morristown, NJ?*

Markings were not quite right, however, and I share this experience so others may benefit from the original misinterpretation of this cover. In studying the cover for my presentation, I learned that on April 6, 1851, the United States and Canada entered into a postal agreement establishing a rate of 6 pence or 10 cents per half ounce for cross-border covers.<sup>1</sup> The cover in question shows a red hand stamped “10” cents indicating that the postage rate had been prepaid by the sender, with a corresponding originating manuscript “6” rate in pence. On the face of the cover is a red hand stamped “Morristown” postmark and a red “Pembroke, UC” hand stamp – UC denoting Upper Canada, later CW for Canada West, and ultimately what we know as Ontario.

Pursuant to the postal agreement, the country of origin was required to be shown in an exchange marking, typically a handstamp applied to the face of the cover. However, this cover is hand stamped “CANADA” as the country of origin and not “UNITED STATES” as would have been the case had the cover originated in New Jersey. Furthermore, the red Morristown postmark does not clearly include the “N.J.” initials in the marking. To further confuse the issue, the town to which the cover is directed to what I read as “Tamworth, NY” which would not have been a cross-border destination if the cover had originated in New Jersey.

More confounding is the fact that the Pembroke handstamp is dated April 6 while the Morristown postmark is dated April 12<sup>th</sup>. If the cover had originated in New Jersey, its postmarked date would necessarily have preceded either a transit or receiving date stamp applied in Canada.

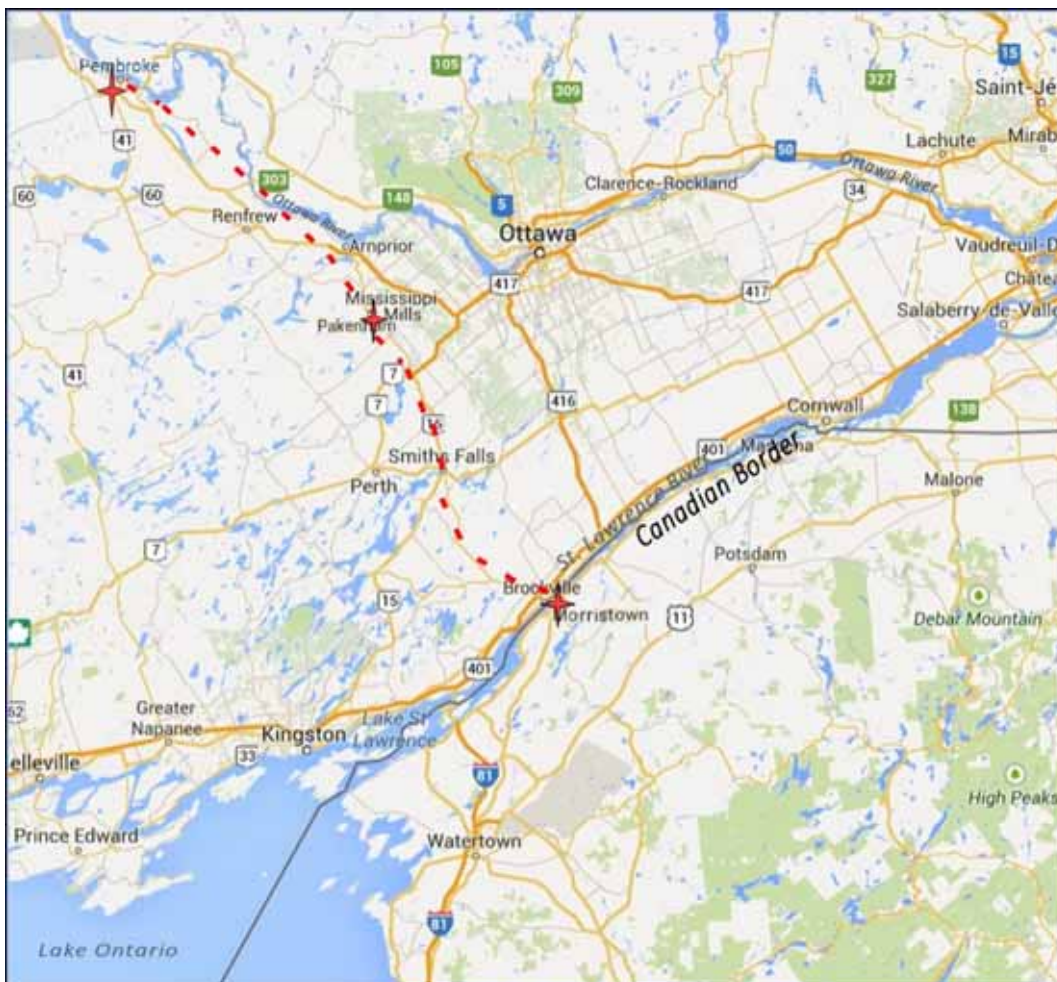
Further study was required. First, I confirmed that there was no town named “Tamworth” in the State of New York, but that such a town was located in Upper Canada at this time.<sup>2</sup> This drew me to take a closer look at the address, and I realized that the handwriting shows a destination which could have been read as NY, NJ, or NH – but not Upper Canada. I subsequently found there was a Tamworth in New Hampshire fitting this time frame. I then turned my attention to the sequence of markings on the back of the cover as seen in *Figure 2*.



*Fig. 2: Back of cover with transit markings from Pakenham (Ap 9) and Brockville, U.C. (Ap 11).*

Two handstamped transit markings were applied to the back of the cover. The first is a red “Pakenham, UC,” dated April 9, 1855 and the second, a black “Brockville, UC,” dated April 11, 1855. Accordingly, the cover originated, and was postmarked first in Pembroke, Upper Canada on April 6, where the manuscript was applied, and then passed through Pakenham (Apr 9) and Brockville (Apr 11), both on the Canadian side, on its way to Tamworth. Brockville is located on the St. Lawrence River and is across the river from Morristown, NY. Both Brockville, Upper Canada and Morristown, N.Y. were established as exchange offices pursuant to the postal agreement of 1851.<sup>3</sup>

The Brockville post office forwarded it across the river to the United States exchange office in Morristown, N.Y. where it was postmarked the next day (Apr 12), and the Canada arc was applied, as well as the red 10, indicating a cover from Canada properly paid at the 10 cent cross border rate. It was then directed on to its proper address in Tamworth, New Hampshire. A simple Google search does indeed find a Mary Jackson in Tamworth, New Hampshire in this time frame. The Morristown cancel that I had originally read as NJ (although this was certainly unclear), now easily can be inferred to be NY, not NJ. The routing of the cover is shown on the map in *Figure 3*.



**Fig. 3:** Map showing simulated routing of cover, from Pembroke to Pakenham to Brockville, Upper Canada, and across the border to Morristown, NY, from whence it continued to New Hampshire. (We do not know the exact routing in either Canada or the US.)

Although I was disappointed that I was unable to show a New Jersey cross-border usage in my presentation, I enjoyed the opportunity of playing sleuth in a postal history subject that was completely new to me, and that is the fun and fascination of philately!

<sup>1</sup> Skinner, Hubert C., "The United States British North America Cross-Border Mails," The Chronicle of the United States Philatelic Classics Society, Vol. 50, August, 1998, pp.185, 190.

<sup>2</sup> Email conversations with Don Chafetz, whose cover it was.

<sup>3</sup> Email conversations with Bill Walton, who contributed his knowledge of Canadian postal history.

## 1847 ISSUE COVER TO NEWARK NEW JERSEY

By Mark A. Scheuer

*(Mark Scheuer is a member of the USPCS, APS, and Rochester Philatelic Association. He maintains both the 1847 issue cover census and the US Postmasters Provisional census on the USPCS website.)*

A newly discovered cover, bearing Scott #1, was offered for sale in Christoph Gartner sale 29, lot 7686A. The sale was held Oct 6-10, 2014, and the cover realized €200 (US\$254)<sup>1</sup>.

The cover, shown in *Figure 1*, was sent on the US Express Mail train from Boston to New York on Aug 23, 1848 and is addressed to Alfred L Dennis in Newark, New Jersey. According to the Pierson 1851-52 Newark City Directory, Alfred Dennis was a bookseller located at 248 Broad Street in Newark.<sup>2</sup> He later became a director of the Bank of Newark, vice president of the United Railroads in New Jersey, executive agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, president of the Jersey City Ferry Co., and a director of many other railroad and bridge companies.<sup>3</sup>





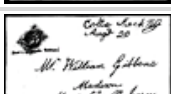
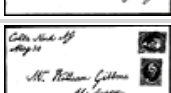




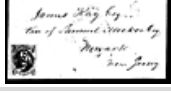
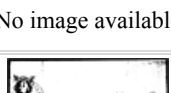


**Fig. 1. US Express Mail, Boston Mass cover to Newark (spelled here New Ark), New Jersey dated Aug 23, 1848. Unlisted in Alexander.**

The cover was recently added to the 1847 issue online census hosted by the US Philatelic Classics Society. Maintained by the author, the online census lists over 14,800 covers (over 8300 illustrated) featuring Scott #1 and #2 on cover. It is an updated version of Thomas Alexander's classic work and lists over 1840 covers not included in his 2001 book.<sup>4</sup> The database is completely searchable using easy to use keyword fields and is freely available to anyone. The census can be found in the Resource Center at [www.uspcs.org](http://www.uspcs.org).<sup>5</sup> A user's guide, in pdf format, is available via a link at the site.

A census of New Jersey Scott #1 covers at USPCS.org (showing 95 covers, of which 11 are noted as "Not Genuine" (noted NG in the Fake column). The thumbnail images at left are hyperlinks to the USPCS web site and clicking on them will take you to a larger image and further information on that cover. Following Table 1 (Scott #1 census) is another Table with a census of New Jersey Scott#2 covers. The author wishes to thank Jim Lee for the use of several cover illustrations included in the census.

1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2 ~ Mark A. Scheuer

TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake	Qty #1	Qty #2
No image available	12/15/1849	Belleville	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	George Emblen	1	-	-	1	-
	12/19/1849	Belleville	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	George Emblen	1	77677	NG	1	-
	9/20/1850	Bordentown	NJ	New York	NY	David S. Kennedy	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	6/23/1851	Bordentown	NJ	Wilmington	DE	-	1	-	-	1	-
	4/25/1851	Bridgeton	NJ	Trenton	NJ	Allinson, Secy of State	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	7/24/18xx	Burlington	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	-	1	-	-	1	-
	9/7/18xx	Camden	NJ	Doylestown	PA	George Lear	1	-	-	1	-
	8/20/1848	Colts Neck	NJ	Madison	NJ	William Gibbons	1	62510	NG	1	-
	5/30/1848	Colts Neck	NJ	Madison	NJ	William Gibbons	1 2	62509	NG	1	1
	10/26/1850	Cross Keys	NJ	Doylestown	PA	George Lear	1	360888	-	1	-
	9/10/18xx	Jersey City	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	2/17/18xx	Montclair	NJ	New York	NY	Miss A. M. Comer	1	-	NG	2	-
	xx/6/18xx	Morristown	NJ	Newark	NJ	James Kay	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	10/22/1848	Mount Holly	NJ	Mt. Pleasant	OH	Mary Ryner	1	-	-	2	-
	9/1/1849	Mount Holly	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	E. Spencer Miller	1	-	-	1	-
	3/2/1850	Mount Holly	NJ	Baltimore	MD	Rev. W. R. Whittingham	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	12/9/1847	New Brunswick	NJ	Cambridge	MA	Eugene Hoffman	1	-	-	1	-

**Mark A. Scheuer ~ 1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2**

TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake #1	Qty #1	Qty #2
No image available	3/7/1848	New Brunswick	NJ	Newton	NJ	-	1	-	-	1	-
	10/19/1848	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	Hendricks & Brothers	1	-	-	1	-
	10/9/1849	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	Anthony Day	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	12/9/1849	New Brunswick	NJ	Cambridge	MA	-	1	-	-	-	1
	12/12/1849	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	Mrs Lavinia A. Day	1	360908	-	1	-
	3/4/1850	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	Eugene Augs. Hoffman	1	-	-	1	-
	3/7/1850	New Brunswick	NJ	Newton	NJ	William T. Anderson	1	369951	-	1	-
	4/19/1850	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	John G. Whipple	1	400923	-	1	-
	4/29/1850	New Brunswick	NJ	New York	NY	Eugene Augs. Hoffman	1	-	-	1	-
	5/11/1850	New Brunswick	NJ	Boston	MA	B. F. Brown	1	450675	-	1	-
	2/14/1848	Newark	NJ	Newark	NJ	Dr. M. R. Dennis	1	360983	-	1	-
No image available	6/1/1849	Newark	NJ	Bridgewater	MA	Nathan Stetson	1	-	-	1	-
	7/20/1849	Newark	NJ	Hamburg	NJ	Daniel Haines	1	-	-	1	-
	7/20/1849	Newark	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Wm. I. McElhoy	1	360891	-	1	-
	8/xx/1849	Newark	NJ	Litchfield	CT	Lewis B. Woodruff	1	360894	-	1	-

1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2 ~ Mark A. Scheuer

TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake #1	Qty #1	Qty #2
	9/18/1849	Newark	NJ	New York	NY	Rev. R. S. Cook	1	467620	-	1	
	12/9/1850	Newark	NJ	Flemington	NJ	Caroline Grant	1	-	-	1	
	1/24/1851	Newark	NJ	Buffalo	NY	Pratt & Co.	1	-	-	1	
	2/8/1851	Newark	NJ	Trenton	NJ	Fisher & Norris	1	360896	-	1	
	3/19/1851	Newark	NJ	Morristown	NJ	V. Dalrimple	1	-	-	1	
	2/22/18xx	Newark	NJ	New Orleans	LA	Charles Tobias	1	360890	-	2	
	3/4/18xx	Newark	NJ	Locust Dale	VA	Presley N. Smith	1	360895	NG	1	
	3/11/18xx	Newark	NJ	Trenton	NJ	Saml. R. Gummeur	1	360889	-	1	
No image available	8/7/18xx	Newark	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	10/17/18xx	Newark	NJ	Madison	NJ	William Gibbons	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	11/6/18xx	Newark	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	12/18/18xx	Newark	NJ	New York	NY	Miss Josephine Rose	1	511086	-	1	-
	4/30/1850	Newton	NJ	New York	NY	J. C. Meeks	1	360910	-	1	-
	8/10/1850	Newton	NJ	New York	NY	Frederic Bronson	1	118224	-	1	-
	9/24/1850	Newton	NJ	-	-	I. G. H_	1	49097	-	1	-
	11/26/18xx	Newton	NJ	Princeton	NJ	Thomas Anderson	1	431030	-	1	-














**Mark A. Scheuer ~ 1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2**

TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake	Qty #1	Qty #2
	11/30/1849	Paterson	NJ	New York	NY	Abn Bell & Son	1	360911	NG	1	-
	1/1/1848	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	360916	-	2	-
	1/29/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	360917	-	2	-
	1/1/1848	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	360916	-	2	-
No image available	2/24/1848	Princeton	NJ	-	MA	Mrs. Leonard	1	-	-	1	-
	11/23/1849	Princeton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Dr. N. Shoemaker	1	-	-	1	-
	9/30/1850	Princeton	NJ	Camden	NY	Hannah S. Upton	1	-	-	2	-
	10/24/1850	Princeton	NJ	Columbus	NJ	George Sykes	1	360913	-	1	-
No image available	10/xx/1850	Princeton	NJ	Camden	NY	Hannah S. Upton	1	-	-	2	-
	~12/4/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	360914	-	2	-
	1/2/18xx	Princeton	NJ	New York	NY	Mrs. Elizabeth C. Cornell	1	26932	NG	1	-
	1/5/18xx	Princeton	NJ	New York	NY	Revd. Fredk. F. Cornell	1	-	NG	1	-
	1/15/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Ticonderoga	NY	Miss Annie Thompson	1	422889	NG	1	-
	2/5/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	-	-	2	-
No image available	7/2/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Miss Dunlop	1	-	-	1	-
	7/26/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	E. Spencer Miller	1	-	-	1	-

1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2 ~ Mark A. Scheuer








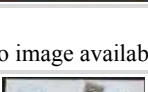
TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake y #1	Qt #2	Qty #2
	11/11/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Providence	RI	Dr. S. B. Tobey	1	454233	-	1	-
	11/15/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Mr. Mitchell	1	-	NG	1	-
	12/11/18xx	Princeton	NJ	Savannah	GA	Miss Anna W. Habersham	1	-	-	2	-
	8/20/1849	Rahway	NJ	New York	NY	NY Herald Office	1	360918	NG	1	-
	7/27/1849	Red Bank	NJ	Raleigh	NC	G. W. Mordecai	1	360919	-	2	-
	2/23/1849	Salem	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Samuel Allen	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	6/18/1850	Salem	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	11/28/18xx	Salem	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	8/14/1849	Spotwood	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	11/11/18xx	Suckasunny	NJ	Parsippany	NJ	Anderw B. Cobb	1	360897	-	1	-
	9/20/1848	Trenton	NJ	Easton	PA	Col. Thos. M. Keen	1	48914	-	1	-
	2/5/1849	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	M. L. Hallowell & Co.	1	125067	-	1	-
	9/13/1849	Trenton	NJ	Baltimore	MD	Stickney & Beatty	1	-	-	1	-
	2/6/1850	Trenton	NJ	Germantown	NJ	Jacob Heart	1	-	-	1	-
	3/12/1850	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Custis & House	1	-	-	1	-

**Mark A. Scheuer ~ 1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2**

TABLE 1: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #1 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake #	Qty #1	Qty #2
	4/4/1850	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Brown & Bowen	1	-	-	1	-
	7/1/1850	Trenton	NJ	Naugatuck	CT	S. J. Lewis	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	7/23/1850	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	-	1	-	-	1	-
	8/28/1850	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Edward Hopper	1	-	-	1	-
	11/19/1850	Trenton	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Brown & Bowen	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	12/16/1850	Trenton	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	4/29/1851	Trenton	NJ	Ahldorf Wurtenberg	Germany	Nicolaus Schmidt	1	360886	-	2	-
No image available	1/20/18xx	Trenton	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	6/16/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Germantown	PA	Miss Margaretta H. Morris	1	-	-	1	-
	9/5/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Lancaster	PA	Landis & Black	1	-	-	1	-
No image available	9/11/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Baltimore	MD	Stickney & Beatty	1	-	-	1	-
	10/10/18xx	Trenton	NJ	New York	NY	Dr. Meredith Clymer	1	360920	-	1	-
	11/1/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Lancaster	PA	Landis & Black	1	360898	-	1	-
	11/9/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Lancaster	PA	Landis & Black	1	-	-	2	-
	11/21/18xx	Trenton	NJ	Lancaster	PA	Landis & Black	1	144808	-	1	-
No image available	xx/xx/18xx	Vincentown	NJ	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

Below is the USPCS Census of Scott #2 covers from New Jersey, showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries (filtered from 14,918 total entries), of which four covers, as noted, have received “not genuine” opinions from the Philatelic Foundation, and a fifth, the cover from Princeton to Thomasville, Connecticut, which has been declared a "fake" by students of this issue.<sup>6</sup>

1847 COVER AND CENSUS of SCOTT #s 1 & 2 ~ Mark A. Scheuer

TABLE 2: USPCS CENSUS OF SCOTT #2 ON NEW JERSEY covers											
Click a picture to show details	Date	From City	From State	To City	To State/Country	Addressee	Scott #	PF #	Fake	Qty #1	Qty #2
	5/30/1848	Colts Neck	NJ	Madison	NJ	William Gibbons	1 2	62509	NG	1	1
	7/14/1849	Newark	NJ	Twinsburgh	OH	Rev. Samuel Bissell	2	360931	-	-	1
	1/10/18xx	Newark	NJ	Newark	OH	J. Buckingham	2	438375	-	-	4
	4/23/18xx	Newark	NJ	Twinsburgh	OH	Rev. Samuel Bissell	2	360928	-	-	1
	6/30/18xx	Newark	NJ	Twinsburgh	OH	Rev. Samuel Bissell	2	360925	-	-	1
	8/13/18xx	Newark	NJ	Beirut	Syria	Rev. James Dennis	2	15292	NG	-	1
No image available	10/7/18xx	Newark	NJ	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
	4/25/1851	Pennington	NJ	Princeton	NJ	Rev. Edwin Emerson	2	360926	NG	-	1
No image available	7/27/1847	Princeton	NJ	Thompsonville	CT	Irwin Thompson	2	-	-	-	1
	8/4/1849	Princeton	NJ	New Orleans	LA	Buchanan Carroll & Co.	2	360927	NG	-	1

**REFERENCES:**

1. Christoph Gartner Sale 29 posted on Stamp Auction Network, or go to <http://cat.auktionen-gaertner.de/?FTSearchHTMLName=DetailsA&Cat=GP&NID=1168690&Phase=AUCTION&Lang=EN&DB=P HILNET\GAERTNER\GPKATAUK.NSF&CID=1&SessionID=ajjMNE1fATAOF7HJ2wA>.
2. Pierson's 1851-52 Newark City Directory, 17<sup>th</sup> edition, page 106
3. Online genealogy of the Dennis Family, a reprint from EARLY FRIENDS FAMILIES OF UPPER BUCKS, with Some Accounts of Their Descendants, by Clarence V(Vernon) Roberts, assisted by Warren S. Ely, Originally published Philadelphia, 1925. ([http://www.nockamixon.us/BC/EarlyFriends/earlyfriends\\_dennis.html](http://www.nockamixon.us/BC/EarlyFriends/earlyfriends_dennis.html))
4. *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census* by Thomas J. Alexander and published by the US Philatelic Classics Society (2001)
5. Go to USPCS.org Resource center and click on Censuses, then search by state and issue (Scott #) for NJ -- <http://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/censuses/1847-cover-census/>.
6. Robert G. Rose, "10c 1847 Usage in New Jersey," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 84, March-April 2005, pp. 79, 83 note 8.

## BIRTH of the U.S. POST OFFICE

Ed & Jean Siskin © 2013

*(From the Spellman Symposium last May, we are reprinting Ed & Jean Siskin's paper on the Birth of the US Post Office, trusting it will be of interest to our members. All of the presentations from that symposium have been compiled and published in new book entitled From Indian Trails to the Birth of a Nation. For a review, please see page 214.)*

With the appointment of Benjamin Franklin as co-Deputy Postmaster General effective in October 1753, the *British Parliamentary Post* in the American colonies began a long period of expansion and profitability. Even when Franklin started spending most of his time in England as representative of the Colonial governments of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, he ran the American posts through trusted agents and the system continued to prosper. When Franklin first took office there were about twenty post offices in all of the colonies. Over the next twenty years it expanded to more than seventy, ranging from Quebec to St. Augustine. Further, although the American post had been a money loser for the Crown until 1755, from 1756 on, a significant profit was made each year.

Starting with Britain's ill-advised imposition of the Stamp Act in 1765, relations between England and her American colonies became increasingly strained. On December 16, 1773, the "Boston Tea Party" pushed things further. As a result of the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed four acts known as the "Intolerable Acts" which were intended to coerce the colonies into line.

It also became public knowledge that Franklin had made matters worse, from the British standpoint, by providing to Massachusetts activists some correspondence by Governor Thomas Hutchinson recommending the crown take harsher action against the colonies. As a result, on January 29, 1774, Franklin was hauled before the Privy Council and publicly embarrassed; two days later he was fired from his position as Deputy Postmaster General. He was replaced with Hugh Finlay of Canada, who had been Surveyor of Posts.

To address British coercion, representatives from twelve of the colonies met in Philadelphia from September 5, 1774 until October 26, 1774 to discuss a coordinated response. This became known as the *First Continental Congress*. Among the subjects discussed were ways to communicate confidentially, among the colonies. It was well known that the British routinely examined mail passing through the *Parliamentary Post* and the British government considered such censorship and intelligence gathering as their sovereign right. Discussed during this First Continental Congress was William Goddard's crusade for an American post office. Goddard, *Figure 1*, had been a newspaper publisher in Baltimore who started a private post in late 1773 between Baltimore and Philadelphia. He initially called it the "Northern Post." Later he had changed the name to *Constitutional Post*. He started this post because he was having difficulty sending and receiving newspapers through the *Parliamentary Post*. This was because of his outspoken positions against the Parliament's actions. Starting in February 1774 he toured the colonies as far north as New Hampshire to encourage the expansion of his *Constitutional Post*. Eventually he toured as far south as Williamsburg. Although some independent local posts resulted from his efforts, it is not clear that any were directly connected to Goddard's Post.



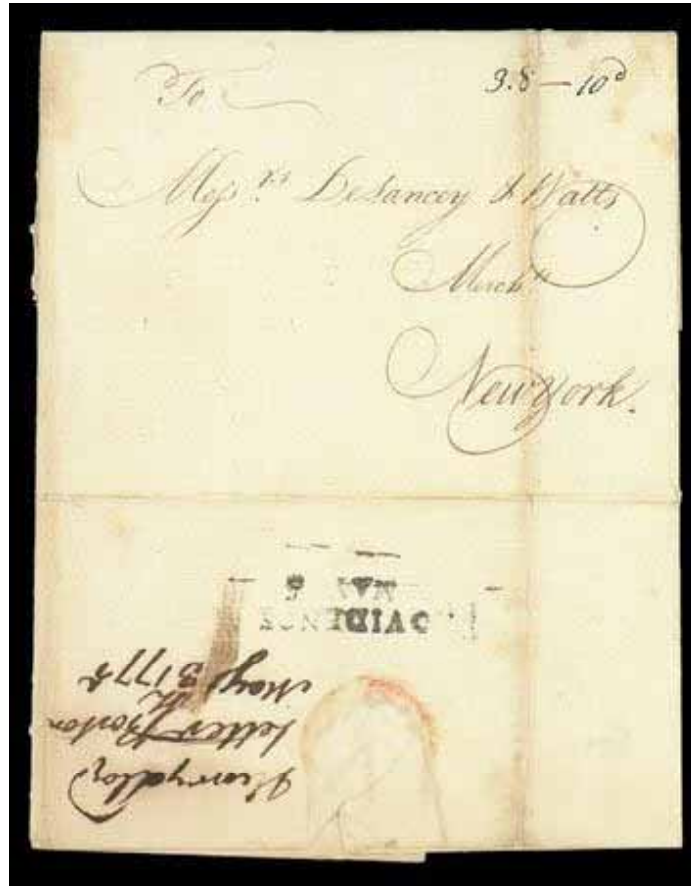
*Fig. 1: William Giles Goddard  
(1740-1817)*

When Goddard started his tour to try to convince people to join his Constitutional Post he turned his responsibilities for both his newspaper, the *Maryland Journal*, and as postmaster for the Baltimore office of his provisional post over to his sister, Mary Katherine Goddard. She quickly transitioned to Postmaster of the Continental Congress' new Baltimore Post Office, although her formal appointment wasn't issued until 1777. She handled both tasks with great skill for many years.

On October 5, 1774, Goddard presented his recommendations for a new American post office to the Continental Congress. His recommendations were "tabled" (not acted on.) The Congress did not retain a copy of his recommendations.

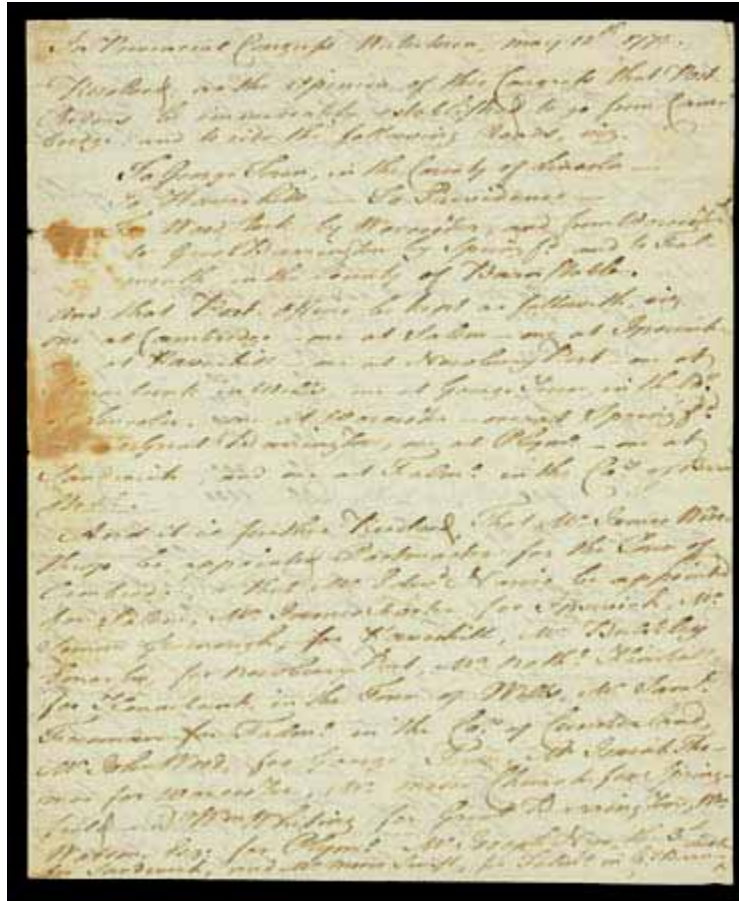
The situation between England and her American colonies continued to deteriorate. On April 19, 1775, the "shot heard round the world" was fired at the battles of Lexington and Concord.

*Figure 2* shows that reading mail was not just a British habit. This letter datelined Boston, May 3, 1775, was written two weeks after the Battle of Lexington and Concord. At this point, Rebels had surrounded the city of Boston. This letter was hand carried through the Rebel lines, carried to Providence where it was placed in the Parliamentary Post for transmission to New York City. The letter states "...most of the letters both publick & private were open'd before they got here; & some of them stop'd; this letter goes by private conveyence to Providence to be put into the post office there & hope it will reach you." Clearly it was hand carried through the lines to circumvent censorship. Interestingly, this letter is postmarked with a new Providence hand stamp, recently received from England, and is the only recorded example of this hand stamp.

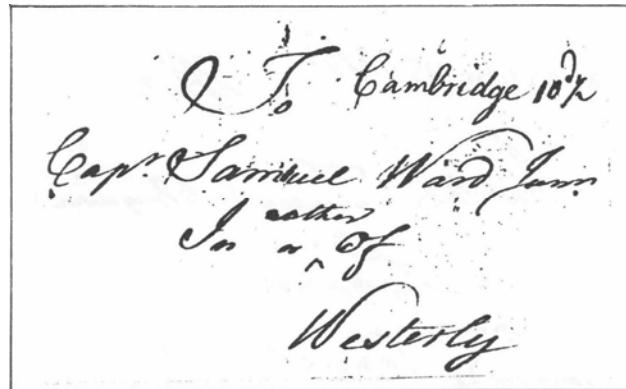


*Fig. 2: Letter datelined Boston, May 3, 1775. Hand carried through the Rebel lines surrounding Boston, to Providence where it was placed in the King's Post to New York City.*

After April 19, the need for an independent mail system became much more urgent. On May 15, 1775, Massachusetts approved its own postal system. Maine, which was then part of Massachusetts, was included. *Figure 3* shows the only known copy of that Act. Effective May 18, 1775, New Hampshire joined the Massachusetts system. Although Rhode Island and Connecticut are known to have discussed postal options, there is no evidence that they actually took action. Most operations of the Parliamentary Post in Massachusetts and New Hampshire appear to have shut down as the revolutionary posts became functional. *Figure 4* shows a cover handled by the new Massachusetts Revolutionary Post.



**Fig. 3:** Dated "In Provincial Congress Watertown, May 12th 1775" this Act approved May 15, 1775 created an independent postal system in Massachusetts.



**Fig. 4:** Dated Cambridge May 26, 1775. Handled by the new Massachusetts Postal System. Addressed to the son of a delegate to the Continental Congress.  
(Rhode Island Historical Society)



The *Second Continental Congress* met in Philadelphia starting May 10, 1775. Unlike the *First Continental Congress*, whose primary purpose was to present a unified front in raising grievances with the British government, the Second Continental Congress began to function very much like a government, even though independence had not yet been proclaimed.

Because of its unicameral governmental format, a law was normally created by a simple majority vote either of the members of Congress or by one vote per a colonies delegation. It was the normal practice to raise a proposal three times before the final vote. Where urgency warranted, multiple readings could be omitted. For issues of profound importance, like the vote for independence which occurred July 2, 1776, a unanimous vote of the Colonies/States was required. Actually only 12 Colonies voted for independence. New York abstained.

On June 14, 1775, the Congress established the *Continental Army* and one day later placed George Washington in command.

On June 23, 1775, the Congress authorized the emission of two million dollars in paper currency and over the next four years they would authorize 200 million more. These bills were denominated in dollars and were stated to be “redeemable” in Spanish milled dollars.

Again, a method of sending secure communications was the subject of extensive discussion. In the *Journal of the Continental Congress* dated May 29, 1775:

*As the present critical situation of the colonies renders it highly necessary that ways and means should be devised for the speedy and secure conveyance of intelligence from one end of the Continent to the other.*

*Resolved, that Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Richard Henry] Lee, Mr. [Thomas] Willing, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. P[hilip] Livingston, be a committee to consider the best means of establishing posts for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent.*

After some debate, the Congress approved a resolution on July 26, 1775, which created a post office for the United Colonies and appointed Benjamin Franklin, *Figure 5*, as the first Postmaster General. This resolution stated in its entirety:

#### **Resolution of July 26, 1775**

Agreeable to the order of yesterday, the Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on the post office; which being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

That a postmaster General be appointed for the United Colonies, who shall hold his office at Philada, and shall be allowed a salary of 1000 dollars per an: for himself, and 340 dollars per an: for a secretary and Comptroller, with power to appoint such, and so many deputies as to him may seem proper and necessary.

That a line of posts be appointed under the direction of the Postmaster general, from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit.

## **BIRTH of the U.S. POST OFFICE ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

That the allowance to the deputies in lieu of salary and all contingent expences, shall be 20 per cent. on the sums they collect and pay into the General post office annually, when the whole is under or not exceeding 1000 Dollars, and ten per cent. for all sums above 1000 dollars a year.

That the rates of postage shall be 20 pr cent less than those appointed by act of Parliament.

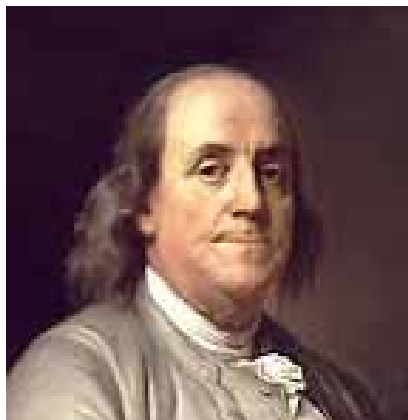
That the several deputies account quarterly with the general post office, and the postmaster general annually with the continental treasurers, when he shall pay into the rect of the Sd Treasurers, the profits of the Post Office; and if the necessary expence of this establishment should exceed the produce of it, the deficiency shall be made good by the United Colonies, and paid to the postmaster general by the continental Treasr.

On motion made, Resolved, That it be recommended to the postmaster general to establish a weekly post to South Carolina.

That it be left to the postmaster general to appoint a secy and comptroller.

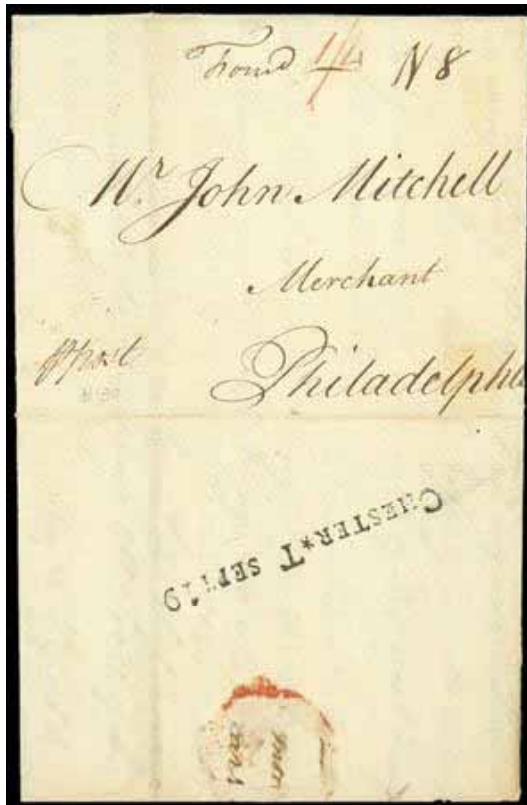
The Congress then proceeded to the election of a postmaster general for one year, and until another is appointed by a future Congress, when Benjamin Franklin, Esqr. was unanimously chosen.”

The appointment of Franklin was a great disappointment to William Goddard who had campaigned aggressively for the job. He was further disappointed when Franklin appointed his son-in-law Richard Bache as Secretary and Comptroller. Franklin did appoint Goddard to a third-ranking position as Surveyor of Posts.



*Fig. 5 : Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
1st Postmaster General  
July 26, 1775 – November 7, 1776*

The postal act specified “that the rates of postage shall be twenty percent less than those appointed by act of parliament”. That rate reduction was repealed by Resolution dated September 30, 1775. The rates were raised to equal the rates specified in the Parliamentary Act of 1765. Thus this rate reduction lasted only nine weeks and no Rate Chart was issued. Only nine covers have been reported during this period. None appear to show a rate reduction. Furthermore, it is not clear how many of these nine covers, if any, were actually handled by the new postal system. An example is shown in *Figure 6*.



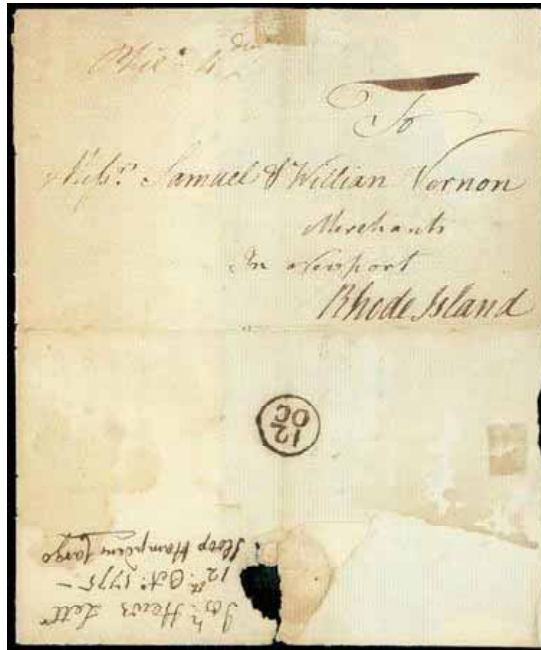
*Fig. 6: Dated Talbot Court House Md, September 17, 1775. Apparently posted at Talbot even though postmarked at Chestertown. The rate from Talbot is 2 dwt 16 or 8 pence. If posted at Chesterfield, the rate would be 6 pence which means that a 2 pence carrier fee is included. In either case, the cover was almost certainly handled by the Parliamentary Post.*

Postmaster General Franklin was quite diligent in setting up the new congressional post but obviously things took time. Some scholars are convinced that the new system did not begin operation until after September 30th and that the rate reduction was never implemented. The new post office in Philadelphia is believed to have first opened about October 8, 1775. It functioned in parallel with the Parliamentary Post Office for about two months. All Parliamentary Post inland services entirely within the thirteen Colonies ended by December 25, 1775.

In the fall of 1775, Franklin published a Rate Chart establishing the postage between each post office. This was the only Rate Chart issued until after the creation of the United States General Post Office in 1792. Each of the subsequent rate changes consisted of a factor applied to the Chart. Since the Queen Anne Act of 1710, the Chief Letter Office in New York was the only one authorized to determine “from whence the Distances for which the Rates hereby granted may be computed and settled.” Since the Rate Chart didn’t change, the rates didn’t change even though the route mileage between two places frequently varied substantially.

**BIRTH of the U.S. POST OFFICE ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

Figure 7 shows a very early usage from Philadelphia to Newport. It is in the hand of Joseph Hewes, a representative from North Carolina who would later sign the Declaration of Independence.



**Fig. 7: Dated Philadelphia, Octr 12, 1775, rated 4 pennyweights per the 1775 Rate Chart**

Figure 8 shows a letter from New York to Eastern Connecticut which has a New York postmark in a distinctive “patriotic blue.”

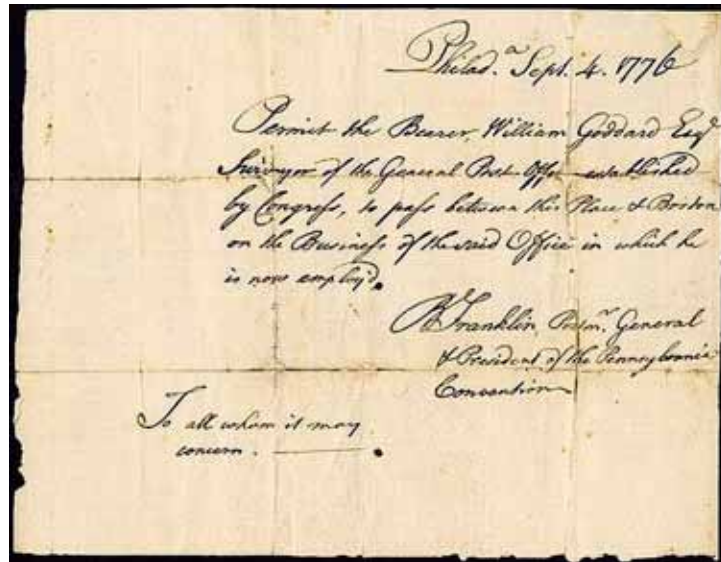


**Fig. 8: Dated Morristown N.J. June 14, 1776; hand carried to NYC where entered the Congressional Post. Double weight letter rated twice the 2.16 dwt rate to New London/Norwich.**

These postmarks in blue are known to exist from September 1775 until July 1776 and are definitely known to have been handled by the Congressional Post.

By September 1776, the British army had retaken New York City. Postmaster General Franklin directed Surveyor of Posts William Goddard to develop a route around New York City so that mail from New England could make it to the Congress in Philadelphia and to points south.

*Figure 9* shows a pass that Franklin issued to Goddard to facilitate his efforts. Insofar as can be determined, Goddard did nothing to fulfill his charter. There are several documents in the Franklin papers wherein Franklin complains that he has not heard from Goddard and doesn't know what he is doing.



*Fig. 9: Franklin pass for Goddard.*

To prevail in their conflict with England, the colonies desperately needed foreign support and financial assistance. Franklin was the most creditable representative to seek such support and so he stepped down as Postmaster General and sailed for France on October 25, 1776 as envoy to the French Court.

Richard Bache, shown in *Figure 10*, Franklin's son-in-law, was appointed Postmaster General on November 7, 1776.



*Fig. 10: Richard Bache (1737-1811)  
2nd Postmaster General  
November 7, 1776 – January 28, 1782*

**BIRTH of the U.S. POST OFFICE ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

Bache appointed Ebenezer Hazard, the postmaster of New York City, as his Secretary and Comptroller. Hazard proved to be an exceptionally able administrator and soon established the postal route from New England to the middle Atlantic colonies around New York. This route went through Fishkill New York and followed several routes south through New Jersey, depending upon the military situation at the time.

Relations between Bache and William Goddard continued to deteriorate and Goddard was forced to resign in January 1777.

By late 1776, the problem of inflation began to rear its ugly head. Because the wording on these continental dollars indicated that they were redeemable in silver, for a period of time, this continental currency was valued at par. It soon became clear that Congress did not have access to sufficient gold or silver to honor redemption of all the continental currency. Therefore, the value of continental currency began a downward spiral. Table I shows the depreciation of continental currency by quarter from 1777 through 1781. Table II shows the postal rate changes that resulted from this depreciation.

**Table I - Depreciation of Continental Currency**  
(Currency require to purchase \$1.00 specie)

	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781
January	1.25	4.00	8.00	42.50	100.00
April	2.00	6.00	16.00	60.00	167.50
July	3.00	4.00	19.00	62.50	
October	3.00	5.00	30.00	77.50	

Source: Leslie Brock Archive, University of Virginia

**Table II - Postal Rate Changes: 1775 - 1792**

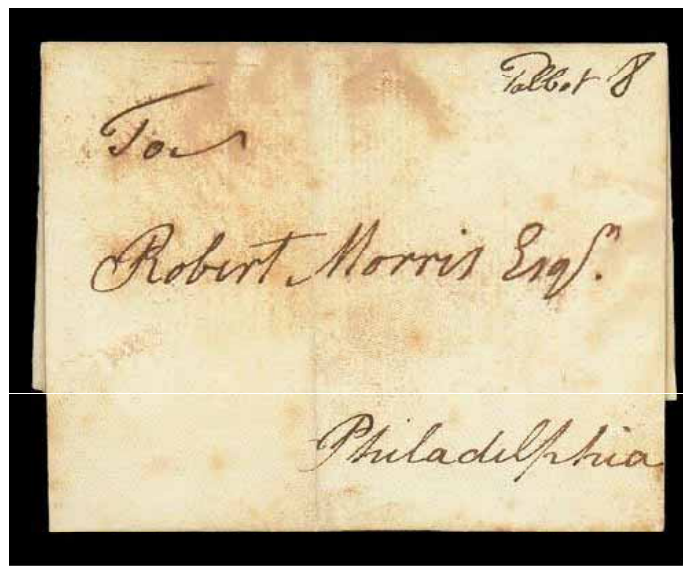
Act of July 26, 1775 .....	20% less than British rates of 1765
Act of September 30, 1775 .....	Rates as in Act of 1765
Act of October 17, 1777 .....	Increased 1775 rates by 50%
Act of April 16, 1779 .....	Doubled 1777 rates
Act of December 28, 1779 .....	20 Times the 1775 Rates
Act of May 5, 1780 .....	40 Times the 1775 Rates
Act of December 12, 1780 .....	½ the 1775 Rates in Specie
Act of February 24, 1781 .....	2x the 1775 Rates in Specie
Act of October 19, 1781 (Effective 1/1/1782) .....	1775 Rates in Specie
Act of October 20, 1787 (Effective 4/5/1788) .....	About a 25% Reduction

Because of the depreciating value of continental currency, on October 17, 1777, the Congress passed a resolution to increase postal rates by fifty percent. *Figure 11* shows this new rate.



**Fig. 11: Dated Alexandria Va. February 8, 1778, Rated 2 dwt, 50% more than the 1 dwt 8 gr specified in the 1775 Rate Chart for Alexandria to Fredericksburg. The "way" marking is canceled which means it was probably added to the mailbag at the last minute.**

By resolution of April 16, 1779, postal rates were raised again. This time the rates were double the 1777 rates which were three times the 1775 rates. *Figure 12* shows this new rate.



**Fig.12: Dated June 20, 1779, Talbot Court House, Md. Rate to Philadelphia per 1775 Rate Chart was 2 dwt 16 gr. Under the April 16, 1779 Resolution, this was multiplied by 3 to yield an 8 dwt rate. Addressed to Robert Morris, Signer of the Declaration of Independence.**

The value of continental currency continued to plummet. By Resolution of December 28, 1779, postal rates were increased to twenty times the 1775 rates. On May 5, 1780, the rates were raised again, this time to forty times the 1775 rates.

Covers showing these high inflation rates are quite scarce. To date, only eleven 20X and nine 40X covers are recorded in private hands. *Figures 13, 14 and 15* show covers with these high inflation rates.



Fig. 13: Dated Boston, Ma. April 8, 1780 to Philadelphia. Rated at 20 times the 4dwt rate per the 1775 Rate Chart. 80 dwt equaled 240 pence. Postage was then doubled to 480 pence since the cover contained an enclosure, 10£ in currency.



Fig. 14: Dated Petersburg Va, April 21, 1780. Initially rated 20 times the 4 dwt 16 gr rate plus 2 pence for the way fee, a total of 94dwt. When it arrived in Philadelphia, the unpaid cover was rerated at the then current rate. 40 times the 4 dwt 16 gr rate equals 186 dwt 16 gr. The way fee was not charged.



Fig. 15: Dated Philadelphia, December 19, 1780. In Signer Robert Morris' hand. Per the 1775 Rate Chart, the postage was 2 dwt 16 gr equal to 8 pence to Baltimore. 40 times 8 pence equals 320 pence.



By late 1780, continental currency was worth only about 1 to 2 percent of its face value. The phrase “not worth a continental” was common. To provide sufficient funds to continue to operate the post office, the Congress had to take drastic action. So by resolution of December 12, 1780, the Congress specified that postal rates were set at half the 1775 rates but required that payment for postage be in specie. Thus we have the remarkable situation that currency issued by the Congress was not valid to pay for postage. This reduced rate only lasted about two and one half months and only four covers, during this period, are recorded. *Figure 16* shows one such usage.



**Fig. 16:** Dated Middletown Ct, February 1, 1781. Rated 2 dwt 16 gr, per the 1775 Rate Chart. The postmaster in Philadelphia actually collect half that amount, 4 pence in specie.

By resolution of February 24, 1781, the rates were set at twice the 1775 rates and payment continued to be required to be in specie or equivalent. *Figure 17* shows a cover with this rate.



**Fig. 17:** Dated Boston, October 4, 1781. Triple weight letter. Rated three times the 2 dwt 16 gr rate equal to 8 dwt (Accounting Rate). Paid by 5 shillings 6 pence local currency, the equivalent to 16 dwt

**BIRTH of the U.S. POST OFFICE ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

Figure 18 shows a letter from Ebenezer Hazard, Surveyor of Posts, to the new postmaster at Norwich, Connecticut which provides detailed directions on how to handle postal rates. This letter states:

*“...they are now to be doubled; your best way will be to charge the same in Dwts & Grs as formerly (by this I mean as in the Table of Rates) but instead of taking 3d Sterling per Dwt as the Tables direct, take 6d Ster’g or 8d lawfull. This you are to observe will be so much in Specie, but you may receive other money equivalent, only remember to keep your accounts in Specie”.*

This letter has been important in enabling postal historians to understanding postal rates and rate markings during this period.



**Fig. 18: Dated April 6, 1781, Plymouth Mass. Free franked letter to the new postmaster of Norwich, Conn**

The Congress continued to study the question of how much to charge the postal rates in order to keep the post office solvent. By the Resolution of October 19, 1781, effective January 1, 1782, the rates were set equal to the 1775 rates with payment in specie or equivalent. This rate lasted until April 5, 1788. Figure 19 shows an example of this rate.



**Fig -19: Dated Philadelphia July 19, 1787. Rate was 2 dwt or one shilling local currency. This is one of three known examples of the Philadelphia postmark.**

On January 28, 1782, Richard Bache voluntarily stepped down as Postmaster General. He was replaced by Ebenezer Hazard, *Figure 20*, who had been Comptroller and Surveyor of Posts.

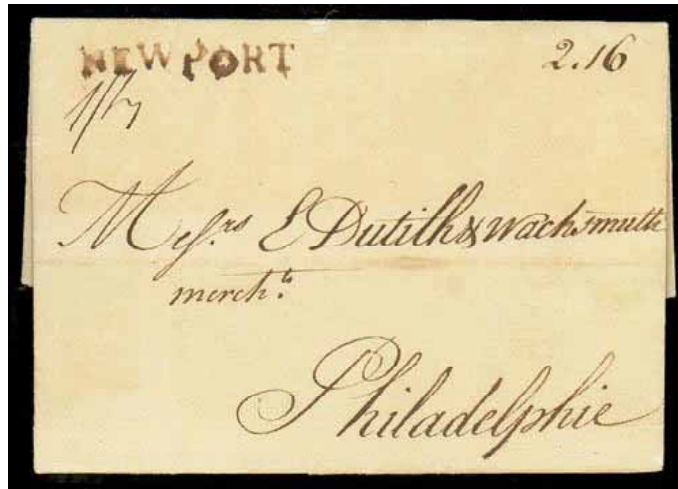


*Fig. 20 : Ebenezer Hazard (1744-1817)  
3rd Postmaster General  
January 28, 1782 – September 26, 1789*

With the end of the war and the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which confirmed American independence, the postal system continued to expand. Hazard was under continuing pressure to ensure that the postal system operated effectively, remained solvent and even made a profit.

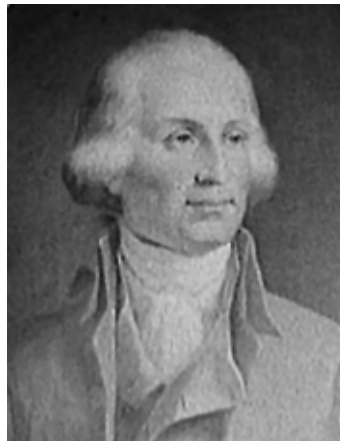
This pressure on Hazard became his eventual undoing. Hazard had been pushing to reduce rates in order to encourage the increase in mail. Congress pressed Hazard to minimize unnecessary expenses in order to justify a rate reduction. One of the cost savings pushed on Hazard was to eliminate the practice of the free interchange of newspapers, which had been an important source of information exchange among the colonies. Unfortunately, Hazard eliminated this free newspaper exchange in the summer of 1787, at the same time Washington was chairing the Constitutional Convention. Washington took umbrage with Hazard's action which he perceived would undermine support for the proposed new constitution.

Hazard did succeed in convincing Congress to reduce rates. By the resolution of October 20, 1787, effective April 5, 1788, rates were set at about twenty-five percent less than the 1775 rates. These new rates were to be set to facilitate State currency conversions. *Figure 21* shows an implementation of this reduced rate.



*Fig. 21: Dated Newport, May 10, 1791. Rate reduced from 4 dwt to 2 dwt 16 gr. Paid with 1 shilling, 4 pence local currency.*

George Washington was sworn in as the first President under the new constitution on April 30, 1789. Several months later, he exercised his grudge and fired Hazard on September 26, 1789. Another concern with Hazard may have been his reluctance to use stage coaches for mail, because he felt it was more expensive and slower. Washington believed stages helped unify the nation. Hazard went on to found the Insurance Company of North America. Hazard was replaced with Samuel Osgood, *Figure 22*. Osgood was reported by his contemporaries as an accomplished sycophant and of limited managerial capabilities.

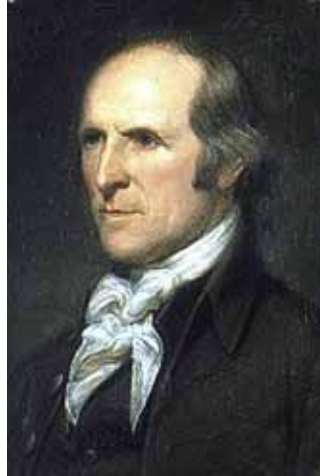


*Fig. 22: Samuel Osgood (1747 - 1813)  
4th Postmaster General  
September 26, 1789– August 1791*

One of the first actions Osgood took was to replace a number of postmasters and postal officials with his friends and supporters. Of particular note was his action to fire Mary Katherine Goddard, the woman who had been an outstanding postmaster of Baltimore for at least twelve years. His excuse was that he did not feel that a woman had the stamina to perform the job of postmaster effectively. He replaced her with a friend to whom he owed money. When a petition, signed by 252 prominent citizens of Baltimore was sent to President Washington, requesting the Miss Goddard be reinstated, Washington declined to intervene.

One of Osgood's primary responsibilities was to recommend to the Congress the rules and regulations for the new post office. Based on Osgood's recommendation, the Act of August 4, 1790, specified that the post office would continue to function under previous rules and regulations until the end of the next session of Congress. By the Post Office Act of March 3, 1791, existing regulations were maintained in effect until the end of the next session of Congress and no longer.

Osgood's inability to get anything done resulted in Washington's requesting his resignation in August 1791. Effective August 12, 1791, Timothy Pickering, *Figure 23*, a long time military subordinate of Washington's, was appointed the fifth Post Master General.



*Fig. 23: Timothy Pickering (1745 - 1829)  
5th Postmaster General  
August 12, 1791 - January 1, 1795*

Pickering was a first-class manager. Working with the Congress, he drafted detailed plans for the post office. By Act of Congress, dated February 20, 1792, the United States General Post Office was created effective June 1, 1792. Rates under this act were, for the first time, set in dollars and cents.

*Figure 24* shows a cover postmarked in New York, two days after the initiation of the new General Post Office. It is one of the first covers handled.



*Fig. 24: Datelined London March 15, 1792. Carried by private ship to New York. Postmarked New York June 3, 1792. Rated 10 cents postage, New York to Philadelphia plus 4 cent ship fee.*

*Note: We thank Bernard Biales for his considerable help with this article.*

*Ed & Jean Siskin*

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*Journals of the Continental Congress*, September 5, 1774 to March 2, 1789, at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjc.html>  
Kantor, Alvin R., *William Giles Goddard - Early Organizer of the United States Postal System*, American Philatelic Congress Book 1974  
Rich, Wesley E., *History of the US Post Office to the Year 1829*, Quarterman Press, 1977, (Reprint of 1917 doctoral thesis for Harvard, 1924)  
ter Braake, Alex, Editor *Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America*, American Philatelic Research Library, 1975  
*(The article above is reprinted with permission from the following book, which we recommend to any member interested in early US postal history.)*

**BOOK REVIEW:** *From Indian Trails to the Birth of a Nation*, Douglas Clark, ed. Papers from the Spellman Museum's First Spring Postal History Symposium, Weston, Mass., 2014, 100 pages, 8.5x11 inches, \$60 hardbound, \$45 softbound, plus shipping, from [www.spellman.org](http://www.spellman.org). Click [HERE](#) for more information or contact Nancy B. Clark at [nbc@cape.com](mailto:nbc@cape.com).

Two of the New Jersey Postal History Society's long-time members and students of the Colonial Post and the early days of what became the United States postal system, together with four other authors, have provided a valuable overview of both 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century American postal history.

Society member Timothy O'Connor discusses one of the earliest routes among the Colonies ("The Earliest Postal Systems in North America"), a monthly mail that was established in 1672 from New York to Boston via Hartford. In 1692, Thomas Neal was granted a patent to operate a number of routes in the Colonies. Mail to England was first provided by British Packet between New York and Bristol, and by the 1750's, the Falmouth Packet carried trans-Atlantic mail. A number of early covers are illustrated.

Society members Ed and Jean Siskin, frequent contributors to *NJPH*, discuss events leading to the establishment of the United States Post Office ("Birth of the U.S. Post Office"), including the key role played by Benjamin Franklin in both the British Parliamentary Post and, after the start of the American Revolution, the Congressional Post. The roles of Franklin's successors as Postmasters General to 1792 are also addressed, as are the frequent and often confusing rate changes which are illustrated with a number of covers.

Other articles are: Mark Schwartz, "Boston Colonial Postal History;" Steven Walske, "Blockade Run Mail During the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783;" Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., "Spanish Colonial Postal History in Present-Day Territories of the United States;" & Steven Walske and Robert Abensur, "The French Packets of the New York Line, Analysis of Letters Carried 1783-1798."

The text is in an easy to read, two-column format and the illustrations are in color. Any collector interested in the postal history of this nation's early years will benefit from the research provided by the symposium's authors.

*Robert G. Rose*

## 1937 FIRST ALL NEW JERSEY FLIGHTS: Part II ~Additional Communities By Don Chafetz

*This is the second part of an exhibit by Don Chafetz at NOJEX this year, which Don has graciously allowed us to include it in the pages of NJPH. This final part includes additional communities which provided “Official/Unofficial” style cachet covers. This exhibit has been formatted to fit these pages.*

### Additional Communities

*There were a number of communities which provided “official/unofficial style” cachet covers, but had no airport.*

These air mail covers were sent to the nearest community with an airport on the approved flight path. The covers were included with the official cachet covers and sent to the Newark Air Mail Processing Facility.

Since a large number of the communities are located in northern New Jersey and close to each other, they are indicated on the map as lying within the circle labeled A – J. Newark is included as a reference point.



- A. Arlington
- B. Rutherford
- C. Garfield
- D. Teaneck
- E. Park Ridge/Hackensack
- F. Westwood
- G. Montvale/Westwood
- H. Hillsdale
- I. Ridgewood
- J. Englewood
- K. Linden
- L. Wrightstown
- M. Millville
- N. Long Branch

*Fig. 27: Map showing location of additional “unofficial” communities with commemorative covers.*

**A – Arlington**

*Fig. 28: Cacheted cover for Arlington, NJ.*



Postmaster signature                      cachet                      Machine cancel – 7:00 am

AIR MAIL  
Via. Bendix Field  
From ARLINGTON, N. J.

**B – Rutherford**

*Fig. 29: Cacheted cover for Rutherford, NJ.*



Machine cancel – 7:00 am                      Postmaster signature

cachet  
RUTHERFORD, N. J.  
CHIEF TRADING CENTER  
OF SOUTH BERGEN  
COUNTY



C – Garfield

Fig. 30: Cacheted cover for Garfield, NJ.



Postmaster signature  
Garfield stamp

cachet

Machine cancel – 7:30 am

GARFIELD, N. J.  
LARGEST INDUSTRIAL CITY  
IN BERGEN COUNTY

D – Teaneck

Fig. 31: Cacheted cover for Teaneck, NJ.



Postmaster signature

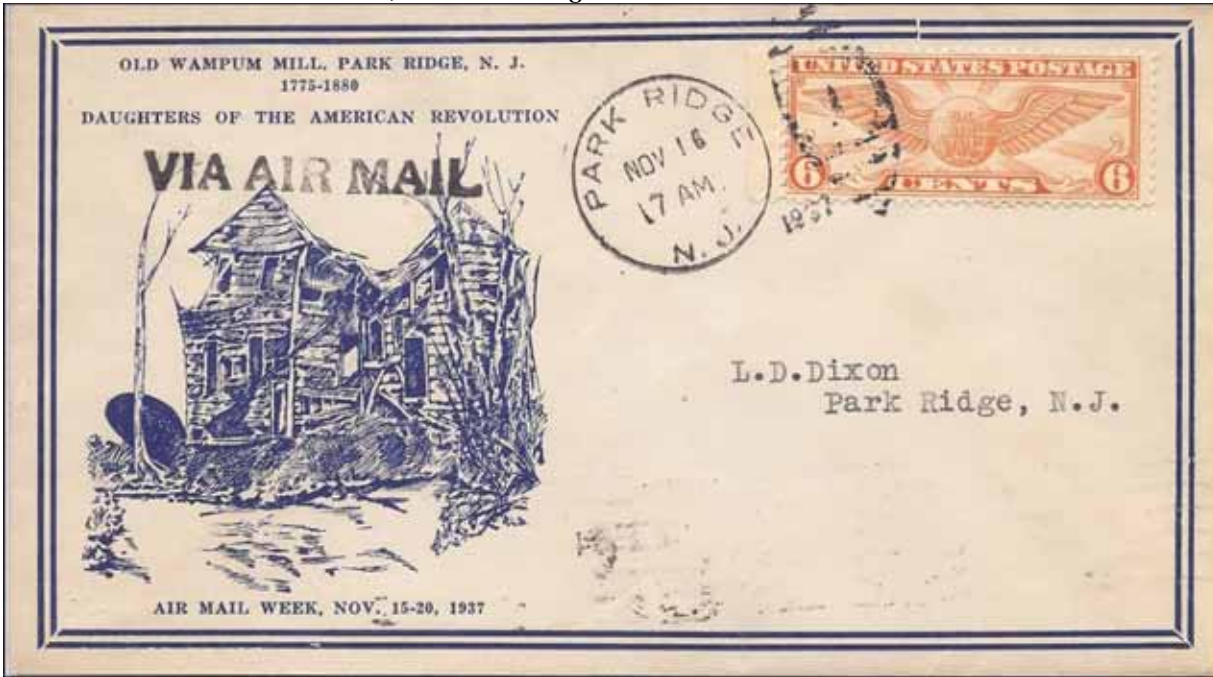
cachet

Machine cancel – 7:00 am

TEANECK, N. J.  
THE FASTEST GROWING  
COMMUNITY IN THE STATE

**E – Park Ridge/Hackensack**

*Fig. 32: Cacheted cover for Park Ridge, NJ. This cover shows a Hackensack cachet on the reverse, as well as a Newark AMF cancel, and a Park Ridge return receiver cancel.*



Park Ridge, N. J. November 16, 1937	cachet OLD WAMPUM HILL MILL, PARK RIDGE, N.J. 1775 - 1880 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Air Mail Week, Nov, 15-20, 1937	Hand cancel – 7:00 am
--	--	-----------------------

*Fig. 32a: Reverse of above cover, showing Hackensack cachet, Newark AMF, and Park Ridge return receiver.*



Newark AMF  
November 16 – 3:00 pm  
Park Ridge N. J.  
Rec'd  
November 17 – 9:00 am

F – Westwood

Fig. 33: Cacheted cover for Westwood, NJ.



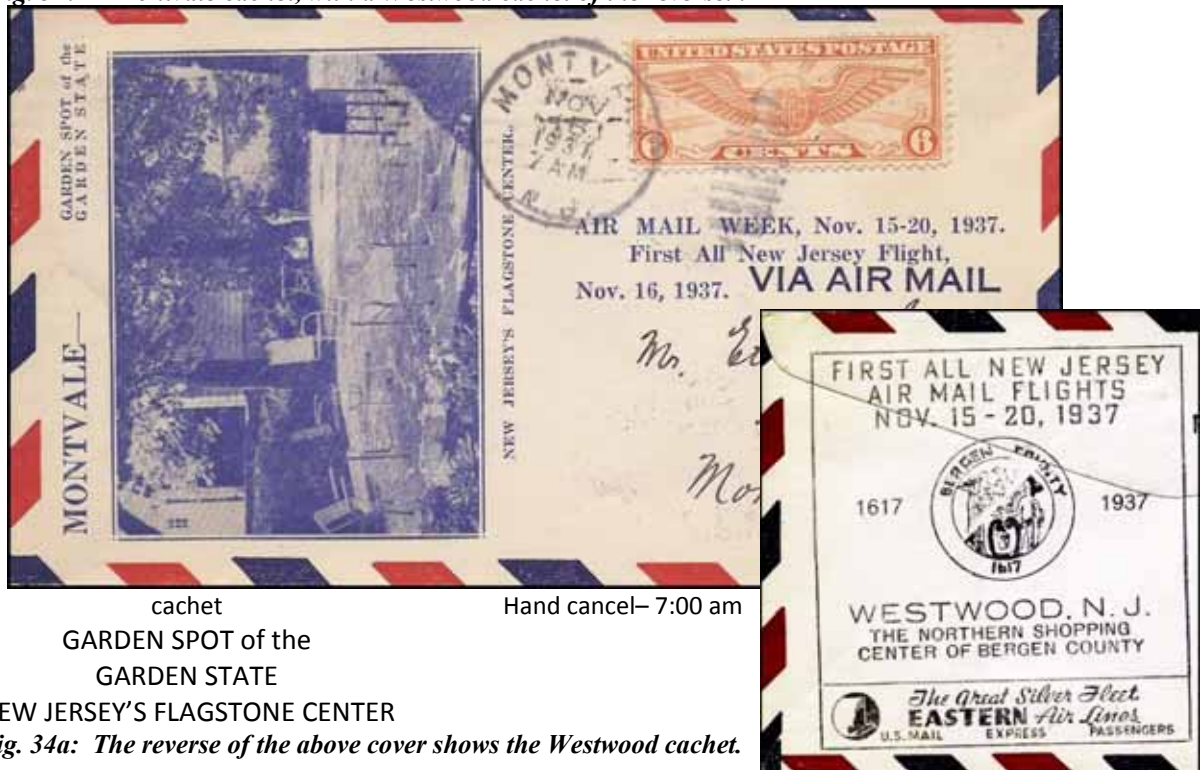
cachet

Machine cancel – 7:00 am

WESTWOOD, N. J.  
THE NORTHERN SHOPPING  
CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY

G – Montvale/Westwood

Fig. 34: A Montvale cachet, with a Westwood cachet of the reverse. .



cachet

Hand cancel– 7:00 am

GARDEN SPOT of the  
GARDEN STATE  
NEW JERSEY'S FLAGSTONE CENTER

Fig. 34a: The reverse of the above cover shows the Westwood cachet.

H – Hillsdale/Westwood

Fig. 35: Cacheted cover for Westwood, NJ, cancelled at Hillsdale.

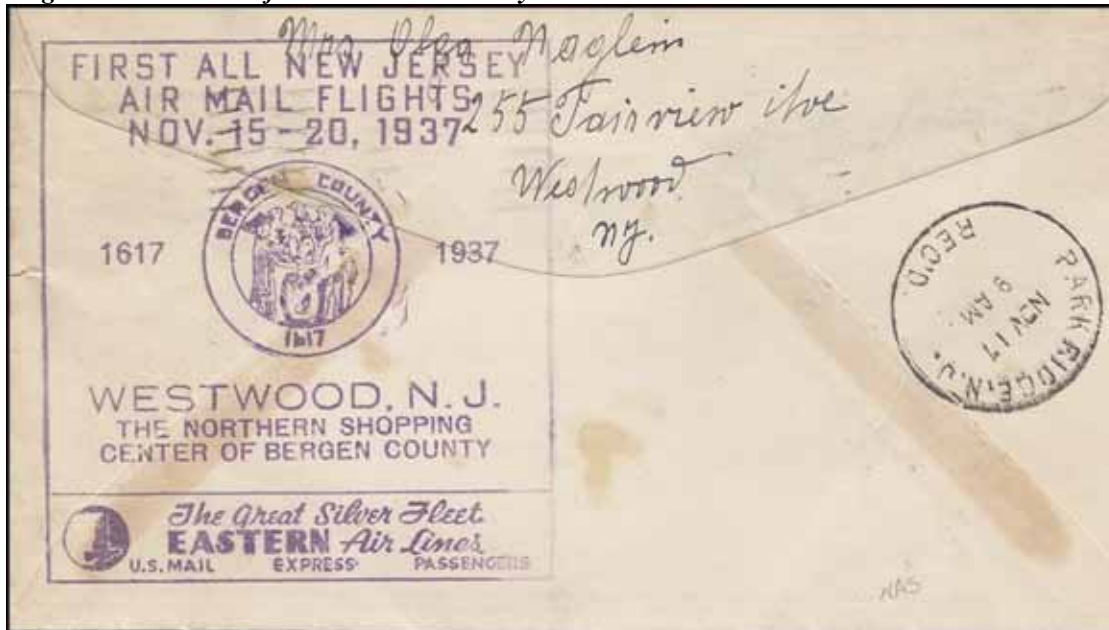


No Hillsdale cachet  
Westwood Post Office

cachet  
A REALLY GOOD PLACE TO LIVE  
WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Machine cancel – 4:00 pm

Fig. 36: The reverse of above cover does carry a Westwood cachet.



cachet  
WESTWOOD, N. J.  
THE NORTHERN SHOPPING  
CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY

Received  
Park Ridge  
November 17 – 9:00 am

I – Ridgewood

Fig. 37: Cacheted cover for Ridgewood, NJ.

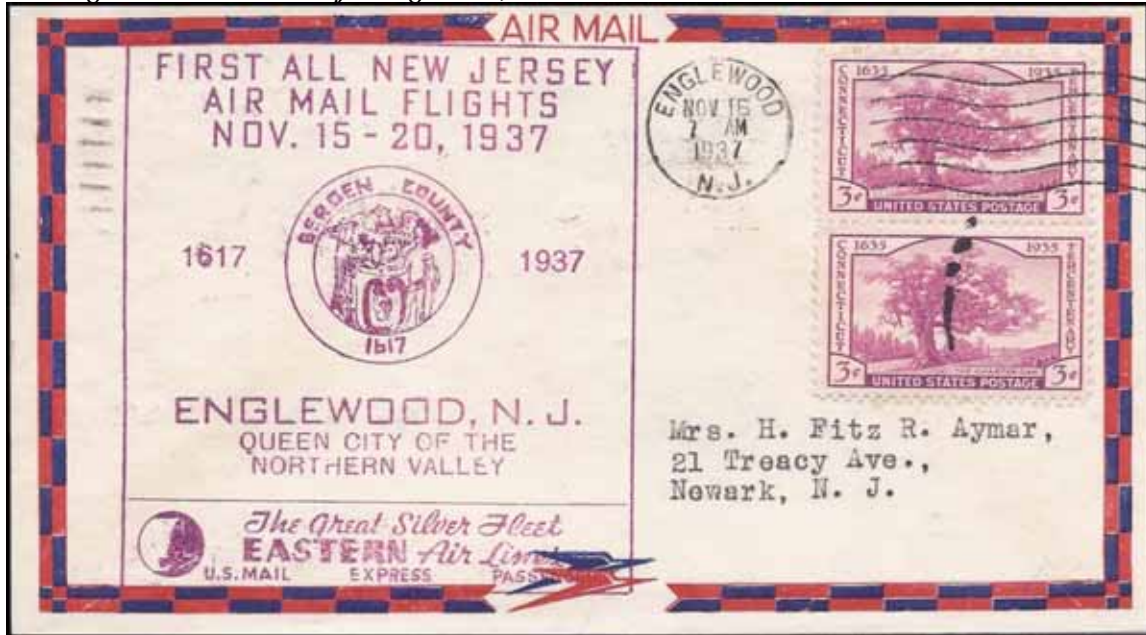


cachet  
 RIDGEWOOD, N. J.  
 TO LIVE -  
 LIVE IN RIDGEWOOD

Machine cancel – 7:00 am  
 + Ridgewood double oval

J – Englewood

Fig. 38: Cacheted cover for Englewood, NJ.



cachet  
 ENGLEWOOD, N. J.  
 QUEEN CITY OF THE NORTHERN VALLEY

Machine cancel – 7:00 am

**K – Linden**

*Fig. 39: Cacheted cover for Linden, NJ.*



Sent to Vice President of General Motors Corporation  
 cachet  
 LINDEN, N. J.  
 "THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIAL CITY IN N. J."  
 Machine cancel – 10:00 am

**L – Wrightstown**

*Fig. 40: Cacheted cover for Wrightstown, NJ.*



Pilot signature  
 W. J. Griffith, Jr.  
 cachet  
 WRIGHTSTOWN, N. J.  
 "THE BIRTHPLACE OF CAMP DIX"  
 Duplex cancel – 11:00 am

**L – Wrightstown, cont'd**

*Fig. 41: A second cover with a Wrightstown cachet on the reverse, sent from Camp Dix.*



Hand cancel

Wrightstown – 12:00 pm

reverse

Wrightstown cachet

Newark AMF

November 16 – 3:00 pm

Los Angeles, CA

General Delivery No 4

November 18 – 15:37

Return to Writer Unclaimed

Los Angeles

December 1, 1937 – 4:30 pm

**M – Millville**

*Fig. 42: Cachet for Millville, NJ, cancelled at Ocean City.*



cachet

MILLVILLE

THE HUB OF SOUTH JERSEY

Machine cancel – 2:30 pm

N – Long Branch

Fig. 43: A Long Branch cacheted cover.



Postmaster signature  
 No Newark AMF cancel  
 Reverse Red Bank cancel

cachet  
 LONG BRANCH, N. J.  
 America's First Seashore Resort  
 LONG BRANCH, N. J.

Machine cancel – 1:00 pm

Fig. 44: A Long Branch cacheted cover sponsored by The Daily Record.



Long Branch cachet on reverse

Cachet  
 Sponsored  
 by The DAILY RECORD



Fig. 45: A Long Branch cacheted cover sponsored by The Monmouth County Historical Society



Postmaster & Mayor signatures  
Long branch cachet on reverse

cachet  
Monmouth County Philatelic Society  
Signed by officers

Hand cancel – 1:00 pm

Fig. 46: A Long Branch cachet used on all three Long Branch covers.

Cachet  
Long Branch  
America's First Seashore Resort  
On all three Long Branch covers

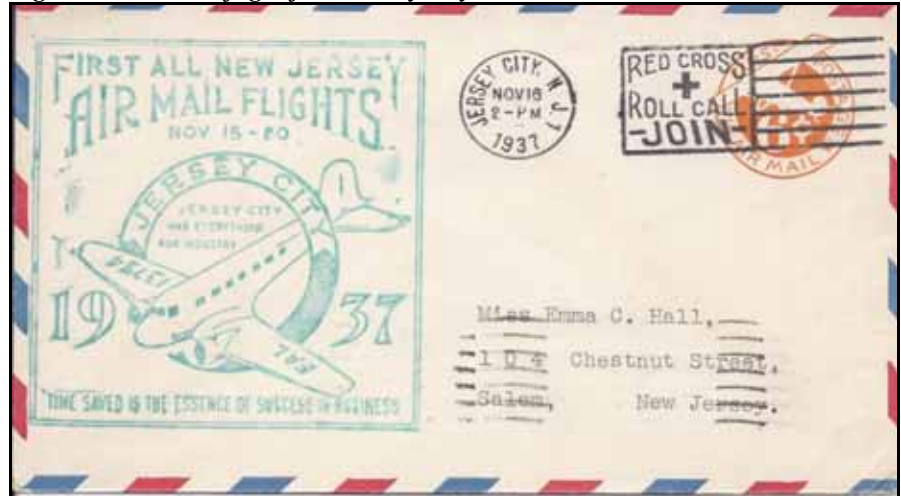


**Sea Plane Pickup**

A second plane, a sea plane, left Jersey City and flew along the coast picking up mail at Belmar, Shark River. It returned to Port Newark/Jersey City adjoining the Newark Airport.



*Fig. 47: Sea Plane flight from Jersey City to Belmar, Nov. 16.*



Reverse machine cancel Newark AMF - 3:00 pm cachet:

TIME SAVED IS THE ESSENCE OF SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

**Belmar - from Shark River**

*Fig. 48: Sea Plane stop in Belmar, Shark River, Nov. 16.*



cachet

Machine cancel - 1:00 pm

New Yacht Basin At Belmar, N. J  
"The Gem Resort in a Ring of Water"

# THESE FLIGHTS LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR THE 1938 NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK

Fig. 49: Cover from the 1938 Air Mail Week, May 19, 1938.



Reverse  
Newark AMF – 3:30 pm

cachet  
HISTORIC MORRISTOWN, N.J.  
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS

Machine cancel - 11:30 am

*Many thanks to Don Chafetz for sharing his exhibit.*

## MEMBER NEWS:

### BEQUEST RECEIVED:

We are pleased to acknowledge a bequest from the estate of Doug D'Avino. We were surprised to learn that he had generously allocated a portion of the sale of his collections to the New Jersey Postal History Society. His scholarship and kindness will long be remembered, and this thoughtfulness makes all of us strive for the standards he upheld.

**DUES TIME!** Don't forget to send along your dues payment! We are anxious to keep our membership steady and strong. Pay by mail or by Paypal, by visiting our web site ([www.NJPostalHistory.org](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org)) and following the link at left.

### PLACES TO VISIT:

If you find yourself in Washington, DC with time to spare, try visiting the National Postal Museum. It is full of interesting items and displays, or you can while away the hours examining covers easily accessed on pull-out boards. Few areas of US Postal History have not been included. It is across the street from the Union train station, so easily accessible.

*National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, DC ~ Open 7 days a week, except Dec 25.*

How the mail was transported fills the first floor exhibit gallery, with side exhibits on Civil War Mail, Air Mail, and any number of others. The galleries upstairs will keep you busy, and there is also a Library, full of resources available to the researcher. Make an appointment to do research, otherwise everything else is available any time.



Should you be unable to visit, we also recommend the many online exhibits on the web site – probe a little and you will see just how much is available right from your computer. Go to <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/>.

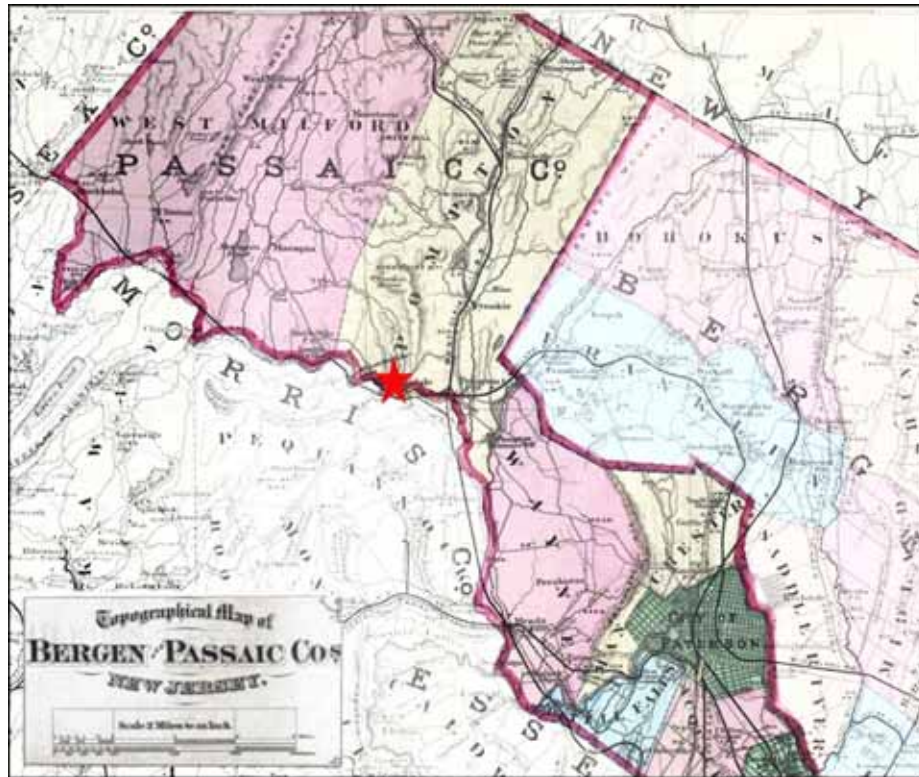
### ERRATA:

Vol. 42, No. 3, Whole No. 195, p. 119: In the second paragraph of Bob Rose's article on "New Jersey's Stampless Mail: County Postmarks," Wilburtha was incorrectly noted as Wilbutha. Thanks to Joe Felcone for catching this.

## HOMETOWN POST OFFICES: Bloomingdale, NJ Zip 07403

Bloomingdale, just west of the tight waist of Passaic County, is a community with a history reaching back to the Revolution, when in the hard winter of January 1781 at Federal Hill, located there, a rebellion occurred in the Jersey Line. Soldiers upset regarding pay and other complaints, and fueled somewhat by liquor, began a trek to Trenton to seek redress of their grievances. It was short-lived, and Washington was quick to suppress it, and mentioned it in a letter to Governor Livingstone on January 27.

As a community on the Pequannock River and located on the Paterson-Hamburg Pike, it was the site of the Bloomingdale Forge, situated there to take advantage of local iron. Other industries (rubber, paper, and a grist mill) grew through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The community extended across the county border into Morris County, and when the New Jersey Midland RR established a line, the Bloomingdale Station was actually located in Morris County. The post office has been located almost all of its existence, from 1840 to today, in Passaic County, but briefly (Nov. 22, 1880 to Jan. 7, 1881, when James Tittle was postmaster) was located across the border in what is now Riverdale in Morris County.



**Fig. 1: An 1872 map showing the location of Bloomingdale along the Paterson-Hamburg Pike and the NJ Midland Railroad.**

Map from Rutgers Cartography site at <http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>.

William Coles<sup>1</sup> notes an early stampless manuscript date of 1849. An early stamped cover (ca. 1857-61) shows a circular handstamp (see *Figure 2* below).



Cover illustration courtesy Don Chafetz

**Fig. 3: A nice strike of a Bloomingdale cds, ca. 1857-61.**

The postmark shown below is an interesting postmaster cancel, showing the name of E(dward) E. Ball. Ball became postmaster in Bloomingdale (Passaic County), NJ, on June 26, 1882, and held that position until September 20, 1886. He was succeeded by Joseph J. Ball who had earlier been the postmaster at Bloomindale, and appears to have been his brother.



Illustration courtesy Don Weicz

**Fig. 4: An E.E. Ball Postmaster handstamp, used Oct. 1, 1883 from Bloomingdale, with a Bloomingdale corner card.**



*Fig. 4a: An enlargement of the PM cancel.*

On October 3, 1883, he took the time to cancel this envelope, sent from Joseph Schuyler with his corner card, to a Robert Wilson, in New York City, with what appears to be a first day cancel. The Washington 2¢ stamp was issued to meet the new lower first class rate of 2¢ for each half ounce.

About 1875, the post office was located at Union Square in a building known as the Ball Brothers Store (General Merchandise). Edward Ball was a Republican and his brother a Democrat, so for a long time one or the other was the Postmaster, depending on which political party was in power.<sup>2</sup>



Illustration from the Doug D'Avino collection online at <http://www.njpostalhistory.org/exhibitionhall.html>

*Fig. 5 A post card view of the Bloomingdale Post Office – but whether this was the Ball store is unknown. Picture post cards were not popular until the early 1900s, so it is not likely that this card shows the Ball Brothers' store. On the left is a Barber Shop.*

A table of postmasters follows:<sup>3</sup>

## HOMETOWN POS: Bloomingdale, NJ ~ Jean Walton

### BLOOMINGDALE, PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY POSTMASTERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
William G. Smith	Postmaster	06/04/1847
John Pool	Postmaster	02/02/1855
William F. Reeve	Postmaster	03/03/1856
Israel C. Reeve	Postmaster	11/15/1858
Alfred Westerfield	Postmaster	05/02/1860
Martin J. Ryerson	Postmaster	07/12/1861
Gilbert M. Cooper	Postmaster	06/24/1872
Joseph J. Ball	Postmaster	05/10/1876
<b>changed to MORRIS COUNTY on November 22, 1880</b>		
James Tintle	Postmaster	11/22/1880
<b>changed to PASSAIC COUNTY on January 7, 1881</b>		
James Walker	Postmaster	01/07/1881
Edward E. Ball	Postmaster	06/26/1882
Joseph J. Ball	Postmaster	02/15/1886
Thomas H. Ridsen	Postmaster	06/17/1889
Charles M. Sever	Postmaster	12/21/1893
Rosie Sever	Postmaster	12/06/1897
John T. Dreher	Postmaster	9/19/1900
Annie Hoskings	Postmaster	4/17/1902
Horace Ricker	Postmaster	2/28/1927
Christian J. Hansen	Postmaster	3/16/1936
Lynwood A. Harby	Postmaster	3/31/1956
Alfonso W. Magurno	Postmaster	4/13/1962
Eugene J. Di Orio	Postmaster	5/3/1980
Larry E. Ball	Postmaster	12/17/1988
Kerry L. Wendt	Postmaster	3/19/2005
Richard D. Spittler	Postmaster	3/17/2007
Benjamin A. Minni	Postmaster	2/9/2013

This post office continues in operation today, at 126 Main St, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403.

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<sup>1</sup> Coles, William C., Jr, *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983.

<sup>2</sup> From "50th Anniversary of Bloomingdale, NJ - 1918-1968" <http://altlaw.com/edball/html/d0060/i00887.htm> 10/25/014.

<sup>3</sup> USPS Postmasterfinder at <http://webpmt.usps.gov/pmt003.cfm> ; & NARA files (M841, Roll 83).





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**WANTED: CULVERS and CULVERS LAKE POSTMARKS.** Culver Lake ephemera. Bayonne ephemera relating to Ahlfeld, Rabe and Lages families. Contact John R. Ahlfeld, 2634 Royal Road, Lancaster, PA 17603-7010, 717-397-7313 or [AHLFELDS@aol.com](mailto:AHLFELDS@aol.com).

**WANTED: MENTAL HEALTH CINDERELLAS and covers.** Contact Dr. Marion Rollings, 101 New Amwell Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844, email [DrMarionRollings@yahoo.com](mailto:DrMarionRollings@yahoo.com), Tel 908-500-7295.

**WANTED: RAILROAD POSTCARDS WHITE BORDER OR EARLIER, RPPC,** especially Warren, Sussex, Ocean, Cumberland Counties, Rockaway and Jefferson Townships. Contact Richard F. Makse, 410 Bogert Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450, or email [maxrail@gmail.com](mailto:maxrail@gmail.com). Tel: 201/493-0230.

**WANTED: FLORIDA STAMPLESS POSTAL HISTORY,** Pre-territorial, Territorial, Statehood, Civil War periods. Contact William Johnson, 13691 Metropolitan Pkwy, Ft. Myers, FL 33912 or email [whjdds@aol.com](mailto:whjdds@aol.com).

**WANTED: BOUND BROOK, UNION CITY, AND HOBOKEN covers.** Also seeking USS LST-1073 Outagamie ship covers. Contact Dr. Marion Rollings, 101 New Amwell Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844, email [DrMarionRollings@yahoo.com](mailto:DrMarionRollings@yahoo.com), Tel 908-500-7295.

**ALWAYS DESIRED: FISH HOUSE, COVERS, BURLINGTON COUNTY advertising covers and corner cards; Burlington County DPOs.** Email Paul W. Schopp at [pwschopp@comcast.net](mailto:pwschopp@comcast.net).

**WANTED: WWI & WWII CENSORED MAIL TO AND FROM TOWACO, NJ 07082.** Email scans to [hughtowaco@optonline.com](mailto:hughtowaco@optonline.com) or mail copy to POB #139, Towaco, NJ 07082-0139.

**WANTED; STAGE COVERS BEFORE 1860.** All Eastern states. Also wanted: Confederate fakes and forgeries. Contact Steven M. Roth, 1280 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW, Suite 209, Washington, DC 20036, 202/293-2563 or email [stevenroth@comcast.net](mailto:stevenroth@comcast.net).

**LOOKING FOR OLDER SUSSEX COUNTY LETTERS AND CARDS.** Contact Edwin Black, 61 Nestor Rd, W. Orange NJ 07052

**SAMUEL SOUTHARD CORRESPONDENCE ALWAYS WANTED!** Always interested. Please contact Jean Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd, Califon, NJ 07830, 908/832-9578 or e-mail with scan to [jwalton971@aol.com](mailto:jwalton971@aol.com).

**WANTED: ANY LETTER BETWEEN PHILA. AND THE UK WHICH IS ENDORSED FOR CONVEYANCE BY STAGE.** Your price paid, with no whining. Contact Dr. John Barwis, PO Box 8035, Holland, MI 49422, [jbarwis@charter.net](mailto:jbarwis@charter.net), 616/399-9299.

**THE CRABBY MILKMAN is always BUYING Pre-1960 U.S. Postcards,** 973-338-9224. Robert J. DeTrolio, 110 Garner Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, [r.detrolio@comcast.net](mailto:r.detrolio@comcast.net).

**STILL SEARCHING** for postal history items relating to **ALLIANCE, NJ** and other Jewish/Agricultural communities. (See article in NJPH February '05 - Vol. 33 No. 1 – Whole #157 pgs. 25-27). All inquiries answered. Contact Prof. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Road #10A, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666.

**WANTED: MOUNTAIN LAKES, BOONTON, PARSIPPANY, TROY HILLS POSTAL HISTORY** items. Describe or send photocopies for my very generous offer. APS (Life member), NJPHS member since 1980. Peter Lemmo, PO Box 557, Whippany NJ 07981-0557.

**WANTED: HUNTERDON COUNTY NJ, BUCKS COUNTY PA** postal history, covers, postcards, pictures, Americana ephemera collateral paper items, all eras,. Contact Jim Walker, 121 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551-1108, 908/806-7883 or email [jjwalker@comcast.net](mailto:jjwalker@comcast.net).

**WANTED: BLOOMFIELD NEW JERSEY Postcards and Ephemera. Please call with all details.** . Robert J. DeTrolio, 110 Garner Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, [r.detrolio@comcast.net](mailto:r.detrolio@comcast.net).

**PATERSON, NJ WANTED INTERESTING COVERS.** Contact George Kramer, P.O. Box 2189 Clifton, NJ 07015, or email [gikk@optonline.net](mailto:gikk@optonline.net).

Any **postal material relating to STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** in Hoboken? Post(al) cards, return address covers, et al. As a professor there, these could make for an interesting exhibit by me. All inquiries answered. Contact Prof. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Road #10A, Teaneck, NJ 07666

**STAMPLESS MANUSCRIPTS WANTED** – New Jersey and Maine only –Please send copies with prices to J. Haynes, Box 358, Allendale, NJ 07401

**COLLECTOR SEEKS LONG BEACH ISLAND POSTAL HISTORY,** especially picture postcards. Please contact Michael White, P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950 or email [mwhite@saipan.com](mailto:mwhite@saipan.com).

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**WANTED: UNUSUAL PICTURE POST CARD of TEANECK, WEST ENGLEWOOD, BOGOTA, NEW BRIDGE, NORTH HACKENSACK, NJ.** Contact Bill Berdan, 475 Forest Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666, 201-310-1156 or by email at [William.Berdan@gmail.com](mailto:William.Berdan@gmail.com).

**WANTED: COVERS, ETC PERTAINING TO THE BLAWENBURG POST OFFICE 08504.** Contact; John J. Best, 65 Sycamore Lane, Skillman, NJ 08558. [jjbest@comcast.net](mailto:jjbest@comcast.net)

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**WANTED FOR EXHIBIT: BETTER COVERS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ, COLONIAL PERIOD TO 1900.** Contact Nathan Zankel, P.O. Box 7449, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, [NATE@NBLS.com](mailto:NATE@NBLS.com), or call 732/572-0377.

**WANTED:** Port Murray, Anderson, Changewater, Port Colden, Karrsville, Rockport, Beatyestown, Pleasant Grove, Stephensburg, Anthony, Woodglen. Arne Englund, P.O. Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865-3012 or [alenglund@aol.com](mailto:alenglund@aol.com).

**GLASSBORO OR GLASSBOROUGH N.J. covers wanted: stamped or stampless.** Send price desired and photocopy to Bill Whiteman, 402 North Harvard Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028, Call 856/881-8858 or email [BillWhit3@juno.com](mailto:BillWhit3@juno.com).

**WANTED: New Jersey POSTMASTER or COUNTY postmarks for exhibit.** Clear strikes on stamps, postal stationery or postal cards. Postmark containing County or Postmaster's name. Send photocopy first to Elliott Idoff, 332 Bleecker St. G-20, New York, NY 10014. 25 yr member APS., [stampfinder47@gmail.com](mailto:stampfinder47@gmail.com).

**WANTED: JERSEY CITY POSTAL HISTORY,** including stampless, advertising, postal, covers, post cards with local views and unusual usages or cancellations, prior to 1940. Contact John A. Trosky, 2 St. Clair Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070-1136/201-896-8846/, or email [JTJersey@verizon.net](mailto:JTJersey@verizon.net).

**WANTED:** Calno, Brotzmanville, Millbrook, Pahaquarry, Dunnfield, Delaware Gap, Flatbrookville, Wallpack Centre, Bevans, Layton, Hainesville, Montague. Arne Englund, P.O. Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865-3012 or [alenglund@aol.com](mailto:alenglund@aol.com).

**WANTED: CLEAR HANDSTAMPS on New Jersey stampless** covers for exhibition collection. Send copies and prices to Robert G. Rose, Robert G. Rose, 18 Balbrook Drive, Mendham, NJ 07945 or e-mail [robertrose25@comcast.net](mailto:robertrose25@comcast.net).

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**WANTED: STAMPLESS THROUGH PRESIDENTS.** For the following New Jersey towns: Allendale, Hohokus, Manasquan, Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Beach, Ridgewood and Wyckoff. PLS send copies with prices to J. Haynes, Box 358, Allendale, NJ 07401.

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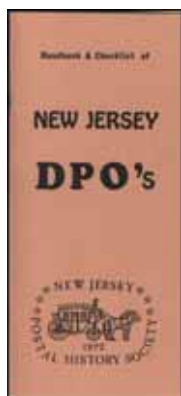
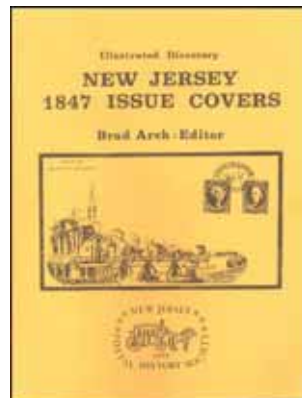
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