



# NJPH

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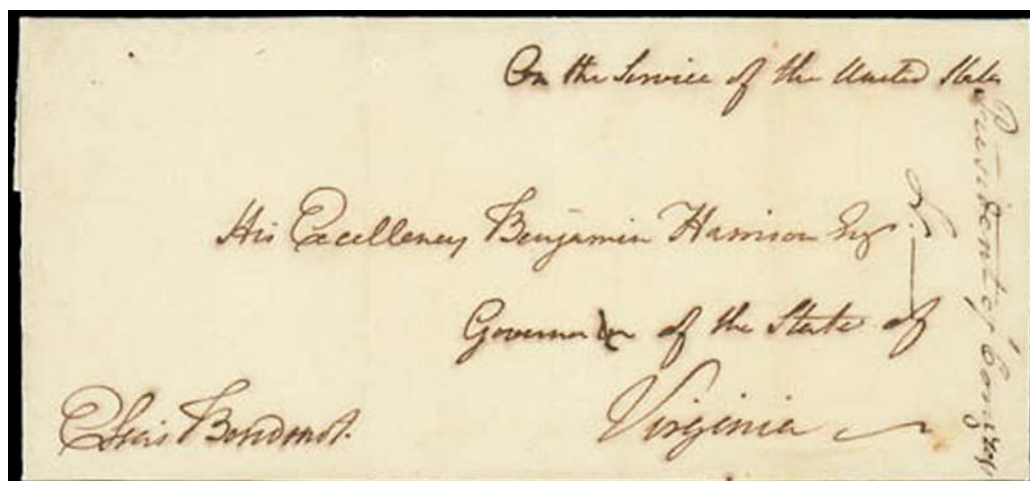
Vol. 40

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November 2012

## *New Jersey Legislative "Free" Franks*



### *Elias Boudinot's free frank as "President of the United States"*

*Dated Princeton October 8 1783, this cover is franked by Elias Boudinot, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress who was then serving as the second President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation. (See Page 185).*

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**OFFICERS**

President: Robert G. Rose, One Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054-2891 [President@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:President@NJPostalHistory.org)

VP & Ed. Emeritus: E. E. Fricks, 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012 [VicePresident@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:VicePresident@NJPostalHistory.org)

Treasurer: Andrew Kupersmit, 143 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840 [Treasurer@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:Treasurer@NJPostalHistory.org)

Secretary: Jean R. Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830 [Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org)

Auction Manager: Arne Englund, P.O. Box 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865 [auktionmanager@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:auktionmanager@NJPostalHistory.org)

Editor-in-Chief/*NJPH*: Robert G. Rose, One Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054-2891 [rrose@daypitney.com](mailto:rrose@daypitney.com)

Layout Editor: Jean R. Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd., Califon, NJ 07830 [Njpostalhistory@aol.com](mailto:Njpostalhistory@aol.com)

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**DUES TIME AGAIN!**

Enclosed with this issue is a form for dues payment for 2013. 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**

At this time of the year, I usually think of the leaves having come off the trees and the onset of winter and the coming snow. However, this year was very different. Hurricane Sandy changed everything. We were among the fortunate. We did not suffer any property damage to our home, but were without power for eleven days. My office in Parsippany was also closed, without power, for the same eleven days. I did manage to catch up on some philatelic reading during the day, but the nights were long and cold. When the power finally came back, and I was able to go back to work, it took me a few days to get back into a normal rhythm. I hope that all of you made it through without significant loss.

This issue of *NJPH* includes a number of articles that should catch your interest – New Jersey “free” legislative franks by the Siskins, a fuller picture of Bridgeton from Doug D’Avino, my own First Federally-Issued Handstamps article, a reminder that it has been 75 years since the Hindenburg crash at Lakehurst, an On the Auction Scene, and a Hometown article on Changewater. My sincere thanks to Jean Walton for her tireless effort in collecting, organizing, and editing our Journal.

Along with this Journal, I have enclosed a dues notice for 2013 with a form for you to fill in for two free ads in *NJPH*. To continue to publish a quality, award-winning journal in the face of ever increasing printing costs and postal rate increases, 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 to your Society along with your dues.

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

**ROBERT G. ROSE**

## NEW JERSEY'S FIRST FEDERALLY-SUPPLIED HANDSTAMPS

By Robert G. Rose

In June 1799, the United States Post Office Department provided 12 post offices with a uniform handstamp to postmark what was then, its stampless mail.<sup>1</sup> The handstamps were manufactured in brass with a 26mm diameter and removable type for the month and day. Both the Newark and Trenton post offices were supplied with the handstamp on June 8, 1799.<sup>2</sup> Below are usages of this handstamp from both post offices.



Fig. 1: 1802 Newark to Philadelphia, unpaid, single letter rate 40-90 miles.

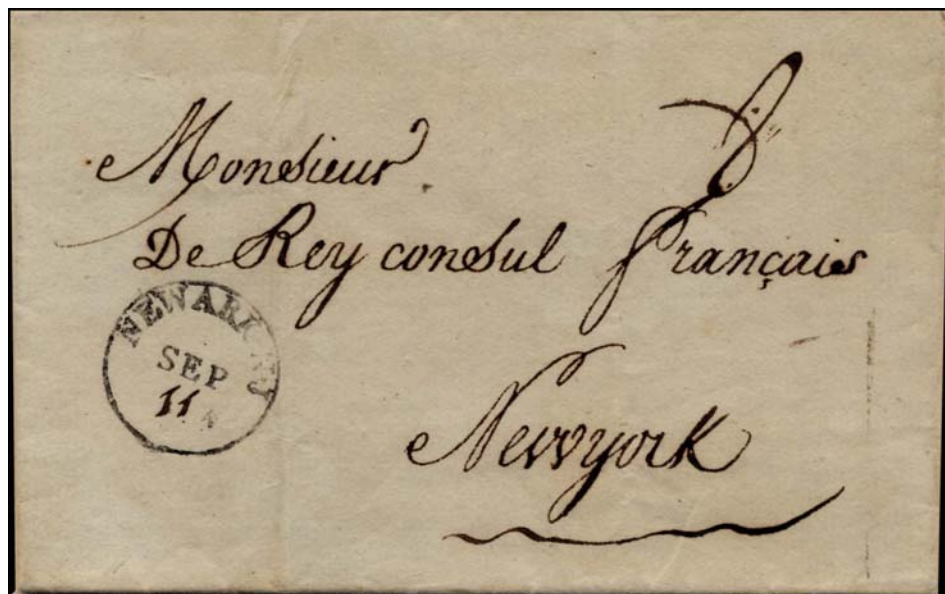


Fig. 2: 1807 Newark to New York City, unpaid, single letter rate not over 40 miles.

This brass handstamp had a long period of use, in Newark from 1799 until 1821,<sup>3</sup> and in Trenton from 1799 until 1827.<sup>4</sup> To the author's knowledge, no first day of use of this handstamp on June 8, 1799 has been recorded from either post office.

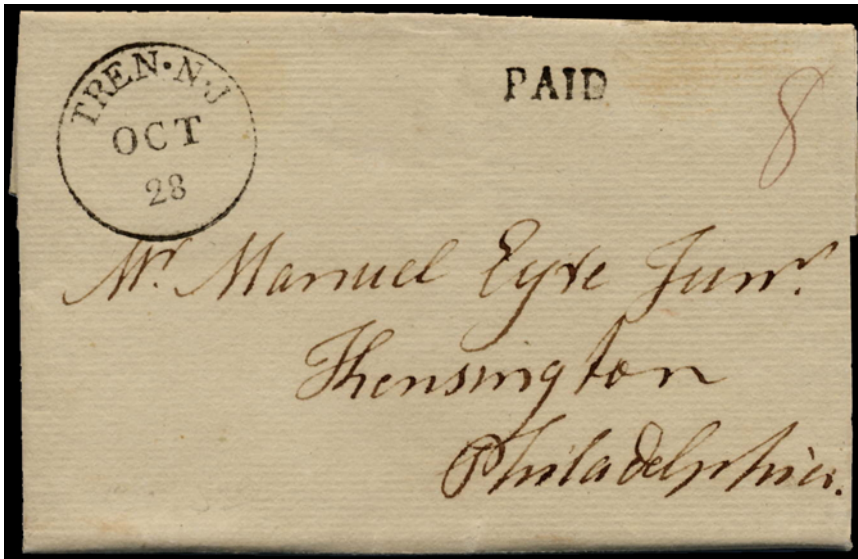


Fig. 3: An 1802 handstamp TREN•NJ used on a cover to Philadelphia.

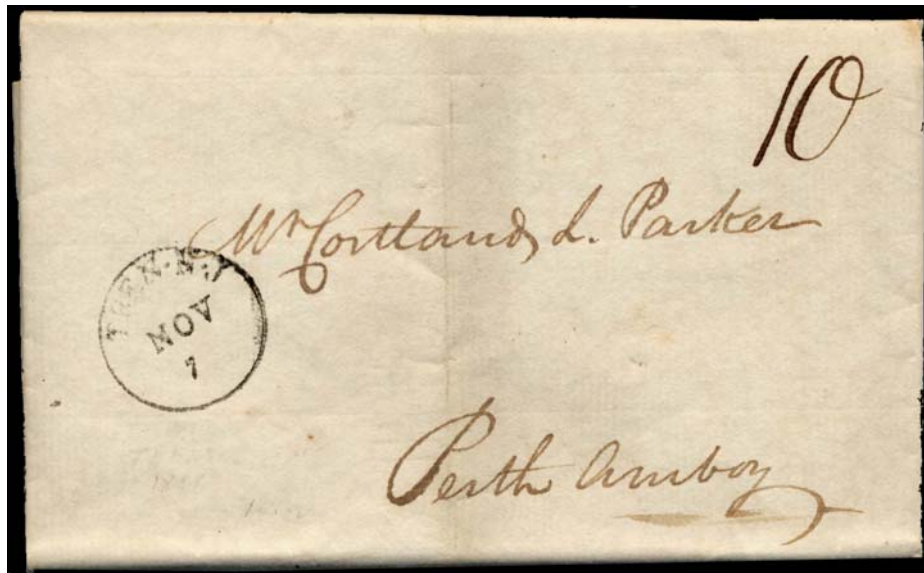


Fig. 4: Another use in 1806, addressed to Cortland Parker in Perth Amboy.

### ENDNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> The 12 post offices include Newark and Trenton, New Jersey; Washington City, Alexandria, Fredericksburg and Petersburg, Virginia; Georgetown Potomac, D.C.; Augusta, Georgia; Newport and Providence, Rhode Island; Newburyport, Massachusetts; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Vol. 1, p. xi, (Fifth Edition 1997). William C. Coles' *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, p. 38 (Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983), erroneously states that 21 post offices received this handstamp, an obvious transposition.

<sup>2</sup> Coles, *op. cit.*, p. 38.

<sup>3</sup> Donald Chafetz, [The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update](#), p. 15 (New Jersey Postal History Society 2004).

<sup>4</sup> Chafetz, *op. cit.*, p. 24.



## LEGISLATIVE FRANKS OF NEW JERSEY

By Ed and Jean Siskin

The franking privilege is the right to send and or receive mail free from postage. The word *frank* comes from the Latin via French and Middle English and means **free**. Samuel Johnson's famous dictionary of 1755 defines *Frank* as "A letter which pays no postage" and *To Frank* as "To exempt letters from postage."

Currently we use the redundant term "free frank" but this is a modern philatelic invention. The term "free frank" does not appear in any British or American legislation or regulation that we've been able to find. Insofar as we can determine, "free frank" is a term which started to be used in the 1920's by stamp dealers. They had begun the illogical use of "franked" to refer to the stamps on a cover and needed a way to refer to franked stampless covers.



**Fig. 1:** Edward Stern & Ex-President Hoover.

The term "free frank" was permanently implanted in our lexicon by Edward Stern in his 1936 book *History of "Free Franking" of Mail in the United States*. Stern was a major stamp dealer of his day and one of the first serious collectors of franked material. We had an original photograph, *Figure 1*, of Stern showing his Frank Collection to ex-President Hoover at the 1936 New York International Philatelic Exhibition. Wilson Hulme talked us into donating that photograph to the Smithsonian where it now resides. Stern's book pictures an incredible collection of rare and desirable franked covers. However, some of the discussion in the book is not as fully researched as we would like and must be treated with caution.

The franking privilege actually dates to 1652. The English Civil War was fought from 1642 until 1651, between supporters of Parliament and supporters of the Crown. The Parliament won, King Charles I lost his head, and the Cromwells ruled England until 1660.

One of the causes of the war had been the excessive privileges claimed by royalty. Shortly after winning, Parliament began granting themselves privileges. One of these, in 1652, was the right of members of Parliament to send and receive mail free, a significant economic advantage since postal rates were so high. This was called the *franking privilege*.

When the English Monarchy was restored in 1660, Parliament retained the franking privilege and the King and senior government officials were granted the privilege as well.

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress established the new American General Post Office. On November 8, 1775, the delegates of the United Colonies passed a resolution which granted themselves the right to send and receive mail free of postage. The resolution specified that "The members have engaged upon their honor not to frank or enclose any letters but their own."

**LEGISLATIVE FRANKS OF NJ ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

From the beginning, this franking privilege was frequently abused. In 1781, several delegates led by the highly respected delegate from Connecticut, Roger Sherman, tried, unsuccessfully, to revoke the franking privilege. Further attempts to abolish or restrict franking have continued to this day with mixed success.

*Table 1* outlines the resolutions and laws that have been approved over the years to define the franking privilege as it relates to legislators. A detailed transcript of all franking legislation, of which we are aware, will be posted on the NJPHS website from which it can be downloaded for your information.

<b><i>Table 1 ~ Laws &amp; Regulations Regarding Legislator Franking Privileges</i></b>
<b>Effective November 8, 1775</b> - "That all letters to and from the delegates of the United Colonies, during the sessions of Congress, pass, and be carried free of postage, the members having engaged upon their honour not to frank or enclose any letters but their own."
<b>Effective October 18, 1782</b> - Applied franking privileges under the Articles of Confederation and resolved "... that letters, packets, and despatches to and from the members and secretary of Congress, while actually attending Congress ... shall pass and be carried free of postage."
<b>Effective April 23, 1787</b> - Applied the franking privilege to members of the Constitutional Convention
<b>Effective June 1, 1792</b> - This law established the General Post Office under the new U.S. Constitution and specified "That the following letters and packets, and no other, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage, under such restrictions, as are hereinafter provided; that is to say: ... all letters and packets, not exceeding two ounces in weight, to or from any member of the Senate or House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and twenty days after such session."
<b>Effective June 1, 1794</b> - "That the following letters and packets, and no other, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage, under such restrictions as are herein after provided; that is to say; all letters and packets, to or from the President or Vice President of the United States, and all letters and packets, not exceeding two ounces in weight, to or from any member of the Senate, or House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and twenty days after such session; ... That if any person shall counterfeit the hand-writing of any other person, in order to evade the payment of postage, such person or persons so offending, and being thereof duly convicted, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the sum of one hundred dollars"
<b>Effective April 30, 1810</b> - "And be further enacted, That letters and packets, to and from the following officers of the United States, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage ... each member of the Senate, and each member and delegate of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States; the secretary of the Senate and clerk of the House of Representatives, provided each letter or packet shall not exceed two ounces in weight, and during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and twenty days after such session, and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for; ..."
<b>Effective March 31, 1816</b> - "That letters and packets to and from any member of the Senate, or member or delegate of the House of Representatives of the United States, the secretary of the Senate, and clerk of the House of Representatives, shall be conveyed free of postage for thirty days

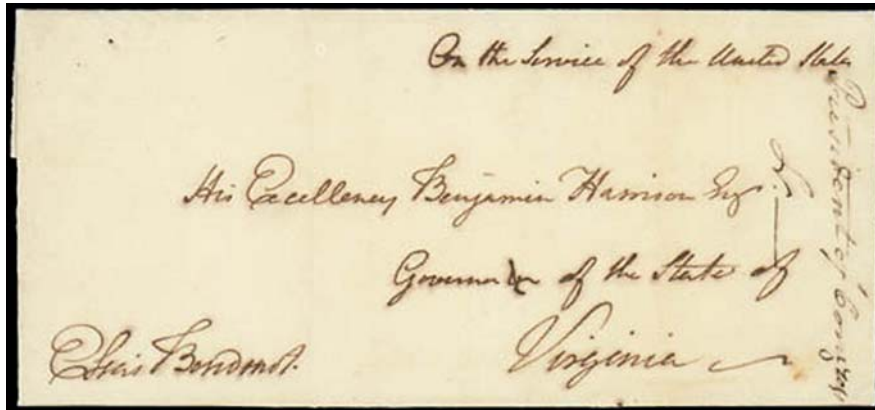
<b>Table 1 ~ Laws &amp; Regulations Regarding Legislator Franking Privileges</b>
<p>previous to each session of Congress, and for thirty days after the termination thereof: <i>Provided always</i>, That no letter or packet shall exceed two ounces in weight, and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for.”</p>
<p><b>Effective December 19, 1821</b> - “... That the Members of Congress, the Delegates from Territories, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, be, and they are hereby, authorized to transmit, free of postage, to any post-office within the United States, or the Territories thereof any documents which have been, or may be, printed by order of either House.</p>
<p><b>Effective March 3, 1825</b> - “That letters and packets to and from the following officers of the United States, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage. ... each member of the Senate, and each member and delegate of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, the secretary of the Senate, and clerk of the House of Representatives, provided each letter or packet, (except documents printed by the order of either House of Congress,) shall not exceed two ounces in weight, and during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and sixty days before and alter such session; and in case of excess of weight, that excess alone shall be paid for.</p> <p>That, if any person shall frank any letter or letters, other than those written by himself, or by his order, on the business of his office, he shall, on conviction thereof, pay a fine of ten dollars, and it shall be the especial duty of postmasters to prosecute for said offence: .... And if any person, having the right to receive his letters free of postage, shall receive, enclosed to him, any letter or packet addressed to a person not having that right, it shall be his duty to return the same to the post-office, marking thereon the place from whence it came, that it may be charged with postage. And if any person shall counterfeit the hand-writing or frank of any person, or cause the same to be done, in order to avoid the payment of postage, each person, so offending, shall pay for every such offence, five hundred dollars.”</p>
<p><b>Effective April 3, 1826</b> - “That the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States be and he is hereby, authorized to frank and to receive letters and packages by mail, free of postage.”</p>
<p><b>Effective March 2, 1833</b> - That so much of the twenty-seventh section of the act approved third of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, as restricts the franking privilege of members of Congress to the period of sixty days before and after each session, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed; and it shall be lawful for the said privilege to be exercised by each member of Congress from the period of sixty days before he takes his seat in Congress, until the meeting of the next Congress, and that said privilege shall be extended to all members of the present Congress until the next session.</p>
<p><b>Effective July 1, 1845</b> - ... members of Congress and delegates from Territories, may receive letters, not exceeding two ounces in weight, free of post. age, during the recess of Congress, anything to the contrary in this act notwithstanding; and the same franking privilege which is granted by this act to the members of the two Houses of Congress, is hereby extended to the Vice President of the United States; ...</p>
<p><b>Effective March 1, 1847</b> - Former members were authorized to send and receive public documents, letters and packages under their frank until the first Monday of December following the expiration of their term of office.</p>
<p><b>Effective March 3, 1863</b> - Franking privileges for former members were withdrawn.</p>
<p><b>Effective June 8, 1872</b> - Franking privileges for former members were restored.</p>
<p><b>Effective July 1, 1873</b> - That the franking privilege be, and the same hereby is, abolished from and after the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and that thenceforth</p>

<b>Table 1 ~ Laws &amp; Regulations Regarding Legislator Franking Privileges</b>
<p>all official correspondence, of whatever nature, and other mailable matter sent from or addressed to any officer of the government or person now authorized to frank such matter, shall be chargeable with the same rates of postage as may be lawfully imposed upon like matter sent by or addressed to other persons.</p>
<p><b>Effective March 3, 1875 -</b></p> <p>SEC. 5. That from and after the passage of this act, the Congressional Record, or any part thereof, or speeches or reports therein contained, shall, under the frank of a member-of Congress, or delegate, to be written by himself, be carried in the mail free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe; and that public documents already printed, or ordered to be printed, for the use of either House of Congress may pass free through the mails upon the frank of any member, or delegate of the present Congress, written by himself, until the first day of December anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-five.</p> <p>SEC. 7. That seeds transmitted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, or by any member of Congress or delegate receiving seeds for distribution from said Department, together with agricultural reports emanating from that Department, and so transmitted, shall, under such regulations as the Postmaster-General shall prescribe, pass through the mails free of charge. And the provisions of this section shall apply to ex-members of Congress and ex-delegates for the period of nine months after the expiration of their terms as members and delegates.</p>
<p><b>Effective March 3, 1891 -</b> That the members and members elect of Congress, shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, letters to any officer of the Government when addressed officially.</p>
<p><b>Effective January 12, 1895 -</b> The Vice-President, Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives may send and receive through the mail all public documents printed by order of Congress; and the name of the Vice-President, Senator, Representative, Delegate, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House shall be written thereon, with the proper designation of the office he holds; and the provisions of this section shall apply to each of the persons named therein until the first day of December following the expiration of their respective terms of office. ...</p> <p>The Vice-President, members and members-elect of and Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any Government official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding one ounce in weight, upon official or departmental business.</p>
<p><b>Effective April 28, 1904 -</b> Franking weight limit raised to four ounces.</p>
<p><b>Effective June 26, 1906 -</b> Congress prohibited the use of a frank by or for anyone not legally entitled to use it.</p>
<p><b>Effective 1961 -</b> Franked mail could be sent to "Postal Patron" without a name or street address.</p>
<p><b>Effective 1962 -</b> "Postal Patron" franking was prohibited, based on objections raised by the Senate.</p>
<p><b>Effective 1963 -</b> Senate and House could handle "Postal Patron" mail as each body saw fit. This was the first time that Senate and House franking rules differed.</p>
<p><b>Effective 1973 to Present -</b> Many different changes were issued both to minimize the use of franking for political purposes and to reduce cost.</p>



The obvious first question is, what is the earliest New Jersey legislative frank known. The earliest of which we are aware is shown in *Figure 2*. It is datelined “Princeton Octr 8 1783” and it is franked by Elias Boudinot, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress who was then serving as the second President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation.

**Fig. 2: Elias Boudinot frank as “President of the United States,” October 8, 1783.**



*Figure 3* is another frank of Boudinot’s dated January 23, 1792, when he was serving in the House of Representatives.

**Fig. 3: Jan 23 1792 Boudinot frank as a Congressman.**



*Figure 4* is a cover, dated April 8, 1802, franked by Aaron Ogden, a Revolutionary War hero who served as a Senator from 1801 to 1803.

**Fig. 4: Apr 8 1802 Aaron Ogden frank as Senator.**

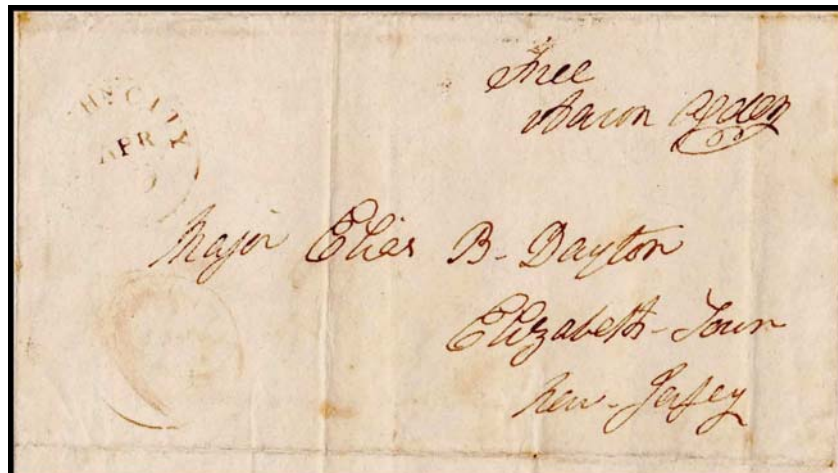


Figure 5 is franked by Lewis Condict whose term in Congress ended March 3, 1833, almost five months before the date of this letter. As authorized by the law effective March 2, 1833, he continued to exercise the franking privilege until the next Congress was in session. This was interpreted to mean the first Monday in the December following the expiration of his term.



Fig. 5: July 29, 1833 Lewis Condict frank as a former Congressman.

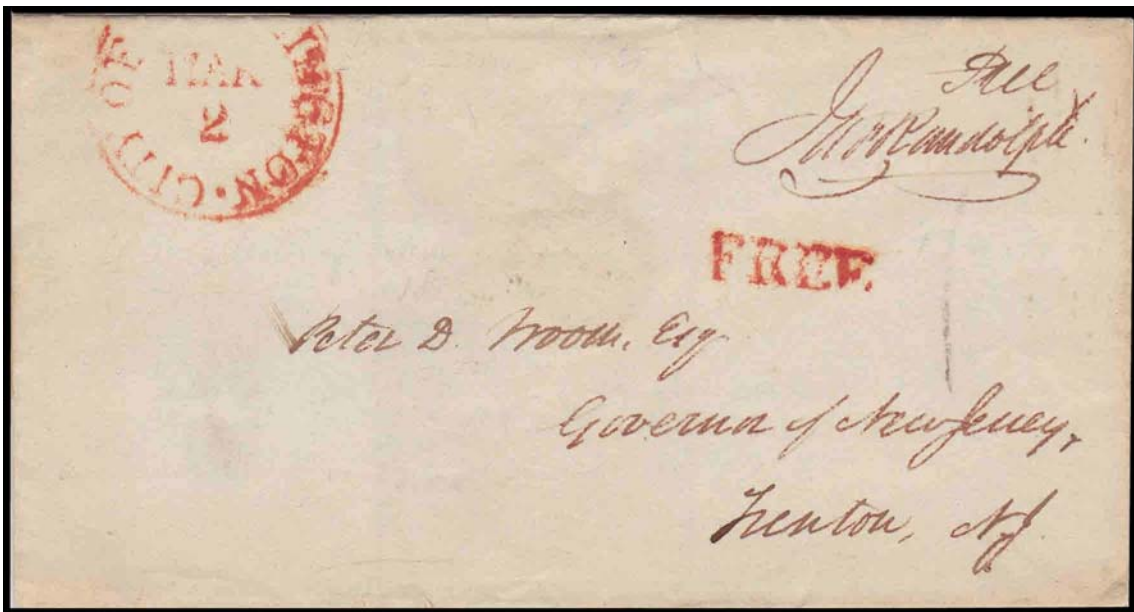


Fig. 6: Joseph Randolph frank as Congressman, circa 1837.

One of the fascinating aspects of studying franks is that it offers a wonderful view of the state as it existed in an earlier time. Consider the election of 1838. At that time, New Jersey elected six representatives on an “at large” basis. The entire state voted on the slate and the six people who received the most votes were elected to Congress. Both the Whigs and the Democrats fielded six candidates. The first returns showed one Whig, Joseph F. Randolph,

whose frank is shown in *Figure 6*, was elected without question. The other five seats were in dispute. It became clear that Whig clerks in a number of counties blatantly omitted returns from many Democratic strongholds. Despite the obvious frauds, Governor William Pennington and his all-Whig council certified the election results for all the Whig candidates. Governor Pennington fixed the “broad seal” of the state of New Jersey and six Whigs were sent to Washington. The Congress was controlled by the Democrats at that time. They accepted Randolph, but refused to seat the other five Whigs. They were replaced by the five top Democratic vote getters. The five ran again in 1840 and were successful. *Figures 7 and 8*, are franks of William Halstead and John P. B. Maxwell, two of the Whigs who were not seated in 1838 but were seated two years later. Governor William Pennington served in the Congress from 1859 to 1861. His 1860 frank, as a congressman and Speaker of the House, is shown in *Figure 9*. This became known as the “Broad Seal War.” Clearly vote manipulation is not just a modern phenomenon.

The abuse of the franking privilege continued and in many cases got worse. In an article in the November 2010 issue of the *NJPH*, we wrote about senatorial franks illegally used to support the McClellan presidential campaign of 1864. However, there were some franking abuses that were condoned. For example, at the start of the Civil War a number of Congressmen and other government officials would visit newly arrived young soldiers who had come to Washington from their home states and would frank their letters home. Although we have several such covers from other states, we have never seen one from New Jersey and hope that readers can provide information on such covers that may exist.

**“Broad Seal War” participants and their franks:**



*Fig. 7: 1837 William Halstead frank as a Congressman.*



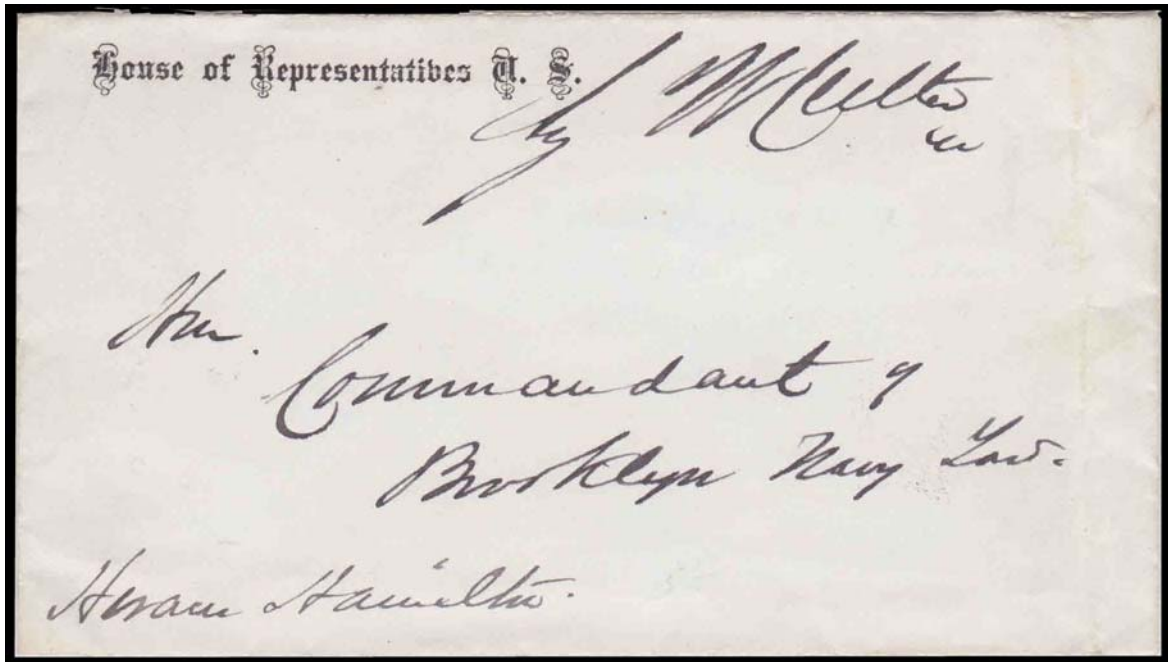
*Fig. 8: 1841 John P. B. Maxwell frank as a Congressman.*



*Fig. 9: Former Governor William Pennington 1860 frank as Speaker of the House.*

Because of the level of abuse, it was estimated that one quarter of the letters sent from Washington in the early 1870s were sent free. Therefore effective July 1, 1873, the franking privilege was abolished. Members of the Executive Branch used the newly issued Official Stamps for their mail. The Congress purchased regular stamps and provided them to members for use on their official mail. Occasionally, one can find mail with a Congressional signature, a house or senate return address and a stamp paying the postage. They are very scarce, and we have never seen one from New Jersey.

This abolition of the franking privilege was very unpopular. Over the next 22 years it was very gradually reinstated. Effective March 3, 1875, legislators could send printed material or seeds with a frank. *Figure 10* shows a frank by Augustus W. Cutler, dated 1876, which forwards a printed speech of his to the commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Such franks between 1875 and 1895 are scarce.



*Fig. 10: 1876 Augustus Cutler frank as a Congressman.*

Effective March 3, 1891, legislators were granted the franking privilege to send official mail to any officer of the government.

Finally, effective January 12, 1895, legislators were granted the privilege of sending, but not receiving, “free through the mails and under their frank, mail not exceeding one ounce in weight, upon official or departmental business.”

The 20th century had many changes to franking laws and rules as well. Most were directed to minimizing misuse and fraud, and to preventing blatant use of franks for political purposes. It’s an interesting field that has received little attention because they generally involve printed franks. One of the many areas to check out involves activities resulting from the death of a member. The spouse, or another family member, has the franking privilege for a limited period. Also, the member’s staff continued to use printed frank envelopes that were co-stamped by the Clerk of the House or other authorized officials. Such usages are scarce and quite interesting.

Looking at the legislators from New Jersey, there are two dynasties that deserve mention.

Frederick Frelinghuysen was a Delegate (1778-1783) and Senator (1793-1796). He was the father of Theodore Frelinghuysen (Senate 1829-1835), grandfather of Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen (Senate 1866-1877), great-grandfather of Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen (Senate 1917-1923), great-great-great-grandfather of Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr. (Congress 1953-1975); great-great-great-great-grandfather of Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (Congress 1995-Present). *Figures 11 and 12* show franks by Theodore Frelinghuysen and Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen.

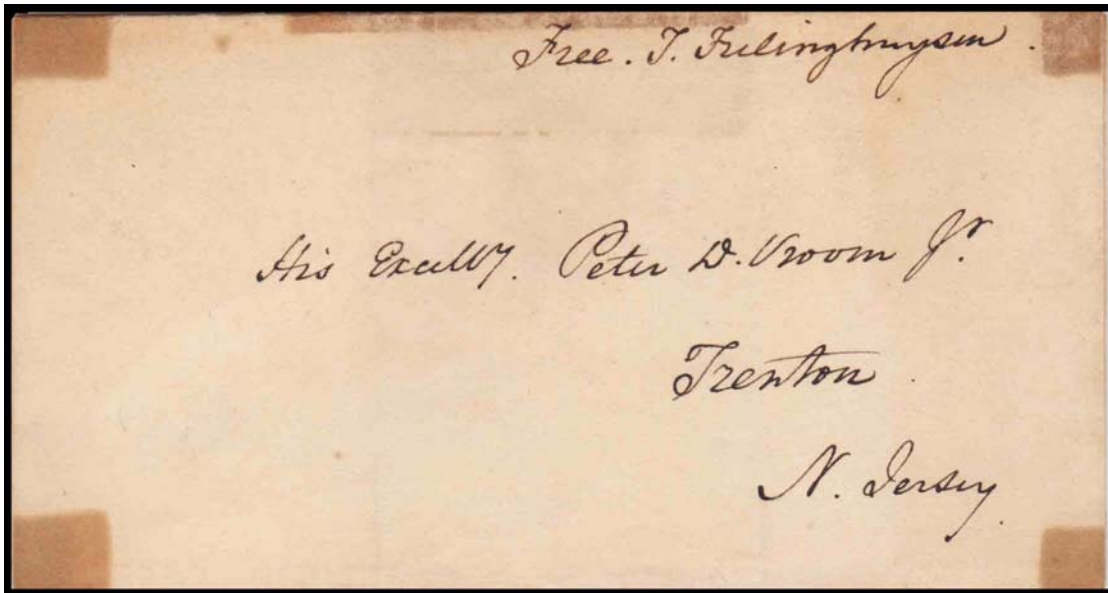


Fig. 11: 1832 Theodore Frelinghuysen frank as Senator.

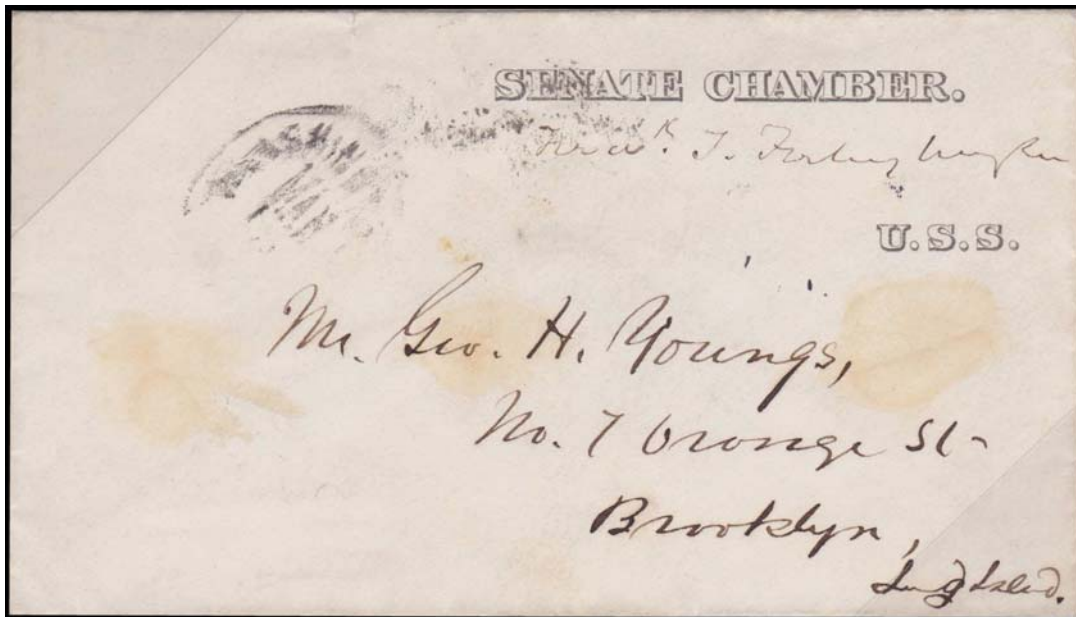


Fig. 12: Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen frank as a Senator (circa 1869).

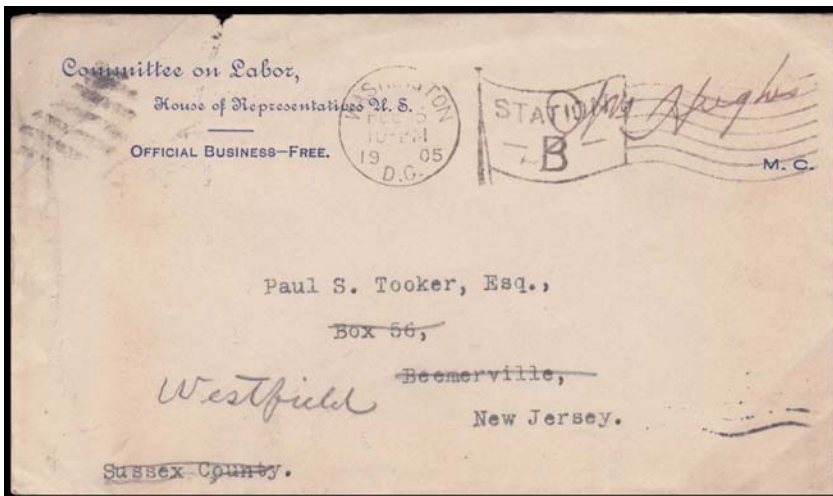
John Kean, a delegate (1785-7) from South Carolina, married Susan Livingston, the sister of William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor. Kean's frank is shown in *Figure 13*. His New Jersey progeny included Hamilton Fish Kean (Senate 1929-1935), John Kean (Senate and House, 1883-1911), Robert Winthrop Kean (House, 1939-1959) and former governor Thomas Kean. His New York progeny included a senator and three representatives.





*Fig. 13: 1786 John Kean frank as a South Carolina delegate to the Continental Congress*

The normal format for indicating a legislator’s frank was a handwritten “free” and the legislator’s signature. Most reported franks before 1895 follow this format. There are a few exceptions specifically a few legislators used a rubber stamp signature or had their secretary sign their names for them, but this was quite uncommon. The wording in the 1895 law reinstating congressional free franks is ambiguous and within ten years most franking signatures were either rubber stamped or printed. To this day, a handwritten frank is valid but rare. *Figure 14* shows Congressman William Hughes handwritten frank in 1905. *Figure 15* shows this same Congressman’s frank two years later and his signature is printed.



*Fig. 14: 1905 William Hughes handwritten frank as a Congressman.*

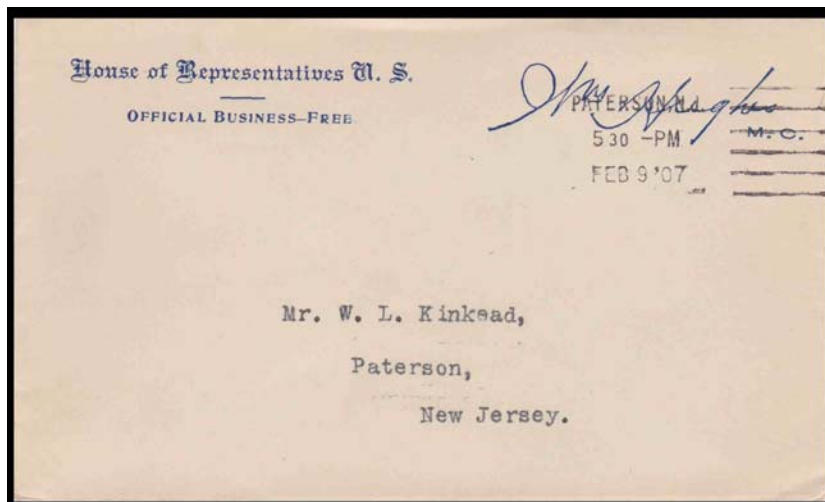


Fig. 15: 1907 William Hughes printed frank as a Congressman.

Table 2 lists every New Jersey legislator, starting with the creation of the Continental Congress to the present day. In the table, known franked covers are listed. These are either covers we have or covers listed in the American Stampless Cover Catalogue. We would be very interested in learning about any other franked covers known to exist. Send to Jean and Ed Siskin at [jeananded@comcast.net](mailto:jeananded@comcast.net).

For reference in the attached *Table 2*, below are abbreviations of political parties:

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

(D)	Democratic	(C)	Crawford Republican
(R)	Republican	(DR)	Democratic Republican
(W)	Whig	(JR)	Jackson Republican
(F)	Federalist	(J)	Jacksonian
(A)	Adams	(O)	Opposition Party
(ACR)	Adams-Clay Republican	(PA)	Pro-Administration
(AJ)	Anti-Jacksonian	( )	No Party Claimed
(ALD)	Anti-Lecompton Democrat		

Only the first half of the checklist table is shown below. The rest will follow in the next issue of *NJPH*. The full list will be available online, both in alphabetical order and in date order (in pdf format), as will full legislation relating to free franks. Go to:

Legislative Franks list: [www.NJPostalHistory.org/media/pdf/njfreefranks.pdf](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org/media/pdf/njfreefranks.pdf)  
& for free frank legislation at [www.NJPostalHistory.org/media/pdf/njfflaws.pdf](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org/media/pdf/njfflaws.pdf)

The authors would like thank Steve Roth for finding some particularly elusive laws and Jean Walton for figuring out how to present the Table 2 data.

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NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
ACKERMAN, Ernest Robinson	1863-1931	Rep	(R)	3/4/1919 - 10/18/1931 (Death)	1931 +			
ADDONIZIO, Hugh Joseph	1914-1981	Rep	(D)	1/3/1949 - 6/30/1962 (Res)				
ADLER, John H.	1959-2011	Rep	(D)	1/3/2009 - 1/3/2011				
ADRAIN, Garnett Bowditch	1815-1878	Rep	(D)/(ALD)	3/4/1857 - 3/3/1861				
ALLEN, Henry Crosby	1872-1942	Rep	(R)	3/4/1905 - 3/3/1907				
ANDREWS, Robert Ernest	1957-	Rep	(D)	11/6/1990 - Present				
APPLEBY, Stewart Hoffman	1890-1964	Rep	(R)	11/3/1925 - 3/3/1927			Son of Theodore Frank Appleby	
APPLEBY, Theodore Frank	1864-1924	Rep	(R)	3/4/1921 - 3/3/1923			Father of Stewart Hoffman Appleby	
AUCHINCLOSS, James Coats	1885-1976	Rep	(R)	1/3/1943 - 1/3/1965				
AUF DER HEIDE, Oscar Louis	1874-1945	Rep	(D)	3/4/1925 - 1/3/1935				
AYCRIGG, John Bancker	1798-1856	Rep	(W)	3/4/1837 - 3/3/1839; 3/4/1841 - 3/3/1841			Member-elect to the 26th Congress but was not seated	
BACHARACH, Isaac	1870-1956	Rep	(R)	3/4/1915 - 1/3/1937				
BAIRD, David	1839-1927	Sen	(R)	2/23/1918 - 3/3/1919				
BAIRD, David, Jr.	1881-1955	Sen	(R)	11/30/1929 - 12/2/1930				
BAKER, Ezra	1765c-Unk	Rep	(R)	3/4/1815 - 3/3/1817				
BAKER, Jacob Thompson	1847-1919	Rep	(D)	3/4/1913 - 3/3/1915				
BARBOUR, William Warren	1888-1943	Sen	(R)	12/1/1931 - 1/3/1937; 1/3/1939 - 11/22/1943 (Death)				
BATEMAN, Ephraim	1780-1829	Rep	(R)	3/4/1815 - 3/3/1823				
BATEMAN, Ephraim	1780-1829	Sen	(A)	11/9/1826 - 1/12/1829		X		
BEATTY, John	1749-1826	Del	( )	1783-85				
BEATTY, John	1749-1826	Rep	(PA)	3/4/1793 - 3/3/1795				
BENNET, Benjamin	1764-1840	Rep	(R)	3/4/1815 - 3/3/1819				
BENNY, Allan	1867-1942	Rep	(D)	3/4/1903 - 3/3/1905				
BERGEN, Christopher Augustus	1841-1905	Rep	(R)	3/4/1889 - 3/3/1893				
BINES, Thomas	Unk-1826	Rep	(R)	11/2/1814 - 3/3/1815			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Jacob Hufty	
BIRCH, William Fred	1870-1946	Rep	(R)	11/5/1918 - 3/3/1919			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John H. Capstick	
BIRD, John Taylor	1829-1911	Rep	(D)	3/4/1869 - 3/3/1873	X			

**LEGISLATIVE FRANKS OF NJ ~ Ed & Jean Siskin**

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
BISHOP, James	1816-1895	Rep	(O)	3/4/1855 - 3/3/1857	1856			
BLAKE, John Lauris	1831-1899	Rep	(R)	3/4/1879 - 3/3/1881				
BLODGETT, Rufus	1834-1910	Sen	(D)	3/4/1887 - 3/3/1893				
BLOOMFIELD, Joseph	1753-1823	Rep	(R)	3/4/1817 - 3/3/1821			Governor of NJ 1801-1812	
BOUDINOT, Elias	1740-1821	Del	( )	1777-78, 1781-83	1783 +		President in 1782 and 1783	
BOUDINOT, Elias	1740-1821	Rep	(PA)	3/4/1789 - 3/3/1795	1792	X	Commissary general of prisoners in the Revolutionary Army 1776-1779	
BOYD, Adam	1746-1835	Rep	(R)	3/4/1803 - 3/3/1805; 3/8/1808 - 3/3/1813			Elected to the Tenth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ezra Darby	
BRADLEY, William Warren (Bill)	1943-	Sen	(D)	1/3/1979 - 1/3/1997				
BRADY, Nicholas Frederick	1930-	Sen	(R)	4/20/1982 - 12/27/1982 (Res)			Appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Harrison A. Williams, Jr.	
BREARLEY, David		CCD	( )	5/25/1787-9/17/1787				
BREMNER, Robert Gunn	1874-1914	Rep	(D)	3/4/1913 -2/5/1914 (Death)				
BREWER, John Hart	1844-1900	Rep	(R)	3/4/1881 - 3/3/1885				
BRIGGS, Frank Obadiah	1851-1913	Sen	(R)	3/4/1907 - 3/3/1913				
BRIGHAM, Lewis Alexander	1831-1885	Rep	(R)	3/4/1897 - 3/3/1881				
BROWN, George Houston	1810-1865	Rep	(W)	3/4/1851 - 3/3/1853	1852			
BROWNE, Charles	1875-1947	Rep	(D)	3/4/1923 - 3/3/1925				
BROWNING, William John	1850-1920	Rep	(R)	11/7/1911 - 3/24/192- (Death)			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Henry C. Loudenslager	
BUCHANAN, James	1839-1900	Rep	(R)	3/4/1885 - 3/3/1893				
BURNET, William	1730-1791	Del	( )	1780-81				
CADMUS, Cornelius Andrew	1844-1902	Rep	(D)	3/4/1891 - 3/3/1895				
CADWALADER, Lambert	1742-1823	Del	( )	1784-87				
CADWALADER, Lambert	1742-1823	Rep	(PA)	3/4/1789 - 3/3/1791; 3/4/1793 - 3/3/1795				
CAHILL, William Thomas	1912-1996	Rep	(R)	1/3/1959 - 1/19/1970 (Res)			Governor of NJ 1970-74	
CANFIELD, Gordon	1898-1972	Rep	(R)	1/3/1941 - 1/3/1961	1942p			
CAPSTICK, John Henry	1856-1918	Rep	(R)	3/4/1915 - 3/17/1918 (Death)				
CASE, Clifford Philip	1904-1982	Rep	(R)	1/3/1945 - 8/16/1953 (Res)				
CASE, Clifford Philip	1904-1982	Sen	(R)	1/3/1955 - 1/3/1979				

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
CASSEDY, George	1783-1842	Rep	(R)(DR)(J)	3/4/1821 - 3/3/1827			Postmaster of Hackensack 6/10/1805-1/1/1806	
CATTELL, Alexander Gilmore	1816-1894	Sen	(R)	9/19/1866 - 3/3/1871		X	Elected to succeed John P. Stockton, whose seat was declared vacant	
CAVICCHIA, Peter Angelo	1879-1967	Rep	(R)(W)	3/4/1931 - 1/3/1937	1932p			
CHETWOOD, William	1771-1857	Rep	(W)	12/5/1836 - 3/3/1837			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Philemon Dickerson	
CLARK, Abraham	1726-1794	Del	( )	1776-78, 1779-83, 1786-89				
CLARK, Abraham	1726-1794	Rep	(PA)	3/4/1791 - 9/15/1794 (Death)				
CLARK, Alvah Augustus	1840-1912	Rep	(D)	3/4/1877 - 3/3/1881			Postmaster Somerville 5/26/1896-6/15/1899	
CLARK, Amos, Jr.	1828-1912	Rep	(R)	3/4/1873 - 3/3/1875				
CLAWSON, Isaiah Dunn	1822-1879	Rep	(O)	3/4/1855 - 3/3/1859				
CLEVELAND, Orestes	1829-1896	Rep	(D)	3/4/1869 - 3/3/1871				
COBB, George Thomas	1813-1870	Rep	(D)	3/4/1861 - 3/3/1863				
CONDUCT, Lewis	1772-1862	Rep	(R)(DR)(A)(AJ)	3/4/1811 - 3/3/1817; 3/4/1821 - 3/3/1833	1826, 1833+		First President of Morris & Essex Railroad Co.	
CONDICT, Silas	1738-1801	Del	( )	1781-84				
CONDIT, John	1755-1834	Rep	(DR)	3/4/1799 - 3/3/1803, 3/4/1819 - 11/4/1819 (Resigned)			father of Silas Condit	
CONDIT, John	1755-1834	Sen	(DR)	9/1/1803 - 3/3/1809; 3/21/1809 - 3/3/1817		X		
CONDIT, Silas	1778-1861	Rep	(A)	3/4/1831 - 3/3/1833			son of John Condit	
COOPER, John	1729-1785	Del	( )	1776 (Did Not Attend)				
COOPER, Richard Matlack	1768-1843	Rep	(A)	3/4/1829 - 3/3/1833				
COOPER, William Raworth	1793-1856	Rep	(D)	3/4/1839 - 3/3/1841				
CORNISH, Johnston	1858-1920	Rep	(D)	3/4/1893 - 3/3/1895				
CORZINE, Jon Stevens	1947-	Sen	(D)	1/3/2001 - 1/17/2006 (Resigned)			Governor	
COURTER, James Andrew	1941-	Rep	(R)	1/3/1979 - 1/3/1991				
COX, James	1753-1810	Rep	(R)	3/4/1809 - 9/12/1810 (Death)			Rev War BG	
COXE, William, Jr.	1762-1831	Rep	(F)	3/4/1813 - 3/3/1815				
CRANE, Stephen	1709-1780	Del	( )	1774-76				
CUTLER, Augustus William	1827-1897	Rep	(D)	3/4/1875 - 3/3/1879	1876			

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NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
DALY, William Davis	1851-1900	Rep	(D)	3/4/1899 - 7/31/1900 (Death)				
DANIELS, Dominick Vincent	1908-1987	Rep	(D)	1/3/1959 - 1/3/1977				
DARBY, Ezra	1768-1808	Rep	(R)	3/4/1805 - 1/27/1808 (Death)				
DAVENPORT, Franklin	1755-1832	Rep	(F)	3/4/1799 - 3/3/1801				
DAVENPORT, Franklin	1755-1832	Sen	(F)	12/5/1798 - 3/3/1799		X	Appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Rutherford, Nephew of Benjamin Franklin; Mgen NJ Militia	
DAYTON, Jonathan	1760-1824	CCD	( )	5/25/1787-9/17/1787				
DAYTON, Jonathan	1760-1824	Del	( )	1787-88				
DAYTON, Jonathan	1760-1824	Rep	(F)	3/4/1791 - 3/3/1799			Delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention in 1787 and signed the Constitution; Speaker of the House of Representatives (Fourth and Fifth Congresses), Son of Elias Dayton	
DAYTON, Jonathan	1760-1824	Sen	(F)	3/4/1799 - 3/3/1805		X		
DAYTON, William Lewis	1807-1864	Sen	(W)	1/2/1842 - 3/3/1851	1844	X	Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Samuel L. Southard; nominated in 1856 by the Republican Party as its candidate for vice president on the ticket with John C. Frémont	
DE HART, John	1728-1795	Del	( )	1774-75, 1776				
DELLAY, Vincent John	1907-1999	Rep	(R)(D)	1/3/1957 - 1/3/1959			Changed political affiliation from Republican to Democrat during the Eighty-fifth Congress	
DICK, Samuel	1740-1812	Del	( )	1783-85				
DICKERSON, Mahlon	1770-1853	Sen	(DR)(CR)(J)	3/4/1817 - 1/30/1829 (Resigned); 1/30/1829 - 3/3/1833		X	Brother of Philemon Dickerson; Governor of New Jersey 1815-1817; Secretary of the Navy June 1834 to June 1838	
DICKERSON, Philemon	1788-1862	Rep	(J)(D)(PA)	3/4/1833 - 11/3/1836 (Resigned); 3/4/1839 - 3/3/1841	SN NYF		Brother of Mahlon Dickerson; Governor and ex officio chancellor from November 3, 1836, to October 27, 1837	
DICKINSON, Philemon	1739-1809	Sen	(PA)	11/23/1790 - 3/3/1793		X	Delegate from Delaware 1782-1783; Elected to Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Paterson, Bother of John Dickinson; Commissioned brigadier general in 1776, and in 1777 major general commanding the New Jersey Militia	
DOBBINS, Samuel Atkinson	1814-1886	Rep	(R)	3/4/1873 - 3/3/1877				
DRUKKER, Dow Henry	1872-1963	Rep	(R)	4/7/1914 - 3/3/1919			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Robert Gunn Bremner	



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
DRYDEN, John Fairfield	1839-1911	Sen	(R)	1/29/1902 - 3/3/1907			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William J. Sewell	
DUNN, John Thomas	1838-1907	Rep	(D)	3/4/1893 - 3/3/1895				
DWYER, Bernard James	1921-1998	Rep	(D)	1/3/1981 - 1/3/1993				
DWYER, Florence Price	1902-1976	Rep	(R)	1/3/1957 - 1/3/1973				
EAGAN, John Joseph	1872-1956	Rep	(D)	3/4/1913 - 1/3/1921; 3/4/1923 - 2/2/1925				
EATON, Charles Aubrey	1868-1953	Rep	(R)	3/4/1925 - 1/3/1953			Uncle of William Robb Eaton	
EDGE, Walter Evans	1873-1956	Sen	(R)	3/4/1919 - 11/21/1929 (Resignation)			Governor of New Jersey 1944-1947	
EDSALL, Joseph E.	1789-1865	Rep	(D)	3/4/1845 - 3/3/1849				
EDWARDS, Edward Irving	1863-1931	Sen	(D)	3/4/1923 - 3/3/1929			Governor of New Jersey 1920-1923	
ELMER, Ebenezer	1752-1843	Rep	(R)	3/4/1801 - 3/3/1807			Brother of Jonathan Elmer and father of Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Elmer	
ELMER, Jonathan	1745-1817	Del	( )	1776-78, 1781-84, 1787-88				
ELMER, Jonathan	1745-1817	Sen	(PA)	3/4/1789 - 3/3/1791		X	Brother of Ebenezer Elmer and uncle of Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Elmer	
ELMER, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus	1793-1883	Rep	(D)	3/4/1843 - 3/3/1845			Son of Ebenezer Elmer and nephew of Jonathan Elmer	
ENGLISH, Thomas Dunn	1819-1902	Rep	(D)	3/4/1891 - 3/3/1895				
FARLEE, Isaac Gray	1787-1855	Rep	(D)	3/4/1843 - 3/3/1845	1844			
FELL, John	1721-1798	Del	( )	1778-80				
FENWICK, Millicent Hammond	1910-1992	Rep	(R)	1/3/1975 - 1/3/1983				
FERGUSON, Michael	1970-	Rep	(R)	1/3/2001 - 1/3/2009				
FERRELL, Thomas Merrill	1844-1916	Rep	(D)	3/4/1883 - 3/3/1885				
FIEDLER, William Henry Frederick	1847-1919	Rep	(D)	3/4/1883 - 3/3/1885			Postmaster of Newark, N.J., March 29, 1886-October 1, 1889	
FIELD, Richard Stockton	1803-1870	Sen	(R)	11/21/1862 - 1/14/1863		X	Appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John R. Thomson, Grandson of Richard Stockton [1730-1781] and nephew of Richard Stockton [1764-1828]	
FIELDER, George Bragg	1842-1906	Rep	(D)	3/4/1893 - 3/3/1895				
FLANAGAN, De Witt Clinton	1870-1946	Rep	(D)	6/18/1902 - 3/3/1903			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joshua S. Salmon	
FLORIO, James Joseph	1937-	Rep	(D)	1/3/1975 - 1/16/1990 (Resignation)			Governor January 16, 1990, to January 18, 1994	
FORKER, Samuel Carr	1821-1900	Rep	(D)	3/4/1871 - 3/3/1873				

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NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS									
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES		
FORSYTHE, Edwin Bell	1916-1984	Rep	(R)	11/3/1970 - 3/29/1984 (Death)			By special election, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Cahill		
FORT, Franklin William	1880-1937	Rep	(R)	3/4/1925 - 3/3/1931					
FOWLER, Charles Newell	1852-1932	Rep	(R)	3/4/1895 - 3/3/1911					
FOWLER, Samuel	1779-1844	Rep	(J)	3/4/1933 - 3/3/1837			Grandfather of Samuel Fowler [1851-1919]		
FOWLER, Samuel	1851-1919	Rep	(D)	3/4/1889 - 3/3/1893			Grandson of Samuel Fowler [1779-1844]		
FRANKS, Robert Douglas	1951-2010	Rep	(R)	1/3/1993 - 1/3/2001					
FRELINGHUYSEN, Frederick	1753-1804	Del	( )	1778-79, 1782-83					
FRELINGHUYSEN, Frederick	1753-1804	Sen	(PA)	3/4/1793 - 11/12/1796		X	Father of Theodore Frelinghuysen, grandfather of Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen, great-grandfather of Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen, great-great-great-grandfather of Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr.; great-great-great-great-grandfather of Rodney P. Frelinghuysen; MG during Whiskey Rebellion		
FRELINGHUYSEN, Frederick Theodore	1817-1885	Sen	(R)	11/12/1866 - 3/3/1869; 3/4/1871 - 3/3/1877		X	Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William Wright, Nephew and adopted son of Theodore Frelinghuysen, grandson of Frederick Frelinghuysen, cousin of Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen, great-grandfather of Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr., great-great-grandfather of Rodney P. Frelinghuysen; Secretary of State by President Chester Arthur 1881-1885		
FRELINGHUYSEN, Joseph Sherman	1869-1948	Sen	(R)	3/4/1917 - 3/3/1923			Cousin of Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen, Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr., and Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, great grandson of Frederick Frelinghuysen [1753-1804], great-nephew of Theodore Frelinghuysen; Acting Governor		
FRELINGHUYSEN, Peter Hood Ballantine, Jr.	1916-2011	Rep	(R)	1/3/1953 - 1/3/1975			Father of Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, cousin of Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen, great-grandson of Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, great-great-nephew of Theodore Frelinghuysen, and great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Frelinghuysen		
FRELINGHUYSEN, Rodney P.	1946-	Rep	(R)	1/3/1995 - Present			Son of Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr., great-great grandson of Frederick Frelinghuysen, and great-great-great nephew of Theodore Frelinghuysen		

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
FRELINGHUYSEN, Theodore	1787-1862	Sen	(A)	3/4/1829 - 3/3/1835	1832	X	Son of Frederick Frelinghuysen, uncle and adoptive father of Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen, great-uncle of Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen, great-great-uncle of Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, Jr., and great-great-great-uncle of Rodney P. Frelyinghuysen; ; Mayor of Newark 1837-1838; chancellor of New York University 1839-1850; very active in religious organizations throughout his life; vice president of the American Colonization Society; unsuccessful Whig candidate for vice president on the ticket with Henry Clay in 1844; president of Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J., from 1850 until his death in New Brunswick, N.J., April 12, 1862	
GALLAGHER, Cornelius Edward	1921-	Rep	(D)	1/3/1959 - 1/3/1973				
GALLO, Dean Anderson	1935-1994	Rep	(R)	1/3/1985 - 11/6/1994 (Death)				
GARDNER, John James	1845-1921	Rep	(R)	3/4/1893 - 3/3/1913			mayor of Atlantic City 1868-1872, 1874, and 1875	
GARRETT, Scott	1959-	Rep	(R)	1/3/2003 - Present				
GARRISON, Daniel	1782-1851	Rep	(DR)(J)	3/4/1823 - 3/3/1827				
GEISSENHAINER, Jacob Augustus	1839-1917	Rep	(D)	3/4/1889 - 3/3/1895				
GERAN, Elmer Hendrickson	1875-1954	Rep	(D)	3/4/1923 - 3/3/1925				
GLENN, Milton Willits	1903-1967	Rep	(R)	11/5/1957 - 3/3/1965			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of T. Millet Hand	
GRAY, Edward Winthrop	1870-1942	Rep	(R)	3/4/1915 - 3/3/1919				
GREEN, Robert Stockton	1831-1895	Rep	(D)	3/4/1885 - 1/17/1887 (Resignation)			Governor of New Jersey 1887-1889	
GREGORY, Dudley Sanford	1800-1874	Rep	(W)	3/4/1847 - 3/3/1849				
GUARINI, Frank Joseph, Jr.	1924-	Rep	(D)	1/3/1979 - 1/3/1993	1979p			
HAIGHT, Charles	1838-1891	Rep	(D)	3/4/1867 - 3/3/1871	1867			
HALSEY, George Armstrong	1827-1894	Rep	(R)	3/4/1867 - 3/3/1869; 3/4/1871 - 3/3/1873	X			
HALSTEAD, William	1794-1878	Rep	(W)	3/4/1837 - 3/3/1839; 3/4/1841 - 3/3/1843	1837		Presented credentials as a Member-elect to the Twenty-sixth Congress but the House declined to seat him	
HAMILL, James Alphonsus	1877-1941	Rep	(D)	3/4/1907 - 3/3/1921				
HAMILTON, Robert	1809-1878	Rep	(D)	3/4/1873 - 3/3/1877				

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NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS							
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES
HAMPTON, James Giles	1814-1861	Rep	(W)	3/4/1845 - 3/3/1849			
HAND, Thomas Millet	1902-1956	Rep	(R)	1/3/1945 - 12/26/1956 (Death)			Mayor Cape May 1937-1940
HARDENBERGH, Augustus Albert	1830-1889	Rep	(D)	3/4/1875 - 3/3/1879; 3/4/1881 - 3/3/1883			
HARRIS, Henry Schenck	1850-1902	Rep	(D)	3/4/1881 - 3/3/1883			
HART, Archibald Chapman	1873-1935	Rep	(D)	11/5/1912 - 3/3/1913; 7/22/1913 - 3/3/1917			Elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Hughes; re-elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lewis J. Martin
HART, Edward Joseph	1893-1961	Rep	(D)	1/3/1935 - 1/3/1955	1943p		
HART, John	c1713-1779	Del	( )	1776			
HARTLEY, Fred Allan, Jr.	1902-1969	Rep	(R)	3/4/1929 - 1/3/1949			
HAWKES, Albert Wahl	1878-1971	Sen	(R)	1/3/1943 - 1/3/1949			
HAY, Andrew Kessler	1809-1881	Rep	(W)	3/4/1849 - 3/3/1851			
HAZELTON, John Wright	1814-1878	Rep	(R)	3/4/1871 - 3/3/1875			
HELMS, William	Unk-1813	Rep	(R)	3/4/1801 - 3/3/1811			
HELSTOSKI, Henry	1925-1999	Rep	(D)	1/3/1965 - 1/3/1977			
HENDERSON, Thomas	1743-1824	Rep	(F)	1/4/1795 - 3/3/1797			
HENDRICKSON, Robert Clymer	1898-1964	Sen	(R)	1/3/1949 - 1/2/1955			
HILL, John	1821-1884	Rep	(R)	3/4/1867 - 3/3/1873; 3/4/1881 - 3/3/1883			
HIRES, George	1835-1911	Rep	(R)	3/4/1885 - 3/3/1889			
HOFFMAN, Harold Giles	1896-1954	Rep	(R)	3/4/1927 - 3/3/1931			mayor of South Amboy in 1925 and 1926; Governor of New Jersey from January 15, 1935, to January 18, 1938
HOLCOMBE, George	1786-1828	Rep	(R)(DR)(J)	3/4/1821 - 1/14/1828 (Death)			
HOLLENBECK, Harold Capistran	1938-	Rep	(R)	1/3/1977 - 1/3/1983			
HOLT, Rush	1948-	Rep	(D)	1/3/1999 - Present			
HOPKINSON, Francis	1737-1791	Del	( )	1776			
HORNBLOWER, Josiah	1729-1809	Del	( )	1785-86			
HOUSTON, William Churchill	1746-1788	Del	( )	1779-82, 1784-85			
HOUSTON, William Churchill	1746-1788	CCD	( )	5/25/1787-6/2/1787			Resigned for health reasons
HOWARD, James John	1927-1988	Rep	(D)	1/3/1965 - 3/25/1988			
HOWELL, Benjamin Franklin	1844-1933	Rep	(R)	3/4/1895 - 3/3/1911			
HOWELL, Charles Robert	1904-1973	Rep	(D)	1/3/1949 - 1/3/1955			

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE FRANKS								
NAME	LIFE	POS	PARTY	SERVED	KNOWN	ASCC	NOTES	
HOWEY, Benjamin Franklin	1828-1895	Rep	(R)	3/4/1883 - 3/3/1885			Nephew of Charles Creighton Stratton	
HUFTY, Jacob	UNK-1814	Rep	(F)	3/4/1809 - 5/20/1814 (Death)				
HUGHES, Thomas Hurst	1769-1839	Rep	(A)	3/4/1829 - 3/3/1833				
HUGHES, William	1872-1918	Rep	(D)	3/4/1903 - 3/3/1905; 3/4/1907 - 9/27/1912 (Resigned)	1905			
HUGHES, William	1872-1918	Sen	(D)	3/4/1913 - 1/30/1918 (Death)	1915p			
HUGHES, William John	1932-	Rep	(D)	1/3/1975 - 1/3/1995				
HUNT, John Edmund	1908-1989	Rep	(R)	1/3/1967 - 1/3/1975				
HUTCHINSON, Elijah Cubberley	1855-1932	Rep	(R)	3/4/1915 - 3/3/1923				
HUYLER, John	1808-1870	Rep	(D)	3/4/1857 - 3/3/1859				
IMLAY, James Henderson	1764-1823	Rep	(F)	3/4/1797 - 3/3/1801				
JEFFRIES, Walter Sooy	1893-1954	Rep	(R)	1/3/1939 - 1/3/1941			Mayor of Margate City	
JOELSON, Charles Samuel	1916-1999	Rep	(D)	1/3/1961 - 9/4/1969 (Resigned)				
JONES, Phineas	1819-1884	Rep	(R)	3/4/1881 - 3/3/1883				
KEAN, Hamilton Fish	1862-1941	Sen	(R)	3/4/1929 - 1/3/1935	1930p		Father of Robert Winthrop Kean, brother of John Kean [1852-1914], and great-grandson of John Kean [1756-1795]	
KEAN, John	1852-1914	Rep	(R)	3/4/1883 - 3/3/1885; 3/4/1887 - 3/3/1889			Brother of Hamilton Fish Kean, great-grandson of John Kean [1756-1795], and uncle of Robert Winthrop Kean	
KEAN, John	1852-1914	Sen	(R)	3/4/1899 - 3/3/1911				
KEAN, Robert Winthrop	1893-1980	Rep	(R)	1/3/1939 - 1/3/1959	1957p		Son of Hamilton Fish Kean, nephew of John Kean [1852-1914], and great-great-grandson of John Kean [1756-1795]	
KENNEY, Edward Aloysius	1884-1938	Rep	(D)	3/4/1933 - 1/27/1938 (Death)				
KILLE, Joseph	1790-1865	Rep	(D)	3/4/1839 - 3/3/1841				
KING, James Gore	1791-1853	Rep	(W)	3/4/1849 - 3/3/1851	1852			
KINKEAD, Eugene Francis	1876-1960	Rep	(D)	3/4/1909 - 2/4/1915 (Resigned)				
KINSEY, Charles	1773-1849	Rep	(R)	3/4/1817 - 3/3/1819; 2/2/1820 - 3/3/1821			Elected to the Sixteenth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Condit	
KINSEY, James	1731-1803	Del	( )	1774-75				
KIRKPATRICK, Littleton	1797-1859	Rep	(D)	3/4/1843 - 3/3/1845			Mayor of New Brunswick in 1841 and 1842	

## BRIDGETON'S POSTMASTERS IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

By Doug D'Avino

Bridgetown West, located in Cumberland County, first established postal service in the 1790s. The post office was called Bridgetown West, to distinguish it from Bridgetown East, as Rahway, in the upper part of New Jersey, was then called. The city's name was changed to Bridgetown between 1809 and 1814, and finally to Bridgeton between 1841 and 1845.

The dates for the establishment of the Bridgetown and Bridgeton post offices vary, depending on the source data.

The USPS web site Postmaster Finder reported the post office names as described above. Kay and Smith list Bridgetown as established in January 1814 and Bridgeton in 1842, the same dates listed in Brad Arch's handy DPO book. The National Archives records that NJPHS has access to do not show the date of establishment for either post office. The Coles book states that the "Bridge Town, West" post office was established on January 12, 1792, and that the name was changed to "Bridgetown" in January 1814, then to "Bridgeton" in 1842.

The Official Register of the United States tells a slightly different story. The September 30, 1841 edition still lists the post office as Bridgetown. That changes in the September 30, 1843 edition, where the post office as listed as Bridgeton for the first time. The only variable that changed between the compilation of the two documents was that Jeremiah H. Lupton replaced Curtis Ogden as postmaster. So it's possible that Ogden, who served a postmaster for 25 years, simply kept reporting to the Post Office Department as Bridgetown, for years after changing the postmark to Bridgeton. Lupton corrected that once he became postmaster.

Perhaps examining some stampless covers may provide some clarification. Along the way, we'll also delve into the politics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with regard to postmaster appointments.

### BRIDGETOWN WEST

Until after the establishment of the federal government, all the correspondence in the southern part of New Jersey had to depend upon private conveyances. There was indeed before this time no post-route in New Jersey, except the main road between Philadelphia and New York. In 1792, while Jonathan Elmer was senator, a post-route was established from Philadelphia to Salem, and thence to Bridgetown. Between the latter places, the mail was carried once a week, on horseback or in a sulky.

Eli Elmer was the first postmaster of Bridgetown West, as well as the first Collector of the Port of Bridgetown. The August, 1792 date for the establishment of the office, as listed in *Table 1*, is based on U.S. Post Office Department (USPOD) records. In contrast, the Bridgeton Evening News recalled on November 11, 1911 that "*One hundred and eighteen years ago the postoffice was established here, the place being known then as Bridgetown West. The exact date on which the postoffice was opened was March 20, 1793, with Eli Elmer as the first postmaster.*" Both establishment dates also show up in other sources. While there are contemporaneous



reports of Elmer's appointment as Collector of the Port in newspapers of the time, it's odd that there is no report of his appointment as postmaster.

Jonathan Lummis was appointed postmaster in August, 1793. He was followed in June, 1795 by John Soulard, at his house on Broad, near the corner of Fayette Street. In 1802, after Ebenezer Elmer became a member of Congress, a mail-route was established from Woodbury to Bridgeton, Millville, Port Elizabeth and Cape May.

Soulard died on November 17, 1803. The December 5, 1803 issue of *True American* newspaper (based in Trenton) announced on page 3 that "*We understand that Mr. James Burch has been appointed Post-Master at Bridgetown, West, in the place of John Soulard, Esq. deceased. Mr. Burch is represented to us as a capable and worthy man.*" This moves Burch's appointment back a full four months prior to the date listed by USPS in *Table 1*. The USPS shows a date of April 4, 1804 as the date of Burch's first financial returns.

James Burch, who built and owned the house opposite Soulard's, was the postmaster for five years. Letters were kept in Burch's front parlor and handed from the window, then so high above the walk as to be barely reached by the raised hand. The first carriers, beginning in 1804, were Benaiah Parvin and son, who kept a tavern in the old mansion house of Alexander Moore. The mail was carried on Monday by way of Roadstown, and returned on Wednesday by the same route. On Thursday, it was carried by way of Deerfield, returning on Saturday the same way.

<b>Table 1. Bridgeton Postmasters</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>
<b>Originally established as Bridgetown West</b>		
Eli Elmer	Postmaster	08/14/1792
Jonathan Lummis	Postmaster	08/08/1793
John Soulard	Postmaster	06/30/1795
James Burch*	Postmaster	04/01/1804
<b>Changed to Bridgetown (between 1809 and 1814)</b>		
Abijah Harris**	Postmaster	07/01/1809
Samuel Seely	Postmaster	01/21/1814
Stephen Lupton	Postmaster	06/22/1815
Curtis Ogden	Postmaster	06/26/1816
<b>Changed to Bridgeton (between 1841 and 1845)</b>		
Jeremiah H. Lupton	Postmaster	07/07/1841
Daniel B. Thompson	Postmaster	01/11/1845
Stacy P. Kirkbride	Postmaster	04/12/1850
Henry Sheppard	Postmaster	04/06/1853
George W. Johnson	Postmaster	06/04/1861
Joseph S. Miner	Postmaster	04/26/1865
Samuel R. Fithian	Postmaster	09/28/1866
Joseph S. Miner	Postmaster	03/28/1867
John Trenchard	Postmaster	03/03/1883
Samuel A. Laning	Postmaster	03/07/1887
Isaac T. Nichols	Postmaster	04/03/1890
William N. Hewitt	Postmaster	10/01/1890
Samuel A. Laning	Postmaster	03/08/1894

## BRIDGETON'S 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POSTMASTERS ~ Doug D'Avino

Name	Position	Date Appointed
Charles H. Pierson	Postmaster	06/29/1896
Henry Graham	Postmaster	01/31/1901
Morris Davis	Postmaster	06/16/1909
Waters B. Hurff	Postmaster	07/25/1913
Ralph G. Riggins	Postmaster	05/19/1922
Benjamin Elwell	Acting Postmaster	07/31/1930
Benjamin Elwell	Postmaster	01/22/1931
Walter M. MacPherson	Acting Postmaster	03/06/1934
Walter M. MacPherson***	Postmaster	05/21/1936
Sherwood A. MacPherson	Acting Postmaster	07/31/1953
Sherwood A. MacPherson	Postmaster	05/26/1955
Francis Weaver	Postmaster	05/05/1979
Frank W. Fleming	Postmaster	07/18/1987
Daniel J. Mayo	Postmaster	07/09/2005
Balvinder Singh-Minhas	Postmaster	07/16/2011
Charles Maines Jr.	Postmaster	01/14/2012
*April 1, 1804, date of PM's first financial returns; appointment date is unknown.		
** July 1, 1809, date of PM's first financial returns; appointment date is unknown.		
*** Retired July 31, 1953.		

### BRIDGETOWN

The postmaster who succeeded James Burch in 1809 was Colonel Abijah Harris, who lived nearly opposite Burch's home. Harris was a private in the Revolutionary War, serving in the unsuccessful invasion of Canada, as well as the Battle of White Plains. He was eventually promoted to Lieutenant, then attained the rank of Colonel in the militia after the war. *Figure 1* illustrates a December 28, 1812, Bridgetown manuscript postmark on a letter addressed to Miss Mary Petson. As a result, it is possible to conclude that the city's name was changed to Bridgetown between 1809 and 1812, not 1814, the date shown in the *Table 1*-based USPOD data.

Samuel Seely became postmaster in January, 1814. *Figure 2* shows a single oval Bridgetown postmark on a letter dated March, 1815, three months prior to the appointment of Stephen Lupton as postmaster.

Lupton kept the office in his shoemaker shop, on the north side of Washington Street, about half way between Laurel and Pearl. During his time in office, a daily mail commenced, probably in 1816. *Figure 2* shows an ad placed in the October 11, 1815 edition of the Washington Whig newspaper placed by Lupton indicating the post-office was called Bridgetown (West New Jersey).



Image courtesy of Ed Siskin

Fig. 1: December 28, 1812 Bridgetown, NJ, manuscript postmark on a letter addressed to Miss Mary Letson (Abijah Harris, postmaster).



Fig. 2: March 25, 1815 Single Oval, Coles type B42, Bridgeton, NJ, postmark, was used from 1815 - 1817 (Samuel Seely, postmaster).

**A List of Letters**  
*Remaining in the Bridgetown Post-Office,  
 (West New Jersey,) on the 1st of Oc-  
 tober 1815.*

Richard F. Alderson,	Joseph Ogden,
Samuel Bourn,	Charles Porter,
John Brown,	Mary Parvin,
Seth Bowen,	Isaac Payne,
Morial H. Brewster,	William Leeves,
Jacob Brien,	Joseph Reynold,
Martha Croes,	Lewis Ross,
Lewis Cressc,	Jonathan Riler,
Benjamin Clark,	Rebecca Riley,
Andrew Dare,	Jacob Richer,
Andrew Elston,	John Stills,
Phebe Gifford,	Thomas Statford,
William Gaskill,	Peter Shaw,
Rebecca Garrison,	Mary Stevens,
William Hollingshead,	Daniel Smith,
Benjamin Heward,	John Tucker,
Amos Horris,	Lydia Ware,
Daniel Johnson,	John Wilson,
Thomas Luke,	Truelover Waitman,
Gersham D. Miller,	John Warfaltown,
2 Hannah Moor,	Hannah Mills.

STEPHEN LUPTON, Post Mast.

(3t)

**LIST OF LETTERS,**  
*Remaining in the Post-Office at  
 Bridgeton, N. J. July 1, 1822.*

A.—George Adcock.  
 B.—Aaron Broad, R. G. Brewster, Obed Bowen, Isabel Parker.  
 C.—Edward Chapman, Cornelius Compton, Edward S. Cone, W. Cook.  
 D.—Samuel Darling.  
 F.—George Facemire.  
 G.—John Garrison, John Gilmore, Hetty Garrison.  
 H.—William Hanham, Abijah Harris, Joseph P. Harrison, William Hand, Enos Hann, Jonathan J. Hann, Elizabeth Hopkins.  
 I.—John Ireland, Samuel Jonson.  
 K.—R. G. Kendall—2.  
 L.—Library Company—2.  
 M.—William Money, Charlotte Miller, Elizabeth M'Gee.  
 R.—John Reeves, Dayton Riley, Eunice Reeves.  
 S.—John Shourds, James Steelman, John Shannon, Silas Smith, jun. Samuel Seeley, 2, Sarah Stratton, Nancy Statham.  
 T.—William Tomlinson.  
 W.—Jacob Wick, Esq.  
 Y.—Eliza Yapp.

*Curtis Ogden, P. M.*

July 8 — 80 St.

Fig. 3: Ad in the October 11, 1815 edition of the Washington Whig newspaper placed by postmaster Stephen Lupton showing the post-office is called Bridgetown (West New Jersey). A similar ad, placed in July 1, 1822, by postmaster Curtis Ogden shows the name of the post-office is Bridgeton, N.J.

**BRIDGETON**

In 1816 Lupton resigned, and was succeeded by Curtis Ogden in June. Ogden held the office longer than any other incumbent, keeping it in his tailor shop, on the south side of Commerce Street. Figure 3 shows a second ad placed in the July 1, 1822 edition of the Washington Whig newspaper placed by Ogden; the post-office was called Bridgeton.

The Bridgeton Evening News reports in a December 17, 1902 "Old-Time History" column that Ogden:

*... was a tailor by trade. The writer remembers going after letters. On opening the door, if he knew you he could tell whether there was a letter for you. The letter boxes were half the size of an 8 x 10 window light. The office was said to be worth two hundred dollars a year....*

*Mr. Ogden lived in a house on 8 Pearl street.... He had the tailor shop adjoining it, where his son Curtis, Jr., worked till he went to Philadelphia.*

Figures 4 through 9 illustrate postmarks used by Ogden over his long career:

- An 1817 oval 1 Bridgetown postmark, the only reported copy (Figure 4).
- A Bridgetown postmark used in 1818 (Figure 5).
- An oval 2 Bridgetown postmark used in 1825 (Figure 6), marked FREE rather than PAID and addressed to Samuel L. Southard.
- A Bridgetown postmark used in 1829 (Figure 7).
- A one double circle Bridgetown postmark used in 1832 (Figure 8).
- A Bridgeton postmark used in 1834 (Figure 9), marked FREE rather than PAID and addressed to Samuel L. Southard.



Fig. 4: March 5, 1817 Oval 1, Coles type B43a, Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, the only reported copy (Curtis Ogden, postmaster).



Image courtesy of Ed Siskin

Fig.5: May 11, 1818 Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, Coles type B43, on a letter addressed to Isaac H. Williamson, Governor of the State of New Jersey (Curtis Ogden, postmaster).



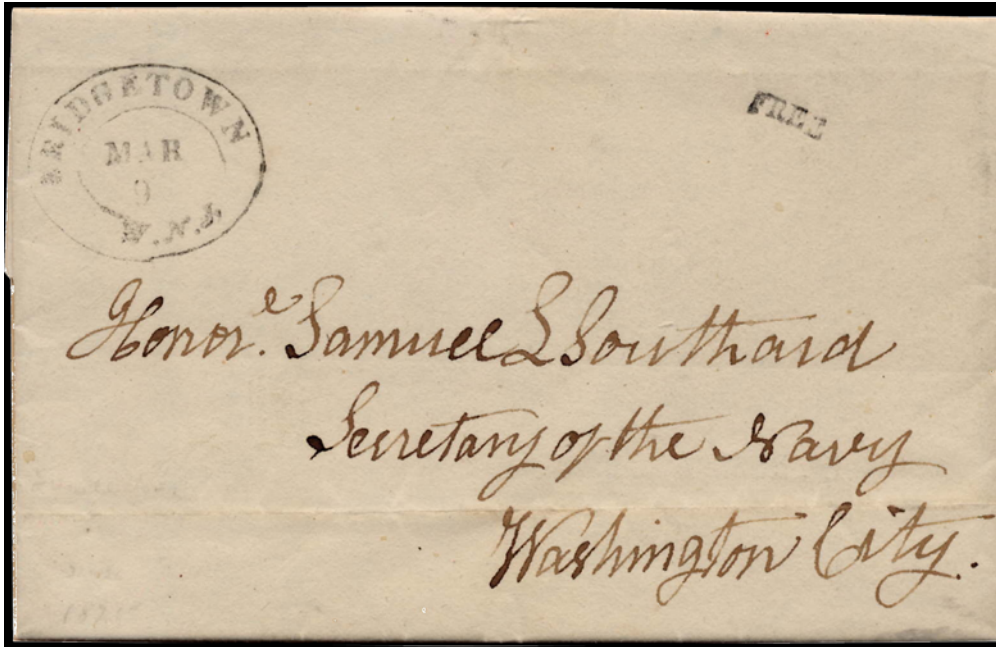


Fig. 6: March 9, 1825 Oval 2, Coles type B43, Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, was used from 1816 - 1831 (Curtis Ogden, postmaster). In the upper right corner, the envelope is marked FREE and is addressed to the Honorable Samuel L. Southard, Secretary of the Navy.



Image courtesy of Ed Siskin

Fig. 7: September 16, 1829 Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, Coles type B43, on a letter addressed to Thomas Bradford Esquire (Curtis Ogden, postmaster).

The cover in *Figure 8* becomes the first we've seen using a Bridgeton, rather than Bridgetown postmark. This is in spite of the ad (*Figure 3*) run twelve years earlier by Ogden using Bridgeton as the name of the post office. In either case, the earlier statement that "The city's name was changed ... to Bridgeton between 1841 and 1845" can be modified to "The city's name was changed ... to Bridgeton between 1822 and 1834."

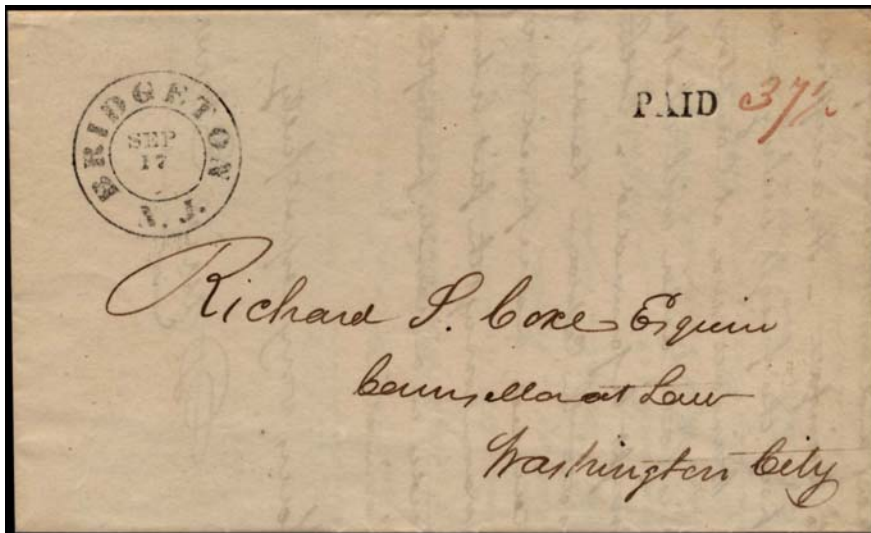


Fig. 8: September 17, 1832, one double circle, Coles type B44, Bridgeton, NJ, postmark used from 1832 - 1843 (Curtis Ogden, postmaster).

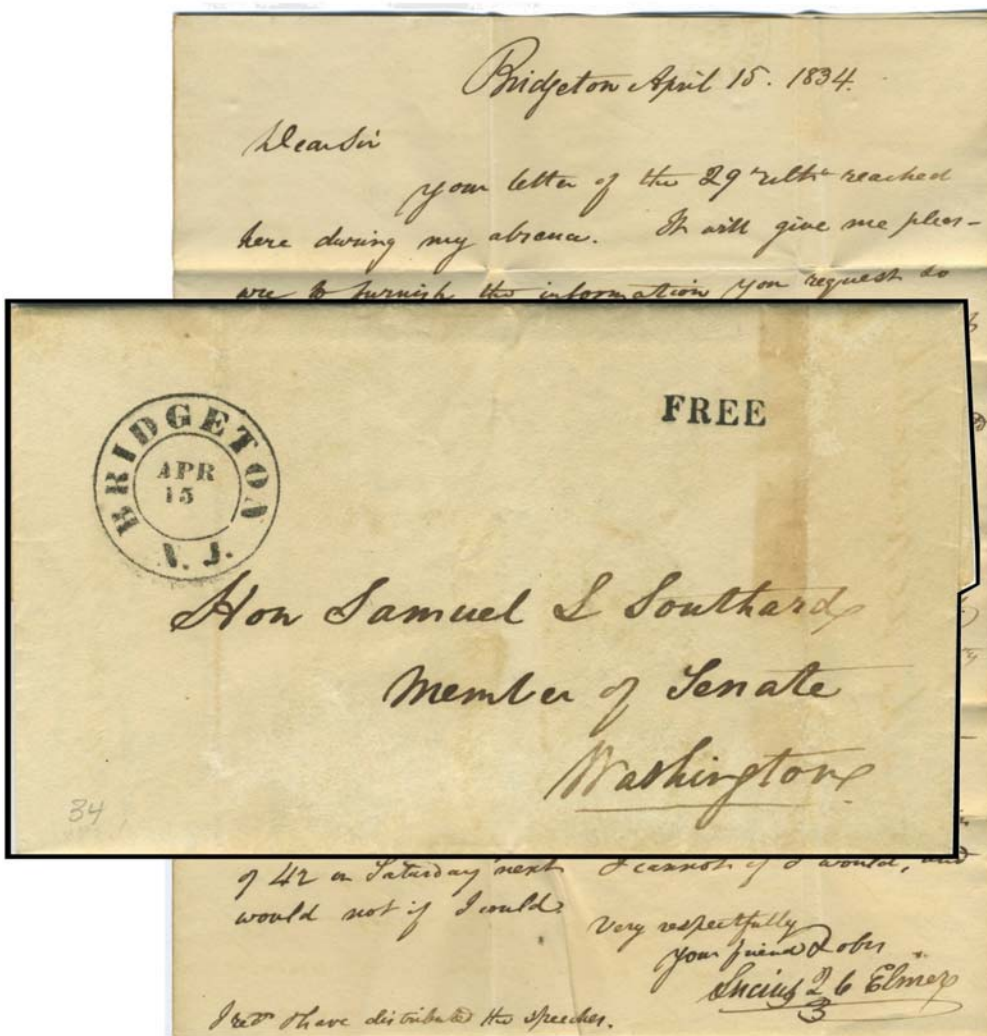


Fig. 9: April 15, 1834 Bridgeton, NJ, postmark, Coles type B44, on a letter addressed to the Honorable Samuel L. Southard (Curtis Ogden, postmaster). Again, marked FREE.

## BRIDGETON'S 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POSTMASTERS ~ Doug D'Avino

Jeremiah H. Lupton was appointed postmaster in 1841 during President Harrison's administration. The first year he located the office at the corner of Commerce and Laurel Streets. Later, he moved to another location.

Here we begin to see politics injected into the appointment of postmasters. The June 27, 1889, Bridgeton Evening News reported:

*Upon taking possession of the office he placed boxes in the window, numbering about seventy-five, which proved great conveniences to the business men of the town.... After holding the office for about three years, John Tyler, who became President after President Harrison's death, superseded him by the appointment of a Democrat. Mr. Lupton was a prominent and uncompromising Whig, and had to be disposed of.*

The Democrat was Daniel B. Thompson, shown in *Figure 10*, who held the office from 1845 - 1850. Thompson had been trained as a tailor by Ogden and, probably, performed some level of postal duties, since the post office was in Ogden's tailor shop. *Figure 11* shows a cover postmarked during Thompson's term in office. The unique postmark reads "Bridge Ton" and was used from 1845 - 1851, coincident with Thompson's term.



*Fig. 10: Postmaster Daniel B. Thompson, 1845 - 1850.*



*Fig. 11: September 17, 1846, single circle, 1 Coles type B45, Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, with wide spacing thus: Bridge Ton, used from 1845 - 1851 (Daniel B. Thompson, postmaster).*

The Trenton State Gazette reported on May 18, 1850 that "Stacy P. Kirkbride, formerly of Eayrestown, in Burlington county, has been appointed Post-master in Bridgeton." A Letter to the Editor in the Trenton State Gazette on May 29, 1850 reads:



*Mr. Editor :-I was very glad to see in your paper, that our friend, Stacy P. Kirkbride of this (Burlington) county, has been appointed postmaster of Bridgeton, in Cumberland county, by the present administration. Mr. K. is of the good old Whig "stock" of this county, and is no doubt, well qualified for the station. He left this county some five or six years since, and I am glad to see he has the confidence of his party (which is Whig) in Bridgeton, as in his native county.*

*Old Burlington.*

Kirkbride succeeded the late Daniel B. Thompson and served until 1853. *Figure 12* shows an 1852 Bridgeton blue postmark on a letter addressed to Curtis Ogden Jr., son of the longest serving Bridgeton postmaster.



Image courtesy of Ed Siskin

**Fig. 12:** July 23, 1852 Bridgeton, NJ, blue postmark, Coles type B46, on a letter addressed to Curtis Ogden Jr., son of the longest serving Bridgeton postmaster. (Stacy P. Kirkbride, postmaster).

Henry Sheppard was appointed postmaster in 1853. The March 30, 1913 issue of the Bridgeton Evening News, in a history column, provided a description of Sheppard:

*Henry Sheppard was one of those good old-fashioned citizens of whom we now have too few. Dressed in homespun, glasses on his nose, smooth face and kindly eyes, true blue man. Would that his like appear again more numerously.*

*Figure 13* illustrates a single circle 2, black Bridgetown postmark. Henry Sheppard held the postmaster position until 1861, when Geo. W. Johnson was appointed.

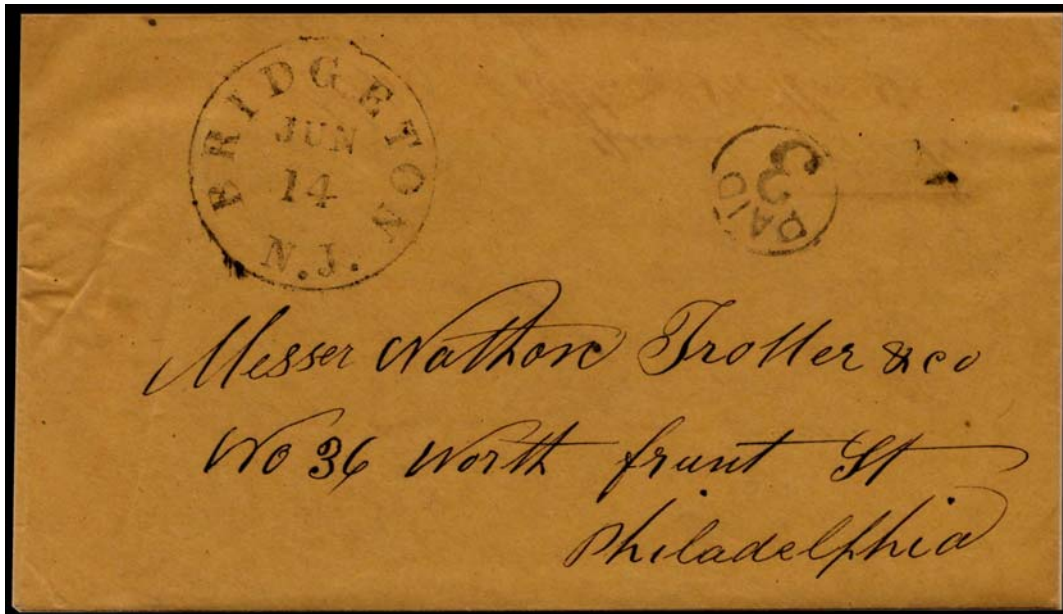


Fig. 13: June 14, 1855, single circle 2, Coles type B46, black Bridgeton postmark, used from 1853 - 1855 (Henry Sheppard, postmaster).

Rev. George W. Johnson was appointed postmaster in June, 1861, under the administration of President Lincoln and served for about five years. A newsdealer in Bridgeton, Johnson had formerly been a shoemaker. He resigned due to poor health and retired to a farm.

Joseph S. Miner (*Figure 14*) was appointed the Bridgeton postmaster in 1865. The Bridgeton Evening News issue on December 3, 1904 related the story of Miner's appointment in "Cumberland Republicans Fifty Years Ago" by Isaac T. Nichols (Nichols would serve as postmaster, in 1890):

*Joseph S. Miner Appointed Postmaster*

*Early in March the announcement came from Washington that Joseph S. Miner had been named by President Lincoln for the Postmastership of Bridgeton vice George W. Johnson, resigned.*

*Quite a lively contest developed previous to the making of this appointment. Daniel B. Thompson, father of the present Surrogate of Cumberland County, announced himself a candidate and made an earnest effort to secure the office. Mr. Thompson had been postmaster of Bridgeton under the administration of President James K. Polk, 1845 to 1849, being then identified with the Democratic party. When the war for the Union opened Daniel B. Thompson became a War Democrat, and finally a Republican. A man of strong convictions, prominent in the Methodist Episcopal Church, he had many warm friends, who zealously contributed time and influence toward his success. Among his friends was Charles E. Elmer, at that time one of the most influential citizens of Bridgeton. Joseph S. Miner was a young man of fine business capacity, and an active advocate of Republican principles and the Union cause. He also had many friends who labored earnestly for him. His petition addressed to "His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States," was headed by the names of Providence Ludlam, Lewis H. Dowdney, Jonathan Elmer, Robert C. Nichols, George W. Johnson, Henry B. Lupton, Jeremiah DuBois and many other leading citizens, to the number of 283. It was a powerful petition and carried much weight, composed as it was of representatives of*

*manufacturing and business interests of Bridgeton. But, the influence of Hon. Providence Ludlam, Senator from Cumberland County, was more paramount in this fight and through his efforts largely Mr. Miner became postmaster.*

*The appointment was one of Mr. Lincoln's last official acts, and had not been sent to the Senate at the hour of his assassination, but Mr. Miner took possession of the office under commission issued by Postmaster General Dennison. Andrew Johnson, on becoming President, refused to issue a commission to him, and for two years there was a prolonged contention over the place. Pending the difficulties which arose between President Johnson and the Republican majority in Congress, Johnson appointed Samuel R. Fithian, Postmaster. Mr. Fithian was not confirmed, and did not get possession of the office. Quartermaster of the 24th New Jersey Regiment in the civil war Major Fithian is still living at the ripe age of 89 years. Time went on, the controversy between Executive and Congress grew so bitter that the Republican majority passed a measure known as the "Tenure of office act," which the President vetoed. Passed over his veto it became a law. Under that statute there was therefore nothing for Mr. Johnson to do but issue commissions to Mr. Lincoln's appointees. The commission was issued to Mr. Miner March 28th, 1867, for four years. At one time during the long contest for the Bridgeton postoffice, Mr. Miner received a letter from Hon. Henry B. Wilson, Senator from Massachusetts, in which that famous statesman said: "You will either be appointed by President Johnson or no other man will ever be confirmed by the United States Senate." Re-appointed by President Grant March 13th, 1871, and February 26th, 1875, also by President Hayes, March 3d, 1879, Postmaster Miner served the long period of nearly eighteen years. Mr. Miner still preserves the several commissions given him to which are attached the autograph signatures of Andrew Johnson, U. S. Grant, and R. Hayes of which he is naturally somewhat proud - not so much, perhaps of that of "Andy Johnson," but especially proud of that of Mr. Lincoln's Postmaster General, and the military hero of the war for the Union General Ulysses S. Grant. Joseph S. Miner proved a model employee, and brought the postal service in Bridgeton to a high state of efficiency. It was a maxim of Thomas Jefferson that in the line of office holding, "few died, and none resigned." In Mr. Miner's case it was slightly different. The Johnsonites wanted him to either die or resign out of spite, but he did neither. After almost a score of years of honorable service he could have continued in office, but did what few others have done, voluntarily announced through the press, under date of February 1, 1883, in a card to the public that:-"Whereas my commission will soon expire, I deem it proper to give public notice that I am not an applicant for reappointment. With my thanks to the citizens of Bridgeton and vicinity for their courtesy and kindness to myself, as an official during my years of public service, I remain, yours truly."*

*Appointed five times, always the free-will offering of his party and fellow citizens, (without dividends to Congressmen as is too often the case in these days of "Frenzied Politics") he has a record which is parallel to that of the good and faithful servant who received the highest compliment ever paid to man in the Biblical "Well Done!"*

*Would that there were more Joseph S. Miners in public office!*



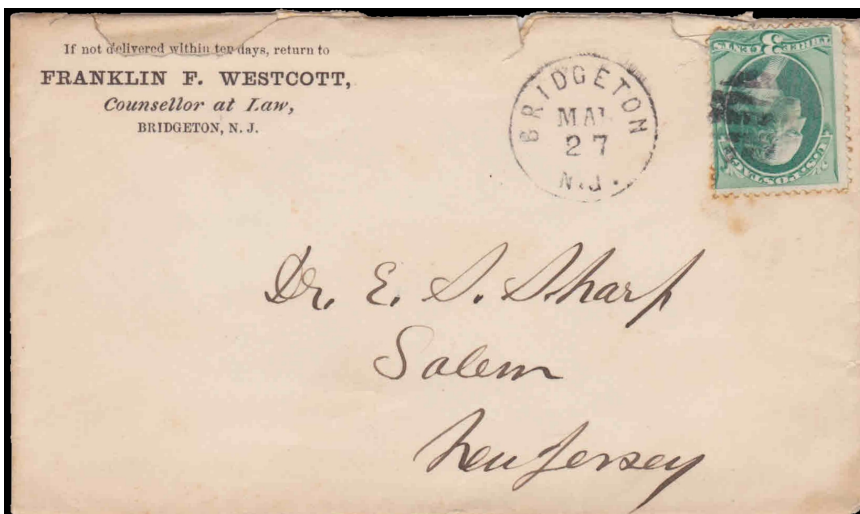
**Fig.14: Postmaster Joseph S. Miner.**



Image courtesy of Ed Siskin

*Fig. 15: October 2, Bridgetown, NJ, postmark, October 2, c1865, with stamp, appears to be Coles type B46, a stampless postmark that also saw service after the introduction of stamps (Joseph S. Miner, postmaster). The rose 3¢ Washington stamp, Scott #65, was first issued in 1861, as part of a new series to replace U.S. stamps demonetized due to concerns that those still in the hands of southern postmasters might be used to fund the Confederacy. The inset depicts the back of the envelope featuring the West Jersey Academy.*

Samuel R. Fithian was appointed the Bridgeton postmaster in 1866, but he served only six months before Miner was reappointed. As reported in Fithian's obituary in the Bridgeton Evening News on October 16, 1902, "In the business interests of Bridgeton Mr. Fithian was a pioneer. He and Daniel B. Thompson sold the first ready-made clothing ever sold" in Bridgeton. Figure 16 shows a cover postmarked circa 1875 during Miner's second term as postmaster.



*Fig. 16. March 27 (Circa 1875) Bridgeton, NJ, postmark on a letter addressed to Dr. E.S. Sharp (Joseph S. Miner, postmaster.)*



John Trenchard was appointed the Bridgeton postmaster in 1883, serving four years in the post.

Samuel Albert Laning was appointed the Bridgeton postmaster in 1887. *Figure 17* shows a Bridgeton postmark applied just weeks after Laning became postmaster.

In the March 8, 1887 issue, the Trenton Evening Times wished him good luck with his appointment.

*Deputy Lanning's Good Luck.*

*S. Albert Lanning, employed as a Deputy Keeper in the State Prison, was yesterday appointed postmaster of Bridgeton, Cumberland county, by President Cleveland, vice John Trenchard, whose commission has expired. Mr. Lanning is well known in this city and his appointment will be hailed with delight by his many friends. He is a Democrat of the Andrew Jackson type and secured the position through the influence of the prominent Democratic leaders of the State. There were several candidates for the vacant office and the fight has been a protracted one. Mr. Lanning will resign at once his present office and remove at once to Bridgeton and assume charge of the new trust.*

The Bridgeton Evening News of the same date offered similar sentiments while actually spelling Laning's name correctly:

**AL LANING'S GOOD LUCK**

**GROVER GIVES HIM THE POST-OFFICE PLUM AS A LENTEN GIFT.**

*The Philadelphia papers last night conveyed the intelligence that the President had appointed "Samuel A. Laning postmaster at Bridgeton, N.J. vice John Trenchard, commission expired"....*

*Mr. S. Albert Laning, to whom this good luck by the grace of Grover Cleveland has come, has for some years past been deputy warden at the State Prison.... Mr. Laning has always been an earnest Democrat and will doubtless make an efficient and courteous postmaster....*

*Meanwhile Postmaster Trenchard is taking things serenely as usual and appears not at all distressed at the bad turn of his wheel of fortune....*



*Fig. 17: March 23, 1887, Bridgeton, NJ, postmark on a letter addressed to Judge Clayton Lippincote (Samuel A. Laning, postmaster).*

## BRIDGETON'S 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POSTMASTERS ~ Doug D'Avino

Two years later, the appointment was again up for grabs; once again, the selection was all about politics. The April 5, 1889 issue of the Bridgeton Evening News reported:

*The Bridgeton Postoffice is the first on the list, in more ways than one and for this office ex-Postmaster John Trenchard, ex-Senator I. T. Nichols and Mr. Thomas R. Janvier are anxious to relieve Postmaster S. A. Laning of his arduous duties and \$2,500 salary. It is said that the fight wages between Trenchard and Nichols, who are both experienced and working politicians, neither or which Mr. Janvier claims to be. Those who are privileged to keep behind the scenes say that Mr. Nichols, whom Congressman Bergen owes a debt of gratitude for his own nomination, will undoubtedly get the appointment, provided Postmaster Laning can be bounced at once, but that Mr. Nichols, who has recently been sold out by the sheriff, cannot afford a two year's siege, consequently he is telling all sorts of dreadful things that the offensive partisan did during the campaign, but Mr. Laning has one of the best offices and best record of any South Jersey officer.*



Fig. 18: Postmaster Isaac T. Nichols.

The April 4, 1890 edition of the Bridgeton Evening News carried an announcement from the Camden "Telegram" that ex-Senator Nichols (*Figure 18*) had been appointed as postmaster of Bridgeton. Nichols was a printer and eventually, publisher of the Bridgeton Evening News. He served as NJ Assemblyman in 1877 and (sic) 1878 and then as NJ State Senator for two terms, 1881-1886. Nichols was also the author of "Historic Days In Cumberland County, New Jersey, 1855-1865, Political And War Time Reminiscences."

Two months later, Nichols' appointment fell through due to the political situation; the June 15, 1890 issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer reported:

*The Bridgeton Postmastership.*

*Mr. Nichols Nominated and Confirmed, but the President says No.*

*Senator Isaac T. Nichols and his friends have given up all hope of his getting the postoffice here. Mr. Nichols received a letter yesterday from Congressman Bergen which stated that under the peculiar circumstances President Harrison would not issue his commission. Mr. Nichols was nominated by First Assistant Postmaster Clarkson in the absence of the Postmaster-General and his name was rushed through the Senate at once and confirmed.*

*Then the real battle commenced at Bridgeton. President Robert J. Buck, of the Cumberland Iron and Nail Company, and President Thomas U. Harris, of the Bridgeton National Bank, and several other prominent citizens hastened to Washington and said Mr. Nichols must not be the postmaster at Bridgeton and formidable affidavits and other papers were handed to the President and Postmaster-General. Investigation was quietly made from Washington regarding Mr. Nichols and finally President Harrison would not issue a commission to Mr. Nichols. Just who the coming postmaster will be is unknown. Ex-Postmaster John Trenchard and T. R. Janvier are the only prominent candidates, but several others are quietly mentioned, prominent among whom are ex-County Clerk Daniel Sharp, Mayor Du Bois, Editor George W. McGowan. ex-Sheriff L. H. Dowdney and*

*Freeholder Joseph T. White. But Postmaster Laning's term does not expire until next April. The office is worth \$2,500 and elects six carriers.*

Although *Table 1* does not reflect it, it appears as if Laning again served as the postmaster for several months once Nichols' appointment was denied.

In October, 1890, William N. Hewitt succeeded Laning as postmaster. Laning appointed David S. Blew as dispatching clerk and his son, Richard Hewitt, as money order clerk. Preparations were underway for moving the office to North Laurel Street.

In 1894, Laning was reappointed postmaster. On April 2, 1896, the Bridgeton Evening News reported that Laning had appointed Charles H. Pierson chief and money order clerk within the office. Just a few months later, scandal! The Bridgeton Evening News reported on July 4, 1896:

*Postmaster Laning In Trouble  
Loses His Job At Bridgeton, N. J., And Will Be Prosecuted.*

*The recent summary removal of Postmaster Samuel A. Laning at Bridgeton, N. J., for violating the Federal civil service laws will be followed immediately by criminal prosecution. The removal was the outcome of a joint investigation made by the postoffice department and the civil service commission. The charges were filed with the commission about two months ago. It was alleged that Postmaster Laning gave secret information in a civil service examination to a competitor for a place in the postoffice and that in response to his solicitations several letter carriers made contributions in the postoffice building for political purposes during the campaign of 1894-5. The commission immediately instituted an inquiry which was supplemented by an investigation by a postoffice inspector. The reports have resulted in the postmaster's peremptory dismissal and are now with Attorney General Harmon, prosecution having been recommended.*

The July 7, 1896 edition of the Bridgeton Evening News announced that Pierson had been officially notified of his appointment as postmaster, effective June 29. "A blank bond in the sum of \$18,000 was sent to him to be filled up with the names of his sureties." Pierson had recently been appointed chief and money order clerk by Laning.

Four years later, another scandal. The April 29, 1900 issue of the Bridgeton Evening News reported:

*In stores, factories and on street corners but little else was discussed today except the troubles of Postmaster Charles H. Pierson, the knowledge of whose alleged shortage to the amount of \$3180.30 in his accounts with the Postoffice Department has shocked the whole community. Pierson left the city last Thursday just before the arrival of Postal Inspector Shrop. To-day it was learned that he was in Philadelphia. He had been stopping at the Hotel Hanover, where he was visited to-day by Howard S. Carll, who is a brother-in-law of Postmaster Pierson, and one of his bondsmen. Pierson was informed that the bondsmen would make good the deficit next Monday and he was advised to return home. This he did this evening, leaving the train at the Irving avenue station and going direct to his home on North Pearl street.*

## BRIDGETON'S 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POSTMASTERS ~ Doug D'Avino

*The report of Postmaster Pierson's shortage came as a big surprise to his friends. It appears that some of the clerks and letter carriers had not been paid regularly. An attache of the postoffice said to The Inquirer correspondent this afternoon that frequently he found it difficult to get his salary. Some times he would have as much as two months' pay coming to him.*

*This condition of affairs led to an investigation by Postal Inspector Shrop, who arrived in town last Thursday without previous notice. He first went over Chief Clerk Richard Brockson's books, which were found correct. Continuing the investigation the inspector discovered a discrepancy in the postmaster's accounts amounting to over \$3100.*

### GOVERNMENT WILL NOT LOSE.

*Pierson was under a \$20,000 bond. His sureties are former Assemblyman Bloomfield Minch, general contractor; Howard S. Carll, a brother-in-law and of the firm of Pierce & Carll, undertakers; former Councilman Francis R. Seeley, carpet dealer; and former Councilman John R. Johnson, grain merchant.*

*The bondsmen were immediately notified of Postmaster Pierson's shortage. This was last evening. Inquiry was at once made for the postmaster, and it was learned that he had left the city the day before. This morning the bondsmen and postal inspector held a conference at the postoffice. Mr. Carll, by the request of the other bondsmen, was placed in charge of the office. He will remain in charge until a Republican postmaster is appointed. There are already numerous candidates, among them Ex-Sheriff Shinn, Henry Graham and Dr J. R. Thompson.*

*Mr. Pierson is a man yet in the prime of life. He is happily married, and has a wife and three small children, all daughters. He has always been popular with his associates, and his reputation was always regarded as the best. In politics he is a Democrat, and was a candidate for Sheriff against Sheriff Shinn, Republican, by whom he was defeated. He was appointed postmaster about a month prior to the expiration of President Cleveland's term, succeeding Postmaster S. A. Lanning, who was charged with violating the civil service rules, and who was afterwards deposed.*

### POPULAR POSTMASTER.

*At the time of his appointment Pierson was Lanning's chief clerk. He was popular with all the clerks and letter carriers, notwithstanding that some of them experienced considerable difficulty in getting their salaries regularly. The Bridgeton postoffice pays a salary of about \$2300 a year, and has always been regarded as a very desirable berth. There are six letter carriers, and as many clerks.*

*There are many rumors regarding the cause of Mr. Pierson's troubles, but the one generally believed is that bad investments were responsible for the alleged shortage in his accounts. He was known to make frequent trips to Philadelphia, where he is said to have speculated to a limited extent.*

*When Mr. Carll returned from Philadelphia this afternoon, after his talk with Postmaster Pierson, he at once summoned the other bondsmen, who agreed to turn over the amount of the alleged shortage to Postal Inspector Shrop in Philadelphia next Monday. It is not likely that any legal action will be taken.*



Thus ends the story of the 19<sup>th</sup> century postmasters of Bridgeton. *Figure 19* shows an Advertised Letter List run in the Bridgeton Evening News in October, 1900. Pierson's brother-in-law, Howard S. Carll, became acting postmaster until Henry Graham's appointment became effective in early 1901, as described in the August 2012 Journal.

If you have any postmarked Bridgeton covers or other documentation that can further clarify the dates that the Bridgetown and/or Bridgeton post offices were established, please contact the author < [davinod@earthlink.net](mailto:davinod@earthlink.net) > or the Journal Editor.



*Fig. 19: Advertised Letter List from the Bridgeton Evening News, October 8, 1900 shows Charles H. Pierson, P.M. per H.S. Carll, Acting P.M. for Sureties.*

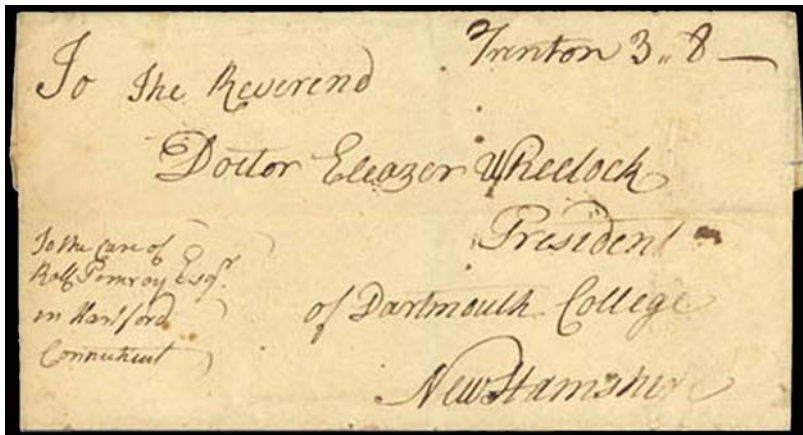
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## ON THE AUCTION SCENE: NEW JERSEY STAMPLESS COVERS

By Robert G. Rose

A number of New Jersey stampless covers were sold at a Daniel F. Kelleher auction of the “Mayflower Collection” of stampless covers that was held on October 11, 2012.<sup>1</sup> One of the auction’s highlights, shown in *Figure 1*, was a colonial Trenton manuscript postmark on a May 3, 1774 folded cover, endorsed to be sent via Hartford, Connecticut, and addressed to the President of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. The letter was sent unpaid at the 1765 Parliamentary rate, computed in sterling as 3 penny weight and 8 grains, the equivalent of 10 pence, paying the single letter rate of over 200 miles and not exceeding 300 miles.<sup>2</sup> It sold for a hammer price of \$2,200 plus a bidder’s commission of 18%.



*Fig. 1: 1774 Trenton Colonial Usage to New Hampshire.*

An “N.B. Sep. 10” New Brunswick straight line postmark on a 1796 triple rate (8 cents for single letter rate 30 to 60 miles) folded cover to James Boggs in Philadelphia, *Figure 2*, sold for \$650 plus the bidder’s commission. This unusual postmark, with only the post office’s initials as identification, was used only in 1795-96. At least half a dozen folded letters have been reported with this postmark from the Boggs correspondence, all from Robert Morris, then the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, who was Boggs’ uncle.



*Fig. 2: 1796 triple rated New Brunswick straight line to Philadelphia.*

New Brunswick was also represented in the sale with a strike of the five cent “saw tooth” fancy rate marking in black on a July 22, 1845 folded letter to Philadelphia, illustrated in *Figure 3*, paying the five cent single letter rate under 300 miles. This is only the third example of this fancy rate marking that has been reported from New Brunswick.<sup>3</sup> It sold for \$120 plus bidder’s commission.



Fig. 3: Fancy New Brunswick saw tooth rate marking on 1845 cover.

There are six reported varieties of straight line handstamps from Lawrenceville. The Mayflower Collection included an 1839 usage of the 34 X 2mm handstamp in black, shown in *Figure 4* that saw use from 1838 to 1841. This folded letter was endorsed “Free” by the letter writer and then handstamped “FREE” at the post office upon its mailing because it was addressed to the postmaster at Allentown, N.J. It sold for \$160 plus bidder’s commission.



Fig. 4: 1839 Lawrenceville straight line mailed free to postmaster.



ON THE AUCTION SCENE: NJ STAMPLESS COVERS ~ Robert G. Rose

This issue of *NJPH* contains an article on the first circular handstamps used in New Jersey, a brass handstamp that was provided to the post offices in both Newark and Trenton by the federal government in 1799. The Mayflower collection contained a 1799 folded letter postmarked August 29, shown in *Figure 5*, an early use of this handstamp from Newark.<sup>4</sup> The letter was sent unpaid with a charge of 10 cents at the single letter rate for 60 to 100 miles. Reflecting its early use of the brass handstamp, it sold for \$550 plus bidder's commission.



*Fig. 5: 1799 federally supplied Newark brass handstamp.*

The sale also included a purported stampless cover with a Haddonfield negative postmark as shown in *Figure 6*. When this author first viewed this cover in the auction catalog, the absence of a rate marking drew my attention. The cover was withdrawn from the sale when, upon close examination, it was determined that the stamp that originally had been on the cover had been removed. A genuine use of this postmark as found in combination with the 3 cent 1851 Issue, with the stamp pen cancelled, is shown on the cropped cover in *Figure 7*.<sup>5</sup>



*Fig. 6: Stamp removed from bogus "Stampless" Haddonfield cover.*

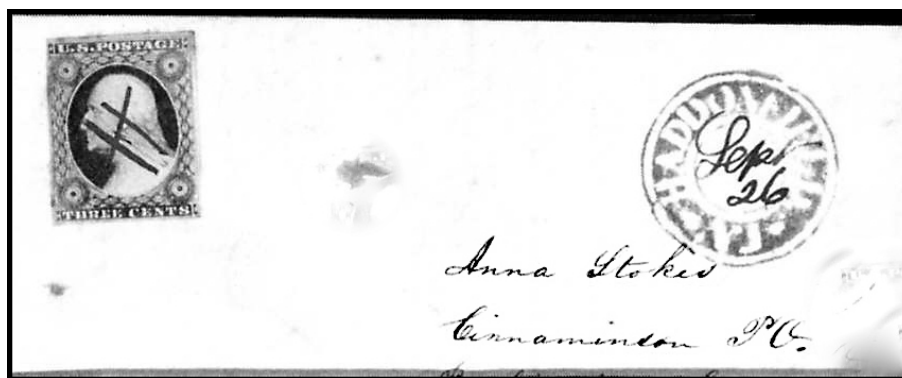


Fig. 7: Haddonfield Negative Postmark in combination with 3 cent 1851 Issue.

### ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Daniel F. Kelleher LLC, Public Auction Sale 362, October 11-14, 2012.
- <sup>2</sup> This 1774 colonial usage is illustrated in William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers* (Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983), Figure 6, pg. 12, and in Alex L. ter Brakke, ed., *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America 1628-1790* (American Philatelic Society Research Library, 1975), Figure NJ 10, pg. II-67. This cover was once included in the postal history collection formed by Edith M. Faulstich that was sold by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. in Sale No. 440, November 19-21, 1973, lot 763, for \$325.00.
- <sup>3</sup> The other two New Brunswick usages are dated August 2 and August 12, 1845. The latter is illustrated in Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale No. 301, May 12, 1966, lot 224. The former is illustrated in the following article by the author. This identical handstamp is also reported in blue from Trenton with July 7 and July 14, 1845 uses. Robert G. Rose, "New Jersey's Stampless Saw Tooth Marking," *NJPH*, Vol. 38, No. 4, November 2010 ([Whole No. 180](#)), p. 195.
- <sup>4</sup> The earliest reported use of the Newark brass handstamp, known to the author, is an August 6 postmark on a 1799 folded letter cover to Kinderhook, New York with manuscript "Free." Lowell S. Newman & Co. Auctioneers, Sale No. 23, September 6-7, 1995, lot 1299.
- <sup>5</sup> Robert G. Kaufmann, William C. Coles, Jr. Collection, Sale No. 33, March 8, 1984, lot 947.

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## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HINDENBURG DISASTER: NJ Notes

By Jean Walton

On the wet and stormy evening of May 6, 1937, at exactly 7.25 PM, the airfield at Lakehurst, New Jersey became the scene of a major international tragedy – the German airship Hindenburg, LZ-129 had just made its first transoceanic voyage to the US of the 1937 season, only to explode as landing procedures were in progress. In less than a minute, its burning remains lay on the sandy wet field, the framework twisted and destroyed by the fire, and its fabric cover incinerated in a flash. There were 97 people on board, 36 passengers from many different countries and 61 crew (all German). The disaster was broadcast around the world.

Earlier in the day, the spectacular zeppelin glided quietly over Boston, and had been admired by New Yorkers in the afternoon from the observation platforms of the RCA Building. It was already 10 hours behind schedule and a quick turnaround was planned for the return voyage later that evening. It arrived at Lakehurst at 4:15 PM – only to find that weather conditions would force a later landing still. The airship drifted up and down the New Jersey coast, until finally being given clearance to land around 6:15 PM – but the Hindenburg still needed to maneuver around some thunderstorms and heavy rain to get back to Lakehurst. At 7:15, it was finally in position, landing ropes were dropped, and the ground crew of 230 prepared to tie the ship up to its mooring mast.<sup>1</sup> What caused the fire and explosion is still unknown, but it made clear the dangers of hydrogen use in airships, and brought about an end to the history of zeppelin travel.

The horror of those gathered to meet passengers or to bring the ship to rest was palpable. Who could have survived the fire and the crash – people were seen dropping from open windows as it neared the ground, and the fire which began in the rear of the airship quickly spread forward like a blowtorch. Yet as those who survived the jump were running from the ship, ground crew rushed in to rescue anyone they could. Those who survived were brought to the airfield's infirmary and then taken to nearby hospitals. There was only one person on board from New Jersey, Edward Douglas from Newark. He was an overseas representative for McCann-Erikson, returning from abroad. He did not survive.

Another passenger, born in Morristown in 1878, Margaret Mather, had moved with her family to Italy in 1906 for the recovery from typhoid fever of her brother, Frank Mather. He returned to the US in 1910, to become a professor at Princeton University, while Margaret remained in Rome to care for her parents until their death. She was returning to visit her family in New Jersey, pleased not to have to make the long sea voyage as she was very susceptible to seasickness. When the Hindenburg burned, the ship tilted as it sank to the ground, and she was thrown to the back of the dining area. She waited for the feeling of impact – which never happened. The ship – or what was left of it, set down gently on the soggy ground of the airfield. A rescuer found her stunned, still sitting in the dining area, her heavy coat pulled up around her, and brought her out of the ship. Her hands were burned and her coat was singed, but she was not seriously hurt. After being treated for her burns, she was told she could go to a local hospital or to her family in Princeton – so within hours of the crash, she arrived on the doorstep of Louise Turner, her niece in Princeton. Her family, who had left the airfield thinking she had died, was overwhelmed. It is hard to imagine their surprise.<sup>2</sup>



Fig. 1: Margaret Mather, from her 1914 Passport photo. She was 58 at the time of the crash, 23 years later.



Fig. 2: Max Zabel, one of the Hindenburg's navigators, also served as the postmaster on board.



Fig. 3: Bill Schneider, a Rahway postal clerk and amateur photographer, took many photos of airships at Lakehurst.<sup>3</sup>



Fig. 4: Taken by Schneider as the Hindenburg approached on May 6, 1937.



Fig. 5: A subsequent photo, as the ship caught fire, Schneider's hand was shaking, causing the blur.

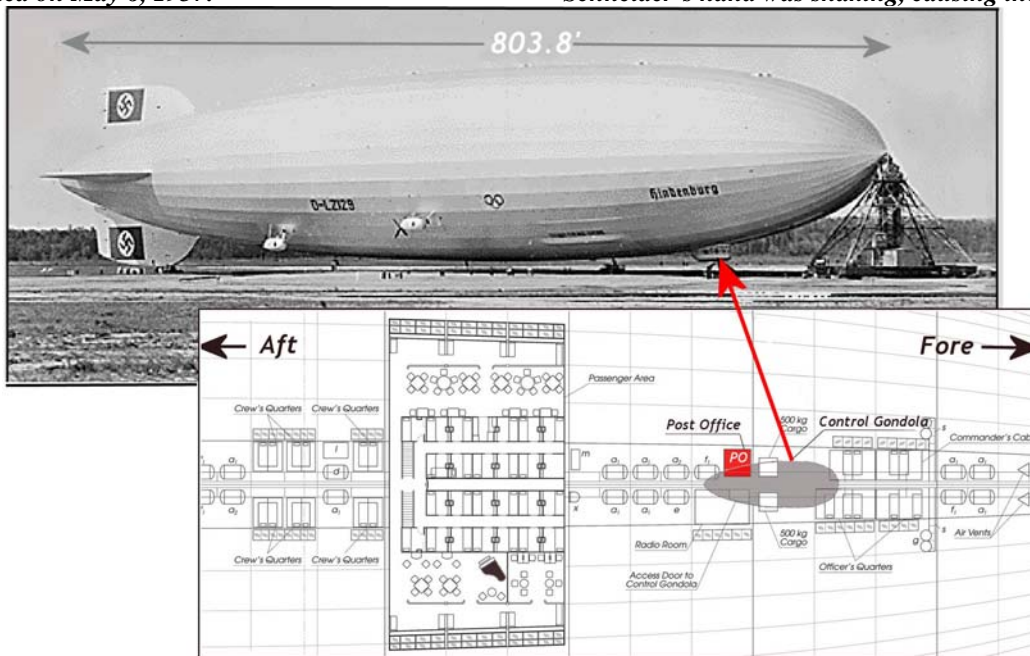


Fig. 6: LZ-129 was over 800 ft long. The post office was located just above and towards the rear of the gondola (arrow). The wider area shows passenger cabins and lounge areas, including an aluminum piano.



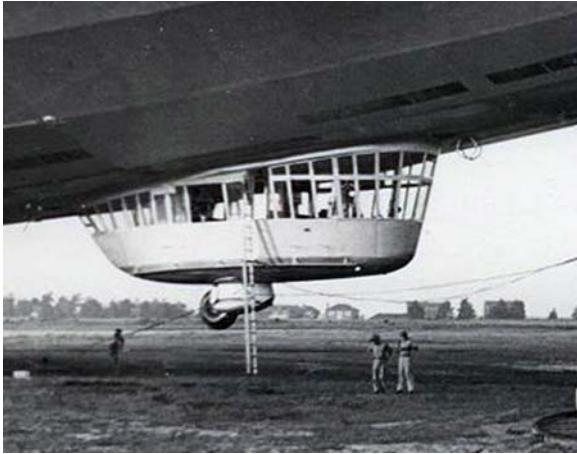


Fig. 7: The control gondola of the Hindenburg.



Fig. 8: A recreation of the post office aboard LZ-129 for a Smithsonian exhibit.



Fig. 9: In the observation lounge, where passengers could watch the world slip by below.



Fig. 10: The dining area.



Fig. 11: A view of the reading and writing lounge, with postal slot on the bookcase at left.



Fig. 12: The remains of LZ-129 on the Lakehurst field. For scale, note those are people on the field with it.

These pictures are from the excellent National Postal Museum Exhibit, *Fire & Ice*, available online.<sup>4</sup> On their site is also a wonderful video interview with Frank Ward, a Beachwood NJ high school student in 1937 and one of the ground crew – visit <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/videos.html>.



That night in May, 36 people died, but amazingly 62 survived. Of the small group of 36 passengers (LZ-129 had berths for 72), 13 died, and 23 survived. Of the crew of 61, 22 died and 39 survived. The deaths amongst the passengers totaled 5 Americans, 4 Germans, 1 Swede, 1 Austrian, and 2 from Mexico (of a family of five). The 22 members of the crew who died were all German. One member of the ground crew also died.

The mail on board did not do so well. Of the 17,000 pieces on board, only 372 items are documented as surviving.<sup>5</sup>

Mail uploading and offloading was in the hands of the New York City Morgan Annex, which had sent a unit to Lakehurst to meet the ship to gather late mail for the return voyage later that evening and to receive incoming mail. A similar arrangement existed in Germany, with the Frankfurt Downtown office serving as the receiving and sending point for Zeppelin mail. On board LZ-129, Max Zabel served as postmaster, in addition to his duties as one of the navigators. It was his job to handle and cancel any mail not yet cancelled in Frankfurt, and to prepare items for the return voyage that were being sent aboard the Hindenburg to the U.S. for the return trip. These latter items were stored in a closed compartment above and forward of the on board post office. Zabel also was in charge of all mail written aboard the Zeppelin – cards and stationery were available, and items could be mailed on board in a post box in the writing room. Zabel survived the crash, and worked with the NY post office and the Zeppelin Company in the mail recovery.

The Hindenburg's post office was located just above the control gondola, and the storage compartments just above that.<sup>6</sup> The location and type of storage was important in understanding how the mail that did survive was secured. The mail which had arrived at Frankfurt for the return voyage was secured in a closed aluminum compartment and survived almost intact, as the compartment provided protection. As the framework of the airship was destroyed by fire, the compartment fell to the ground, and embedded itself into the wet soil – which further served to protect it from the immense heat. These items were found first, and included some 143 pieces of mail.<sup>7</sup> Another 80 items were found which had been stored in mail bags. These were items addressed to the U.S. and other places in the Americas, and were intended to be offloaded at Lakehurst and taken to the Morgan Annex. This group was largely damaged by fire and water, so many are only remnants of full items, but it is thought that because they were bound together, some of the outer items protected those in the middle. Another 26 items were found the next day – stored in an open aluminum container, mail posted on board. These also were severely damaged. Of the 26, 19 were addressed to Germany, and most had been prepared for the return trip.

The remaining 123 items shown by Dieter Leder in his comprehensive book are of various sources – most of the debris gathered after the crash was taken to a facility for sorting and customs clearance, and amongst these were found other letters that had presumably fallen on the field and not been completely destroyed. A few items were taken as “souvenirs” – pocketed by one or two of the rescue and fire crews, and still others were found in the personal effects of crew members, who had prepared mail to be cancelled on board, and had it handed back to them (essentially cancelled to order items).

75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HINDENBURG DISASTER: NJ Notes ~ Jean Walton

Of all the letters found, only 13 were sent to New Jersey addresses. (This number does not include another 13 which were sent by crew members to themselves at Lakehurst airfield.) A census of these letters is below; and a few are illustrated from Dieter Leder's book.

#	Item	Addressed to	Notes
1	Letter	Paula Becker, R.F.D. #1, Morristown, NJ	
1	Letter	E. Bell, Brown Hall, Princeton, NJ	Brown Hall : dorm at Princeton University
1	Letter	Ilse Donck, Care Frau Gretel, 1575 Palisade Ave, Fort Lee, NJ	
1	Letter	Gruner, Maple Avenue, Ridgefield, NJ	Sent by registered mail
1	Card	Wilhelmina Haas, 115 or 715 N. Washington Ave., Dunellen, NJ	
1	Letter	P. Mak, Hillside Avenue, Nutley, NJ	Sent from the Netherlands with Dutch stamps including one Scout Jamboree stamp
1	Letter	K.H. Mandle, Secy.-Treas. U.S. Bronze Powder, Closter, NJ	
1	Letter	Harry Myer, 2071 Oakwood Terrace, Maplewood, NJ	
1	Letter	Kurt Pretzner, 663 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ	Sent by registered mail
1	Letter	A.R. Thiel, 223 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Roselle, NJ	
1	Letter	Jay Timolet, Riverside Drive, Red Bank, NJ	
1	Letter	Town Stamp Co., -54? Bank Street, Newark, NJ	Sent from Vienna Austrian stamps
1	Letter	Max Wirth, Silk Dyeing Co. of America, P.O. Box 1933, Paterson, NJ	Although this cover is genuine, forgeries exist to Wirth

13

Letters written by and addressed to crew members, and sent to Lakehurst, were addressed to crew members L.S. Bauer, Robert Moser, Alois Reisacher, and A. Thasler. Bauer survived the crash, but Moser and Reisacher died. Thasler was not on board, having become ill shortly before the flight.

It is important to note that forgeries of these very collectible items have been created, and some of these are known sent to New Jersey addresses, notably to a John W. King in Roselle Park, to Leif Neandres in Ridgefield, to Carl Ripley in Dover, NJ and to Max Wirth, as noted above in the table. For more details on known forgeries and how to recognize them, I recommend Dieter Leder's excellent book, *LZ-129 Hindenburg Zeppelin Crash Mail*.<sup>8</sup>



**Fig. 13: P. Mak letter, sent from Holland with Scout stamp.** From the Smithsonian Institute's *Fire & Ice* Exhibit, also shown on SOSSI site.<sup>9</sup>

This particular cover, addressed to P. Mak in Nutley, NJ, was sent from the Netherlands. The 5th World Scout Jamboree was held in the Netherlands in 1937, with three stamps issued to commemorate it. This item was used with the high value (12½¢) in this set, a Hermes stamp, as well as two regular 30¢ stamps to cover the Hindenburg upcharge. This cover was sent to Frankfurt, to be carried aboard the first 1937 flight of the Hindenburg. It is shown in the protective envelope the Post Office used when returning covers to their owners.



Fig. 14: A letter to a Gruner in Ridgefield, shown in an “ambulance” bag, with its registered receipt .

These covers, and many others, are illustrated in *LZ-129 Hindenburg Zeppelin Crash Mail*, by Dieter Leder, with detailed information which regarding their survival – an excellent source on Hindenburg philately. Ordering information here: <http://www.ez.ep.de/books/hindenbu rgcrash.html>



Fig. 15: To A.R. Thiel in Roselle, NJ.

## ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Russell, Patrick, “Thirty-Two Seconds,” an article on the Hindenburg crash located at [http://www.keepgoing.org/issue20\\_giant/thirtytwo\\_seconds.html](http://www.keepgoing.org/issue20_giant/thirtytwo_seconds.html) , 2005. (11/28/2012)
- <sup>2</sup> Faces of the Hindenburg, a wonderful blogspot with biographies of all on board, both crew and passengers, maintained by Patrick Russell, a Chicago writer, at <http://facesofthehindenburg.blogspot.com/>. (11/28/2012), , & Mather, Margaret G, “I Was On the Hindenburg.” Harpers Monthly Magazine, November 1937.
- <sup>3</sup> Bill Schneider Collection, Courtesy Cheryl Ganz.
- <sup>4</sup> Fire & Ice – an exhibit full of interesting material relating to both the Hindenburg and the Titanic disasters, at <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/index.html> (11/28/2012).
- <sup>5</sup> Leder, Dieter, *LZ-129 Hindenburg Zeppelin Crash Mail*, published by Topo/Verlag, Meersburg, Germany, May 2012. This book, done for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hindenburg explosion, is probably the most complete census of surviving items, and is a must for students of Hindenburg philately. Most of the information included here regarding these items is from Leder’s book.
- <sup>6</sup> Airships: The Hindenburg and other Zeppelins. This site has charts and drawings of the Hindenburg’s structure from stem to stern. <http://www.airships.net/hindenburg/interiors/crew-areas-keel> (11/28/2012).
- <sup>7</sup> Leder, Dieter op cit.
- <sup>8</sup> Leder, Dieter, op cit.
- <sup>9</sup> *Fire & Ice* – an exhibit full of interesting material relating to both the Hindenburg and the Titanic disasters, at <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/index.html> ; and at SOSSI’s Hindenburg cover article at <http://www.slettebo.no/scout/hindenburg.htm>



## HOMETOWN POST OFFICES: CHANGEWATER, N.J. POST OFFICE

By Arne Englund

Located on the Warren County side of the Musconetcong River in Washington Township, the post office at Changewater, N.J. was established Sept. 26, 1859. Changewater, both as a name and as a place of industry, had existed over a hundred years previous to this, at a time when all of present Warren County was contained within Sussex County. Not long after erecting Oxford Furnace in 1742, Jonathan Robeson built a forge at Changewater. The name “Changewater” refers to the channels or millraces cut into the upper and lower banks of the river to run the forge. In 1756, an advertisement for the sale of Robeson’s properties mentions “two-thirds part of the change water forge.” It was subsequently owned and operated by Col. Mark Thompson, of the Sussex County Militia, and after his death in 1803 by his son, Robert C. Thompson. The forge was still in operation at least as late as 1834.

Prior to the establishment of the Changewater P.O., mail service for area residents could be had at the nearby villages of New Hampton, just a few miles west and across the river in Hunterdon Co., it being the closest, as well as at Mansfield (now Washington), Port Colden or Anderson, these three all being in Warren Co.

In 1856, the Warren Railroad was built, connecting the Jersey Central at Hampton with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western’s terminus at the Delaware Water Gap, with an 80 foot high trestle passing thru Changewater. Three years later the village received its own post office.

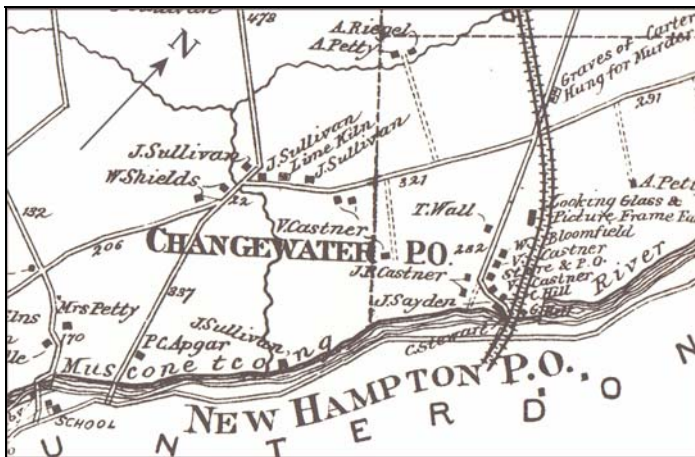


Fig. 1: Changewater, on the eastern edge of Warren County.  
Beers Atlas, 1871<sup>1</sup>



Illustration courtesy Doug D’Avino<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 2: General Store operated by postmaster’s Eugene Castner, and then Edson Castner. D.L. & W. R.R. trestle is in the background.



Fig. 3: Edson Castner, Changewater’s postmaster from 1907 to 1951.

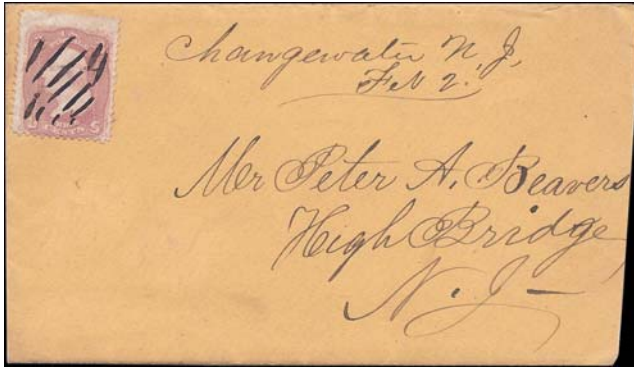


Fig. 4: Manuscript Changewater cancel, 1864.



Fig. 5: A 1902 duplex cancel from Changewater.

The first postmaster was Victor Castner, who, as a child of 9 along with his younger brother John, had survived unharmed the famous Changewater Murders, in which the boys' parents and sister were brutally killed in their home. The general store building, which also housed the Changewater P.O., still exists and is shown here in a recent photo. There were also in the village a couple of small grist and sawmills, one on each side of the river. A large stone grist mill, built about 1880 on the Warren



Fig. 6: Victor Castner's general store, the first P.O. location, as seen today.

Co. side of the river, and a snuff mill on the opposite bank, supplanted these. The large stone mill later served as a woolen mill and still later as a graphite company. This building was destroyed by fire in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Victor Castner served as postmaster from 1859 until 1885, and again from 1889 to 1893 with Jacob Hill, Jr. holding the position between those two terms. Three more Castners followed Victor as postmaster: Whitfield 1893 – 1897, Eugene 1897 – 1907 & Edson 1907 – 1951. Edson apparently

was of no direct relation to his predecessor, Eugene. He operated a general store and the post office in a separate smaller store building which apparently no longer exists.

There have been almost a dozen postmasters since 1951. The Changewater post office is still in operation, and occupies a space in the bottom level of an otherwise residential building located across the street from the old Castner general store. With the old grist mill long gone and the general store long closed, the post office is currently the only business in this quiet back road village, which contains about 20 or so houses as well as the old Methodist Church on the Hunterdon County side of the Musconetcong River.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Warren, New Jersey, published by F.W. Beers, 36 Vesey St., NYC, 1871.

<sup>2</sup> Post Offices of New Jersey - A History Told Through Postcards at <http://www.njpostalhistory.org/exhibitionhall.html>



## MEMBER NEWS: NJPHS EBAY AUCTION, NEW MEMBERS, ADDRESS CHANGES

### NJPHS MEMBER NEWS:

**A note of apology from your layout editor:** Again the journal has slipped a bit beyond its regular issue date, and the blame for that should be put on my shoulders. I won't hesitate however to share it with Hurricane Sandy, which as Bob Rose pointed out, left us in the dark in Northern New Jersey for - in my case - 13 days. Without power, cable and other forms of normal communication, receiving materials became somewhat problematic. Nevertheless I did have wonderful help from authors who did their best to get material to me, and I thank them for sending it in ways that made it easy to put together in this final issue of 2012. Thank you all!

**DUES TIME AGAIN! REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$15 DUES FOR 2013! See enclosed sheet or pay by Paypal with a click of the mouse at our web site, [www.NJPostalHistory.org](http://www.NJPostalHistory.org). Your donations always welcome, and necessary for covering our printing and mailing costs.**

### NJPHS EBAY AUCTIONS

We recently had another of our NJPHS Ebay Auction listings. At the end of Oct. I listed 32 items, mostly NJ Stampless Covers, as 10 day listings ending Nov. 4 under my own Ebay ID: alenglund. Of those, 25 items sold or roughly 75%. We took in a little over \$600.00 with an average thus of \$24.00 per item. The highest priced item was a 1770 merchant's letter from New Brunswick to Rhode Island which brought \$157.50. At some point soon, I will relist the items which did not sell.

I would like to continue listing items on a casual basis, several items at a time rather than a large listing which is scheduled a month or more in advance. If you are interested in consigning material please contact me by e-mail: [alenglund@aol.com](mailto:alenglund@aol.com) and let me know what type of items you have to consign.

I would like to avoid low end material. I would like to keep to more 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century material that would bring a minimum of \$10 per lot. Think *Quality*. Ebay and Paypal fees amount to roughly 14%. In the past, after deducting those fees, I've taken a 10% commission and the NJPHS has received 5%. I'd now like to contribute my 10% to the society. Thus, you would receive 71% of the final selling price.

If you have New Jersey Covers, be they duplicates, areas that you no longer collect, etc. please contact me for listing on Ebay. Thanks, Arne (your Auction Manager).

### NEW MEMBERS & CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

<b>WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:</b>
John Lupia, 13A Cedar Street, Cedar Glen Homes, Inc., Toms River, NJ 08757
Robert P. Hudson, 38 Barbers Ln., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-1144, <a href="mailto:pm08210@msn.com">pm08210@msn.com</a>
<b>CHANGES OF ADDRESS:</b>
Jack Edge from 532 Broad Street, Beverly, NJ 08010, 609-387-4670 to New address: Jack Edge, 22 Harrison Avenue, Colonia, NJ. , 07067, Telephone, new number (732) 540-8749, email remains the same: <a href="mailto:JohnEdge@hotmail.com">JohnEdge@hotmail.com</a> .

## MEMBER ADS ~ YOUR AD MISSING? LET US KNOW AT

[SECRETARY@NJPOSTALHISTORY.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@NJPOSTALHISTORY.ORG) OR BY MAIL TO 125 TURTLEBACK RD, CALIFON, NJ 07830

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

**LOOKING FOR LOCAL PICTURE POST CARDS OF OLD NJ GENERAL STORES & POST OFFICES,** particularly with post office signs, Contact Doug D'Avino at [davinod@earthlink.net](mailto:davinod@earthlink.net).

Always interested in **CORRESPONDENCE TO/FROM OCEANPORT** as well as anything between Portugal, its colonies and N.J. Contact me by mail at Steve Washburne, P.O. Box 43146 Phila. PA 19129 or email [Stevewashburne@gmail.com](mailto:Stevewashburne@gmail.com)

**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.

**STAMPLESS COVERS OF N.J. WANTED:** Please e-mail scans or mail photo copies with prices. Bill Bauerband, PO Box 736, Cedarburg, WI 53012 or e-mail: [mydogwatty@gmail.com](mailto:mydogwatty@gmail.com).

**WANTED: COVERS** to and from **CALDWELL, N.J.,** Also **CALDWELL POST CARDS & NEWTON POST CARDS BY RYERSON.** Contact Les Byrnes, P.O. Box 765, Kinderhook, N.Y. 12106 or call 518/758-7581.

**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: JERSEY CITY POSTAL HISTORY,** advertising covers, post cards of Jersey City, street scenes and unusual usages or cancellations prior to 1940. Contact John A. Trosky, 2 St. Clair Ave., Rutherford. NJ 07070-1136/201-896-8846/email [JTJersey@verizon.net](mailto:JTJersey@verizon.net).

**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:** 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).

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

**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)

**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).

**WANTED. SCOTT #205 BROWN GARFIELD.** Stamps, archival material, multiples, covers, etc. Working on exhibit and can use pretty much anything. Send scans to Ed Andrews via email: [afacinc@yahoo.com](mailto:afacinc@yahoo.com) or call 919-942-6730.

## MEMBER ADS

**WANTED FOR EXHIBIT: BETTER COVERS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ, COLONIAL PERIOD TO 1900.** Contact Nathan Zankel, P.O. Box 7449, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 or call 732/572-0377.

**WANTED:** Clear handstamps on New Jersey stampless covers for exhibition collection. Send copies and prices to Robert G. Rose, One Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 or e-mail at [rose@daypitney.com](mailto:rose@daypitney.com).

**WANTED: WASHINGTON FRANKLIN with SIDEROGRAPHER OR PLATE FINISHER INITIALS,** on or off cover, used or unused. Contact Doug D'Avino at [davinod@earthlink.net](mailto:davinod@earthlink.net).

**N.J. NATIONAL BANK CHECKS:** Checks from the late 1800's. Please e-mail scans or mail photo copies with prices. Contact: Bill Bauerband, PO Box 736, Cedarburg, WI 53012 or e-mail: [mydogwatty@gmail.com](mailto:mydogwatty@gmail.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.

**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).

**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: All GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NJ POSTAL HISTORY stampless to 1920.** All Woodbury, NJ stampless to present. **NEED BASSETT PO** (DPO GlouCty 1891-1920) Warren Plank, POB 559, Woodbury 08096, 856/229-1458, [webmaster@NJPostalHistory.org](mailto:webmaster@NJPostalHistory.org).

**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

**PARODIES OF PHILATELY** - All types of philatelic items wanted for an exhibit entitled "Parody Philately." Anything that pokes fun at our hobby/mail services. Current or older material needed. All inquiries answered. Contact Prof. Mark Sommer, 1266 Teaneck Road #10A, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666.

**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 [jiwalker@comcast.net](mailto:jiwalker@comcast.net).

**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.

**CIVIL WAR PATRIOTICS: Buy, Sell, Or Trade.** Contact Richard Micchelli At [micchelli@optonline.net](mailto:micchelli@optonline.net)

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

**BUYING COVERS ADDRESSED TO CHAPMAN FAMILY,** Philadelphia, also **Ella B. Wright**, 333-335 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St, Philadelphia, PA. Contact John N. Lupia, 13-A Cedar Street, Cedar Glen Homes, Tons River, NJ 08757-2224, or email [jlupia2@yahoo.com](mailto:jlupia2@yahoo.com).

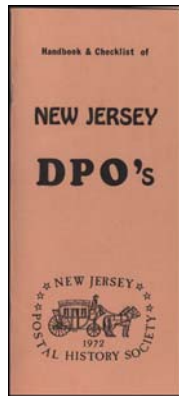
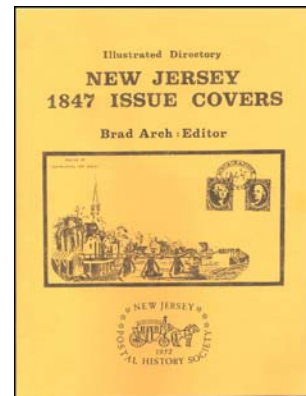
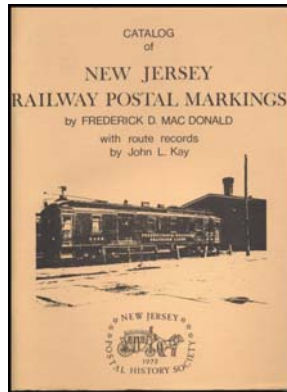
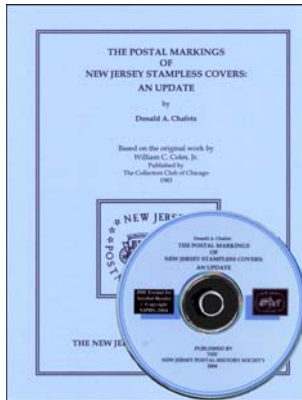
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<b>Hard copy:</b> <i>New Jersey DPO's</i> , Brad Arch, ed., 1981, 22pp, pocket sized Checklist of Discontinued Post Offices ..... THE pocket manual of New Jersey discontinued post offices, easy to transport and an excellent checklist <b>Also available to members free as a downloadable file</b> .....	\$3.00	\$4.00
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<b>CD:</b> Mosher's NJ Private Express Companies ..... • 10 compiled articles by Bruce Mosher on many aspects of private express mail in New Jersey with many color illustrations • Previously unpublished material in lengthy postscript plus index	\$10.00	\$15.00
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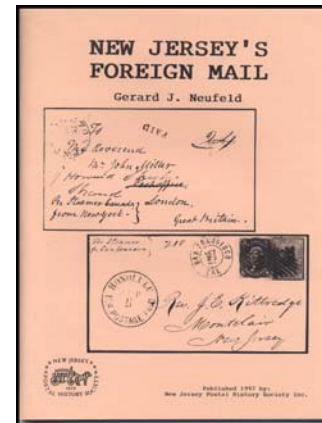
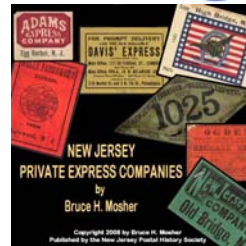


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