

New Brunswick's Postal Markings

The Stampless Period

By Robert G. Rose

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NEW BRUNSWICK'S POSTAL MARKINGS: THE STAMPLESS PERIOD Part I: 18th Century Markings

By Robert G. Rose

Collectors and students of New Jersey's postal history have long recognized New Brunswick as very significant because it used a wide variety of postal markings beginning in the Colonial Period and continuing throughout the pre-stamp and stampless period ending in 1855. New Brunswick's postal history was recounted in a six-part series authored by Gene Fricks which appeared 25 years ago in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.¹ The Fricks articles illustrated many of New Brunswick's postal markings, which in turn, served as the foundation for their listings in *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, authored by William C. Coles, Jr. in 1983.² In the years since, Nathan Zankel, a collector and exhibitor of New Brunswick's postal history, has continued the study of its postal markings, contributing a number of new listings which appear in the *Coles Update*, published in 2004.³ This series of articles will provide illustrations of actual usages of virtually all of these markings, as well updated census information and auction history for several of the scarcer markings.

Although there appears to be some uncertainty as to when New Brunswick's post office was established,⁴ Fricks reports "a regularly operating post office" by 1763, with the appointment of a postmaster, Brock Farmer, in the following year.⁵ The first reported manuscript postmark is from 1764 and is illustrated below.

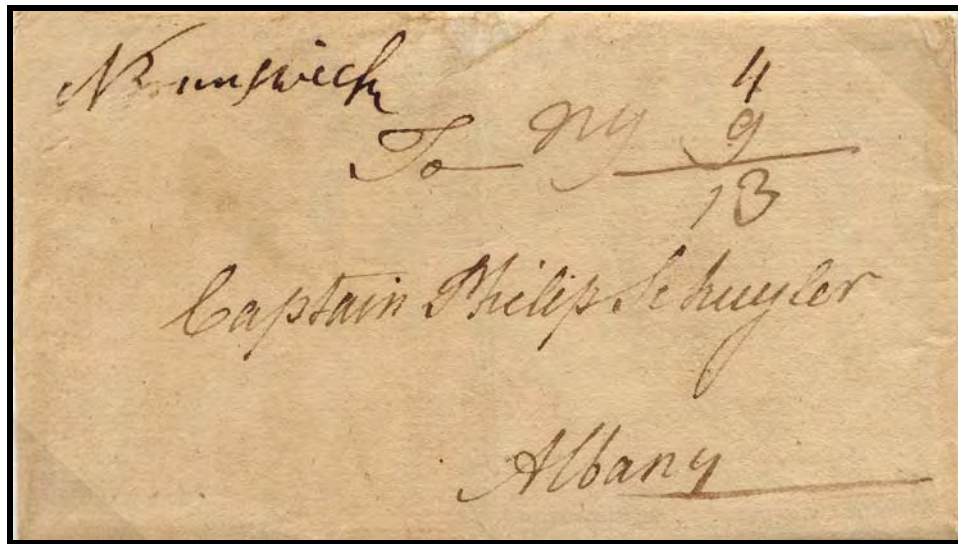


Fig. 1: Manuscript "N Brunswick" postmark to Albany via New York.

Figure 1, a folded letter dated November 30, 1764, is the earliest example of a New Brunswick postal marking outside of archival sources and is the only reported usage of this manuscript marking in collector's hands.⁶ Postage is rated under the Act of Parliament of 1710 with four pence paying the single letter rate to New York with an additional nine pence for a total of 13 pence to Albany.

The second recorded variety of a Colonial manuscript marking is illustrated below in *Figure 2*.

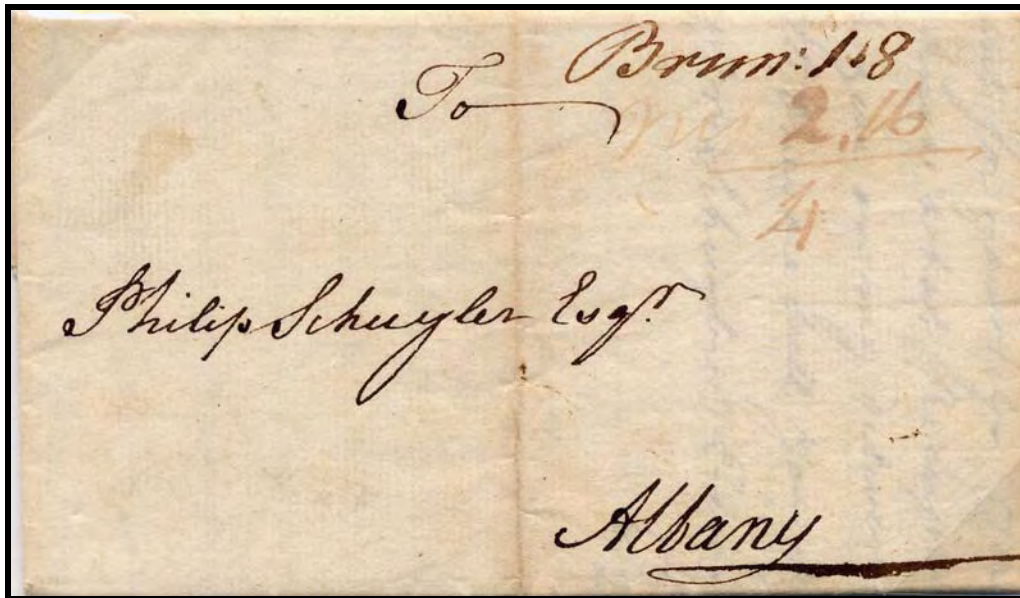


Fig. 2: Manuscript “Brun” postmark to Albany via New York. “Brun” was used by at least one New Brunswick postmaster as a convenient abbreviation for several years. Internal evidence in these letters confirms its origin as New Brunswick.

The folded letter in *Figure 2* is dated October 20, 1767. Under the Act of Parliament of 1765, postage is rated at “1.8” which is the expression in silver of one pennyweight and 8 grains of silver or 4 pence sterling, the single letter rate to New York (not over 60 miles) and an additional “2.16” or eight pence from New York to Albany (over 100 miles) for a total of four pennyweight or the equivalent of 12 pence (1 shilling) in sterling.⁷

The latest reported usage of this postmark, February 8, 1770, is the folded letter to Newport in *Figure 3*, shown on the following page. Postage to Newport, Rhode Island was rated at the same single letter rate to New York of 1.8 pennyweight and an additional 2.16 pennyweight from New York to Newport for a total of 4 pennyweight. In addition to the magenta manuscript “NY” and matching rate marking, the cover is handstamped on its reverse with a two-line “New York” postmark in brown and a bishop mark.⁸

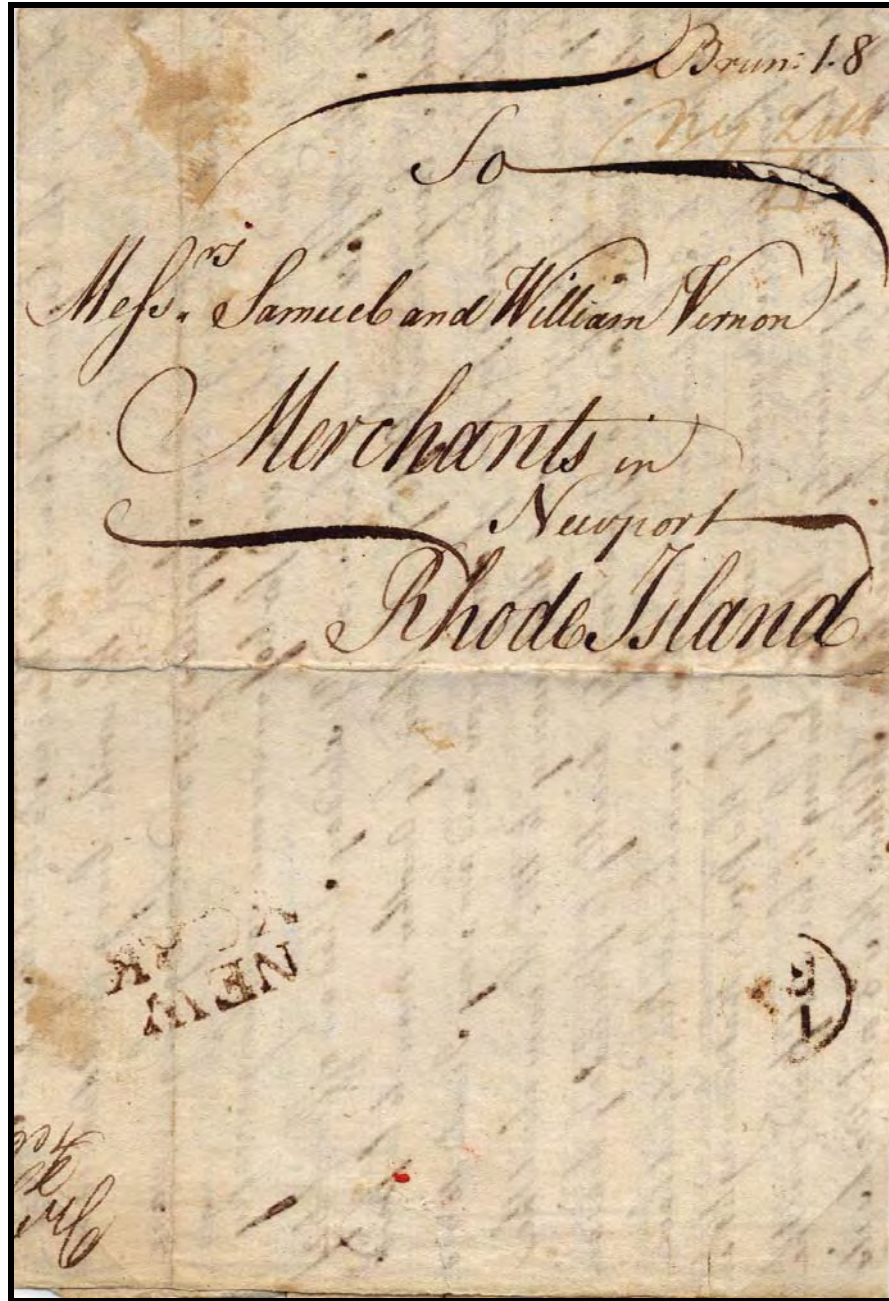


Fig. 3: Manuscript "Brun" postmark to Newport via New York.

With the coming of the Revolutionary War, New Jersey established a Council of Safety. In 1775, an edict from the Council directed that "a man and horse be kept in constant readiness" in New Brunswick "whose business shall be to forward all express to and from the Continental Congress."⁹ During the Revolutionary War, New Brunswick was first occupied by the British on December 1, 1776.¹⁰ A folded letter from the occupation period, without postmark in *Figure 4*, is written by a British officer, dated February 16, 1777, describing the Christmas crossing of the Delaware River by Washington and the defeat of the Hessian troops in Trenton.¹¹

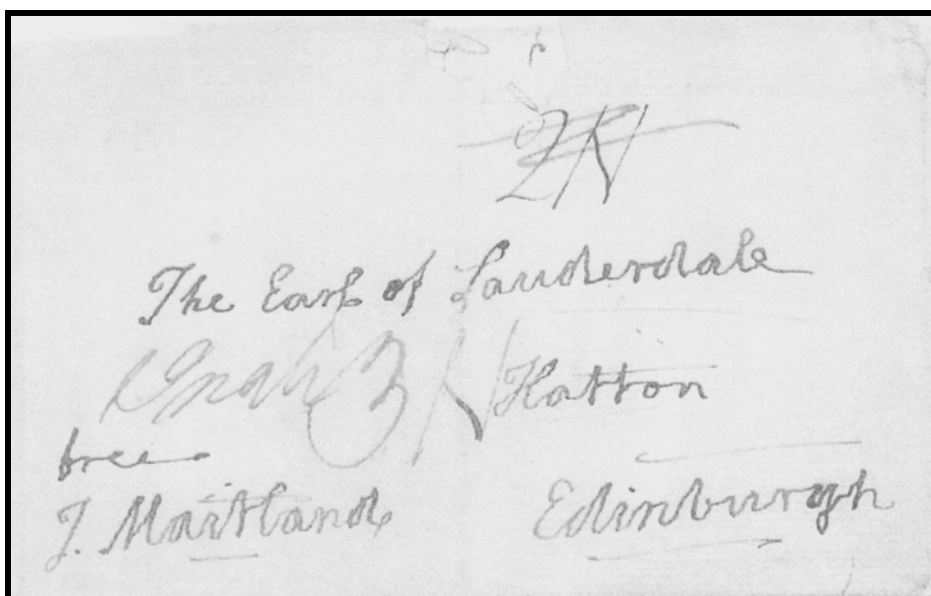


Fig. 4: British occupation of New Brunswick, February 1777.

There are no reported postmarks from New Brunswick during the Confederation period which began on October 18, 1782. However, in the Statehood period, following Congress' adoption of the Act of February 20, 1792, we find one of the most striking of the early statehood handstamped straight line postmarks. Beginning in 1795 and continuing into 1796, New Brunswick used a handstamp with the initials "N.B." and the date.¹² Two folded letters with this postmark and the newly adopted rates are shown in *Figures 5 and 6*. The *Coles Book* has assigned "N14" as its listing designation for this marking.

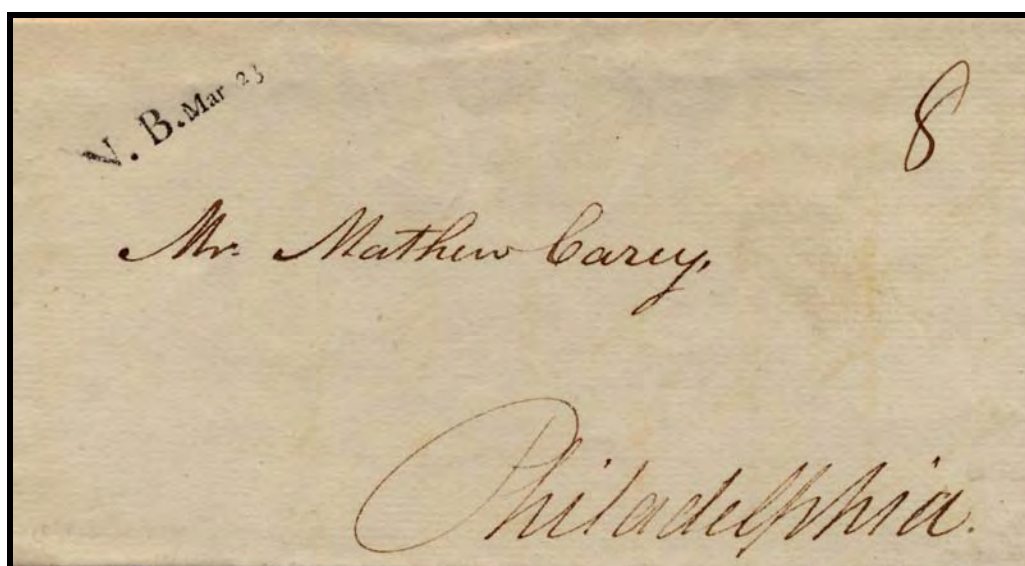


Fig. 5: Coles Type N14. March 23, 1795. Single letter rate 30-60 miles.

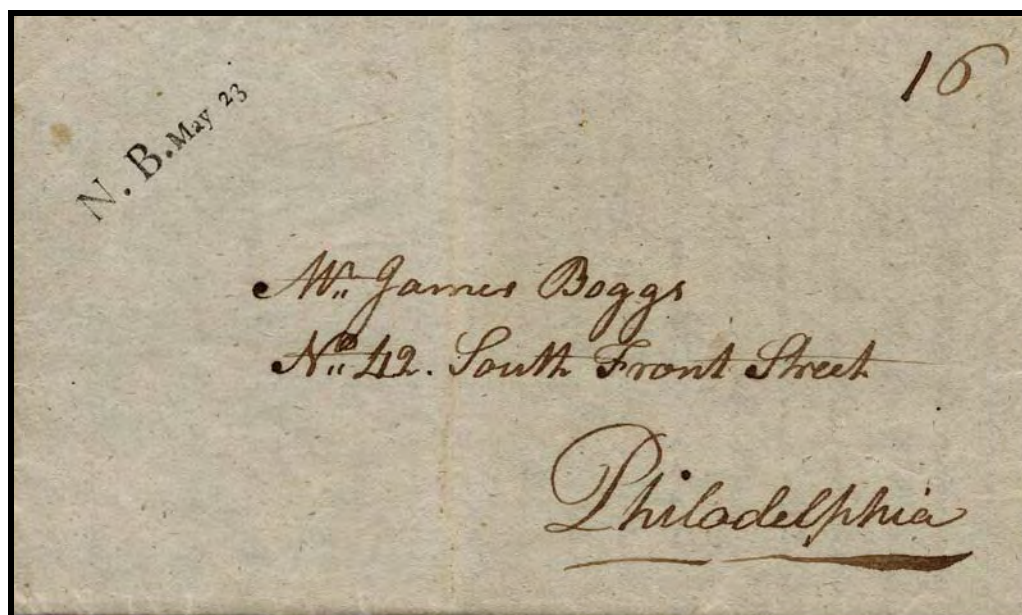


Fig. 6: Coles Type N14. May 23, 1796. Double letter rate 30-60 miles.

The *Coles Book* reports that fewer than 25 examples of this marking are known.¹³ In the absence of a census a more exact number is not known, but based on the frequency of this marking appearing in auction sales, that number is probably an accurate estimate. Although all the examples of this marking seen in sales over the last 30 years are in black, the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* records this handstamp in both red and brown in 1795.¹⁴ *Fricks* reported that strikes in these colors had not been confirmed,¹⁵ and none have appeared in the past 25 years of auctions sales, raising significant doubt as to the validity of those listings.¹⁶

The author invites comments and any updates on the markings reported in this article to rrose@pitneyhardin.com

(To be continued in future issues of *NJPH*)

ENDNOTES:

¹ E. E. Fricks, "The Postal History of New Brunswick," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 58, p.86, March 1979 (hereinafter "*Part 1*"); Vol. 58, p.224, July 1979 (hereinafter "*Part 2*"); Vol. 59, p.33, January 1980 (hereinafter "*Part 3*"); Vol. 59, p.169, May 1980 (hereinafter "*Part 4*"); Vol. 59, p.227, July, 1980 (hereinafter "*Part 5*") & Vol. 60, p.153, May 1981 (hereinafter "*Part 6*" and series cited as "*Fricks*"). *Fricks* details the postal history though 1880.

² William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983 (hereinafter the "*Coles Book*").

³ Donald F. Chafetz, *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Cover: An Update*, New Jersey Postal History Society, 2004.

⁴ In an addendum to *Fricks, Part 1* (in *Fricks, Part 2*, p.232), it is reported that Calvet Hahn "notes the existence of postal archive records indicating the existence of a post office at New Brunswick in 1748." The *Coles Book* states that "[a] post office is known to have existed by 1748." on p.221, citing as its source, Alex L. ter Braake, coordinator, *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America 1628-1790*, American Philatelic Research Library, 1975. Kay and Smith fix the date of its establishment as 1776. (John L. Kay & Chester M. Smith, *New Jersey Postal History*,

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- Quarterman Publications, Inc, 1977, p.87). Neither 1748 nor 1776 would appear to be consistent with the first appearance of manuscript postmarks in 1764.
- ⁵ *Fricks, Part 2*, p.224.
- ⁶ The earliest usage of this marking is September 9, 1764 on a cover to Philadelphia. The cover is in the Pennsylvania State Archives and is illustrated in ter Brakke, *op. cit.*, NJ 2, p.II-61, and is listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Vol. 1, p.233 (fifth ed. 1997) (hereinafter cited as "ASCC").
- ⁷ A similar usage to the same addressee, dated September 15, 1765, is illustrated in *Fricks, Part 2*, p.225 and was sold at auction in the "David L. Jarrett Collection of United States Postal Markings," Christie's Robson Lowe, October 9-10, 1990, lot 8.
- ⁸ This cover was included in the auction of a portion of the Marc Haas Collection, Richard C. Frajola, Inc., Sale No. 28, May 3, 1986, lot 59. A similar usage to the same addressee, dated December 26, 1767, is illustrated in ter Braake, *op cit.*, NJ 3, p.II-62. Although the *American Stampless Cover Catalog, op cit.*, p.223, lists a third variety of a Colonial manuscript, "Bruns," with usages from 1765-77, the author has not seen a cover with this marking. The *Coles Book*, p.151, illustrates this marking and also lists its usage from 1765-77. However, the marking as illustrated, does not appear to include the letter "s" at its end but merely an extra flourish by the postmaster in completing the "Brun" postmark.
- ⁹ Harry M. Konwiser, *Colonial and Revolutionary Posts*, Dietz Printing Co., 1931, p. 47, *quoting*, Minutes of the Provincial Congress and Council of Safety. *Fricks* writes that William Goddard established a Constitutional Post in New Brunswick with John Dennis as postmaster. *Fricks, Part 2*, p.226.
- ¹⁰ *Fricks, Part 2*, p.226-27. General Cornwallis was driven out on June 30, 1777. *Ibid*, p.227.
- ¹¹ *Ibid*, p.226. The British officer endorsed the cover 'free J. Maitland.' However, the cover shows an initial rate marking of 2 shillings which was crossed-out and re-rated at 3 shillings postage.
- ¹² The *Coles Book* lists the period of usage of this postmark from 1795-96. The *ASCC* lists the period from 1794-96. The author has never seen a 1794 usage of this marking.
- ¹³ *Coles Book*, p.221. The cover in *Figure 4* was included in the auction sale of the Royden H. Lounsbery Collection, Richard C. Frajola, Inc., Sale No. 26, January 26, 1986, lot 1140. The cover in *Figure 5* was included in the auction sale of the David L. Jarrett Collection, Christie's Robson Lowe, October 9-10, 1990, lot 632 where it failed to sell against a pre-sale estimate of \$1,000-\$1,500. It was subsequently sold by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale No. 738, June 18-19, 1991, lot 55, where it brought \$495.00.
- ¹⁴ *ASCC*, p.227.
- ¹⁵ *Fricks, Part 2*, p.229.
- ¹⁶ Robert G. Rose, "Straight Line Town Markings on New Jersey Stampless Covers: Some Catalog Listing Anomalies," *NJPH*, March, 2001, (Vol. 29, No.1, whole No. 141), p.6.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S POSTAL MARKINGS: THE STAMPLESS PERIOD -- 1800-1812 (PART II)

By Robert G. Rose

New Brunswick's post office, unlike those in most towns and smaller cities at the beginning of the 19th Century, already had experience in the use of a handstamp canceling device, the "N.B." straight line with manuscript date,¹ as recorded in usages from both 1795 and 1796. On June 8, 1799, the United States Post Office Department furnished a 26mm circular brass handstamp to 21 post offices in the young nation, including two in New Jersey — Newark and Trenton.² There is some continuing uncertainty as to the earliest usage of a New Brunswick circular handstamp. The earliest confirmed usage known to the author, Coles Type N16a, is a December 1, 1800 usage illustrated in *Figure 1*,³ and follows the appointment of William Ten Broeck, as New Brunswick's postmaster on November 25, 1800.⁴

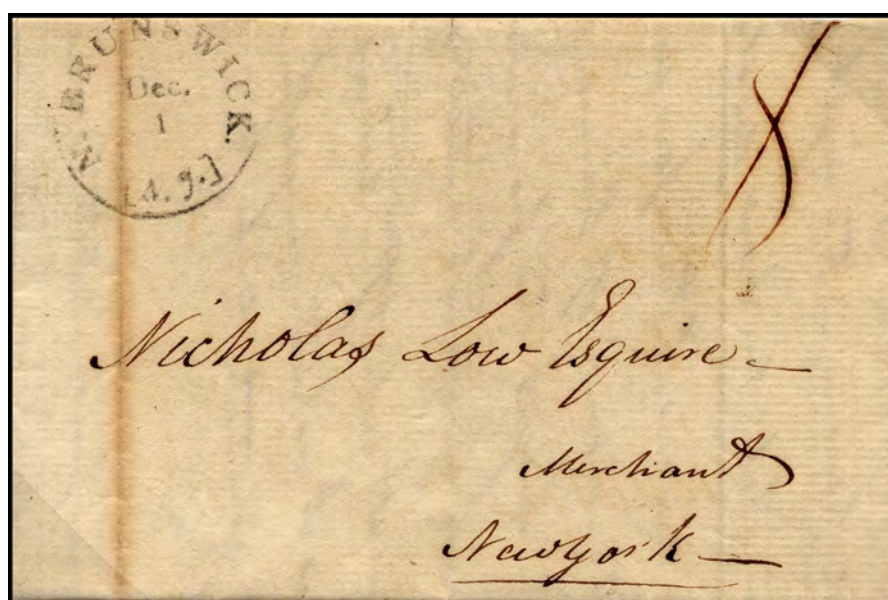


Fig. 1: Coles Type N16a. Single letter rate not over 40 miles.

Over the next dozen years to the War of 1812, a number of variations of this handstamp saw service in New Brunswick. Coles Type N16a was first recognized, recorded and illustrated in the *Coles Update*.⁵ This scarce marking shows the State's initials italicized between brackets and includes examples recorded in red between 1800 and 1805, and black from 1800 to 1803.⁶

A similar handstamp, Coles Type N16, is shown on an 1801 usage in red on the cover in *Figure 2*. The *Coles Update* records this postmark in both red and black with usages recorded between 1800 and 1805.⁷ However, the 1800 usage has not been confirmed and may actually have referred to the cover shown in *Figure 1*, the recently recognized variety, Coles Type N16a.

Despite the presumed availability of a number of handstamp devices during this period in the New Brunswick post office, a manuscript postmark, "N Bruns NJ" has also been recorded in 1801. Neither of the two examples contained in the New Brunswick collection of Nathan Zankel shows any punctuation.



Fig. 2: Coles Type N16. Single letter rate not over 40 miles.

Another sub-variety of the Coles Type N16 handstamp has been designated as Type N16b in the *Coles Update* with reported usages between 1800 and 1807.⁸ Again, the reported earliest usage in 1800 is suspect. The actual tracing of this variety as included in the *Coles Update* is taken from the cover in Figure 3, which shows a black handstamp. However, there is no date line on its letter sheet to confirm an 1800 usage. This handstamp marks the first time that the State's abbreviated name is shown in parentheses rather than brackets.

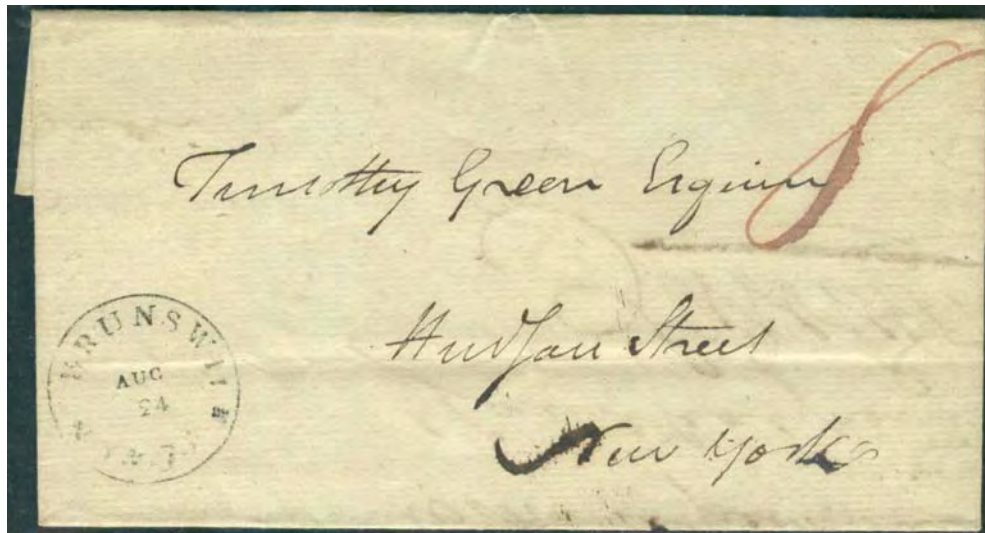


Fig. 3: Coles Type N16b. Single letter rate not over 40 miles.

Another newly recognized sub-variety, Coles Type N16c, was first recorded in the *Coles Update*, and is shown in Figure 4 in an 1801 usage in red.⁹ The distinguishing characteristic of this handstamp is the close spacing of the "C" to the "K" in the town name.

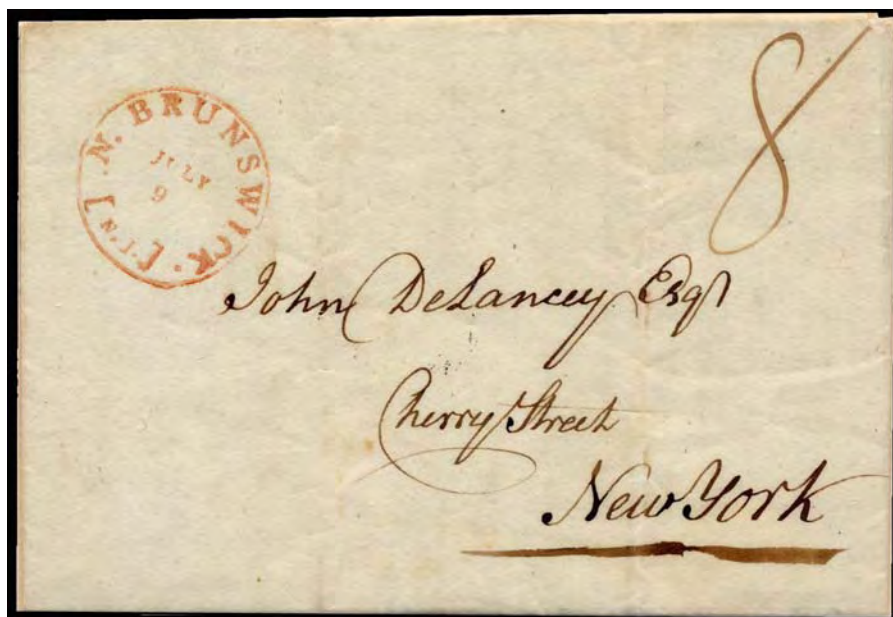


Fig. 4: Coles Type N16c. Single letter rate not over 40 miles.

The next handstamp, Coles Type N15, is unlike any others reported from this period. As illustrated in *Figure 5*, the town's name is spelled out in full and the State name is abbreviated "N. Jersey" and is enclosed in brackets. It is reported in red during 1802 with only three known examples..¹⁰



Fig. 5: Coles Type N15. Single letter rate not over 40 miles.

New Brunswick's town name is italicized in Coles Type N17, with the State's name abbreviated in large, bracketed letters as shown in *Figure 6*. It is reported only in black with usages recorded in 1804 and 1805..¹¹

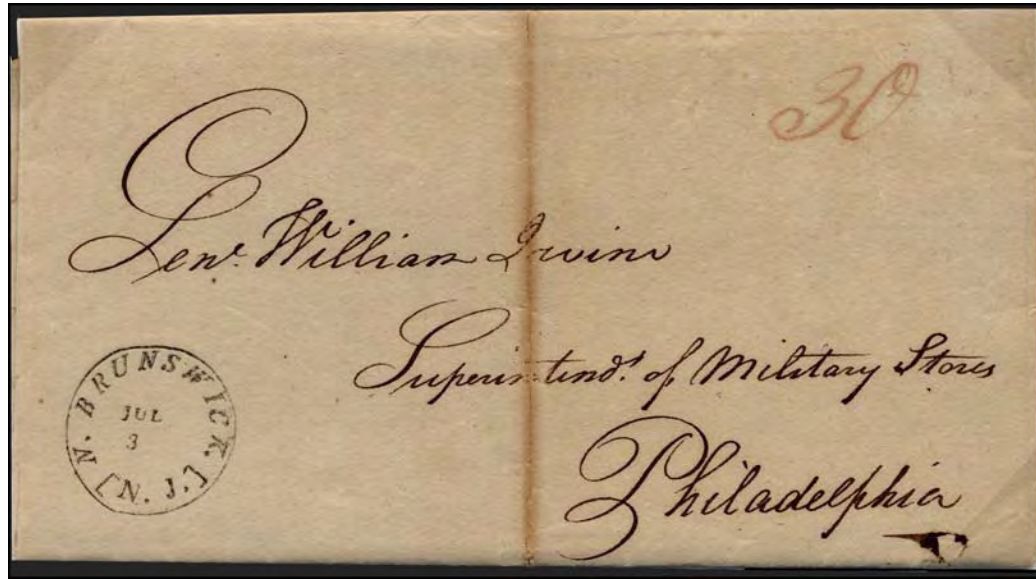


Fig. 6: Coles Type N17. Triple letter rate 40-90 miles.

In 1805, a new handstamp was introduced, Coles Type N18, with the State's abbreviated name once again set in parentheses. It is reported in black with usages from 1805 to 1807 and in red in 1806 and 1807.¹² Figure 7 illustrates an 1806 usage in black.



Fig. 7: Coles Type N18. Double letter rate not over 40 miles.

The *Coles Update* records three significant varieties of Coles Type N18, which have been recorded as Coles Types N18a, N18b and N18c.¹³ All three varieties show the State's name in initials but positioned in an inverted format, each with different spacings. As illustrated in Figure 8, Type N18a shows the inverted "NJ" spaced very closely to the "N." abbreviation for the town name. Indeed, the spacing is so close that the initials appear to read "NJN," as seen in Figure 8a, an enlargement of the handstamp. The postmark is in black and shows an 1808 usage. The postmaster apparently rejected its "Publick Service" franking, and instead rated the cover at 70 cents unpaid. Nathan Zankel reports that this is the only known cover with this handstamp.



Fig. 8: Coles Type N18a. Seven times single letter rate 40-90 miles.

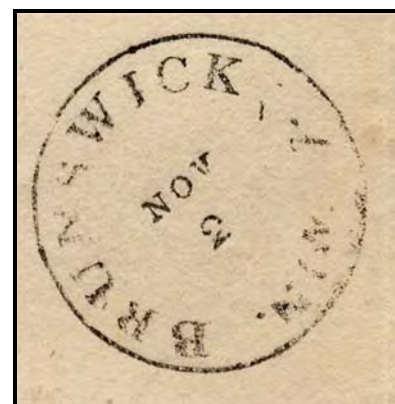


Fig. 8a: N18a enlargement.

The next variety, Coles Type N18b, is similar to N18a except that the inverted initials of the State's name show a wide separation from the "N." abbreviation in the town name. This wide separation is seen in *Figures 9 & 9a*, showing a cover and an enlargement of the handstamp in black on a June 25, 1810 usage from the Samuel Southard correspondence. The Zankel collection contains a second cover with this marking on an April 12, 1810 usage, also from the Southard correspondence. These two covers represent the discovery copies of this handstamp and are the only ones reported to date.



Fig. 9: Coles Type N18b. Single letter rate 150-300 miles.



Figure 9a: N18b enlargement.

The third variety of this handstamp, Coles Type N18c, is most unusual. In addition to the inverted initials of the State's name, the key feature of this marking is the backwards inversion of the letters "IC" in the town name. *Figure 10 and 10a* show a cover and an enlargement of this handstamp which the *Coles Update* records with usages in black in 1809 and 1810.¹⁴

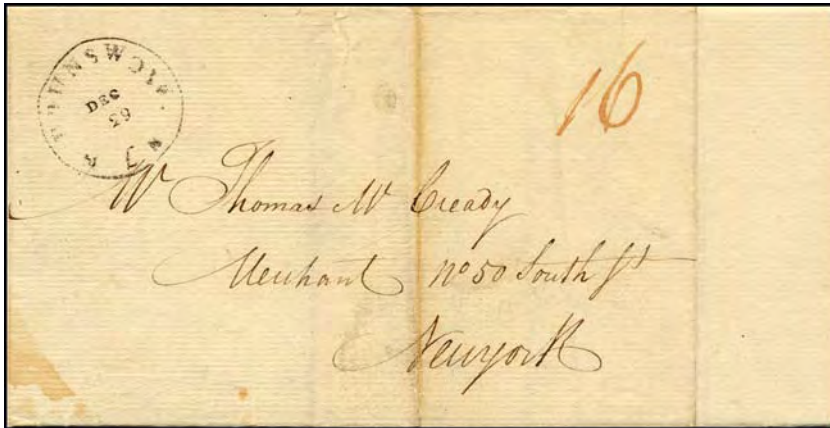


Fig. 10: Coles Type N18c. Single letter rate 150-300 miles.



Fig. 10a: N18c enlargement.

The last of the handstamps used in New Brunswick prior to the War of 1812, Coles Type N19, is shown in the tracing in Figure 11. This handstamp shows the State's initials in a normal rather than inverted fashion. In addition, for the first time, the "N.J." is not enclosed in either brackets or parentheses. The *Coles Book* reports this handstamp in black with usages from 1809-1812.¹⁵ The *Coles Update* reports a usage of this handstamp in red in 1812.¹⁶



Fig. 11: Coles Type N19

The author invites comments and any updates on the markings reported in this article to rrose@pitneyhardin.com.

(To be continued in future issues of *NJPH*)

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ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Robert G. Rose, "New Brunswick's Postal Markings: The Stampless Period: Part I, 18th Century Markings," *NJPH*, Vol. 33, Whole Number 158, May 2005, pp. 70-71..
- ² William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983, p. 38 (hereinafter the "*Coles Book*").
- ³ Donald F. Chafetz, *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update*, New Jersey Postal History Society, 2004, p. 16 (hereinafter "*Coles Update*"). Uncertainty as to the earliest usage of a New Brunswick circular handstamp arises out of a 1989 revision by Coles which was thereafter included in the *Coles Update* in 2004. The 1989 revision, published by Coles in *NJPH*, records earliest presumptive usages for Coles Type N16 in both red and black in 1800. William C. Coles, Jr. "Supplement to 'The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers' July 1989," *NJPH*, Vol. 17, Whole Number 85, November 1989, p. 94. Covers with 1800 usages of the Coles Type N16 handstamp have neither been confirmed by the author and none are in the New Brunswick collection of Nathan Zankel nor seen by him. The earliest confirmed usage of Coles Type 16 is the red handstamp illustrated in *Figure 2* of this article, on February 5, 1801.
- ⁴ E.E. Fricks, "The Postal History of New Brunswick," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 59, January 1980, p. 34.
- ⁵ *Coles Update*, p.16. The *American Stampless Cover Catalog's* listings for New Brunswick for this period are both incomplete and misleading. *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Vol. I, p. 227 (fifth ed. 1997 - hereinafter the "ASCC"). Its first listing for a circular handstamp refers to a black handstamp with "N.J." in brackets with an 1800 usage. This listing may be a reference to Coles Type N16a shown on the cover in *Figure 1* of this article. The second listing in the ASCC is of an 1803 usage in red with "different size letters." *Ibid.* This listing may refer to the Coles Type N16 handstamp in red which is shown on the cover in *Figure 2* of this article as an 1801 usage. The ASCC listings make no reference to a usage of this handstamp in black. See endnotes 10 & 11, *infra*.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* The *Coles Update* lists the handstamp's usage in black in only 1800. The cover illustrated in *Fig. 1* is an 1803 usage.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁹ *Ibid.* The *Coles Update* lists the handstamp's usage in red in only 1803. The cover illustrated in *Fig. 4* is an 1801 usage.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.* The ASCC, p. 227, includes a tracing of this handstamp with an 1802 usage. However, it also lists the same handstamp in black with italic letters in 1805. Such a handstamp has not been seen by the author.
- ¹¹ *Coles Book*, pp. 48-49 & 222. The ASCC, p. 227, includes a tracing of this handstamp and records an 1804 usage in black.
- ¹² *Ibid.*
- ¹³ *Coles Update*, pp. 16-17.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 17.
- ¹⁵ *Coles Book*, p. 222.
- ¹⁶ *Coles Update*, p. 17.

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NEW BRUNSWICK'S POSTAL MARKINGS: THE STAMPLESS PERIOD – 1812-1855 (PART III)

By Robert G. Rose

This concludes Robert G. Rose's series on New Brunswick Postal Markings - 18th Century through the end of stampless covers. Parts I and II can be found beginning in NJPH, May 2005 (Vol. 33, no. 2, Whole No. 158) and August 2005 (Vol. 33, No. 3, Whole No. 159).

During the little more than forty years from the time of the War of 1812 to the end of the stampless period in 1855, the New Brunswick post office continued to be a prolific source of a variety of handstamp postmarks.¹ No fewer than 10 distinct circular postmarks have been recorded during this period, as well as the only known example of the "N. Brunswick N.J." straight-line marking used in 1832 and the hollow letter rimless circle used from 1827 to 1832. All of these markings, as used on cover, are illustrated in this article.

With the coming of the War of 1812, a new style handstamp, with larger letters than previous, came into use. Coles Type N20 is shown in Figure 1 in black on an 1813 folded letter to Philadelphia.

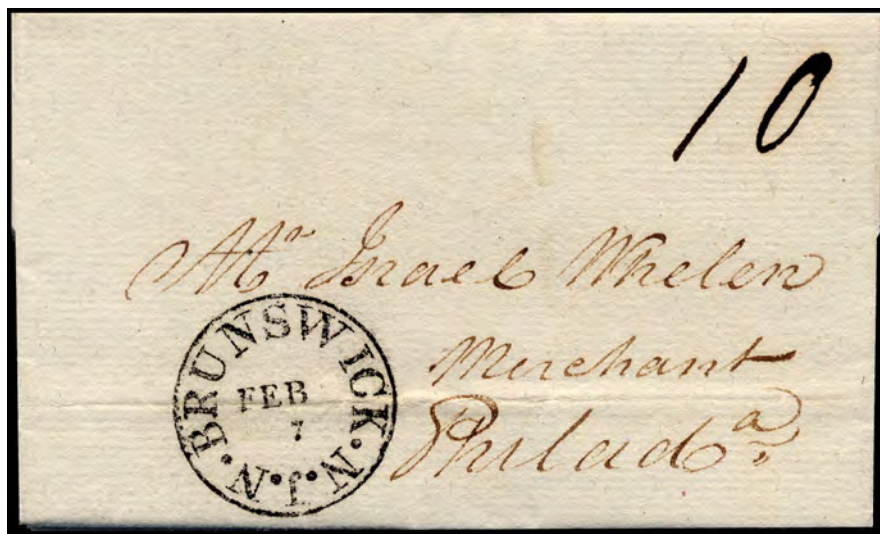


Fig. 1: Coles Type N20. Single letter rate 40-90 miles, used here in 1813.

Because all of the letters are placed with their feet toward the center of the handstamp, the "N.J." appears in an inverted position. It is reported in black with usages from 1812 to 1821 and in red from 1816 to 1826.

One of the great New Jersey postal history rarities is the red straight line, Coles Type N21, as illustrated in *Figure 2*. Only a single example of this marking has been reported. This 1832 folded letter was one of the highlights in the Coles Collection and is illustrated in the *Coles Book*.²

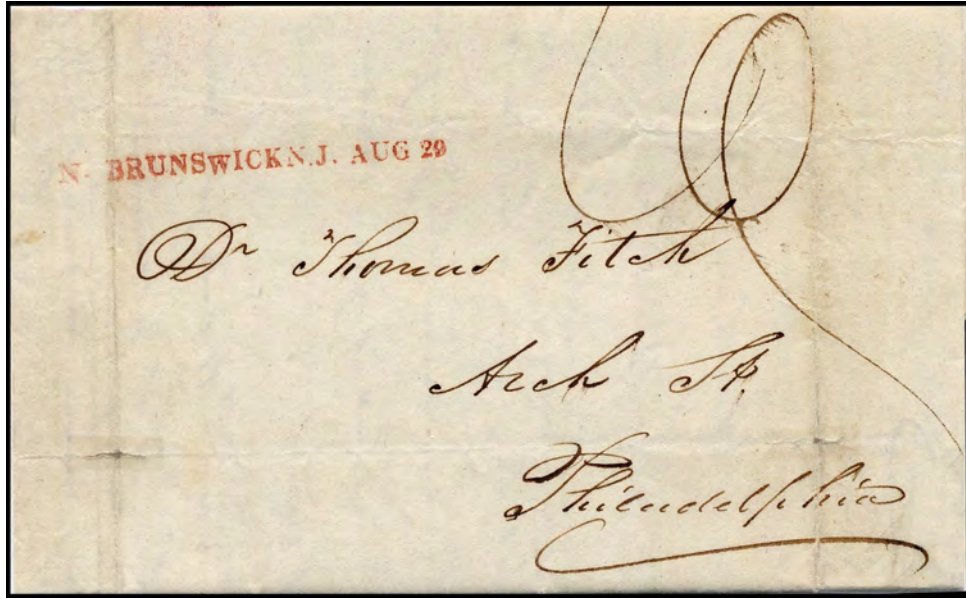


Fig. 2: Coles Type N21. The only reported example, used in 1832.

Coles Type N22 is shown in *Figure 3*, a tracing from the *Coles Book*.³ The handstamp is similar to Coles Type N20 in the placement of the letters resulting in the inversion of “N.J.” However, the “New” in the town name is not abbreviated. It is reported only in red with a usage range from 1829 to 1832.



Fig. 3: Coles Type N22



Fig. 4: Coles Type N22a. Single letter rate not over 30 miles, used 1830.

The *Coles Update* records two varieties of a handstamp similar to Coles Type N22, which have been designated as N22a and N22b in the *Coles Update*.⁴ An 1830 folded letter from the Southard correspondence with the Coles Type N22a handstamp is illustrated in *Figure 4*. The letters are much smaller in size than those used in N22, resulting in a larger spacing between “N.J.” and “New Brunswick.” The *Coles Update* records this marking in red only with reported usages from 1829 to 1832. The second variety, N22b, is similar to N22a, but, as shown in the enlarged cut, *Figure 5*, and on the full cover, *Figure 6*, the typeface used for the date and month is larger in size. The *Coles Update* reports an 1831 usage of this handstamp and only in red.⁵



Fig. 5: Coles Type N22b



Fig. 6: Coles Type N22b. Single letter rate 30 to 80 miles.

A smaller style handstamp, Coles Type N23, is shown in *Figure 7*, on an 1829 folded letter. It is reported only in red with usages from 1827 to 1832.

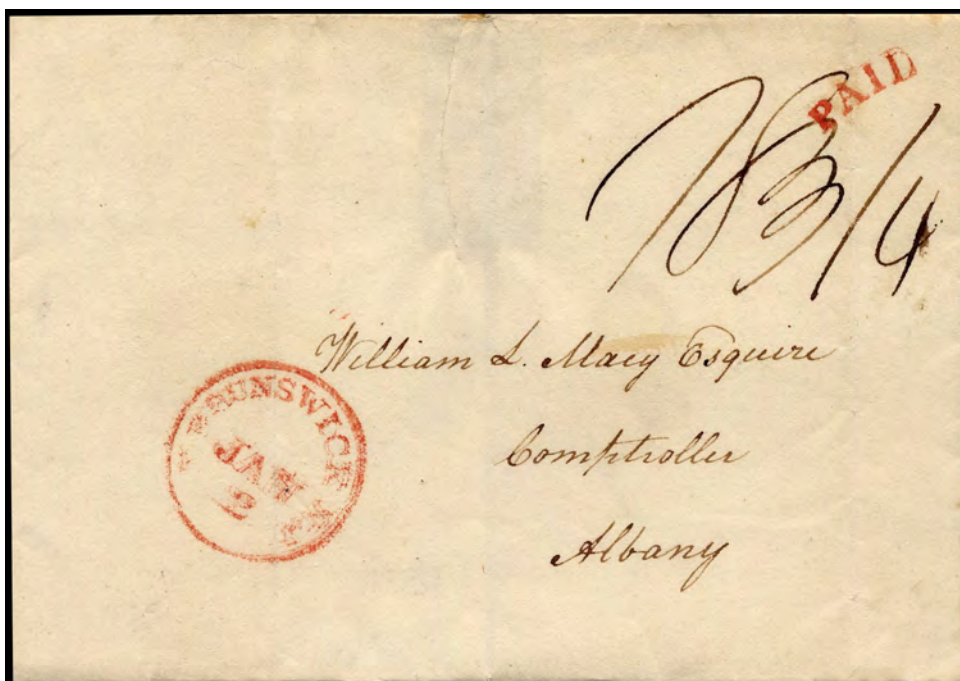


Fig. 7: Coles Type N23. Single letter rate 150 to 400 miles, used 1829.

One of the most attractive and unusual of New Jersey's stampless period markings is the hollow letter rimless circle handstamp, Coles Type N24, shown on an 1834 folded letter in *Figure 8*. It is reported only in red with usages from 1827 to 1838.

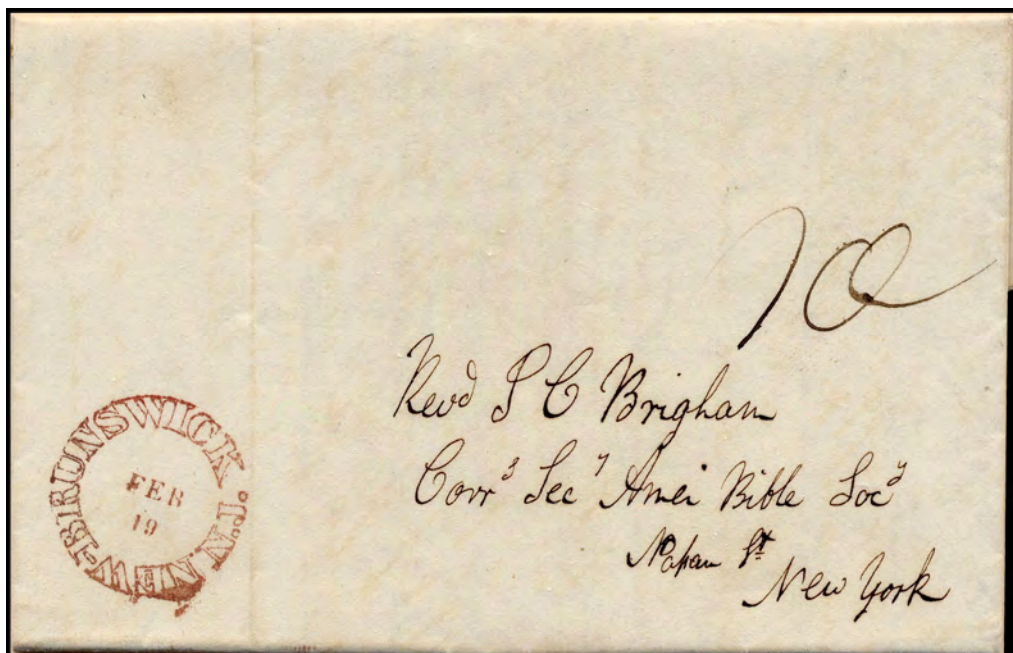


Fig. 8: Coles Type N24. Single letter rate 30 to 80 miles, used 1834.

The most common New Brunswick handstamp is Coles Type N25, which was used in red from 1839 to 1849 and in black from 1843 to 1849.⁶ However, for collectors looking for a challenge, this handstamp is reported to have been used in conjunction with a wide variety of rate markings.⁷ Perhaps the most striking rate marking is the black numeral “5” in a saw tooth circle shown on an 1845 folded letter in Figure 9.⁸



Fig. 9: Coles Type N25. Single letter rate under 300 miles, used 1845.

Toward the close of the stampless period, a smaller style handstamp was reintroduced. Coles Type N26 is shown in black in *Figure 10*, an 1850 folded letter. It is very similar in style to Coles Type N23, except that the spacing between the "N." and "Brunswick" is closer in N23 than in N26. The latter is reported in red in 1849 to 1851 and in black from 1850 to 1851. The *Coles Update* reports a new variety of N26, designated as N26a, an 1851 usage in red with the month below the date.⁹



Fig. 10: Coles Type N26. Single letter rate under 300 miles, used 1850.

The last of the town postmarks recorded during the stampless period in New Brunswick is a pair of handstamps with integral rate markings. From June 30, 1851 until April 1, 1855, prepayment on domestic letters was not required. During this time period, the rate was five cents for unpaid domestic letters to destinations not exceeding 3,000 miles. If sent prepaid, the rate was three cents. For purposes of convenience, at a time when the volume of the mail was increasing because of the new lower rate, many post offices began using integral rate markings. Coles Type N27, with an integral "5" is shown on an 1852 cover in *Figure 11*, and is reported in black from 1850 to 1855. Coles Type N28, with an integral "3 PAID" is shown in an 1852 cover in *Figure 12*, and is reported in black from 1851 to 1855.

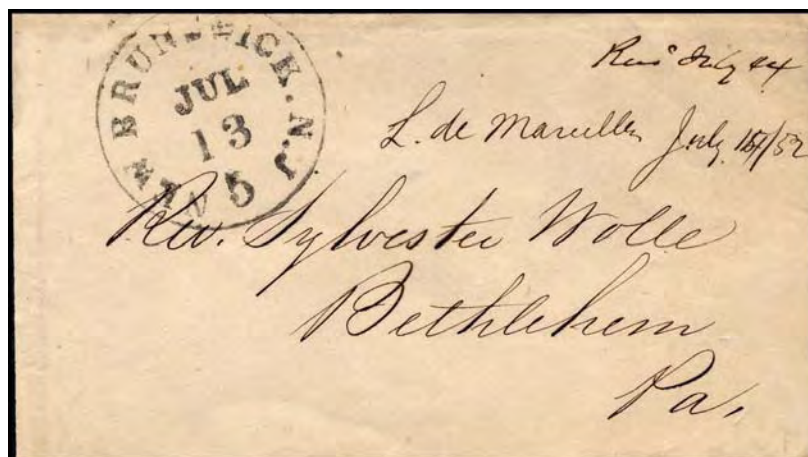


Fig. 11: Coles Type N27, used 1852.



Fig. 12: Coles Type N28, used 1852.

Collectors and students of New Brunswick's postal history are urged to report new discoveries from the stampless period to the author: rose@pitneyhardin.com

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Beginning with the "N.B." straight-line handstamp in 1795, 12 distinct circular handstamps have been recorded from New Brunswick in the period to 1812. William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983, pp. 221-22 (hereinafter the "*Coles Book*"), as supplemented by Donald F. Chafetz, *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update*, New Jersey Postal History Society, 2004, pp.16-17 (hereinafter the "*Coles Update*"). These handstamp markings have been designated in the *Coles Book* and the *Coles Update* as N14 through N19 with various subletters to indicate distinct varieties. Illustrated examples of each of these handstamps as used on cover are found in Robert G. Rose, "New Brunswick's Postal Markings: The Stampless Period: Part I, 18th Century Markings," Vol. 33, Whole Number 158, May 2005 and "New Brunswick's Postal Markings: The Stampless Period—1800-1812 (Part II)," Vol. 33, Whole Number 159, August 2005. During the period from 1814 to 1855, only seven handstamps are recorded in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. I*, fifth ed., David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., 1997, p. 227.
- ² Robert G. Kaufmann, The William C. Coles, Jr. Collection, Sale No. 33, March 8, 1984, lot no. 450; *Coles Book*, fig. 31, p. 27.
- ³ *Coles Book*, p. 22.
- ⁴ *Coles Update*, p. 17.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁶ Coles Type N25 and N26 handstamps have been reported in both red and black with 5 cent 1847 First Issue usages. A Coles Type N25 handstamp in red and an N26 handstamp in black were included in the Brad Arch Collection, sold by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale 825, June 28, 2000, lots 914 & 913, respectively. The New Brunswick Collection formed by Nathan Zankel includes examples of the N25 handstamp in both red and black. The *Alexander Census* records a total of eleven 5 cent First Issue usages between December 9, 1847 and May 11, 1850, but does not address the different handstamps. Thomas J. Alexander, *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*, The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 2001, pp. 223-224.
- ⁷ The *Coles Book* records 12 distinct rate markings, p.223; the *Coles Update* records an additional three, p.16.
- ⁸ The only other reported New Jersey use of the saw tooth circle rate marking is from Trenton. The *Coles Book* describes this marking as a "cogged circle" and illustrates an 1845 Trenton usage, Figure 80, p.55.
- ⁹ *Coles Update*, p. 17.