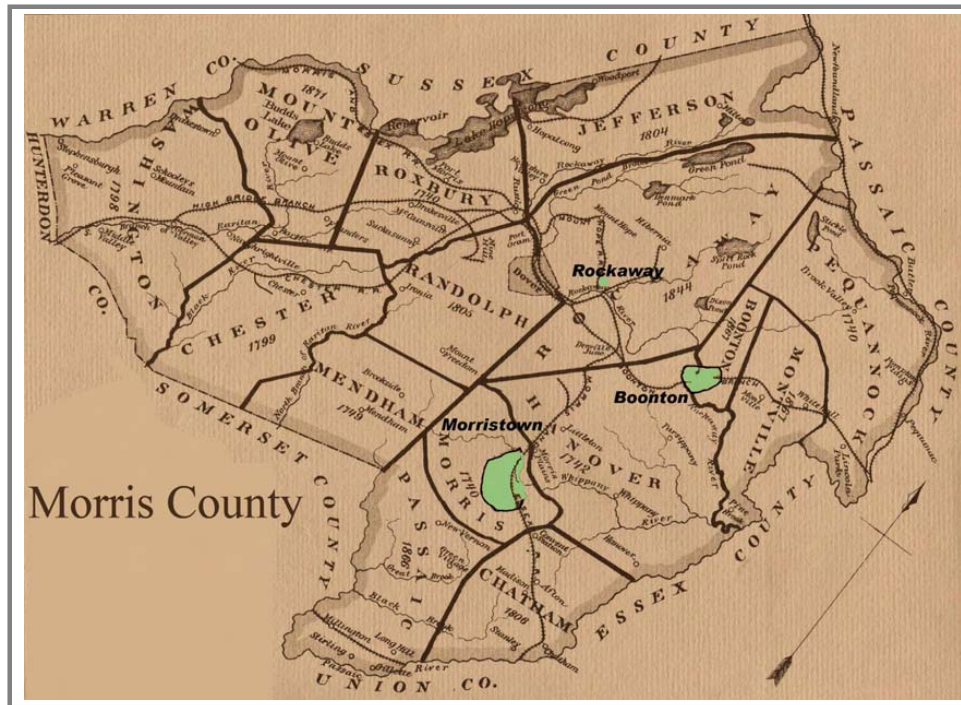


DEVELOPMENT OF MORRIS COUNTY MAIL SERVICE

Pre-Statehood Period [to 1789]

By Donald A. Chafetz

This exhibit traces the development of a mail system in Morris County. During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington encamped three times for various lengths of time in the Morristown area. During these encampments, a “temporary” civil post office was established in Morristown and the military postmaster was also present.



I am not aware of any mail items in private hands with postal markings from Morris County prior to 1800. Starting with the Statehood Period, 1789, the post offices are shown in the order in which they were established. Each post office, has its covers grouped together to cover the period to 1850. In order to follow the development, a map on each page shows the earliest established post offices of Morristown, Boonton and Rockaway and additional communities and routes as they are established. Each new post office is shown on the map with a red circle and the community names are listed on the top of the respective page(s). To avoid clutter, once a post office has been introduced, a “black location dot” will be shown on the next new post office map and the name removed.

To show the full development of the postal service, there is included mail that originated within Morris County, mail sent to Morris County and some mail items either directed to or from a “community” even though no post office existed. Also included are a couple of relevant “postal documents.”

The exhibit shows the many different methods used to carry the mail including: out of the mail, military express, On Public Service, via Grand Post, local post, ship, stagecoach and by the United States Post Office Department. Many of the covers formed the basis for the Morris County listings in books **The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers** by William Coles, Jr. and the **The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers: an Update** by Donald A. Chafetz. The identification of the postmark types is based on Coles’ nomenclature.

Plan of the Exhibit

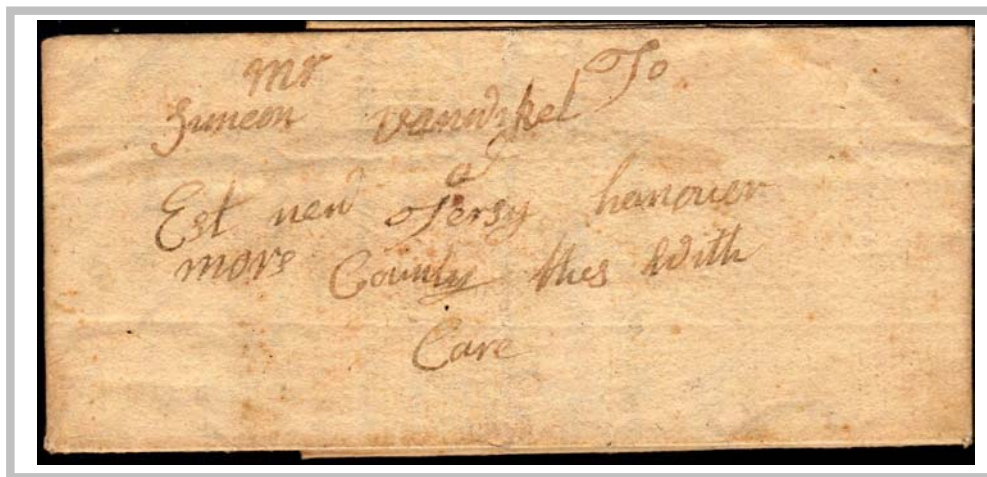
Pre Revolutionary War
 Revolutionary War
 Confederation Period
 Statehood Period

Pre Revolutionary War

Hanover

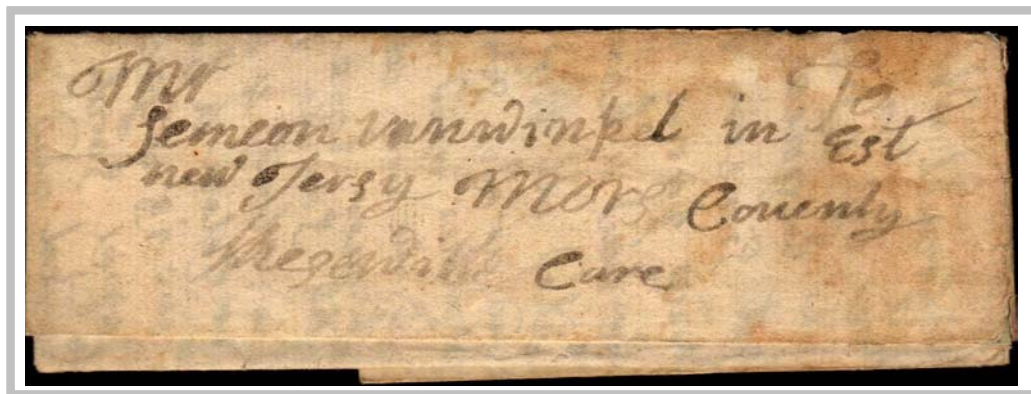
Dateline: August 28, 1760 Rowan County, NC
 To: Hanover, Morris County, East New Jersey
 Excerpt: *...have not a letter from you since .. have been here...
 ..but we have received one from John and one from Michael*

Out of the mail



Dateline: June 13, 1774 Richman Town, Torry County
 To: Morris County, East New Jersey
 Excerpt: *...we received your letter by Mr. Gerus...*

Out of the mail



Revolutionary War

1775 - 1783

Morristown

Temporary Post Office January 5, 1777 - August 27, 1778
December 1779 - June 1780



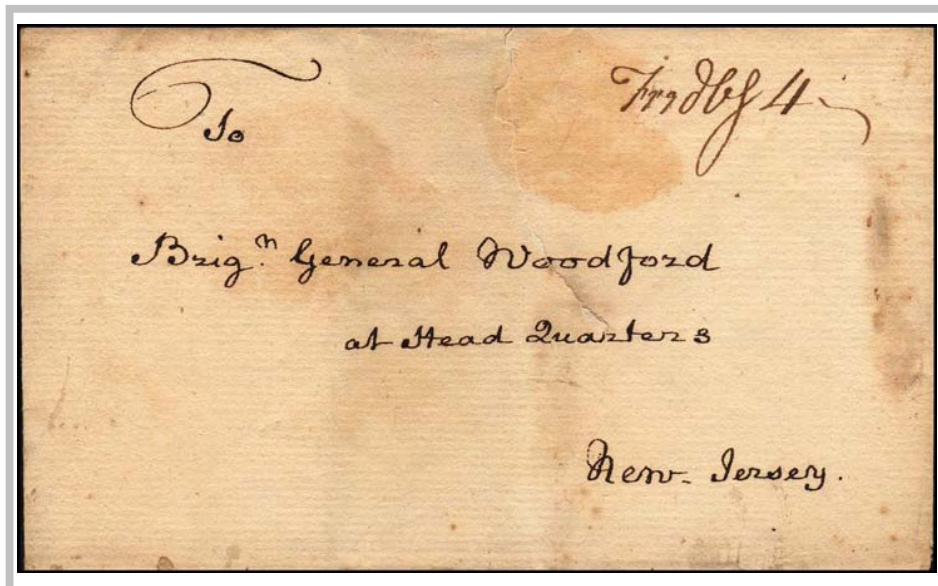
Dateline: May 28, 1777 Morristown, NJ
From: John Fitzgerald, Aide-de-Camp
To: Boundbrook, NJ
Excerpt: *Places will be necessary for the Paymaster General & Adjutant General, also some places for the Post Office Master*

Military Express



Postmark: 1777 Fredbg, VA
To: Headquarters, NJ
Morristown encampment: July 3 - July 11, 1777
Brigadier General Woodford was present during the encampment
Reference: Washington's' Forgotten Encampment, Carl B. Scherzer, p. 12

60 - 100 miles - 2 dwt
additional 100 miles - 2 dwt
total - 4 dwt



Revolutionary War

Morristown

Dateline: February 25, 1778 Boston MS
 Forward: March 12, 1778 Fishkill NY
 Forward: Morristown Post Office, NJ
 To: Headquarters (Valley Forge, PA)
 From: John Fitzgerald, Aide-de-Camp

way - 6 dwt
 under 400 miles - 6 dwt
 total - 12 dwt
 on Public Service

Post Office in Morristown
 March 6, 1777
 A Post Office is just opened and kept by
 High Smith Esq.
 At Headquarters in Morristown, NJ through
 which we receive the Philadelphia Mail once a
 week. The Post arrives at Fishkill on Wednesday
 and sets out again for Morristown on Thursday
 morning.'

Fishkill 12 March 77.
 I have forwarded
 two Letters to M. Boudinot
 to Morristown P. Office, supposing
 he was at home, and not at
 Headquarters. SL

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Wed. $\frac{6}{12}$

Elias Boudinot Esq. - Commissary Gen,
 of Dragoons —

att
 Head Quarters —
 Pennsylvania

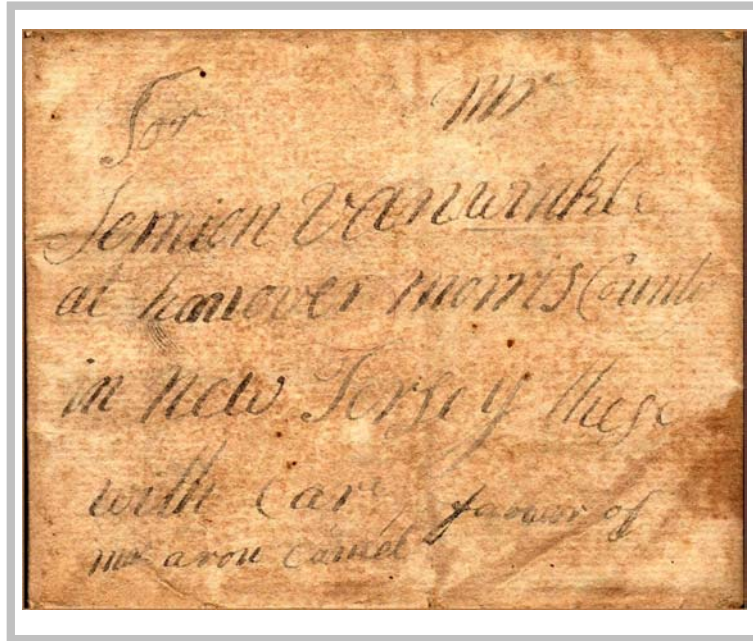
on Public Service

Only non-archive reference to Morristown Post Office during this period

Revolutionary War

Dateline: April 28, 1778 Surry County, NC
To: Hanover Morris County, NJ
Excerpt: ...I received a letter...by Aron Camel...

Out of the mail
with care favor of Mr Aron Carnel



Docket: Morristown, 1779
To: Morristown, NJ

Out of the mail



Confederation Period

1781 - 1789

Morristown

Dateline: February 26, 1782 Wilkes County, NC
To: Boontown, Morris County, NJ
Excerpt: ...I received your letter of the 25th September 1781...

Out of the mail



Dateline: March 6, 1782 Trenton, NJ
To: Jersey Camp, near Morristown, NJ

Out of the mail

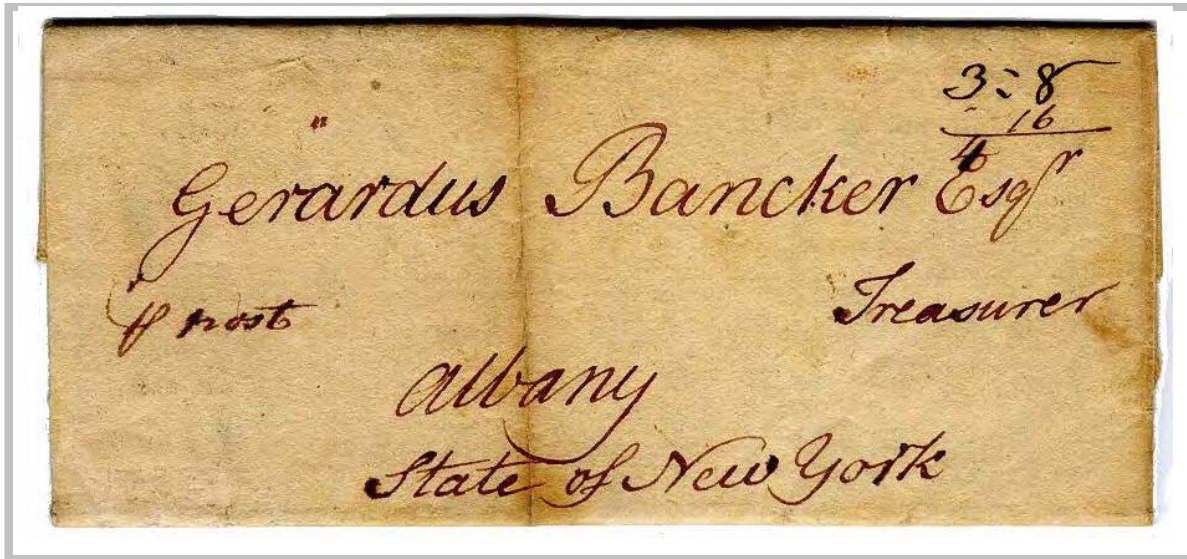


Confederation Period

Morristown

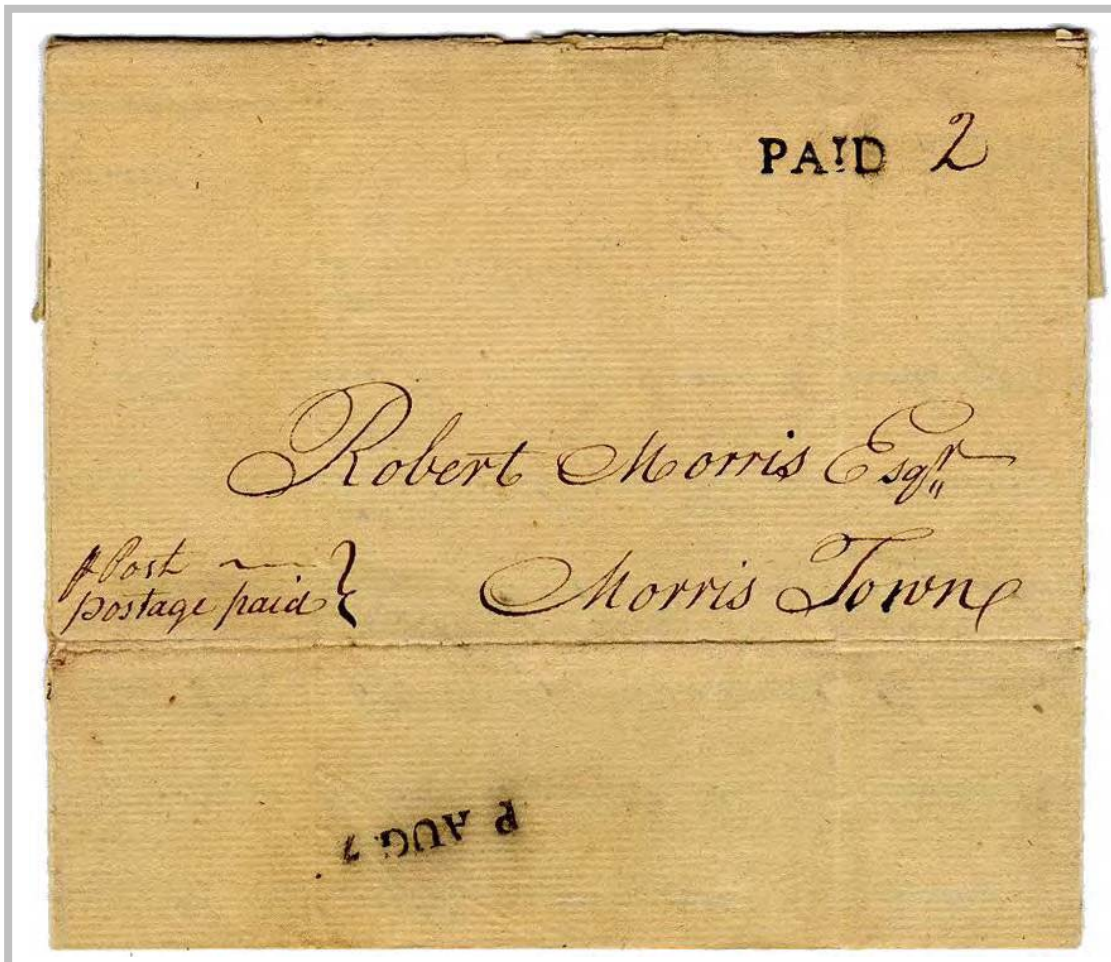
Dateline: April 17, 1782 Westfield, NJ
To: Albany, NY
Route: Letter carried via the "Grand Line of Post" through Morristown

Westfield to Morristown (60 - 100 miles) - 2 dwt
Morristown to Albany (60 - 100 miles) - 2 dwt
total - 4 dwt



Dateline: August 7, 1782 Philadelphia, PA
To: Morristown, NJ

Restored rate of September 30, 1775
60 - 100 miles - 2 dwt

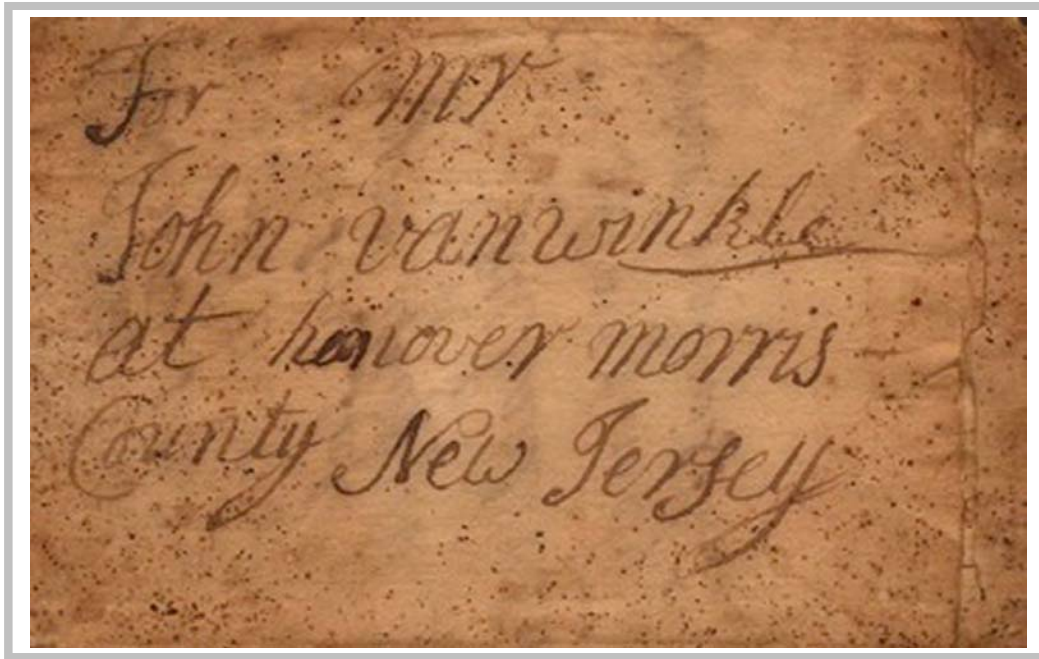


Confederation Period

Hanover / Dutch Valley

Dateline: April 14, 1783 Miles County, NC
 To: Hanover, Morris County, NJ
 Excerpt: *..I received your letter...by the hand of Clezbe Cobb...*

Out of the mail



Dateline: June 14, 1788 Tortola, British Virgin Islands
 Transist: Ship to Philadelphia, PA
 To: Dutch Valley, NJ (west Morris County, NJ)
 Excerpt: *...write to me by getting Mr. Rapalje to forward them by Captain Godwise w ho in the west India trade...*

Out of the mail favor by W. Rapalje



Possible Explanation of Way Fee 3/4

Ship Letter	16 gr
60 - 80 miles	2 dwt 00 gr
Carrier way fee	<u>20 gr</u>
Postal fee:	total way 3 dwt 4 gr

Way fee - Cover was given to a carrier on way from one office to another and rated at the next stop. It was rated from the point of pickup with an amount added to compensate the rider.

Back: Please to forward this morrow if you please

