

# New Jersey Stampless Covers: Handstamp Postal Markings 1775-1855



**PRESENTATION TO THE COLLECTORS CLUB**

**JANUARY 18, 2017**

**BY ROBERT G. ROSE**

# Why Collect Stampless Covers?



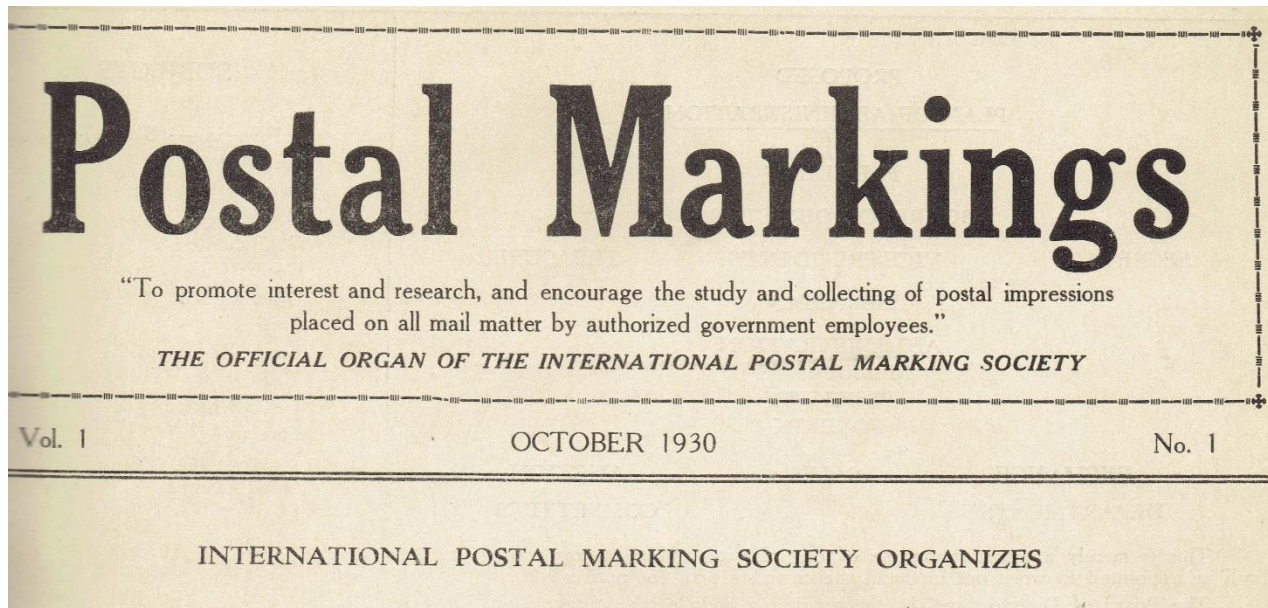
- **Handstamped postmarks were applied to the mails on prestamp and stampless covers from the time of the American Revolutionary War in 1775 until postage stamps were required on all domestic mail at the end of 1855.**
- **These markings represent the essence of this nation's postal history for its first 80 years, and as such, are significant and worthy collectibles.**



**The original focus of philately beginning as a hobby in the 1860's, was solely on collecting stamps.**

**It was not until the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the collection of stamps on covers first became popular.**

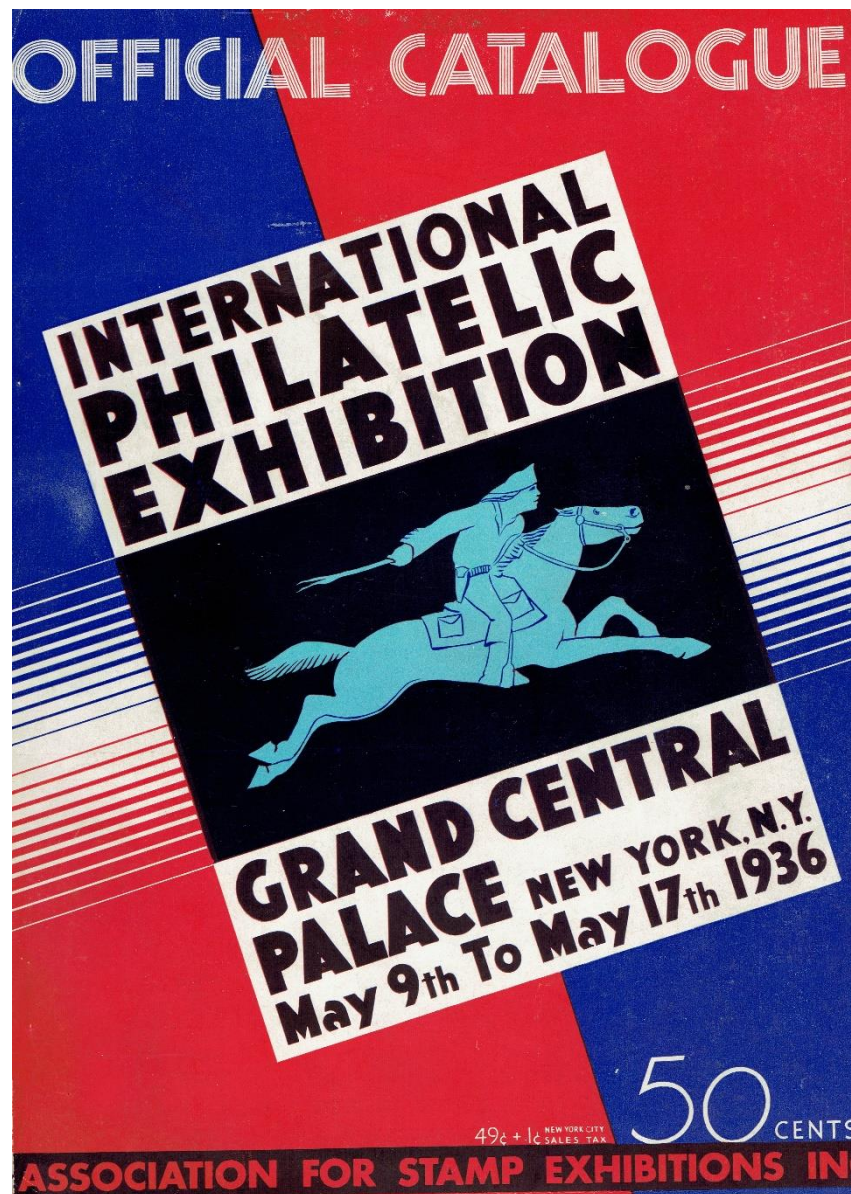
**In the 1920's cover collectors began to collect stampless mail. The early 1930's saw the first publications that studied the stampless mail.**



***Postal Markings* was published monthly from 1930 to 1944 and helped establish the serious study and collection of stampless covers.**



# TIPEX – The Early Days - Stampless Exhibits Are Accepted, But -



## Medal Award Levels Are Limited

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1936

### CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITS

#### SECTION I

##### United States and Possessions

###### GROUP

1. General collections.
2. Postal issues, 19th century.
3. Postal issues, 20th century.
4. Any stamp, issue or group specialized.
5. Postmasters.
6. Carriers.
7. Newspaper, Postage Due and Special Delivery.
8. Departments.
9. Envelopes, entire.
10. Envelopes, cut square.
11. Local and Private Posts.
12. Western Express Franks including those used from other countries.
13. Revenue stamps, general issues.
14. Revenue stamps, State and Private issues and Telegraph Stamps.
15. United States Possessions and Administration issues.
16. Commemoratives.
17. Proofs, Essays and Specimens.
18. Cancellation collections.
19. Pre-stamp and Stampless Covers.
20. Precancels.
  - a. Bureau Prints.
  - b. All other U. S. Precancels.

##### Awards

Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 23; Gold, Silver-gold, Silver and Bronze medals in each group.

Groups 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 24: Silver-gold, Silver and Bronze medals in each group.

Groups 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Silver and Bronze medals in each group. ←

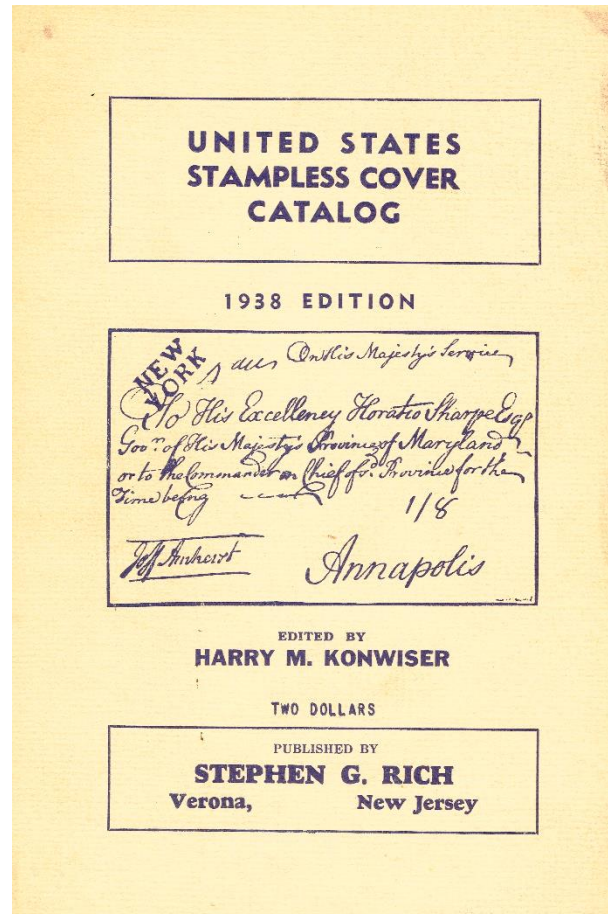
Group 22, Bronze medal.

Special Award; for the best collection of United States stamps exhibited by any collector not a citizen or resident of the United States.

**No gold or silver-gold awards for stampless and prestamp mail exhibits.**



# Publication in 1938 of first Stampless Cover Catalog by Harry Konwiser and Stephen Rich



80

NEW JERSEY

NEW JERSEY

OVAL TOWN POSTMARKS

Compiled by S. G. Rich

One of the Original 13 States.

1798 Post Offices: Amboy, Atsion, Boone-  
ton, Bridgeton (West), Burlington, Eliza-  
bethtown, Flemington, Hacketstown, Hamburg,  
Johnsonburg, Middletown-Point, Monmouth  
Court House, Morristown, Newark, New-Brun-  
swick, New-Germantown, Newtown, Pittston,  
Raway, Rockaway, Salem, Shrewsbury, Sparta,  
Sweedsborough, Trenton, Tuckerton, Wood-  
bridge, Woodbury, Woodstown.

Abbreviations Used: A-arc; C-Circle; D-  
Dated; DC-Double Circle; DO-Double Oval;  
F-Fancy; It-Italics; Ms-Manuscript; NO-No  
outer line; Var-Various.

STRAIGHT LINE POSTMARKS

Town Mark Reads Date Size Rate Color Value

BASKING-RIDGE, 1832 46x3 Ms Black 1.50

N.J.

BURLINGTON, 1819-20 3x2 Ms Red; 3.00

N.J. Blue

HADDONFIELD 1843-50 43x3 Ms Black 2.50

N.J.

HADDONFIELD .... 5 Black 2.75

N.J.

LAWRENCEVILLE 1830-53 35x2 1/2 Ms Black 2.00

N.J. to 2.50

N. B. (Dated) 1794-96 12x5 Ms Black 6.00

(This is from New Brunswick, N.J.)

NEW GERMANTOWN 1851 44x2 1/2 Ms Black 3.00

N.J. (D)

(Office now called Oldwick)

NEW PROVIDENCE 1843-45 45x26 F Ms Black 5.00

N.J. (D)

PRINCE\*TOWN 1780 SL Ms Red 10.00

(Dated)

(Date a separate handstamp)

SALEM N.J. 1821 24x2 Ms Black 3.75

SUCKASUNNY, N.J. 1840-47 35x2 Ms Red 1.50

WESTFIELD 1852 44x2 Ms Black 4.00

NEW JERSEY

Town Mark Reads Date Size Rate Color Value

AMBOY, 1826-39 22x29 Ms Red .75

New Jersey.

AMBOY 1832 22x29 PAID Red 1.50

New Jersey.

BRIDGETOWN 1820-30 DO 26x31 PAID Black 2.00

W.N.J.

BRIDGETOWN 1827 DO 26x31 Ms Black 2.00

W.N.J.

(W.N.J. stands for "West New Jersey")

CALDWELL N.J. 1847-51 DO 20x27 Ms Black 4.00

FLEMINGTON 1832-47 28x35 Ms Brown; 1.00

N-J red

FLEMINGTON 1841-49 28x35 Ms Black .85

N-J

NEWARK, 1813-18 DO 31x23 Ms Blue 1.00

New Jersey.

NEWARK, 1818-21 DO 31x23 Ms Black 1.75

New Jersey.

NEWARK, 1824-34 DO 31x23 Ms Red .75

New Jersey. to 1.25

NEWARK, 1828-32 DO 31x23 PAID Red 2.00

New Jersey.

PATERSON, 1819 DO 20x28 Ms Black 2.00

N. JERSEY.

PATERSON, 1823-28 DO 20x28 Ms Red 1.50

N. JERSEY.

PERTH AMBOY 1842 23x30 Ms Red 1.00

N-J

STANHOPE N-J 1841-43 22x27 Ms Red 1.50

CIRCLE TOWN POSTMARKS

ALLENTOWN N-J. 1853 32 PAID 3(C) Black 1.00

BASKING RIDGE 1832 .. Ms Black 5.00

N.J.

BELLEVILLE 1847-51 30 Var Var .50

N.J.

BELLEVILLE 1854 30 PAID 3(C) Red .75

N.J.

BELVIDERE N.J. 1834-37 DO 28 Ms Red 1.25

BELVIDERE N.J. 1840 (DO) 28 Ms Red 2.50

(1840 item a different device from 1834-37)

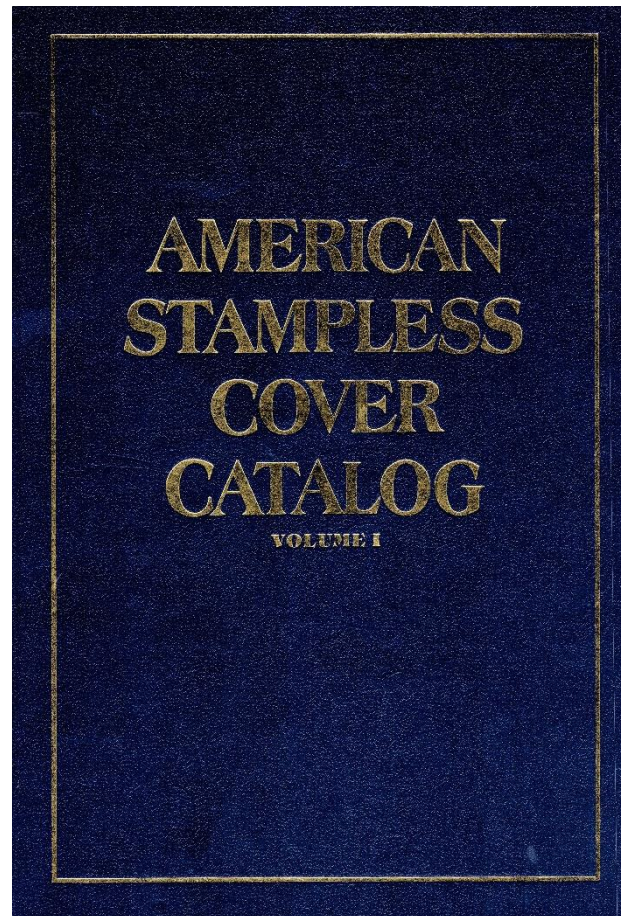
BELVIDERE N.J. 1842 30 Ms Orange 1.50

BELVIDERE N.J. 1843-50 30 Var Red: .50

New Jersey listings include straight line, oval and circle postmarks.  
1780 PRINCE\*TOWN postmark catalog value, the highest, at \$10.00.



American Stampless Cover Catalog, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., 1997, is the current catalog, but at 20 years old it is out of date. The United States Philatelic Classics Society is currently working on a project to update the catalog.



Your Input



An 1847 stampless sent from the Mexican war front and 1847 engraving of the war

**We need Your Input for  
the new American  
Stampless Cover Catalog  
(ASCC)**

The complex block contains a call to action. At the top, the text 'Your Input' is in a stylized font. Below it is a composite image showing a historical stampless cover on the left and a circular engraving on the right. The cover is addressed to 'Hon. John Davis, Custom House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania' and has a handwritten '10' and 'Mrs. M. J. 15'. The engraving is a circular medallion with a profile of a man and the text 'PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY'. Below the images is a caption: 'An 1847 stampless sent from the Mexican war front and 1847 engraving of the war'. At the bottom, a large, bold, black text block reads: 'We need Your Input for the new American Stampless Cover Catalog (ASCC)'.



*Samuel C. Paige*  
45 Bromfield St.  
Boston & Mass.

A.P.S.  
A.S.D.A.

**United States Stampless Covers**

THE NATIONALLY KNOWN COLLECTION OF  
THE LATE  
**Robert F. Chambers**  
OF PROVIDENCE R.I.

REALIZED AUCTION PRICES  
*Parker House, Boston, Mass.*  
"Old Boston" Room

Two Sessions  
FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 1, 1950 8:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 2, 1950 2:00 P.M.  
*E. A. Henders, Auctioneer*

THE "EDWIN MAYER" COLLECTION  
of  
PRE-STAMP AND STAMPLESS COVERS  
of  
**United States**  
by order of Mr. Edwin Mayer of New York City

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
1967

**H. R. HARMER, INC.**  
— NEW YORK —

546th SALE

**ROBERT A. SIEGEL**

**UNITED STATES POSTAL HISTORY**  
and  
**19th CENTURY STAMPS**

including STAMPLESS AND TERRITORIALS,  
THE DUANE C. ROSSELOT NEW MEXICO COLLECTION,  
THE STEPHEN G. RICH COLLECTION OF  
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY,  
69 LOTS OF 1847 ISSUE ON AND OFF COVER incl. "GEMS"  
FROM THE SWEET COLLECTION,  
1851-1857 COVERS FROM THE TRACY SIMPSON COLLECTION,  
THE R.J. MECHIN COLLECTION OF WATERBURY, CONN.  
FANCY CANCELS ON 3c 1869 ISSUE,  
COVERS FROM THE JOSEPH HORNE COLLECTION,  
SPECIALIZED 2c RED BROWN CANCELLATIONS

THE PROPERTY OF VARIOUS OWNERS  
SOLD AT THEIR ORDER

AT UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION

Thursday, May 17, 1979 at 11:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

**AUCTION GALLERIES, Inc.**  
120 E. 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

**PUBLIC SALE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1984**  
at  
**2:00 P.M.**  
and  
**5:00 P.M.**  
at the

**MARRIOTT HOTEL**  
Essex Room  
Garden State Parkway @ I-80, Saddle Brook, New Jersey

Litigation Service will be available free of charge and will depart from the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. at 12:30 P.M. and will return to N.Y. at 10:00 P.M. (approximately)  
**ADVANCE RESERVATIONS are necessary.**

**THE WILLIAM C. COLES, JR. COLLECTION**  
Sold by order of the Owner

**Norman Srotenner — Licensed Auctioneer**  
Lot Descriptions and Organization by David Petrucci

**1K ROBERT G. KAUFMANN**  
P.O. Box 1885  
540 Collax Road  
Wayne Township  
N.J. 07470  
(201) 851-1772

Day of Sale (201) 843-9500

*The Edmund John Kellen Collection of*  
**AMERICAN COLONIAL AND EARLY UNITED STATES MAILS 1662-1799**

NEW YORK

**NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC AUCTION #290**  
October 7, 2005

**MB**

www.mbauction.com

**THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF NEW JERSEY STAMPLESS COVERS**

BY  
**WILLIAM C. COLES, JR.**

**THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Published by  
**THE COLLECTORS CLUB OF CHICAGO**

**NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY**

1972-2011

**John L. Kay**  
and  
**Chester M. Smith, Jr.**

**NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
1972-2011

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

Vol. 39 No. 3 Whole Number 183 August 2011

**New Elizabeth, NJ Marking!**

**Elizabeth, NJ Marking!**

**~ CONTENTS ~**

President's Message..... Robert G. Rose.....126  
MIRPEX XXXV!.....127  
Two Jersey City Transatlantic Covers..... Robert Buckler.....128  
Elizabethtown Stampless Postmark Altered To Read "Elizabeth".... Robert G. Rose.....135  
Liberty Corner and Its Postmasters..... Doug D'Avino.....138  
Illegal Use of Postage as Revenue..... Edward T. Andrews.....146  
Census of Early New Jersey Covers, Part 2: New Brunswick..... Ed & Jean Siskin.....149  
Millville's "Old Home Week": Snapshots from a Century Ago..... Edward C. Smith, III.....154  
Development of Morris County Post: Part IV..... Don Chafetz.....157  
NJ Manuscript Markings: Update..... Steven J. Roth.....171  
Hometown Post Offices: Wharton (Port Oram), NJ..... Doug D'Avino.....173  
Member News: Minutes, Obituary, New Members.....175  
Member Ads.....177  
Literature Available.....179

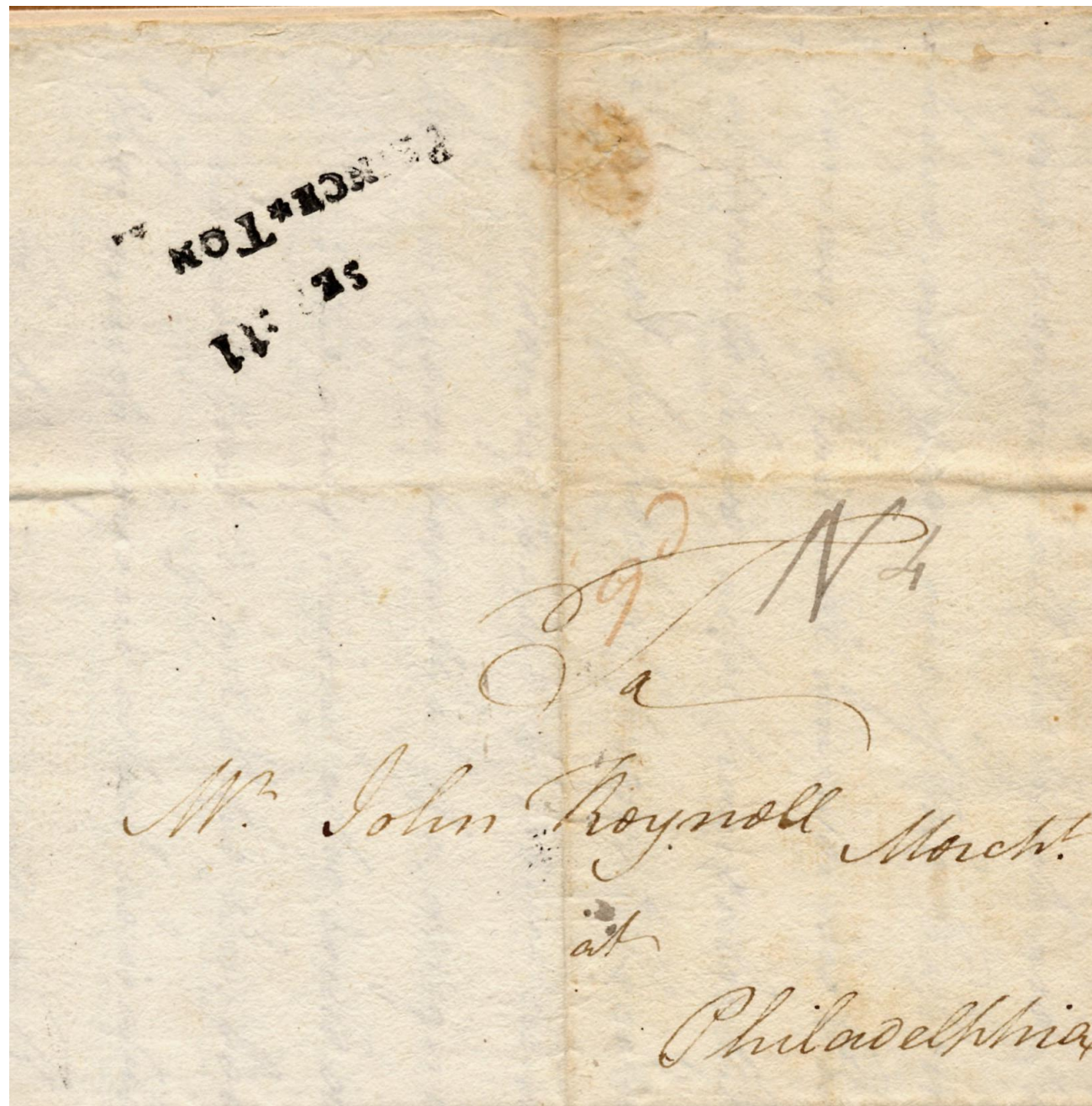


# The American Revolution

## PRINCETON 1775

This Princeton straight line postmark was first used by the British Parliamentary Post. With the coming of the Revolutionary War, the Parliamentary Post ceased service and was eventually replaced by the Congressional Post established by the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia on July 26, 1775.

This folded letter from Princeton to Philadelphia, dated September 11, 1775, is the only reported use of this confiscated British Parliamentary Post handstamp used by the newly established Congressional Post.





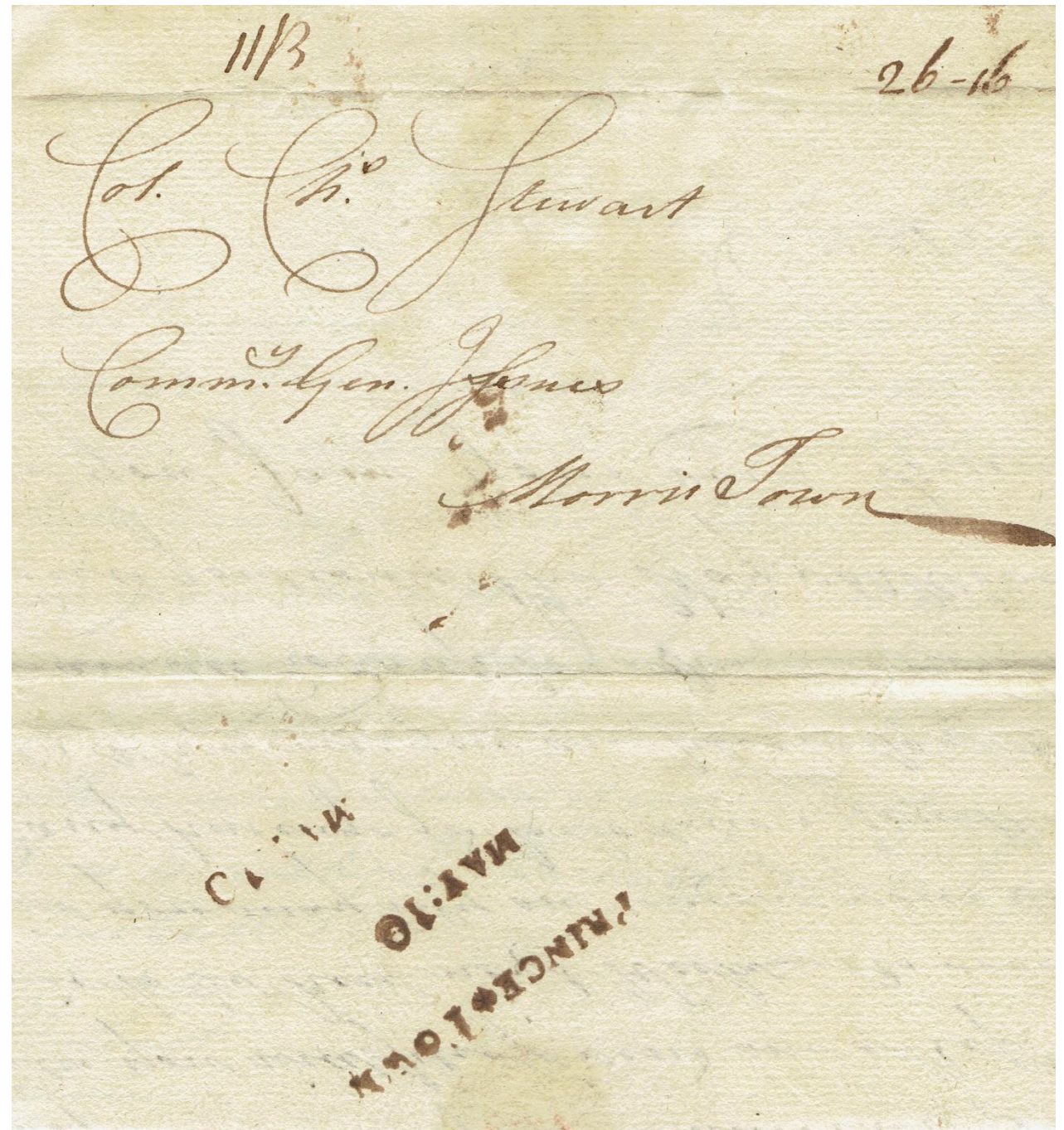
# The American Revolution

## PRINCE\*TOWN 1780

This folded letter from Princeton to Morristown, dated May 10, 1780, is the only reported use of this brown two-line Prince\*Town straight line handstamp in collectors' hands and the only cover from New Jersey showing the scarce 20 times rate.

On December 28, 1779, the Continental Congress increased the restored 1775 Congressional Post rates by 20 times reflecting the rampant inflation and resulting depreciation of the Continental paper currency.

*The rate is shown as 11 shillings with the equivalent "26-16" in silver (26 pennyweights & 16 grains = 80 pence) for a letter under 60 miles. It is 20 times the 4 pence Congressional Post rate of 1775.*





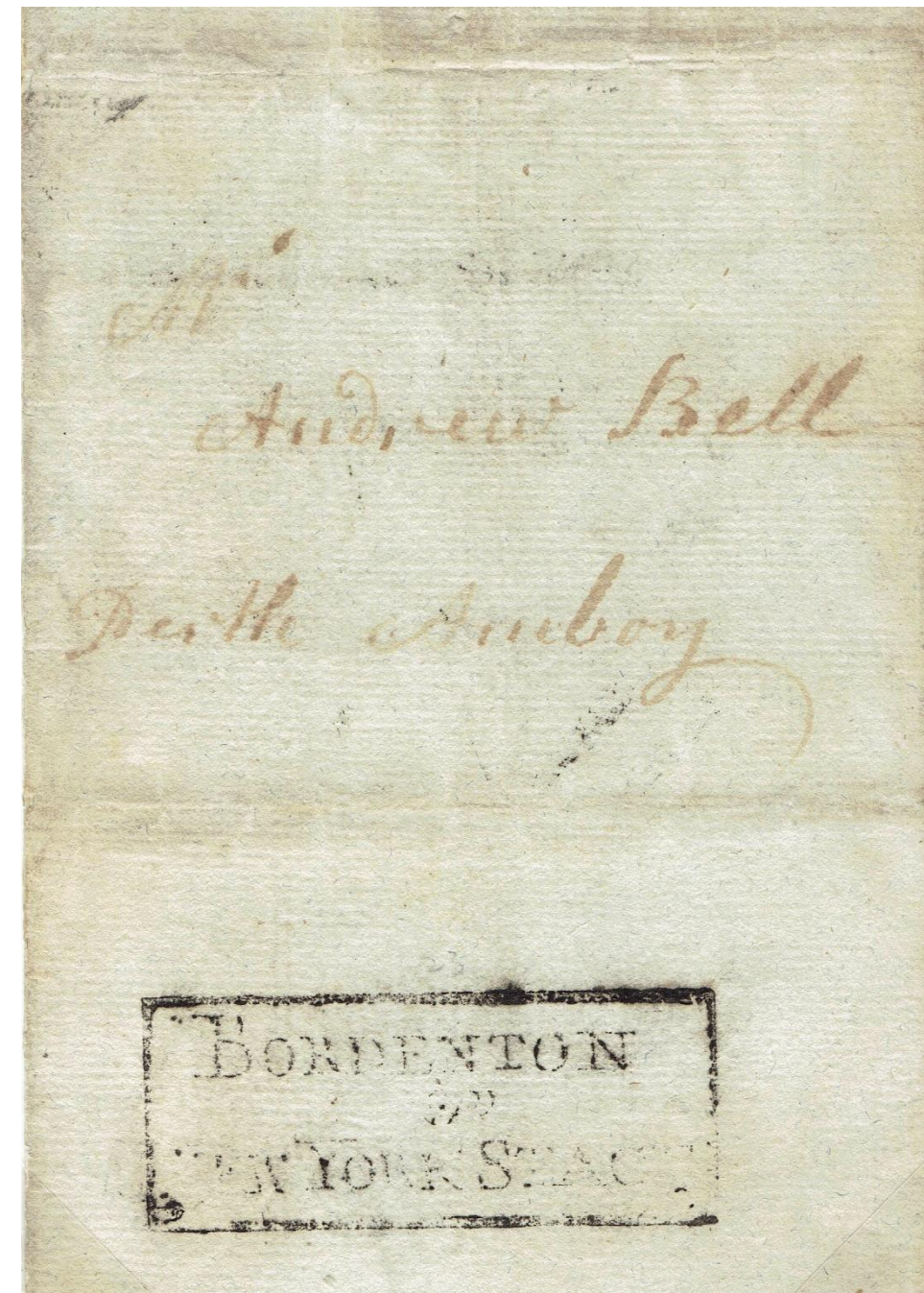
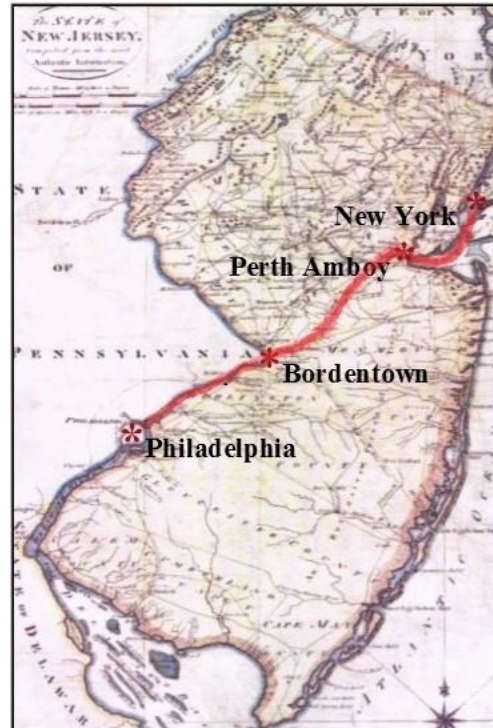
# Bordenton & New York Stage 1786

This is the earliest reported use of an independent mail handstamp.

The Bordenton & New York Stage was established by Joseph Borden in 1740 and operated until 1792. This stage line carried passengers and freight between Philadelphia and New York.

The route ran north from Philadelphia by “stage boat” on the Delaware River to Bordentown and overland by “stage waggon” to Perth Amboy, then sloop through New York harbor to Whitehall at the lower tip of Manhattan.

*Only six covers with this boxed handstamp have been recorded, all north bound. The earliest reported on August 23, 1786 and the latest, shown here, with a Philadelphia date line of November 21, 1786.*



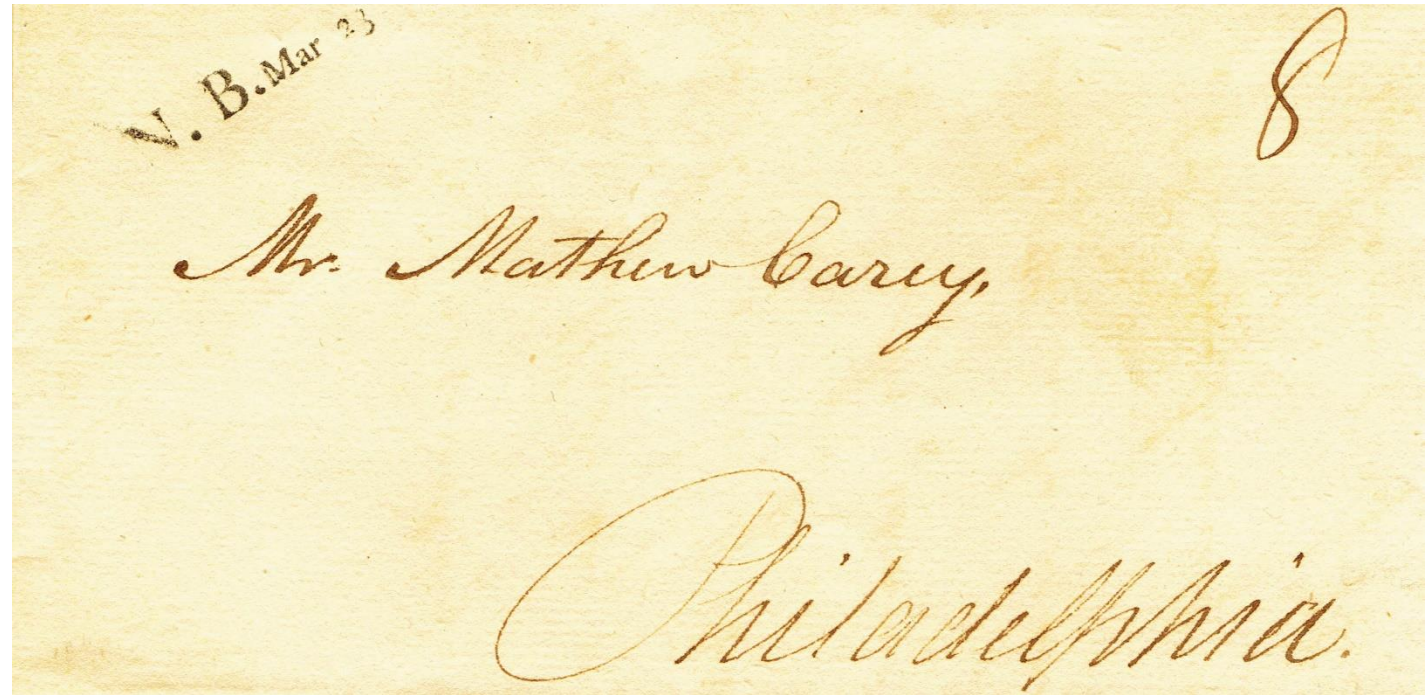


# Postmarks after Post Office Act of 1792 New Brunswick

The Act of 1792 established a nine-zone tiered system of rates from six cents for a single letter sheet up to a distance of 30 miles, increasing incrementally to 25 cents for a letter over 450 miles. Postage could be prepaid at the post office when mailed, or paid by the recipient when received.

Rated at 8c rate for single letter sent from 30 to 60 miles per the Act of February 20, 1792.

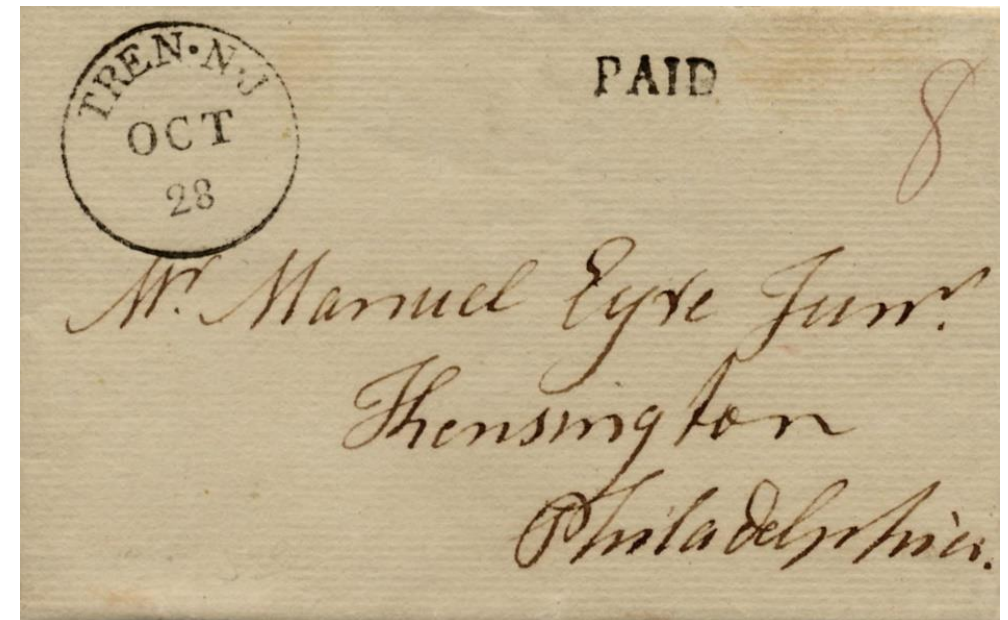
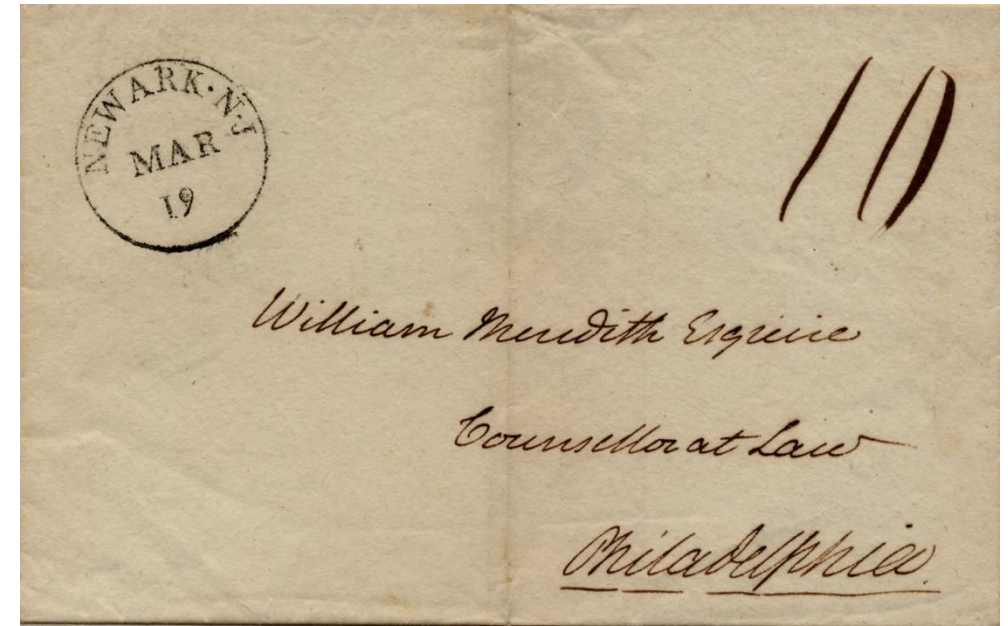
This unusual “N.B.” straight line postmark using only the town’s initials is reported in black from 1795-96.



# First Handstamps Provided by the U.S. Post Office Department 1799

In 1799 the United States Post Office Department provided 26 mm circular brass handstamps, with removable type for the year and the day, to 12 of the largest revenue generating post offices throughout the new nation.

Both Newark and Trenton were the only two New Jersey towns to receive the handstamps, which were delivered on June 8, 1799.





# Early Circle Handstamps

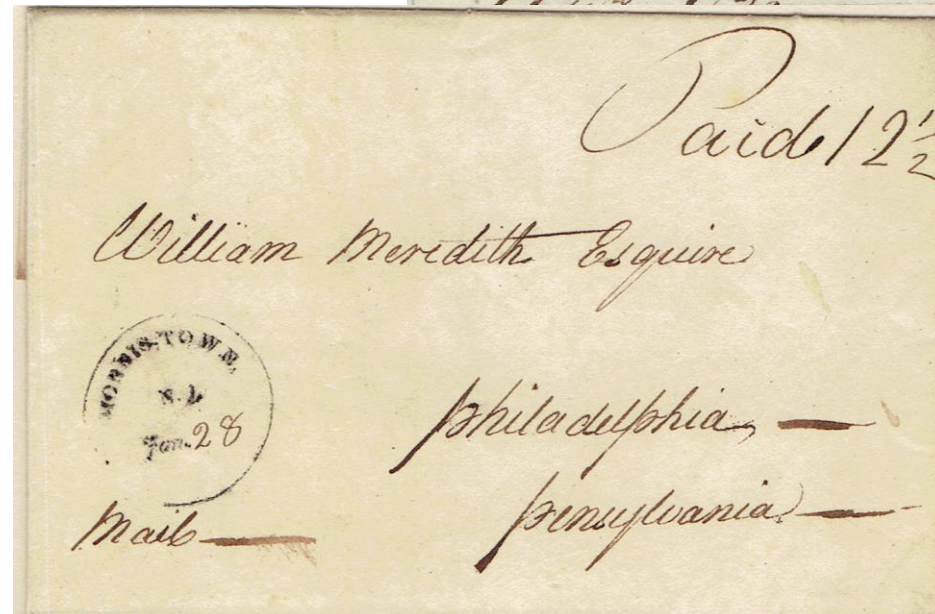
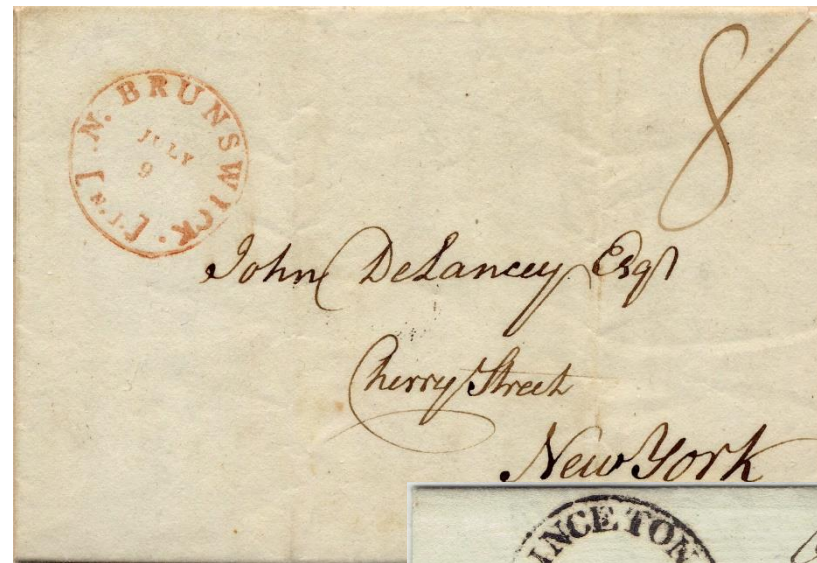
## 1800 to 1815

In the first two decades of the 19th century, three of New Jersey's larger towns, New Brunswick, Princeton, and Morristown introduced a variety of circular date handstamps that were likely purchased from local engravers.

New Brunswick 1801. Use of this 27 mm handstamp from New Brunswick is reported from 1801 to 1803.

Princeton 1810. Use of this 28 mm handstamp is reported in Black from 1802 to 1826.

Morristown 1814. This the only reported example of this 26 mm handstamp with the "N.J." not in italics.





# OVAL HANDSTAMPS 1813 to 1851 NEWARK

Oval handstamps were gradually introduced during the 1810's. Eventually 12 New Jersey towns used these oval postmarks in the years from 1813 to almost the end of the stampless era in 1855.

Newark used an oval handstamp from 1813 to 1836 in four sequential colors : Blue, Black, Red and Green.

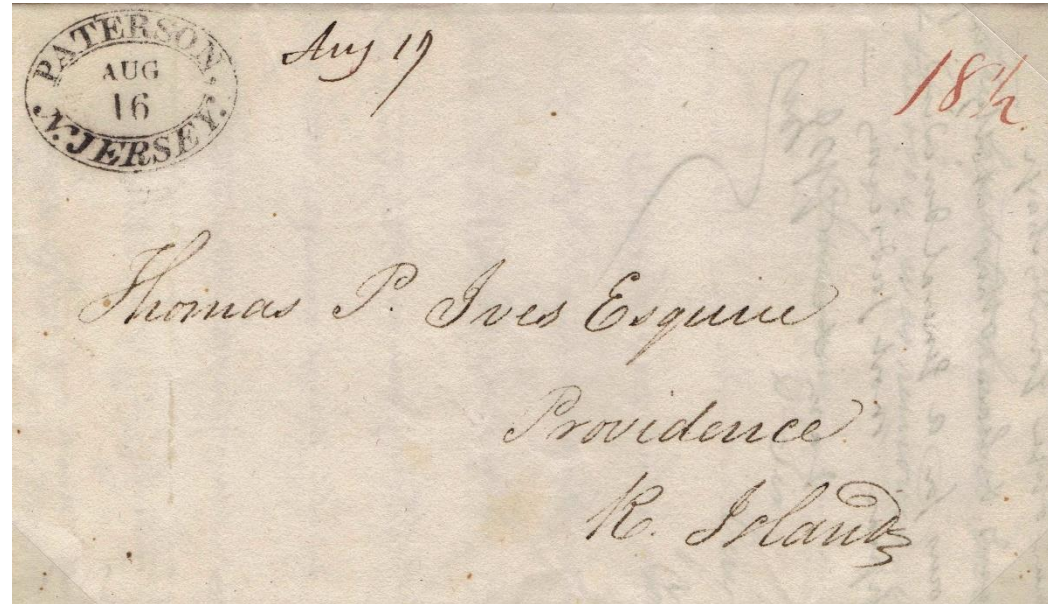
All four colors are shown. Green is the scarcest color and was used for only one month, July 1823.



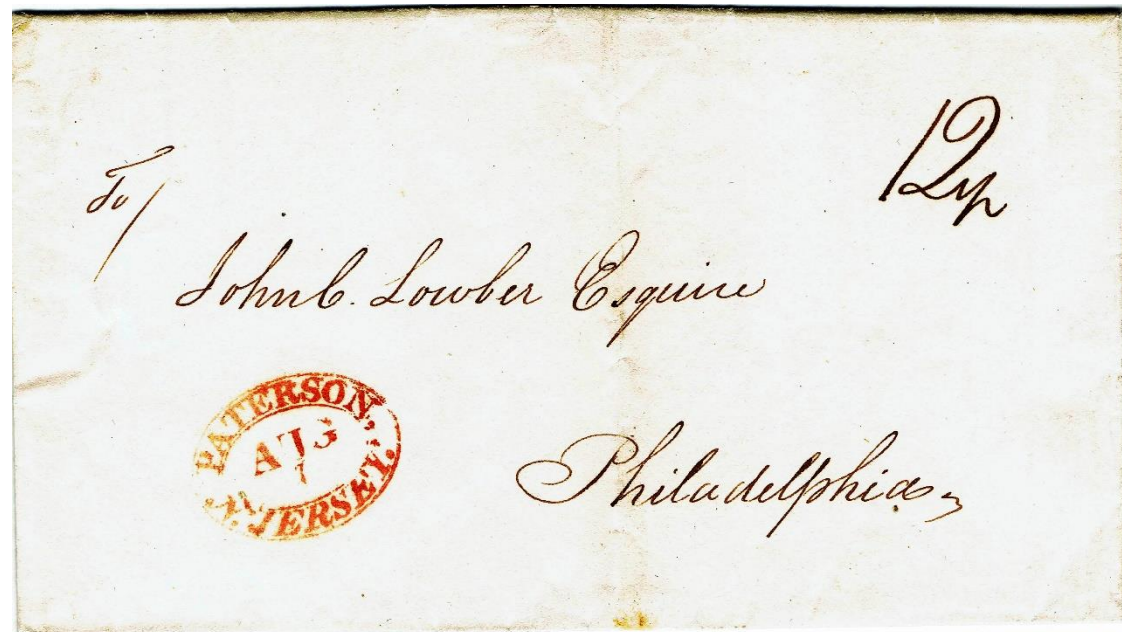


# PATERSON OVAL

The use of this 28 X 22 mm double oval in Black is reported from 1817 to 1822.



The use of this 28 X 22 mm double oval in Red is reported from 1821 to 1830.





# FLEMINGTON OVAL

Flemington used a 35 X 29 mm oval handstamp from 1825 to 1849 in five colors: Blue, Dark Red, Bright Red, Black and Brown.

All five colors are shown.

The scarcest color is Bright Red and was used only briefly in 1839.



# PEAPACK OVAL 1842

Fancy Rimless Oval with Dotted  
Fleurons

Originally rated as 6c single  
letter not over 30 miles per the  
Act of April 9, 1816, and then re-  
rated correctly at the 12c  
double letter rate due to  
enclosures.



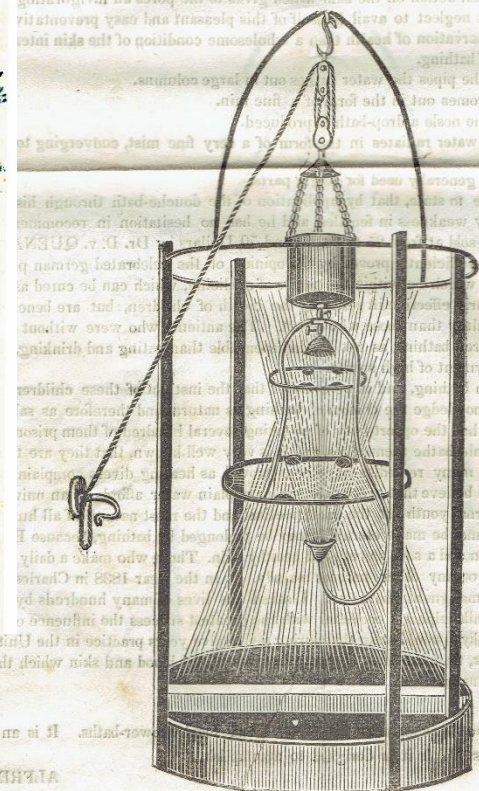


The contents of postal history  
are often fascinating.

To Mr. W. Gibbons Esq. Peapack Bedminster Township  
Madison. New Jersey 15 Septemb 1842.

Sir! I take the liberty to send you a description of  
my apparatus and I am of the opinion that this apparatus  
would be very useful in your mansion-house at the mineral  
Spring Schuyl mountain. — I also bring to your kind consideration  
that it would be very useful to have at that mineral Spring  
a permanent practising Physician at that place. —

DR. D. VON QUENAUDON'S  
PATENT APPARATUS  
FOR  
HOUSEBATHING  
WITH  
COLD, WARM, SEA OR ARTIFICIAL MINERAL WATERS  
FOR THE  
PRESERVATION  
OF  
HEALTH, YOUTH & BEAUTY.  
NEW-YORK 1841.



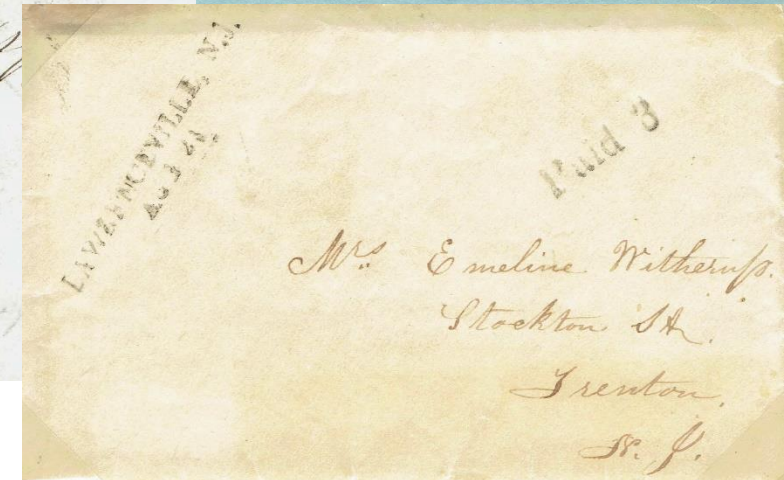
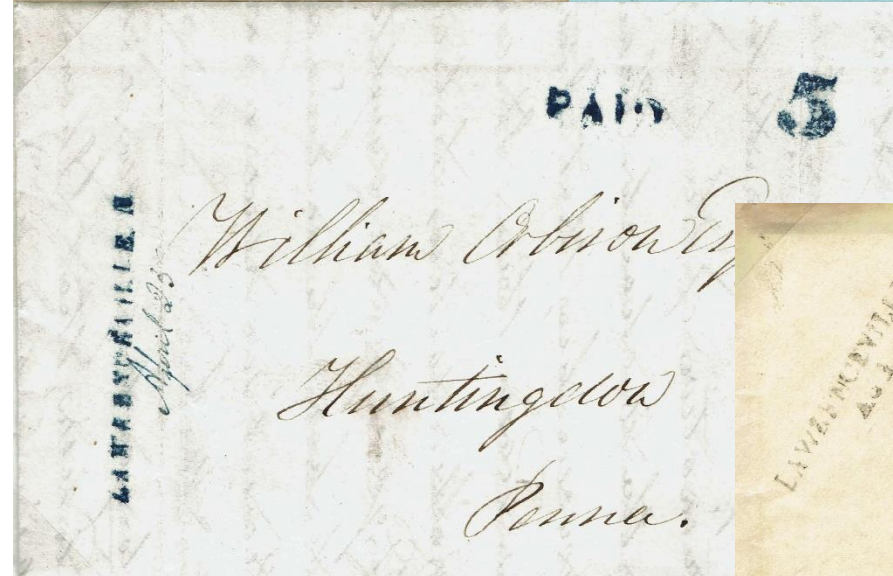
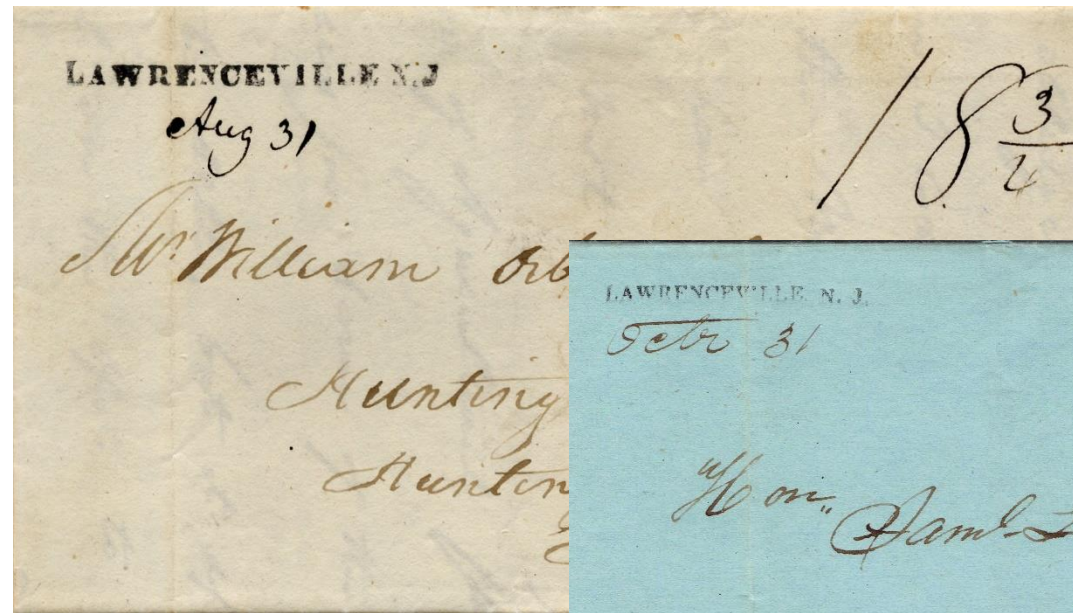


# LAWRENCEVILLE STRAIGHT LINES

Lawrenceville used six different handstamps from 1829 to 1854.

All reported varieties and colors are shown in the exhibit including the scarce slanted letters in both colors and the two-line handstamp.

Many of these locally produced handstamps made from printer's type varied as much as 2 to 3 mm in length as a result of resetting loose letters, the loss of spacers and, the mixing of commas and periods in the handstamp.

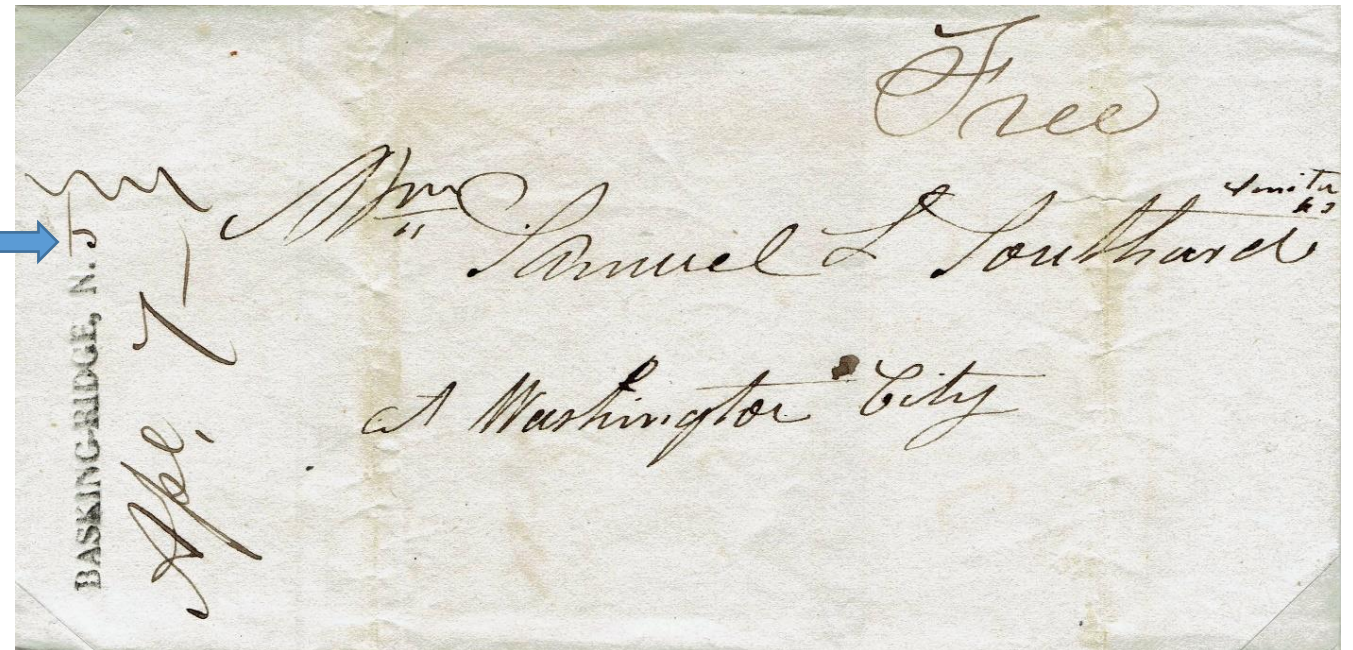
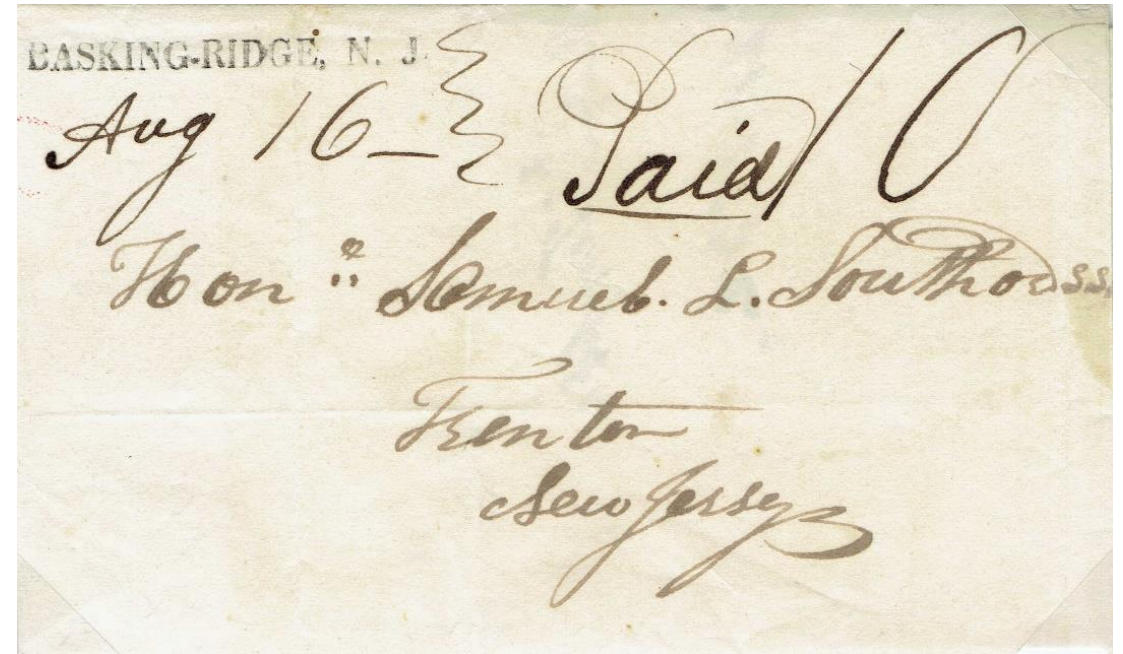




# BASKING RIDGE STRAIGHT LINES 1833 TO 1835

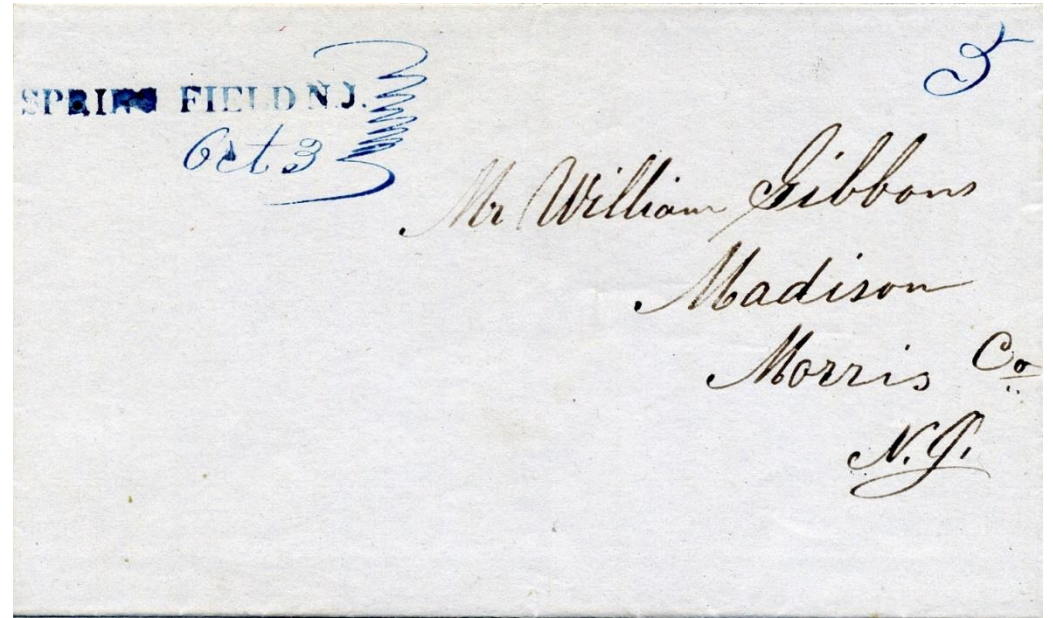
Two varieties of this 45 X 4 mm straight line handstamp have been recorded. The first includes "N.J.", the full abbreviation of the State.

In the second, the printer's type in this locally produced straight line handstamp slipped and, the "J" of "N. J." dropped from the postmark at some point in early 1834.



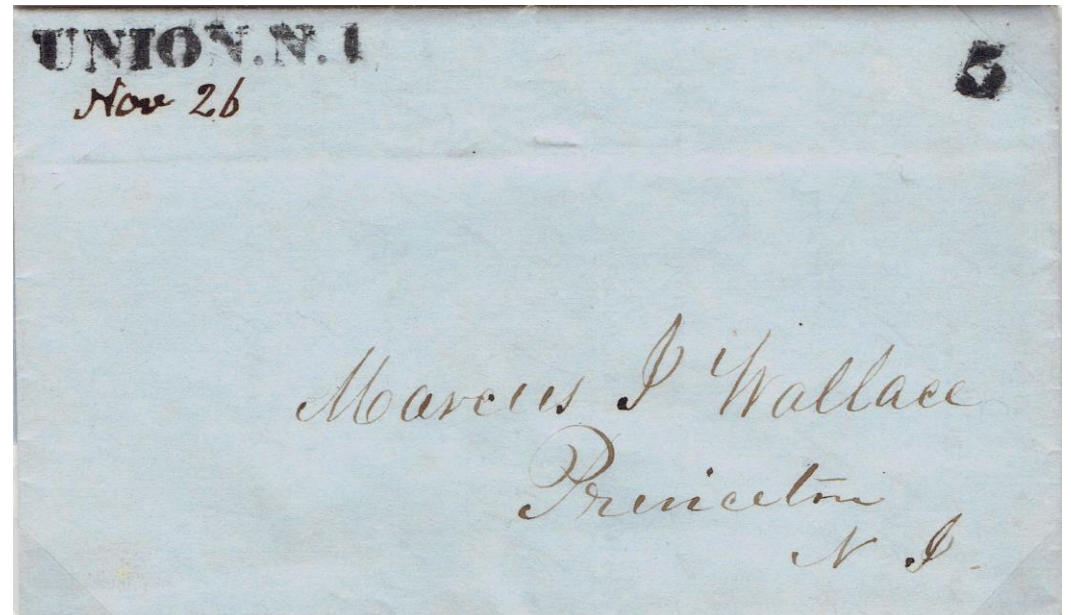
## SPRINGFIELD STRAIGHT LINE

This Blue handstamp's use is reported in 1842. Four examples of this postmark have been recorded.



## UNION STRAIGHT LINE

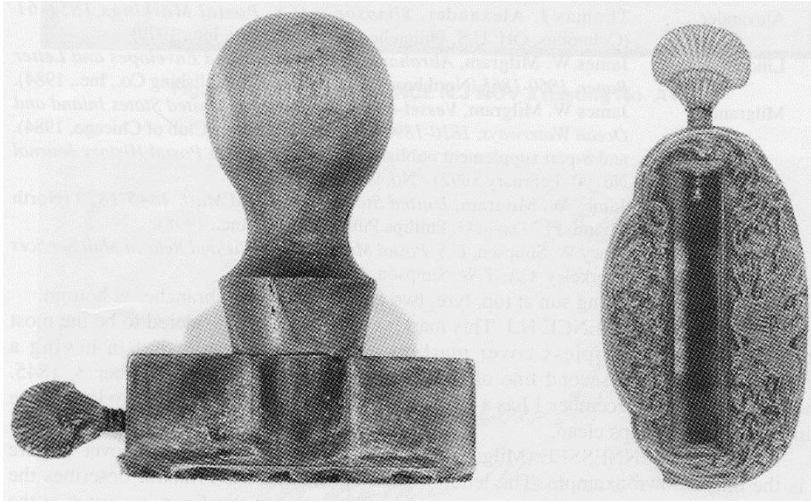
This Black handstamp's use is reported in 1845. Three examples of this postmark have been recorded.



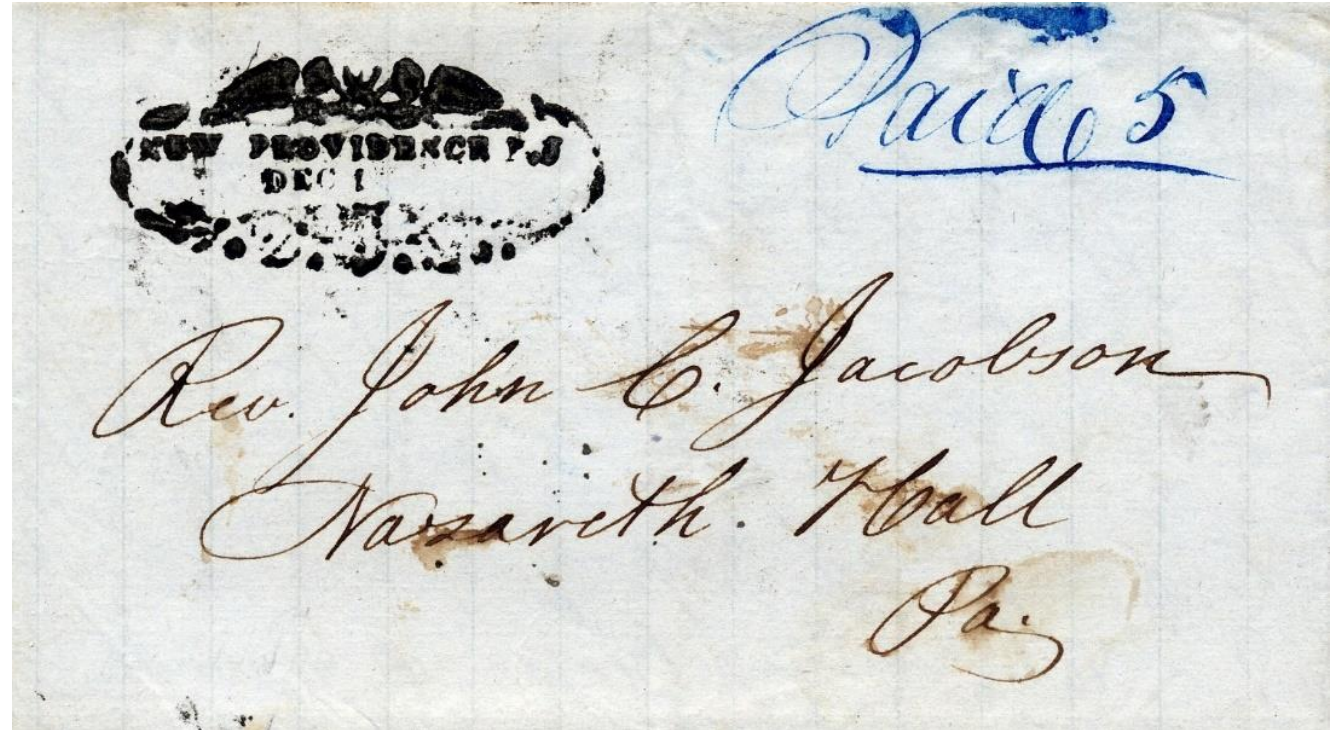


# New Providence Fancy Mortised Handstamp 1845

This 47 mm fancy straight line was made from an ornamental book marker.



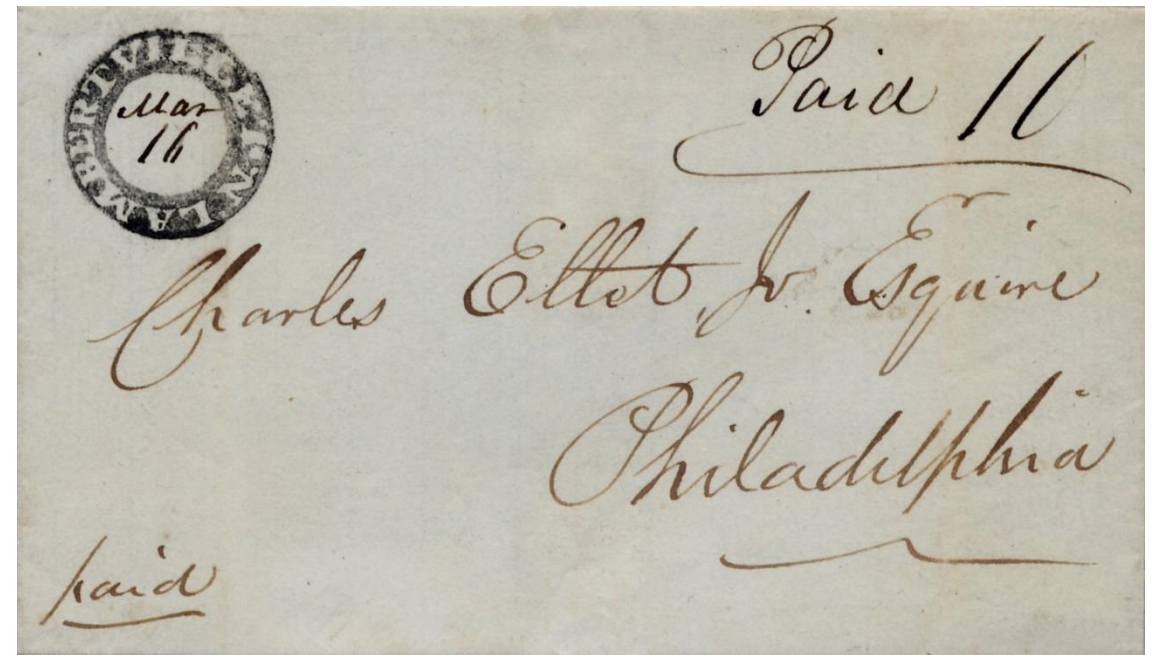
The town name and date were made from printer's type and inserted into the mortised area of the handstamp, secured by a hand screw.



# Negative Lettered Postmarks

The Haddonfield negative handstamp is considered the most outstanding New Jersey postmark from the standpoint of appearance. It was in use from 1840 to 1853.

The Lambertville negative handstamp is reported from 1835 to 1841. It is the scarcer of these two negative handstamp postmarks.





# Circle Town Postmarks 1820 to 1855

Circle town postmarks came into common service by 1830 and remained the most often used handstamp until the end of the domestic stampless period in 1855. A wide variety of styles were used including single circles, double circles, double outer line circles, rimless circles and county named town circles.





# Circle Town Postmarks 1820 to 1855



Charles P Smith  
Secy of Burlington Lodge No 22  
Burlington N.J.



Mr. Joel Cadbury  
Phil<sup>a</sup>



Mr. Hansborough  
County clerk Morristown  
N.J.

FREE



Gov. Samuel S. Southard  
Member Senate. U.S.  
Washington, D.C.



Gov. Wm. S. Mayes  
Secy at War  
Washington City  
D.C.



# Circle Town Postmarks 1820 to 1855



FREE

Hon. Saml. L. S.  
Senate  
Wash



Mr. J. Furber Leamin  
Philada



Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co  
Merchants  
North Front St  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



Messrs. J. L. Thompson  
134 South Leona St  
Philad<sup>a</sup>



FREE

W. H. Barringer

William H. Mitchell Esq.  
265 Chestnut St  
Philad<sup>a</sup> Pa.



# Rimless Circle Town Postmarks

Circle town postmarks without an outer rim saw service in many States from the mid-1830's to the early 1850's. Six New Jersey towns are included in this exhibit.





## County Named Postmarks

County named handstamp postmarks were used in many States during the stampless period, including three from New Jersey in this exhibit.







**I hope you enjoyed the presentation and are ready to start a collection of stampless covers.**

**Please consider becoming a member of the New Jersey Postal History Society. Membership is only \$15 a year and you will receive the Society's quarterly gold medal award winning journal, *NJPH*.**

