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A folded letter in art ~ was it from New Jersey?



This painting by Jacques-Louis David, painted in 1821, shows two Bonaparte princesses reading a stampless folded letter from their father, Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon. Was it written to them from New Jersey? For more information see [page 9](#), and visit our [Featured Cover page](#) at www.NJPostalHistory.org.

~ CONTENTS ~

President's Message	Robert G. Rose	2
Bordentown Stage cover	Robert G. Rose	3
Point Breeze, (Bordentown, NJ) & The Bonapartes	Jean Walton	5
Lebanon, NJ – An Extraordinary Postal History.....	Jim Walker	24
On the Auction Scene: NJ Stampless Covers.....	Robert G. Rose	32
Development of Mail Service in Morris County, Part II:		
Morristown 1750-1847	Don Chafetz	35
The Short-Lived Mannington Hill Post Office	Ed. by JWalton	48
Hometown Post Offices: Ocean Grove	Doug D'Avino.....	50
Member News: Donations, Web Updates, Treasurer's Report.....		52
Member Ads.....		55
Literature Available		57

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DUES REMINDER! If a dues reminder is enclosed with this journal, it means we have not received your dues payment for 2011. 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. 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!

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO DONORS! A list of donors is included in the Member News pages. We are extremely grateful to these contributions, as they make our journal possible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The first issue of *NJPH* for the New Year brings a variety of interesting articles. I especially enjoyed reviewing Jean Walton's article that studies a series of Joseph Napoleon's letters involving the estate that he built in Bordentown, and where he lived during the 1820s and 1830s. Also from Bordentown, a report on the auction sale of the earliest of the six reported "Bordenton & New York Stage" handstamped covers that was used as an independent mail marking for a brief period in 1786 and an "On the Auction Scene" report on a number of New Jersey stampless covers including the earliest manuscript marking from Colonial Newark. Two additional post office histories are detailed in Jim Walker's article concerning Lebanon and Doug D'Avino's on Ocean Grove, as well as a second installment of Don Chafetz's award winning collection of Morris County Postal history, this issue focusing on mail to and from Morristown.

I also thank the many contributors to the Society who answered the call for donations and whose names are listed on page 52. With the yearly increase in production costs and postage, your generous donations allow annual dues to remain at \$15. For those of you who have put off or simply forgotten to pay dues for 2011, we have included a second and final dues notice. Please take the time to write a check to the Society, and while you are at it, to include a donation.

For those of you who have not recently visited our Society's website www.njpostalhistory.org - now is the time. Our webmaster, Warren Plank has spent countless hours turning our website into among the best of any State postal history society, with several new galleries and an expansion of NJ POs. For Society members, there is a complete run of *NJPH* that can be downloaded and read as well as a growing assemblage of other features. Be sure to take a look and read Warren's page in this issue.

Finally, the annual Multi-State Postal History Competition will take place this year at ROPEX in Rochester, NY on May 13-15. Our Society had been invited to participate. I will attend and exhibit and would be pleased to hand carry your exhibit to the Show and bring it back home again. The Show prospectus is available on line at www.rpastamps.org. Let's get a nice turn out this year!

ROBERT G. ROSE

THE EARLIEST RECORDED BORDENTON & NEW YORK STAGE HANDSTAMP ON COVER

By Robert G. Rose

The earliest recorded example of one of the most valuable artifacts of 18th Century New Jersey postal history, the “Bordenton & New York Stage” handstamp, was recently sold at public auction. Illustrated in *Figure 1*, the folded letter, from Jacob Downing, is datelined Philadelphia, August 23, 1786, and is addressed to Richard Waln at Walnford, New Jersey. It is endorsed with the writer’s directive “Pr Stage.” This private mail marking is regarded as the first of the independent mail handstamps used by a private carrier. Owned by the estate of Calvin M. Hahn, it sold for a hammer price of \$5,250 plus a 15% commission.¹ Only six examples of this handstamp on cover have been recorded over its brief period of use from August, 23, 1786 through November 21, 1786.²



Fig. 1: The earliest recorded use of the Bordenton & New York Stage handstamp, August 23, 1786.

ENDNOTES

¹ Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale 1002, December 13-15, 2010, lot no. 3130.

² A chronological census of the six handstamped covers with their known auction history and other bibliographical references was originally compiled in Robert G. Rose, "On the Auction Scene: *The Bordentown Stage & Three Cent Transatlantic Usages*," *NJPH*, Vol. 33, No. 1, Whole No. 157 (2005) pp. 5-6 endnote 1. An updated census of the handstamped covers is detailed below:

- (1) August 23, 1786 usage on folded letter from Philadelphia to Walnford, N.J. with manuscript directive "p stage" and notation "George Ryall 1 mile out of Trenton." Illustrated in Calvet M. Hahn, "The Post Office During Confederation (1782-9), Part V," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, September-October 1991, Figure 55, p. 340; Calvet M. Hahn, "Express Business: Origins and Definitions," *The Penny Post*, July 2003, Figure 8, pp. 56 & 60. John A. Fox Auctions, Hollowbush Collection, August 15, 1966, lot no. 1; Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale 1002, December 13-15, 2010, lot no. 3130.
- (2) September 10, 1786 usage on folded letter from Philadelphia with ms. directive "pr. Bordent'n Stage Boat" to Hydestown (now Hightstown, NJ); Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Edith M. Faulstich Collection, Sale 440, November 19-21, 1973, lot no. 332; Butterfield-Johnson-Gillio Auction, Sale 6534, October 7, 1996, lot no. 1825; illustrated in William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983, Figure 8, p. 13 and in Alex L. ter Braake, coord., *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America, 1628-1790*, The American Philatelic Society Library, 1975, Figure B-16, p. B-40.
- (3) September 23, 1786 usage on folded letter from Philadelphia to Hydestown with ms. directive "pr Bordentown Stage;" H.R. Harmer, Inc., Edwin Mayer Collection, February 17, 1967, lot 3010; Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale 426, February 14-16, 1973, lot no. 332
- (4) October 10, 1786 Quaker date usage on folded letter being the only example with two strikes of the handstamp, from Philadelphia to Walnford with ms. directive "pr Bordentown Stage boat;" Matthew Bennett, Siskin Collection, Sale 290, October 7, 2005, lot no. 249.
- (5) October 28, 1786 usage on folded letter from Philadelphia to Walnford with ms. directive "pr Stage;" illustrated in Margaret S. Pierce, Early Stage and Mail Routes Through West Jersey, *Fourteenth American Philatelic Congress Book*, 1948, p. 21; Weiss Auctions, Sid Morginstin Bordentown Collection, October 30, 2004, lot no. 2198.
- (6) November 21, 1786 usage on folded letter from Philadelphia to Perth Amboy; H.R. Harmer, Inc., July 15, 1968, lot no. 35; Stan Gib Inc., November 11, 1972, lot no. 28; Al Zimmerman, December 7, 1976, lot no. 23; Richard J. Frajola, Inc., September 9, 1989, lot no. 381.

WE NEED ARTICLES NOW!

Articles on items in your collection, studies you are doing, or other material
pertinent to

New Jersey postal history are always welcome.

PLEASE submit these to your Editor: **Robert G. Rose**

at One Jefferson Road,
Parsippany, NJ 07054-2891
or rrose@daypitney.com .

POINT BREEZE (BORDENTOWN) AND THE BONAPARTES

By Jean Walton

Bordentown, a stop on the stage route between Philadelphia and New York, is well-known to philatelists for the very rare stage markings which graced its covers in the early days of stage mail. The town, north of Philadelphia and south of Trenton, marked the point at which travelers from New York exchanged their bumpy ride in Jersey stage coaches for steamers which continued down the Delaware to Philadelphia. But it has another claim to fame: in 1817, it became the home to the former King of Naples and King of Spain, Joseph Bonaparte.

With this fact in mind, I wondered what kind of postal history I might find relating to the residence of Joseph Bonaparte in New Jersey. I searched the archives of our larger universities, and the New Jersey History Museum and State Library, but found nothing until I came to the New Jersey Historical Society. Located in Newark, but short on funds, an appointment was necessary to see their collection of some eight or nine letters written by Joseph Bonaparte.

This story begins with the Battle of Waterloo, and the final defeat in June of 1815 of Napoleon Bonaparte and the fall of the Bonaparte Empire to the British, an odd start for a bit of New Jersey postal history.

This event left all the members of Napoleon's



Fig. 1: Joseph was 47 years of age when he first came to this country, leaving behind him a wife Julie Clary, and two daughters, Zénaïde and Charlotte – then aged 14 and 13.¹

family as exiles, in jeopardy of incarceration or execution, foremost by the British, but also by the reinstated Bourbon monarchy in France. Joseph, older brother to Napoleon, strongly resembled him, and offered to impersonate him, in order to allow his brother to escape on a ship to the U.S. Napoleon chose instead to throw himself on the mercies of the British, so Joseph himself used the escape plan he had prepared for his brother, stealing away incognito, late one night in July, aboard a small American vessel, the *Commerce*. The captain had no idea of the identities of the small party of Frenchmen aboard, nor that the man travelling as M. Surviglieri was actually Joseph Bonaparte, brother to Napoleon, ex-king of Naples and of Spain.

The ship was boarded several times by the British, but the ruse was never discovered. Even while nearing New York City, the pilot was forced to steer the *Commerce* into the shallow waters off Sandy Hook to avoid two more British frigates; the frigates were unable to follow and gave up the chase. A request from the small party to disembark in Brooklyn was discouraged by

the captain, who told them there was nothing but fishing villages there. Arriving in New York in August of 1815, Joseph, his faithful secretary Louis Mailliard, and his cook, took rooms in an unprepossessing hotel, rather than one of the more well-known hotels, as Joseph was unsure just how he would be received and whether he could find safety in exile in the U.S. Joseph had left his family behind him – his wife Julie Clary and two daughters, Zénaïde and Charlotte, aged fourteen and thirteen.

Despite his precautions, and now calling himself “Comte de Survillieus,” after property he owned, Joseph was recognized almost immediately by Commander Jacob Lewis of Amboy, who happened to be staying at the same hotel visiting his son, and who had met Joseph in Europe. He invited Joseph to visit him in Amboy, and the Count spent several pleasant days at his home.

Returning to New York City, the count was recognized again on the street by a former subject who fell to his knees to kiss the count’s hand. This resulted in a gathering crowd and the news hit the papers the following day. Incognito was clearly not an option.



Fig. 2: The Bonaparte Family – at top the parents, from Corsica where they had a small estate with a vineyard and olive trees, and where both Napoleon and Joseph (2nd row, left – Joseph, and right – Napoleon) were born. All of these, with the exception of Charles, head of the family, who had died when Joseph and Napoleon were teen-agers, became exiles with the fall of the Napoleonic Empire in 1815. Joseph’s wife Julie was allowed to remain in Paris, but found it distasteful, and moved her family first to Frankfurt and then to Brussels.

In his youth, Joseph had taken on the responsibilities as head of the family, but Napoleon had had much larger dreams. His ambitions encompassed his older brother Joseph, who when Napoleon declared himself Emperor, became King of Naples, and later, at his brother’s request, King of Spain. Joseph, never very willing to accept these positions, has, in the retrospect of history, become known as “the reluctant King.”

Joseph thus chose to introduce himself to the mayor of New York and request his assistance. The mayor’s suggestion was that he travel to Washington and appeal to President Madison for asylum. With the help of a friend, Stephen Girard of Philadelphia, and travelling with Commodore Lewis, Joseph began the trip to Washington, but the President, forewarned of the impending visit of a Bonaparte, sent word that he would prefer that the Count not come to Washington – officially sanctioning protection of a Bonaparte would put the President in an awkward position with both the British and the French – but he also said that the Count was as free as any man arriving on our shores, and that he needn’t fear any detention by the U.S. government. Joseph thus returned to Philadelphia and began the search for a residence.

Letters were difficult for Joseph to get to his family, because they could be intercepted and confiscated, as fears remained of an attempt by the Bonapartists to return to power. Joseph's friend Girard's involvement in the shipping business allowed him to arrange for letters to be carried under cover, instead of by the regular mail routes. The many letters that were carried have been collected in the private archives of the Princess Napoleon.² What few letters I was able to find were at the New Jersey Historical Society, and pertained for the most part to finances. It was disappointing that few had any postal markings at all.³ However, this first letter from the NJHS files is from soon after his arrival in the U.S., and is a personal letter to his younger sister Caroline.

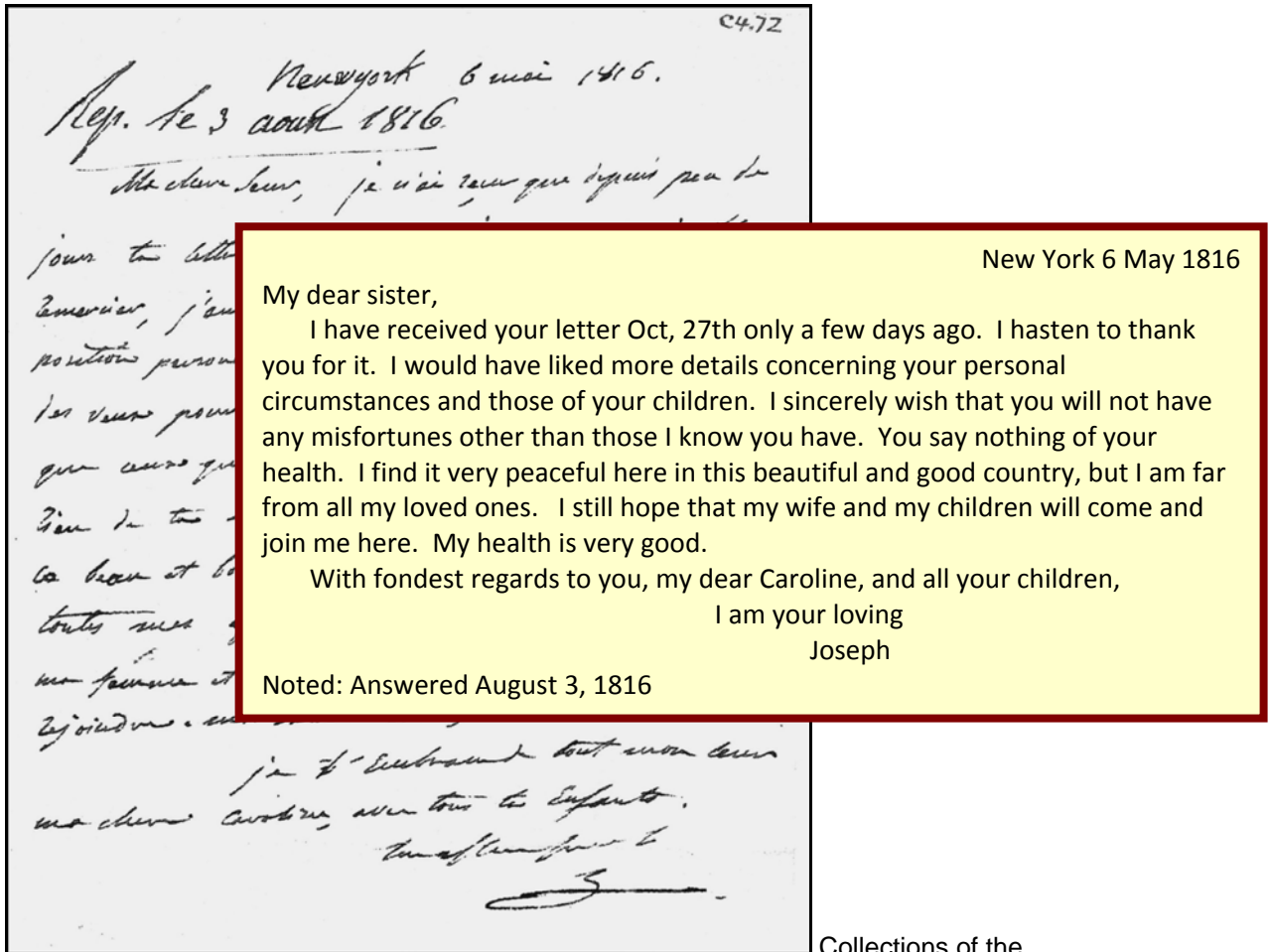


Fig. 3: Dated New York, the 6th of May, 1816. Only the letter is present, no address side or postal markings

Joseph owned lands in upstate New York – in the area of Watertown – but Napoleon himself had suggested that the most advantageous spot to settle in the U.S. would be some place between New York and Philadelphia, where news from the Continent would be received most expeditiously. Whether this, or the presence of friends in the Philadelphia area who spoke French, determined Joseph's choice is unknown. His first residence was in Philadelphia – renting rooms in the city with the help of Stephen Girard, and later establishing a residence at Lansdowne. But Joseph was looking for a country estate which he could redecorate to his own tastes, and where he could eventually make a home for his wife and children whom he hoped would follow him to the U.S. He found such a spot at Bordentown, in the former estate of

POINT BREEZE & THE BONAPARTES ~ Jean Walton

Samuel Sayre. As a foreigner, he could not own lands in his own name, and so one of his entourage purchased the estate for him. Shortly after however, Governor Mahlon Dickerson signed a law enabling the right of ownership by the Count himself:

To the Count de Survilliers

Trenton, New Jersey, 28th Jan. 1817

Sir,

Mr. Ingersoll will present to you a copy of an Act of the Legislature of New Jersey, which authorises foreigners to hold land in this state.

I avail myself eagerly of this opportunity to testify to you the sincere joy I feel for the preference you have been pleased to give to this State in selecting it for your residence.

The members of the legislature of the State participate in my sentiments of good will towards you: the act which they have just passed relative to you will give you the most certain proof of it.

I have the honour to be, Sir, with greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant

(Signed) Mahlon Dickerson⁴

New York State passed a similar law in 1825 allowing Joseph to take title to some 80,000 acres of land in Jefferson County, acquired from J. LeRay de Chaumont in trade for silver and furniture before the Count came to the United States, which were held in the name of James Carnet, his aide. Joseph would use this land for his summer hunting and fishing estate, and for revenue as well.

By mid-1817, Joseph was living in his new home at Point Breeze, overlooking Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware near Bordentown. He furnished his home with paintings and sculptures of Europe's great masters, with a particular fondness for those which were of his own family. He continued writing his wife and daughters to join him. He was an open-hearted man, well-liked in his new land, and welcomed visitors. He delighted in showing his paintings and sculptures to anyone interested, and it was said that his library included more books than the Library of Congress. The gardens were landscaped to his tastes, a small lake created (where it is reported, Joseph loved to watch the neighborhood children skate in winter, sliding oranges and apples across the ice for them to chase).

These years were lonely. This may have played a part in the Count's romantic relationship with Anna Savage, a young girl from Philadelphia whom he met in 1818. He established a house for her in Philadelphia, but she was shunned by Philadelphia society, and he chose instead a residence for her in Trenton, and finally in Lumberton. He would father two children by her, and in his travels to the North Country, she travelled with him as his wife. Julie Clary's health continued to prevent her coming to the U.S., and she was never to make the trip.

His daughters were a different matter however, and Joseph entreated both to join him in New Jersey. Charlotte, the younger daughter, came first, followed in a few years by Zénaïde.



Fig 4 This painting shows the first Bonaparte residence on the bluff overlooking Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware: "A View of the Delaware (sic) from Bordentown Hill," a painting by Charles B. Lawrence, ca. 1819. The paintings and sculptures which graced its halls and gardens were sent by Joseph's wife Julie from the Count's collections in Europe. The grounds were landscaped after the style of a French country estate. This residence was destroyed by fire in 1820. The second mansion was built further back from the river, closer to the road.⁵

Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ



Fig. 5: A painting by Jacques-Louis David, 1821, of the Princesses Charlotte (in the blue dress) and Zénaïde, (in black) reading a stampless folded letter which is presumed to have been from their father, as the words "Philadelphie" and "chères petites"⁶ are visible on the page. He wrote, "I am writing from a room which is the most appealing in the house and perhaps of all the left bank of the Delaware. It has seven windows of which five are on the river. Four times a day the steamboats stop below the windows – I hope that someday I will have the pleasure to be here with you. Today I am alone."⁷

A fire, in January of 1820, destroyed this first home at Bordentown. The burning of the first Bonaparte mansion was saved from being a tragic loss by the help of the townspeople, who rallied round and, when they could not extinguish the fire, helped remove from the home the many treasures and works of art. It showed their respect and kindness towards the Count. Joseph wrote his thanks to one of the local magistrates for the respect and kindness shown by the townsfolk:

POINT BREEZE, January 8th, 1820.

To WILLIAM SNOWDEN, ESQ., BORDENTOWN, N. J.:

"SIR-You have shown so much interest for me since I have been in this country, and especially since the event of the 3d inst., that I cannot doubt it will afford you pleasure to make known to your fellow-citizens how much I feel that they did for me on that occasion. Absent myself from my house, they collected, by a spontaneous movement, on the first appearance of the fire, which they combated with united courage and perseverance; and when they found it was impossible to extinguish it, exerted themselves to save all the flames had not devoured before their arrival and mine.

All the furniture, statues, pictures, money, plate, gold, jewels, linen, books, and in short, everything that was not consumed, has been most scrupulously delivered into the hands of the people of my house. In the night of the fire, and during the next day, there were brought to me, by laboring men, drawers, in which I have found the proper quantity of pieces of money, and medals of gold, and valuable jewels, which might have been taken with impunity. This event has proved to me how much the inhabitants of Bordentown appreciate the interest I have always felt for them; and shows that men in general are good, when they have not been perverted in their youth by a bad education; when they maintain their dignity as men, and feel that true greatness is in the soul, and depends upon ourselves.

I cannot omit, on this occasion, what I have said so often, that the Americans are, without contradiction, the most happy people I have known; still more happy if they understand well their own happiness.

I pray you not to doubt of my sincere regard.

JOSEPH, Count de Survilliers."⁸

Joseph set to work immediately building a new home on this property, which had become known as Bonaparte's Park. Instead of rebuilding on the same site, he chose to convert the brick stables, further back from the cliff and nearer the road, into his new mansion. The remains of the first home were cleared away, and that site became a belvedere – or overlook. The new home was not as elegant as the first, but had the advantage of being less exposed (and thus warmer) in winter. It had many of the trappings of the first, well described here:

It was plain, long and rather low, and of brick covered with white plaster. It had its grand hall and staircase; its great dining-rooms, art gallery and library; its pillars and marble mantels, covered with sculpture of marvelous workmanship; its statues, busts and paintings of rare merit; its heavy chandeliers, and its hangings and tapestry, fringed with gold and silver. With the large and finely carved folding-doors of the entrance, and the liveried servants and attendants, it had the air of the residence of a distinguished foreigner, unused to the simplicity of our countrymen. A fine lawn stretched on the front, and a large garden of rare flowers and plants, interspersed with fountains and chiseled animals, in the rear. The park, which was laid out in the style of the Escorial grounds, was traversed by nearly twelve miles of drives and bridle paths, winding through clustering pines and oaks, and planted on every knoll with statuary. Rustic cots or rain shelters, bowers and seats, sheltered springs and solitary retreats were interspersed. Over several of the small streams and gullies that wound through and diversified the grounds, were thrown rustic bridges.⁹



Fig. 6: The second home of the Count de Survilliers at Point Breeze, shown in a painting by Karl Bodner, 1832, now in the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska.

By mid-June, Joseph was in his new home, again enjoying visits from local people, his friends in Philadelphia, and visitors from afar. His home became a refuge for other French exiles, particularly those who had been in service to his brother Napoleon. He spoke English very poorly, surrounded as he was by a household of French speakers and friends who spoke French. While we show his letters transcribed into English, most if not all [with the exception below], if written by Joseph himself, were written in French. This short invitation is a rare exception:

Point-Breeze, 17th January 1818

Count de Survilliers request the pleasure of Mr and Mistress (sic) Hopkinson's family and miss Enery's company to morrow friday, when he hopes they will spend the whole day with him.¹⁰

Often mentioned in the description of his estate were the presence of tunnels, leading from one building on the property to another, and one tunnel which opened above Crosswicks Creek. Speculation has been that these were built for easy escape, but the likely purpose was as convenient passageways in inclement weather.

Joseph was visiting Saratoga Springs, not far from his northern estates, when he was brought the news of Napoleon's death on St. Helena on May 5, 1821. The authoritarian Napoleon and the republican Joseph had not agreed on much, but Joseph had nonetheless been very close to his brother, and his death affected him deeply. His state of depression was lightened to some degree by the arrival of his younger daughter Charlotte, aged 19, at Point Breeze in December of 1821. Her young and adventurous spirit brought a great lift to his state of mind.

In his efforts to entertain his daughter, the Count with his entourage made many trips, to the lands in northern New York State, including to Niagara Falls, – this time without Anna Savage – and to the famous springs and Belmont Hall on Schooley’s Mountain, not far from Hackettstown, New Jersey. Charlotte had studied art under David (see *Figure 5*), and continued her sketching and painting in this country. An exhibit of her works was shown at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, and a group of her watercolors, turned into lithographs, was compiled in a book entitled “Vues Pittoresques de l’Amerique,” 14 landscape drawings lithographed by Michael Stapleaux, published in France in 1824. At least five of these are New Jersey scenes, including the “Vue de Lebanon” (Hunterdon County) below– which she would have travelled through on her way to Schooley’s Mountain (See Fig. 7).¹¹

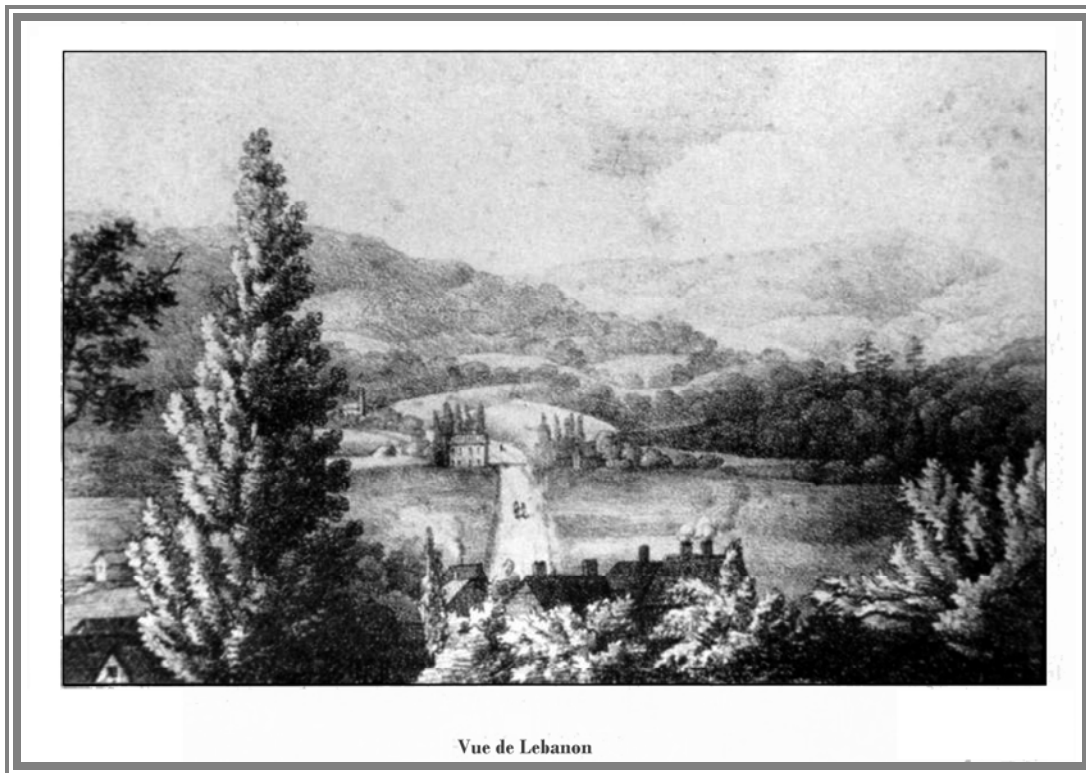


Fig. 7: “Vue de Lebanon” by Charlotte Bonaparte, Comtesse de Surveillours painted during her sojourn in the U.S., and then lithographed.

Charlotte returned to France in 1824 to care for her ailing mother, and would marry her cousin, Prince Napoleon-Louis Bonaparte in 1826. On her voyage back to France, she wrote to her cousin Jerome (then a student in Cambridge, Massachusetts), the following:

Aboard the *Crisis*, Aug 20, 1824

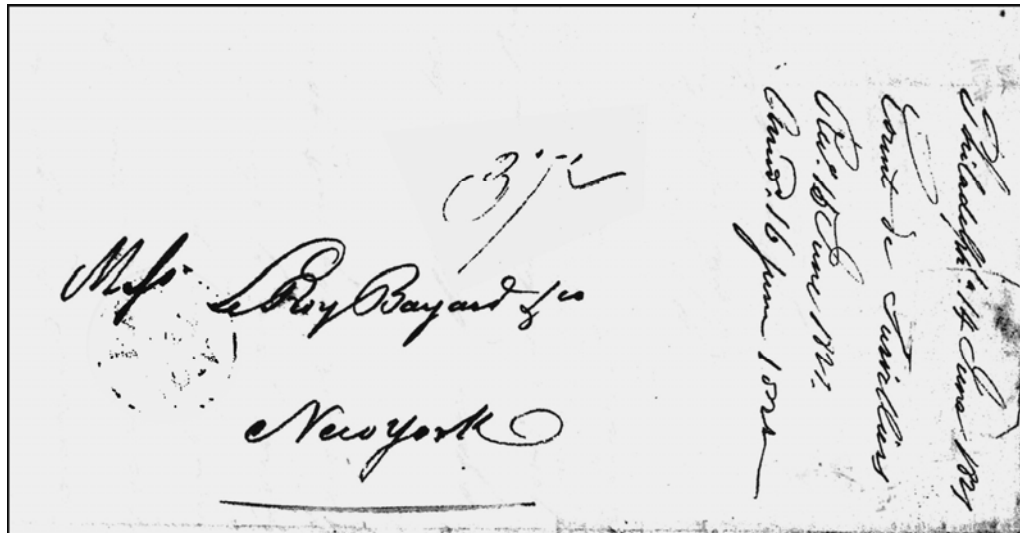
... Please send me your [address]. Send your letters to me to MM. Leroy, Bayard, in New-York, or at Anvers in an envelope to Msrs. Agié & Insinger. You are probably at Pointe-Breeze now; it was painful for me to leave, but the certitude of seeing my mother again makes me very happy. ...¹²

The presence of Zénaïde, newly married to Charles-Lucien Bonaparte, eased this loss to Joseph. She had arrived in September of 1823, so for a short time, Joseph had both his daughters living at Point Breeze. The young couple was then expecting their first child, and Zénaïde was 22 years old. The Count's first grandchild, Joseph-Lucien-Charles Bonaparte was born in February of 1824 in Philadelphia, where the family had moved for the colder months. (When at Point Breeze, the tunnels were a convenient connection to the larger mansion for Zénaïde and Charles, who lived in the "Lake House.")

The household was also expanded by the addition of Felix and Emilie Lacoste. Felix, a Frenchman, had established himself in business in Sainte Dominique (Haiti). Emilie first joined the Bonaparte household in her husband's necessary business absences to Haiti, as a companion for Charlotte. She had so charmed the household and its guests, that it was she, more than Zénaïde, who became the hostess at Point Breeze. Felix became a trusted associate, and Emilie soon replaced Anna Savage in Joseph's life, without her husband's knowledge.¹³

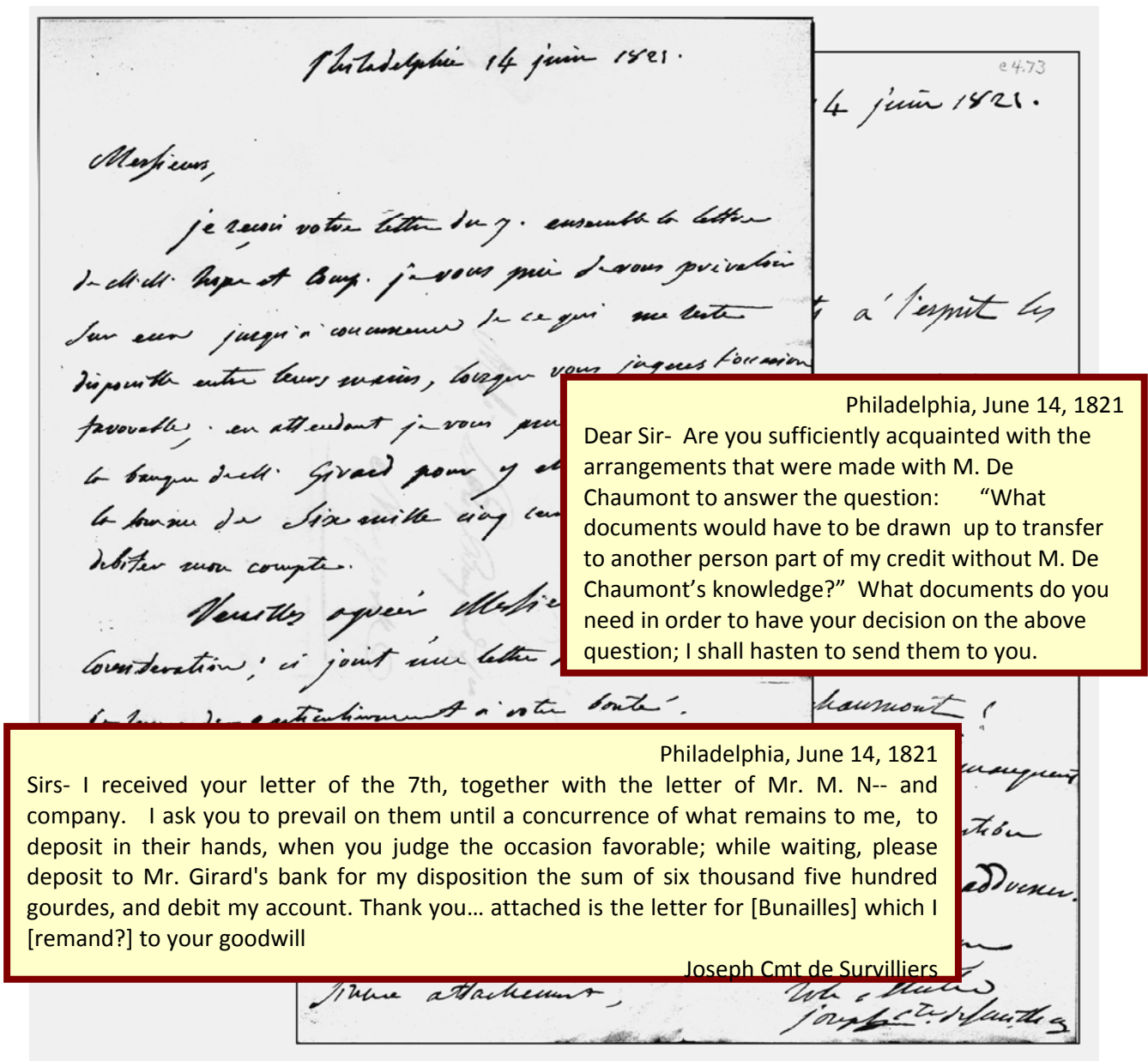
The Count of Survilliers was no typical refugee – he had sources of funds, and people to help manage them. The sale of jewels he had brought with him, and others retrieved from Switzerland by his secretary Louis Mailliard in 1817, provided funds to begin his redecoration of the Sayre estate. His lands in New York were another asset, and the lease and sales of some of these were again a source of income, as were his collections of paintings and sculpture. While used to turn his home into a magnificent art gallery, they were occasionally used for funds when needed. His good friends in Philadelphia and his financial advisers in New York contributed to the management of his funds.

The following letter does have a faint postmark, from Philadelphia, and is rated at 37½ cents, as it enclosed another letter and thus was apparently triple rated. It is addressed to LeRoy, Bayard – the foremost banking brokers in New York at the time, with whom Joseph had been in contact since his arrival in the United States.



Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)

Fig. 8: Cover addressed from Philadelphia to New York in June 1821, with a faint Philadelphia cancel.



Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)

Fig. 9: Letters included in this sending, one enclosed for delivery at a later time.

The mention of "gourdes" – a currency specific to Haiti – indicates that the Count had funds available to him from there as well, which he managed through this well-known banking firm.

Another letter concerning M. du Chaumont and the northern properties, addressed to Monsieur du Ponceau, Joseph's financial confidante, is shown below. Joseph had hoped these lands, as they developed, would yield continuing income; the completion of the Erie Canal and the enthusiasm for westward movement, however, depreciated the value of these mountainous lands for further development.

C47.

Philadelphia 2 mars 1823.

Monsieur,

Je reçois l'état des ventes faites par M. de Chaumont (si j'en ai
31 26.

1. Les actes sont-ils rédigés de manière à ce que le capital reste intact
entre les mains des acquéreurs, et ne soit payable qu'à vous? comment
s'en assurer.

2. Le prix des ventes qui paraît si élevé peut-il servir de règle lors du
remboursement, si l'on est obligé de le payer en termes?

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, mes très sincères assurances
de haute estime.

Joseph Cte de Survilliers

Philadelphia, March 2, 1823

Dear Sir,

I have received the statement of the sales made by Mr. de Chaumont from June 1st to Oct. 31st.

1. Are the documents drawn up so that the capital remains intact in the hand of the purchasers, and is payable only to you? How can one be sure of that?
2. Could the price of the sales, which became so high, serve as a guide when repayment is made, if one is obliged to pay it in installments?

Sincerely yours

Joseph Cte de Survilliers

M. du Ponceau

Monsieur du Ponceau.

Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG62)

Fig. 10: No cover or address side is present on this letter to Du Ponceau from Joseph in Philadelphia, but Du Ponceau appears to have resided in Philadelphia, so the letter may have been carried by messenger within the city.

The count's continuing relationship with the LeRoy Bayard banking house is indicated in the following letter to William Bayard, head of that institution, in 1827.

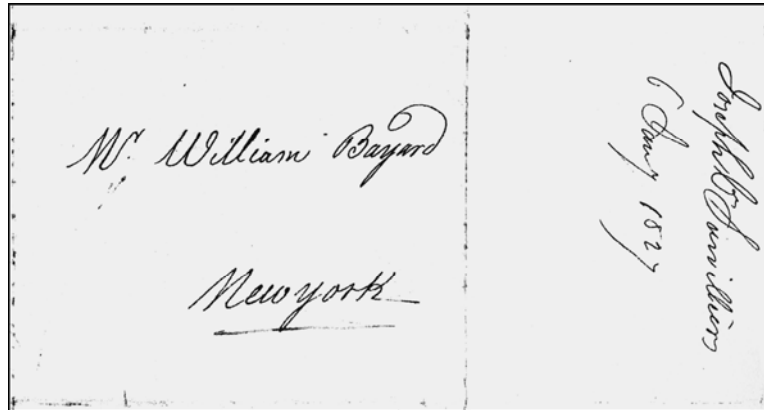
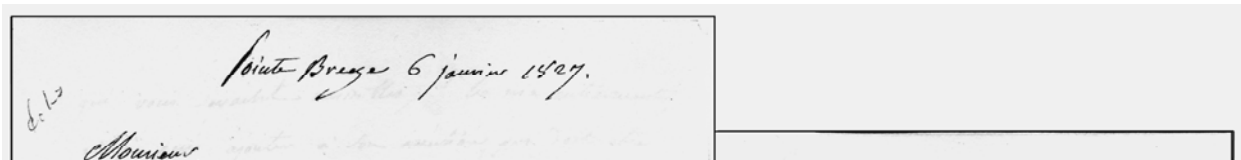


Fig. 11: Finally, a letter datelined Point Breeze, but again with no postal markings, to William Bayard in New York – docketed 6 Jan 1827.



Point Breeze, January 6, 1827

Dear Sir,

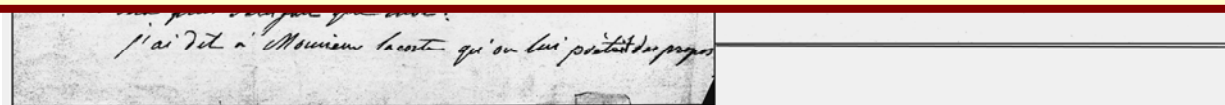
Only today did I receive your letter. Mr. Graham also writes to me about the same subject; you know well that I have but too much time in the state of New York, and that I do not have space to fill with new acquisitions, I am therefore forced to renounce the plan that I would have had to enter into your arrangements; Mr. Graham has repeated to me that you are disposed to carry the balance of my account among the debts which you want to honor first, you have always assured me of that yourself, I believe that you follow in that justice as well as the sentiments which you have for me. I accept the augur which you are giving me of cessation of the difficulties in which you are involved, nobody could be more satisfied with that than I.

I have told Mr. Lacoste that one has told him gossip which would be damaging to you. He denied it completely, and I may add to his assertion, which must be believed, mine and that of Mr. Graham. Mr. Lacoste has always spoken of you and your family with complete interest and attachment. Distrust therefore any false reports. It is only too easy to take change in adversity for friends or enemies. Mr. Lacoste has always spoken to me as one of your friends, and the gossip that one has told him is without doubt false because I myself am a judge of that.

Please be assured of my sincere feelings, etc.

M. William Bayard, New York

Joseph Count de Surveilliers



Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)

Fig. 12: LeRoy, Bayard & Co. had been involved in a scandal regarding Greek ships, their costs and commissions. There were rumors afloat that they were verging on insolvency.¹⁴

The Camden and Amboy Railroad, chartered in 1830, began the task of completing the first railroad in New Jersey, creating a link between New York and Philadelphia. Track was in the process of being laid, when Joseph discovered that the track would cross his property, running between the Creek and the mansion, cutting off access to the river. Work was about to intrude on his property, without his prior approval or any recompense, and it must have reminded him of the confiscation of his French properties in 1816. He objected strongly to this intrusion on his estate, even directing a petition to the Federal Circuit Court for the District of New Jersey, in order to stop the work already begun on the construction of the railroad.¹⁵

He won his case, and in addition, it appears he managed to prevail on the Camden & Amboy Railroad Company, and was accorded some modifications of its route. Instead of passing through his property, it would pass by the mansion, on the other side of the turnpike. Joseph wrote to his friend, Charles Ingersoll the following letter:

Point-Breeze, December 19, 1830

Sir,

I received your letter of the 15th, I had previously had your news from the newspapers.

Mr Wall has made an arrangement with the administrators of the Rail-Road. It will not pass between the Creek and the house, but on the other side of the road, as I wished. The judgment was not pronounced, my adversaries were afraid it would not go entirely in our favor.

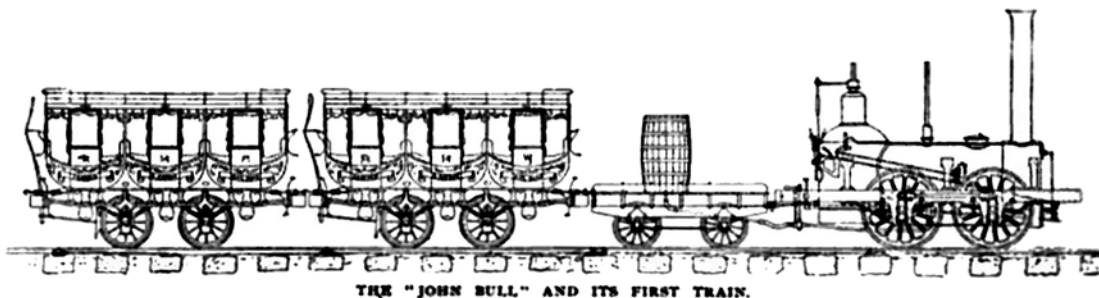
We have not had news from Europe for two months. I hope that you will visit Point Breeze when you are in Philadelphia,

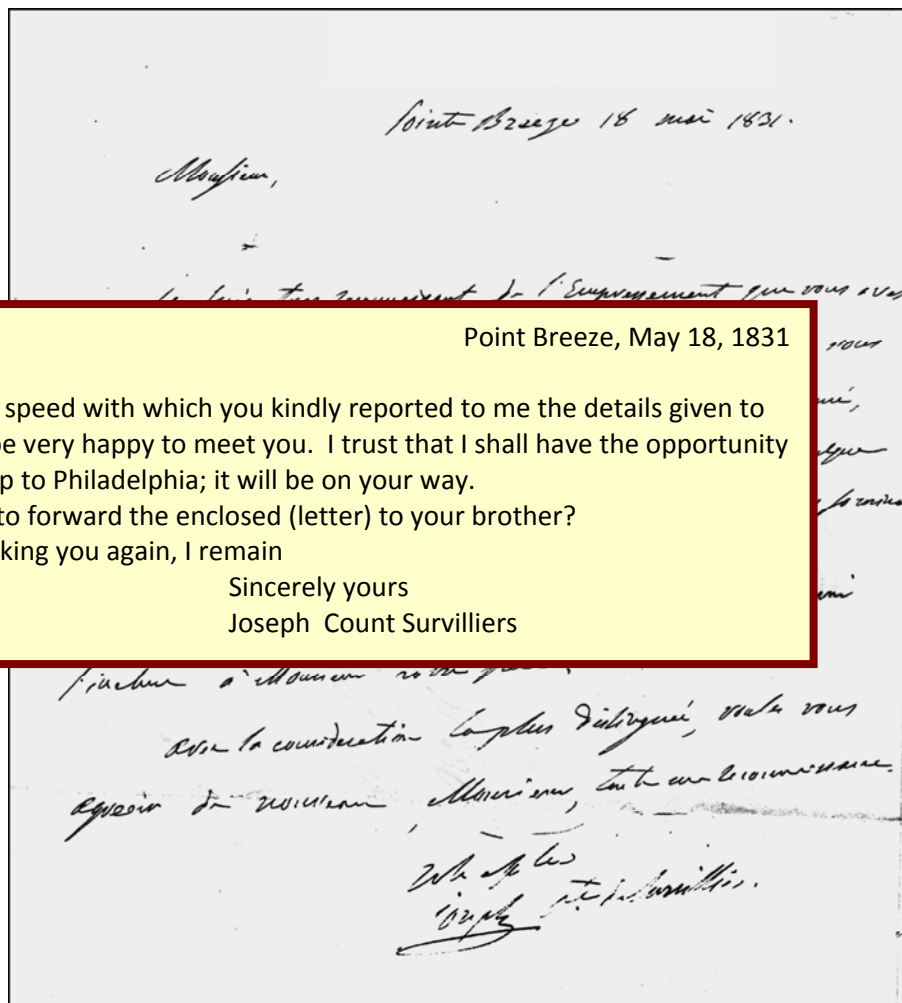
Yours affectionately,
Joseph. Comte de Survillieus.¹⁶

On January 2, 1831 he wrote again to Mr. Ingersoll –

The work of the Rail-Road is in full swing in front of my house, on the other side of the Turnpike. It seems that the change of direction will cost the company another five thousand dollars....¹⁷

Apparently the matter was settled amicably enough, for New Jersey's first locomotive, the *John Bull*, on its first trial run in November of 1831, carried members of the New Jersey legislature and Joseph Bonaparte and members of his family.¹⁸ The train was not in full operation until 1833.





Point Breeze, May 18, 1831

Dear Sir,

I am very grateful for the speed with which you kindly reported to me the details given to you by your brother. I shall be very happy to meet you. I trust that I shall have the opportunity to do so when you make a trip to Philadelphia; it will be on your way.

Will you be kind enough to forward the enclosed (letter) to your brother?

Thanking you again, I remain

Sincerely yours

Joseph Count Surveilliers

Fig. 13 Letter addressed to Charles Carter Lee in New York, dated May 18, 1831.

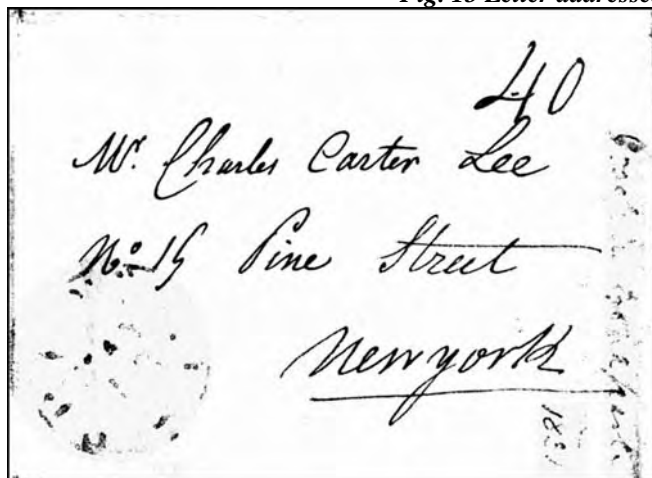
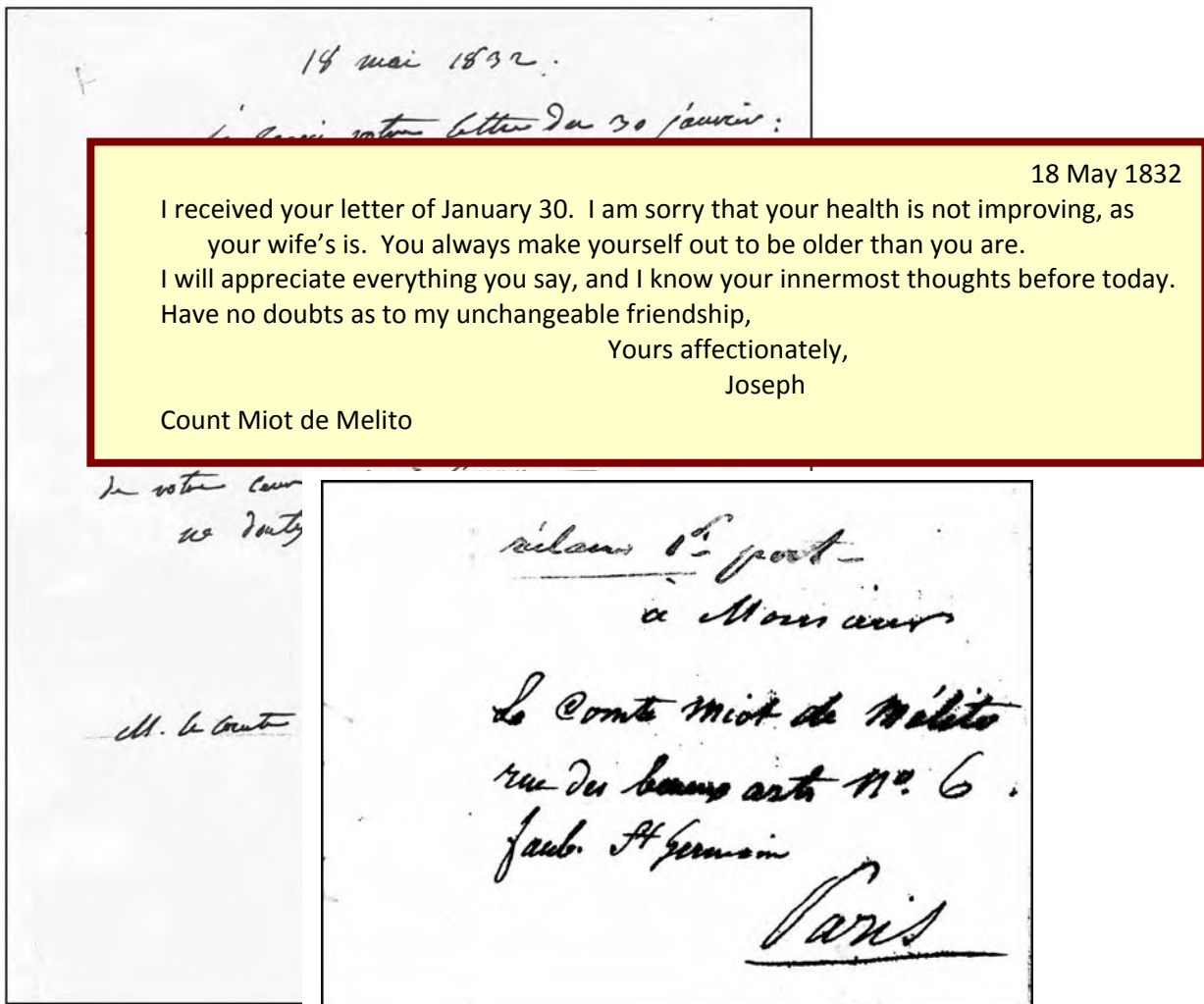


Fig. 14: To Charles Carter Lee, No. 19 Pine Street, New York, rated 40 cents.

Another letter from Point Breeze, dated May 18, 1831, but again no New Jersey cancel, with an indistinct Philadelphia postmark. At right, someone has noted Joseph Bonaparte, 1831. This letter enclosed another letter, but I am at a loss to explain the 40 rate (80-150 miles x 12½ cents) – anyone have any ideas?

Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)

In the 1830s, Joseph had a greater sense of being the head of the Bonaparte family. He had no intentions of returning to take the throne of France himself, but the Revolution of 1830, overthrowing the Bourbon King Charles X, replacing him with Louis-Phillipe of the House of Orleans as a constitutional monarch and a popular sovereignty, gave him some reason to believe that the Bonapartists might yet have an opportunity, and he felt it his responsibility to direct the succession if it were possible. It is an easy thing to relegate the Napoleonic Empire to that of dictatorships better rid of, but in fact, the era of Napoleon began with the democratic ideals of the French Revolution of 1789, much the same as our own Revolution. Napoleon was originally the choice of the people, although history would see him usurp these ideals in declaring himself Emperor. It is certainly a fact that the Napoleonic Code is still the basis of law in many lands, and champions the rights of Man. It explains the republican nature of Joseph, contrasted with the megalomania of his brother. Joseph began thinking more of those who might be in succession within his family, and of funds that would be necessary to restore them to power. His thoughts and heart turned again to Europe.¹⁹



Collections of the NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)
Fig. 15: This letter is written to his old friend the Count Miot de Melito, in 1832, shortly before Joseph's own return to Europe, in hopes of installing Napoleon's son on the throne of France.

POINT BREEZE & THE BONAPARTES ~ Jean Walton

In June 1832, Joseph returned to Europe, hoping to seize the opportunity that existed to place Napoleon's son on the throne of France. Unfortunately Napoleon II, the Duke of Reichstadt, was not strong, and died even before the Count arrived in Europe, in July of that year. The Count remained in Europe, returning to the United States in 1835. A note to a friend upon his return:

Monsieur
Monsieur N. Giraud
Bordentown

Monsieur,
mon médecin arrivant par le Steamboat à
2 heures
Nouvel
l'après
midi
84

To Monsieur N. Giraud -
Bordentown
My physician, arriving at 2:30 by steamboat, and leaving me at 3PM, prevented me from receiving you. I sent my carriage to your house immediately after he left, but you were no longer at home. I shall be at your disposal, no matter what hour, any time today, or tomorrow.
Sincerely yours,
Joseph
Point Breeze, June 23, 1836 at 4PM
To Mr. Giraud

Point Breeze 23 juin 1836. à 4 heures.
à Monsieur Giraud.

Collections of the
New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62)

Fig. 16: A note to a friend in Bordentown, with no postal markings – likely carried by a messenger.

Joseph again returned to Europe in August of 1836. His age and his health may have affected this decision, and winters in Bordentown were cold. He thought to move into Philadelphia, but the pull of his relations in Europe drew him back to England, so in August he again returned to Europe. This time it appeared he did not expect to return. He sold the carriages and horses, gave away his large cellars of wines, and gave his friends many of his paintings and sculptures, as thanks for their help and kindness during his years in America.

In 1838 he returned briefly to the U.S. Shortly after his return to England, his life was full of disappointments. His nephew Louis-Napoleon, against the wishes of the count, had made two ill-conceived attempts to overthrow the current monarch, both unsuccessful. Anna Savage threatened to publish her memoirs if Joseph did not supply her with more money. In 1840, still living in England, he suffered a stroke, and was paralyzed on one side of his body. He then was finally granted permission to travel to Italy where for the first time in twenty-five years, he was reunited with his wife. It was not altogether a happy reunion, as Julie had been made aware of Joseph's infidelities with Anna Savage and Emillie Lacoste. His health continued to decline, and he died three years later.

Bonaparte Park was sold in 1847 to an Englishman with a great dislike for anything French, so he made a point of demolishing the mansion, and building a new one, and removing anything that smacked of being French. The only building that remains standing today is the Lake House. In 1941, 200 acres of the estate, where the mansion stood, was sold to the Divine Word, a religious organization which owns it today. Recently an archeological dig was conducted on what had been the Park at Point Breeze, led by Richard Veit of Monmouth University.²⁰ He had been lecturing about an excavation of a nearby tavern, when the historian at Divine Word advised him of this more interesting site – which he had not known about. 200 years separated this castle on the Delaware, with its charming life and frequent visitors, from its fate as a New Jersey archeological site.

There is no shortage of letters to draw on in the life of this rather extraordinary New Jersey resident; his life was followed closely almost from beginning to end, and nothing was discarded. There are few of these however extant in New Jersey collections. It is very possible that some exist in New York State archives, and even more likely in Pennsylvania archives. The library at Girard College has extensive correspondence of Stephen Girard, Joseph's good friend and confidante, and which likely include much correspondence from Joseph Bonaparte – perhaps other members close to these sources can expand on the limited resources I have been able to uncover. For me, the lack of New Jersey markings was only eased by being able to handle letters that had once been in the hands of Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon and one time King of Spain, and New Jersey's Count of Survilliers.



Joseph Bonaparte

JOSEPH BONAPARTE, COMTE DE SURVILLIERS.

VOL. XLVI.—12.

Fig. 17. Joseph Bonaparte, including his signature as Cte de Survilliers, from *Century Magazine* in 1893.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Stroud, Patricia Tyson, *The Man Who Had Been King*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2005. Portrait of Joseph by Charles Willson Peale, 1824, (Historical Society of Pennsylvania), and Julie Bonaparte. Queen of Spain, and her Daughters, by François Gérard, 1808-9, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.
- ² *Ibid.*
- ³ These I was able to examine and read, but not scan – I had to rely for copies on the document photocopier at the Historical Society. Hence I cannot give you the feeling I had, of handling letters once in the hands of Joseph Bonaparte – they lose this feel in the photocopying. Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ (MG 62).
- ⁴ R. Walsh, L. Belmontet, *Biographical Sketch of Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte, Count de Survilliers*, published by J. Ridgway & Sons, London, 1834. <http://www.archive.org/stream/biographicalske00belmgoog#page/n119/mode/2up>
- ⁵ Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society, online at http://www.jerseyhistory.org/collection_details.php?recid=9, visited 10/2/2009
- ⁶ Stroud, *op cit.*
- ⁷ Stroud, *Ibid.*
- ⁸ Republished from *Bonaparte's Park and the Murats*, Woodward, E.M., Trenton, 1879, at www.googlebooks.com.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰ Bertin, Georges, *Joseph Bonaparte en Amerique*, 1815-1832, Paris, Librairie de la Nouvelle Revue, 1893. Available at www.googlebooks.com.
- ¹¹ Lomerson, Ralph, in the Lebanon Twp. News, Spring 2007. In an article entitled Antiquer's Attic, Margaret White reprints an item from the Proceedings of the NJ Historical Society, #81, 1963, by Mary Chowdrey, and showing a copy of this lithograph, challenging members to identify the location. My own choice would be looking south in the town of Lebanon, perhaps up Cherry Street, towards Cushetunk Mountain and Round Valley. <http://www.lebanontownship.net/news/newsletters/Spring07Newsletter.pdf>, January 2011.
- ¹² ___, *Cour impériale de Paris: Appel du jugement de la première Chambre du Tribunal de première instance de la Seine, du 15 février 1861* at <http://books.google.com/books>.
- ¹³ Joseph's interest in Anna Savage had waned, and Emilie soon replaced her in this respect, apparently without the knowledge of her often absent husband. He would father two children by her as well. See Stroud, *op cit.*
- ¹⁴ Scoville, Joseph Alfred, *The Old Merchants of New York City*, Published by Carleton, NYC, 1863.
- ¹⁵ *Bonaparte v. Camden & A. R. Co.*, Case No. 1,617, Circuit Court, D. New Jersey, 3 F. Cas. 821; 1830 U.S. App. LEXIS 273; Baldw. 205, October, 1830, Term
- ¹⁶ Bertin, Georges, *Joseph Bonaparte en Amérique*, *op cit.*
- ¹⁷ Bertin, Georges, *ibid.*
- ¹⁸ History of the Camden & Amboy RR at <http://jerhs.org/camden&amboy.html>.
- ¹⁹ The following letter, written by Joseph, Count of Survilliers to the Members of the Chamber of Deputies at Paris in 1830, was found in the archives of du Ponceau, and illustrates Joseph's belief in a Popular Sovereignty, and the people as the arbiters of power, in his own words: (This letter was never read in the Chamber of Deputies.)
- Gentlemen, there are no governments upon the earth legitimate, except those acknowledged by nations; nations alone create or destroy them, as they think necessary; nations alone have the right, individuals and particular families only have duties to fulfill.... Napoleon's family was named by three million five hundred thousand votes: if the nation thinks it will be advantageous to it to make another choice, it and it only has the power and the right to do so.
- The liberty of the press is the triumph of truth—by it the conscience of every one is enlightened—let it speak, and let the will of the great nation be accomplished; I subscribe to it with all my heart and soul.
- [Reprinted in *A Biographical Sketch of Joseph Bonaparte*, by “A Young Patriot,” [Robert Walsh, Louis Belmontet] published by J. Ridgway & Sons, Piccadilly, in 1834, with a foreword by Joseph Bonaparte himself.
- ²⁰ <http://www.monmouth.edu/newswire/default.asp?iNewsID=5404>, April 2010.

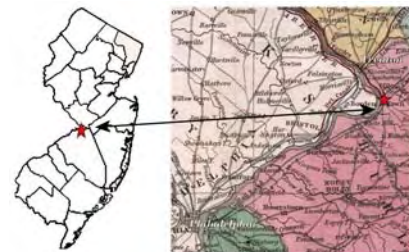
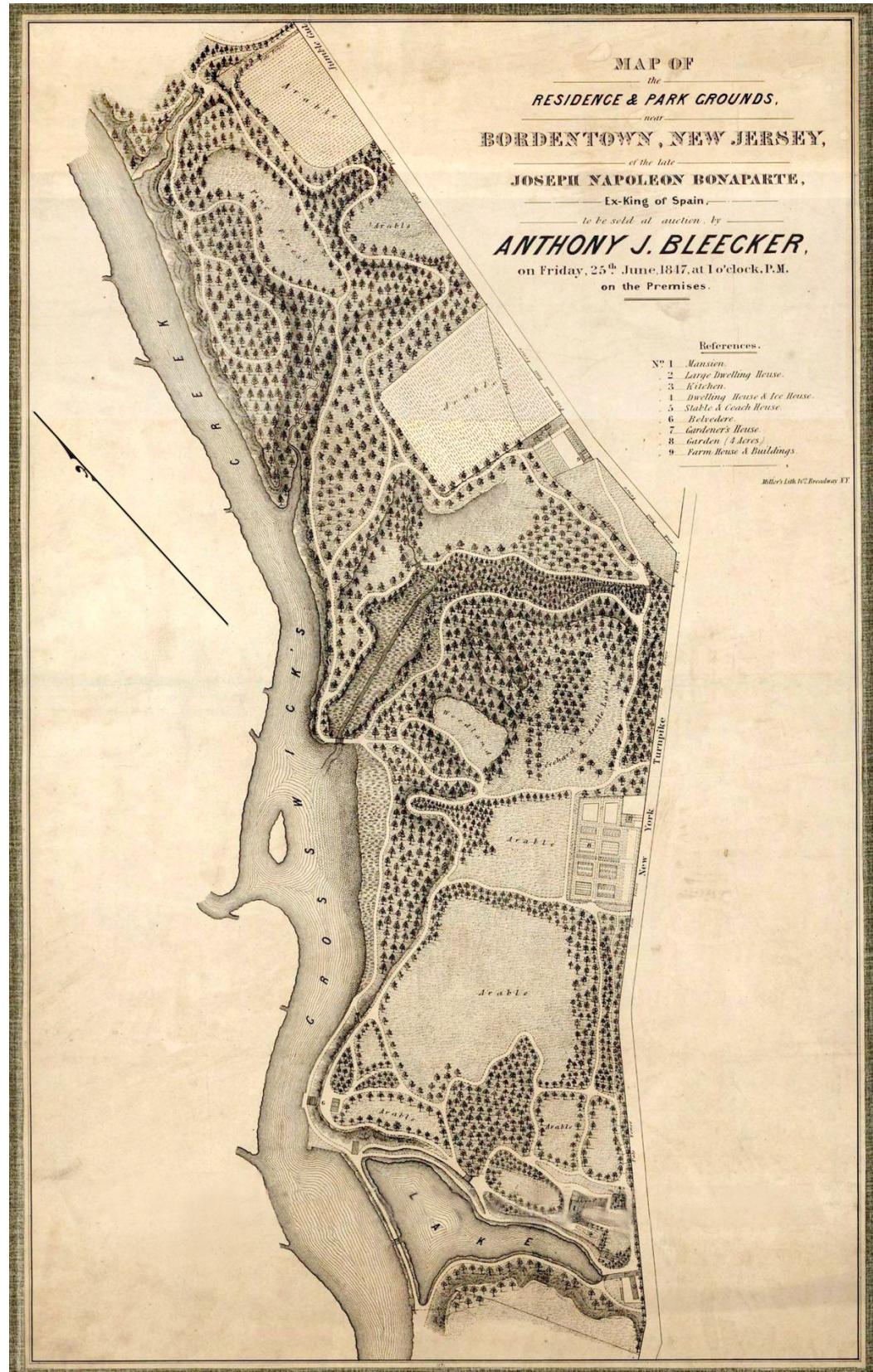


Fig. 18: A map of the Bonaparte estate (known locally as Bonaparte Park) prepared for the estate sale in 1847.



LEBANON, NJ ~ AN EXTRAORDINARY POSTAL HISTORY

By Jim Walker

As in most small towns of the 19th century, the Lebanon, N.J.¹ post office location changed almost as often as the postmaster. The first postmaster at Lebanon was William Johnson. Appointed September 13, 1815, he kept a store on Bray's Hill, which is outside the present day Lebanon town boundaries but along the turnpike at that time. When Johnson died, William R. Smith became postmaster for a short time. In 1832 the position passed to David M. Kline who had opened a store in 1825 on Church Street (now Brunswick Ave.) which was the original route of the Easton & New Brunswick turnpike. When the road was realigned to what became Main Street, Kline moved his store and office to the southwest corner of Academy Street (Maple) and Main Street. This lot is indicated as S.J. Shurts store and P.O. on the 1873 Beers map. This would be at least the second time this location served as the post office.

Post Office records list fourteen names of men who served as postmasters at the Lebanon office from 1832 to 1915 when Carl Shurts took over on February 4, 1915. (Lambert B. Kline served two non-consecutive terms) The location of the post office moved along Main Street with the different postmasters, as was typical of most small towns without a dedicated post office building.

Sometime around the turn of the 20th century, a fine new building was constructed on the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Cokesburgh (now Cokesbury) Road. This 2½ story building was known as the Odd Fellows building because this organization used the second floor as their meeting hall. The east side of the first floor housed Postmaster Carl Shurts' office, and Joseph Stryker's Ice Cream & Confectionary store was located in the west side of the building.

At 7:45 PM on December 30, 1918 a massive explosion leveled the Odd Fellows building, killing ten men and injuring three more (see accompanying articles). Postmaster Shurts had closed the post office at 7 pm and had left for home when the explosion occurred. It was originally reported that all the mail that had been put up for RFD routes #1 & 2 was lost along with all mail in the post office boxes. Post office operations were moved across the street to the Lebanon Hotel, which had lost most of its windows in the blast.² (The accompanying articles from the *Clinton Democrat* and the *Hunterdon County Democrat* are shown in Figure 10.)

A subsequent article from the *Clinton Democrat* of January 23rd lists the death of Leslie Apgar, the eleventh victim of the explosion. And an item in a March issue of the same paper states that lumber is arriving for the construction of the new Odd Fellows building.

Since the 1918 explosion the Lebanon post office has continued its nomadic existence, from its founding on Bray's Hill in 1815 on the west side of Lebanon. After the realignment of the Easton & New Brunswick turnpike (now Brunswick St.), it found many different locations along Main Street as the town grew. Today we find the post office still standing beside the turnpike now called Route 22, on the east side of town. A short trip as the crow flies but one that took 190 years and left us some great postal history.

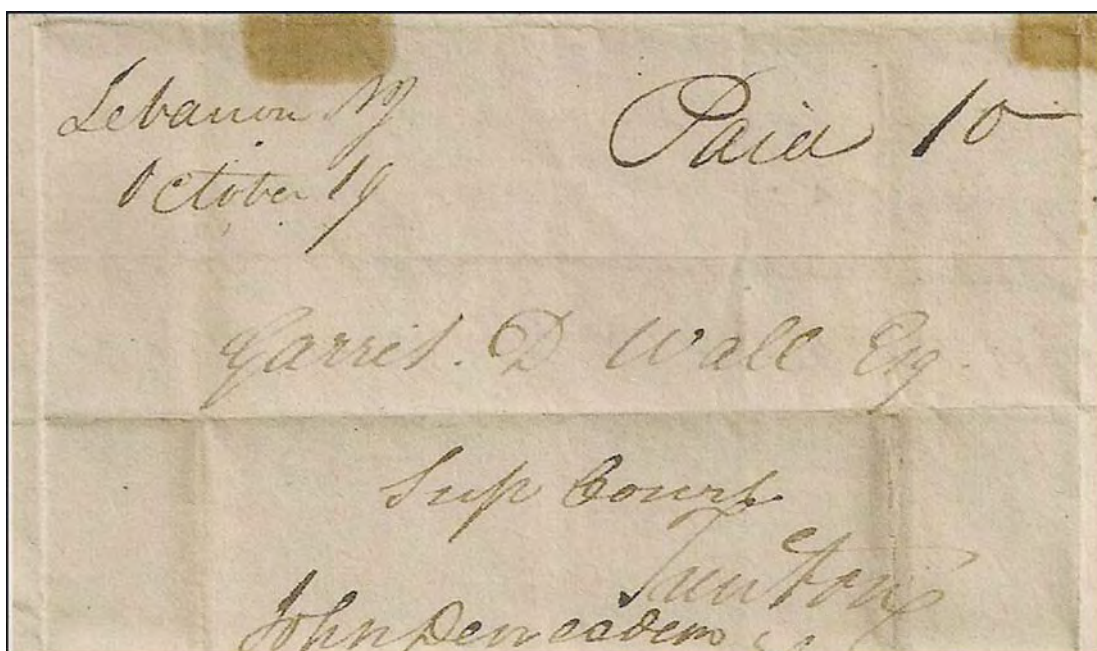


Fig. 1: Lebanon manuscript cancel October 17, 1818 Paid 10 cents to Trenton, N.J. In the hand of William Johnson first Postmaster at Lebanon appointed 1815, and addressed to Garret D. Wall.

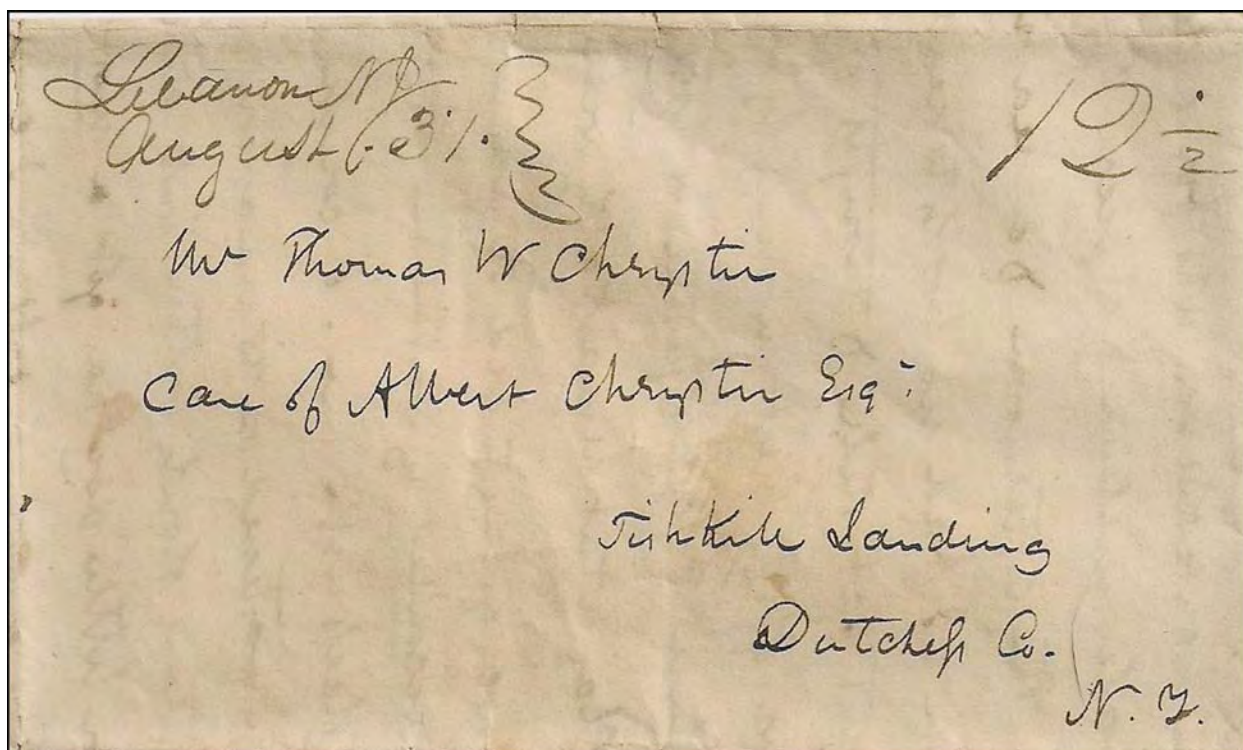


Fig. 2 Stampless letter to Dutchess County, N.Y. serviced by Lebanon Postmaster William Smith August 31, 1830. Smith had been appointed July 30th of that year. 12½¢ paid the 80-150 mile rate.

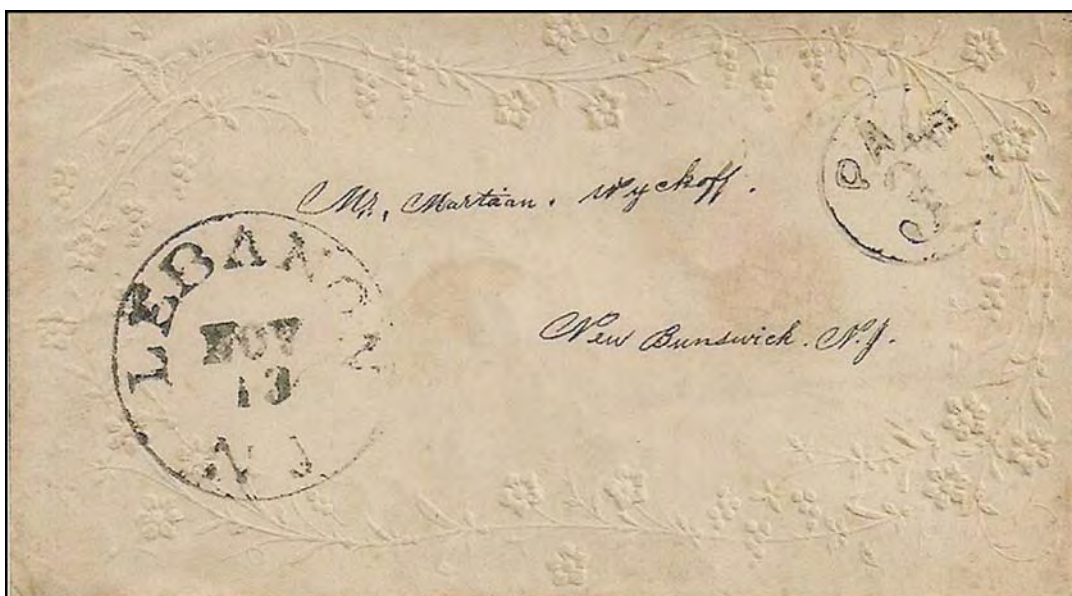


Fig. 3: 30 mm black Lebanon cancel with "PAID 3" rate marking undated, ca 1850s.

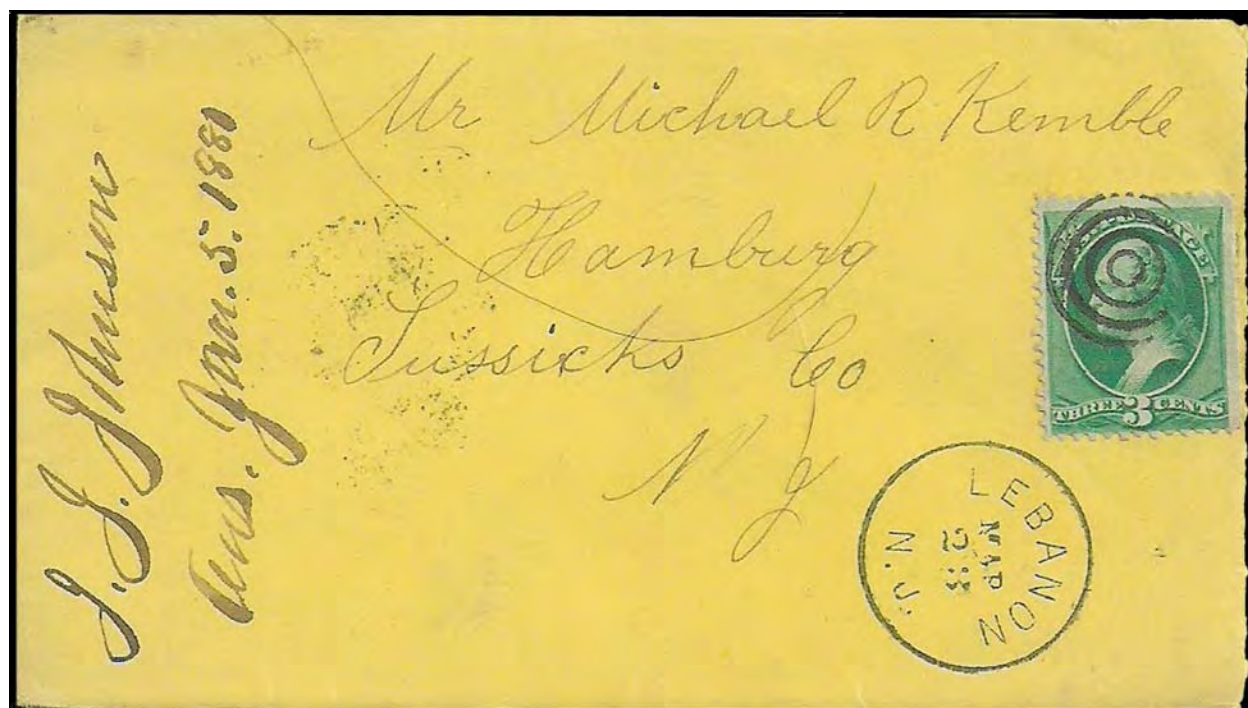


Fig. 4: Lebanon black duplex cancel 1881, addressed to Sussicks (Sussex) County. N.J.

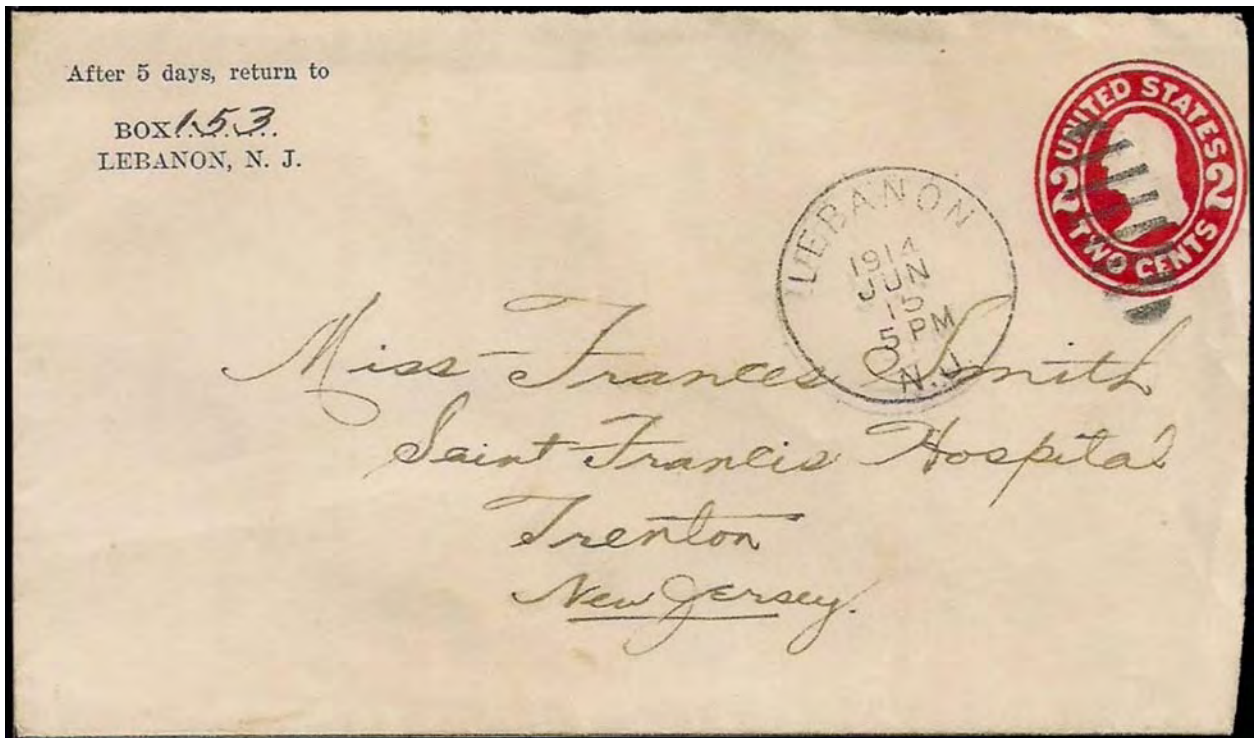


Fig. 5: 30mm 1914 duplex hand stamp cancel, in use at the time of the explosion in 1918.

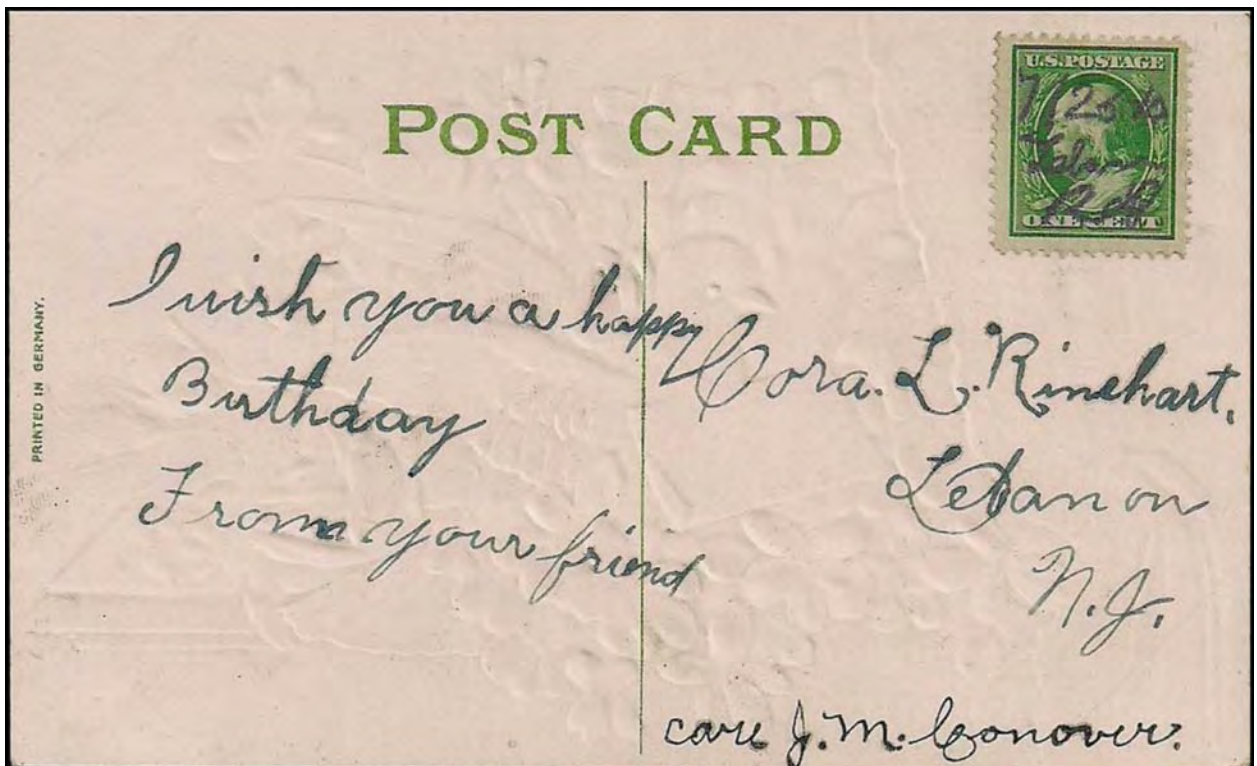


Fig. 6: Post card canceled with the blue pencil of the Lebanon R.F.D. carrier en route.

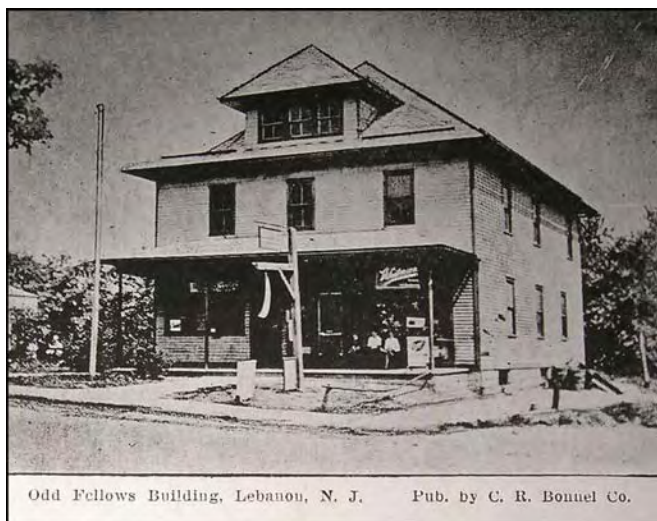


Fig. 7: This is the post office which exploded on December 30, 1918. The Odd Fellows Hall occupied the second floor; the first floor was split between an ice cream parlor and the post office.



Fig. 8: The Lebanon Hotel across the street became the temporary home to the post office. This building now houses the Fox and Hound Restaurant.³

Fig. 9: A new post office, built at the same location, replaced the one which was destroyed by the explosion.



CLINTON, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1919

EXPLOSION AT LEBANON

Odd Fellows Building Wrecked by Acetylene Gas Plant

Monday night witnessed the most horrible experience which the people of Lebanon have ever been called upon to undergo. At about 7:45 o'clock a terrific explosion was heard; it seemed to each family to be at their own door, so near-by sounded the report. Immediately the people from all parts of the town rushed down to the Main street upon reaching the fire which he noise had made, and saw to their utter amazement, the Odd Fellows Hall in flames. The acetylene plant had, for some reason, which we shall never satisfactorily know, blown up and rent the building in pieces, causing at the same time, the fire to break out. So quickly had the matter taken place that the building was all in flame immediately. Ten men, about half of whom were up-stairs in the hall making arrangements for a coming installation service, and the other half in Joseph Stryker's store, perished.

So many, lives were lost that the whole town is in gloom. The following men perished:

Joseph Stryker, sixty-five years old, proprietor of the cigar and confectionery store in building, married and with several children.

Henry Bragg, about fifty, carter with own team.

Wesley E. Bird.

John Smock, nearly seventy, bachelor, employed in Stryker's store, survived by sister.

Clarence Emmons, forty, married, employed as carpenter in Westfield.

Oscar Apgar, married.

Russell Hockenbury, eighteen, employed on farm of father, Philip Hockenbury.

Firman Alpaugh, about sixty, married, carpenter.

George Michaelson, thirty, single, farmer.

The missing man is Peter S. Niper, about sixty, married, a local undertaker. Parts of what is believed to be Mr. Niper's body have been found in the debris.

Leslie Apgar, who was extricated from a precarious position between a safe and the wall, and George Mannon, who was blown from the porch of the post office building, which he was about to enter, to the middle of the street, were taken to hospitals, the former to Easton and the latter to Somerville. Both sustained serious injuries and are said to be in a critical condition.

No sooner had the wreckage subsided than there were groans and cries from the dying, but they quickly subsided, the last sound of distress being over well with the explosion. It is thought that most of the victims were instantly killed, and that not more than two or three at the most escaped such a fate.

Fire engines were summoned from Clinton and High Bridge, but it was little they could do, save put out the fire which had already consumed the greater part of the building. The bodies of the men who perished were charred, but all have been identified.

Even before the fire was extinguished volunteer workers were engaged in digging and pulling at the debris in an effort to get out bodies of relatives and friends and even of strangers to them. All night long the search continued, and there was not an hour of the night that a considerable crowd was not gathered about the ruins.

One after one the bodies were removed, many of them mutilated beyond recognition, with arms and legs, even heads, blown off, and tenderly they were taken and laid side by side in a vacant barber shop nearby, where they were viewed by Coroner J. Charles Alpaugh of Oldwick.

The coroner questioned several persons and finding that there was nothing else explosive in the building but the gas plant, decided that the deaths of all the victims were by accident and deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Some of the bodies were identified by watches, charms, coin pocket pieces or by moles and other marks. Not more than two of the nine had faces that were recognizable even to their closest relatives.

Had the explosion occurred half an hour earlier, the loss of life undoubtedly would have been greater, and might have numbered several women and children. At about 7 o'clock a good many people call for their mail, but Postmaster Carl Shurts had closed the post office and was on his way home when he heard the explosion. Only the fact that Mannon had not opened the door and stepped into the store, is, in all probability, responsible for his being alive today. He was catapulted directly into the middle of the street when the building went up with a mighty crackling swish, and lay there prostrate for some time.

The second floor of the wrecked building was used as a lodge room by Vesper Lodge, I. O. O. F., which owned the building.

In the post office the mail for two rural routes and a lot more in the call boxes was destroyed.

The local post office is conducting business in the Lebanon hotel reading room, no other rooms being available at the present time.

With but two exceptions, every window in the hotel was shattered by the force of the explosion. Many other windows in the village were also knocked out.

The men who came to such an untimely end were among our best and most useful citizens and great is their loss to their families and the community generally. The whole town is completely stunned and horrified. Lebanon has had so many tragic things to happen. What will be the next?

HUNTERDON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

FLEMINGTON, N. J., JANUARY 1, 1919

Terrible Explosion at Lebanon—10 Killed.

One of the most terrible fatalities that has ever happened in our country occurred at Lebanon on Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. An accident caused by the explosion of an acetylene gas tank in the cellar of the building occupied by the post office and the store of Joseph Stryker, made a complete wreck of the building and startled the country for miles around. At the latest and most reliable information ten lives were lost. As far away as six miles slight damage has been reported from the explosion.

Postmaster Carl Shurts had only a short time before closed the post office for the night, and those who were in Stryker's store were blown great distances and instantly killed.

The roof of the building was hurled seventy-five feet into the air. The Stryker store is always a congregating place about mail time, and it was there that the great loss of life occurred.

Men pinned beneath the debris of burning beams and woodwork screamed for help that could not reach them. A bucket brigade did all that such an inefficient fire-fighting body of men could do, but it was almost impossible to get the water on the flames where it was needed. Men were bodily thrown completely across the street, and either killed outright or injured so they have died. All the mail in the post office was destroyed.

A son of Joseph Stryker, who is the fireman on the early morning train out of Flemington on the C. R. R. of N. J., and who lives here, was taken to Lebanon by Mayor Foran in his automobile at midnight, and the party who accompanied them say the catastrophe is beyond description.

So far as we are able to get them, the following named lost their lives:

Joseph Stryker,
Henry Bragg,
Clarence Emmons,
Oscar Apgar,
Peter S. Niper,
John Smock,
Russell Hockenbury,
Geo. Michaelson,
Wesley Bird,
Firman Alpaugh.

Wesley Bird, whose name is among the fatality list, was a son-in-law of former County Clerk O. A. Farley. In fact, all of them were well-known men.

George A. Mannon, a farmer, was thrown halfway across the street and was so badly injured that he was taken to the Somerville Hospital. Firman Alpaugh formerly lived at Cherryville and was well known here. He had lived at Lebanon many years, however. Lester Apgar was also badly injured and taken to the Somerville Hospital.

The report of the cause of the accident states that it was noticed that there was a leak in the cellar, where the acetylene tank was located, and that someone went into the cellar with a lighted lantern, which at once ignited the gas and the explosion followed.

Fig. 10: Newspaper reports of the explosion, from the Clinton Democrat and the Hunterdon County Democrat.

LEBANON, NJ: EXTRAORDINARY PH ~ Jim Walker

The *Hunterdon County Democrat* published another even fuller description a week later, and we include parts of it here: (Note this report indicates that all the mail was not lost, but blown across the street. A cover cancelled at Lebanon on December 31, 1918 might be quite a find!)

THE LEBANON EXPLOSION

Last week we gave what knowledge we could gather, before we went to press, of this terrible calamity. Our regular reporter has sent us the following very full and accurate account for this issue:

...

There were about sixty people congregated in the post office when the last evening mail was distributed and had the accident happened a half hour earlier they would have all doubtless lost their lives. As it was, nearly all of them had got their mail and repaired to their homes, with the exception of a few who strolled into the confectionery store to while away a few minutes' time gossiping with their neighbors.

Postmaster Carl Shurts had closed the office and was on his way home for the evening, when the report of the explosion came. There was a terrific detonation that could be heard for miles around, even in Somerville and Raritan, accompanied by a tearing and rending sound, and the whole building seemed to shoot right up into the air for about one hundred feet, and then settled down again with the roof about fifteen feet above the stone foundation. The sidewalls were blown outward.

...

Postmaster Carl Shurts established temporary quarters for the post office the next morning in the reading room of the Lebanon Hotel, just across the street from the wrecked building. When the explosion occurred all the mail matter in the post office including mail for the two rural delivery routes ready to go out the next morning, and some letters and papers left in the call boxes, was blown across the Cokesbury road, and the most of it landed in the dooryard at the residence of Ira B. Yawger. About \$200 worth of Liberty Bonds, owned by Mr. Shurts and in a tin box in the post office, were either blown to atoms or consumed in the flames.⁴

Hunterdon County Democrat, January 8, 1919, p. 8

Fig. 11: Map showing Lebanon Borough today, with the original site of the post office, and the current location on Route 22. The many other locations were on Brunswick Avenue [then Church Street] and along Main Street. The intersection of Main and Cokesbury Road is indicated with a triangle.





Fig. 12: First day of issue SC #1396 marking the first day of operation of the U.S. Postal Service July 1, 1971, signed by Lebanon Postmaster Josephine Hulmes.



Fig. 13: The current Lebanon Post Office is located in a strip mall on the east bound side of Route 22 east of town.

Our thanks to the many people who helped with this history, including Joe Hauck and Mark Stockwell of Lebanon, as well as Doug D'Avino and John Kuhl.

¹ Lebanon Borough, not to be confused with Lebanon Township, both in Hunterdon County.

² Articles from the *Clinton Democrat*, January 2, and the *Hunterdon County Democrat*, January 1, 1919 – shown in figure 10.

³ The M. Butkus Library of New Jersey and the Jersey Shore Post Cards at www.butkus.org/postcards.

⁴ *Hunterdon County Democrat*, January 8, 1919, page 8.

ON THE AUCTION SCENE: NEW JERSEY STAMPLESS COVERS

By Robert G. Rose

Several New Jersey stampless covers were on the auction block in Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries' December 13-15, 2010 postal history sale that featured material from both NJPHS member Dr. William H. Johnson and the late Calvet Hahn. One of the auction's highlights was the earliest recorded manuscript postmark from Newark, New Jersey with a 1771 usage to New York City. Shown in *Figure 1*, it was illustrated on the front cover of *NJPH* in 2004 where it was the subject of an in-depth article.¹ Estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000, it sold for a hammer price of \$5,000 plus a 15% buyer's commission.²

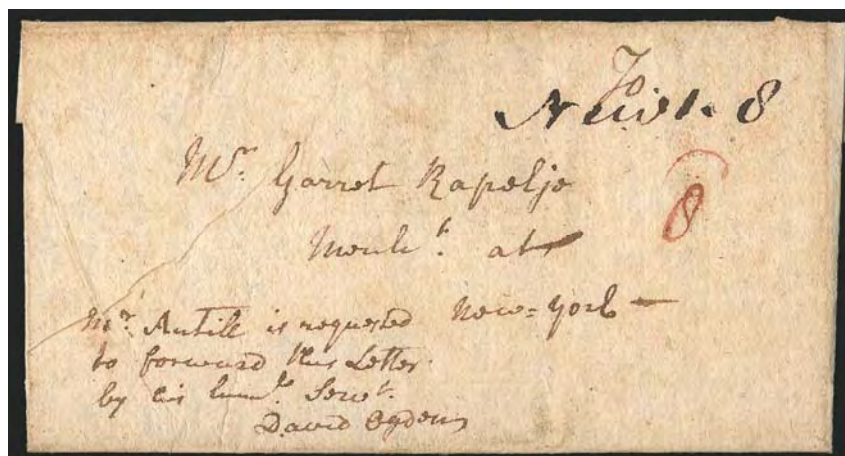


Fig. 1 Earliest Recorded Use of a manuscript postmark from Newark (January 26, 1771).

The earliest recorded postmark used in New Jersey is a manuscript "Tr. for Trenton, used in 1737.³ The only other recorded example of this postmark is the August 23, 1743 usage on the cover illustrated below in *Figure 2*.⁴ The letter is addressed to Lewis Morris, Jr. at "Morrisenia" and is rated at 1:8 (1 pennyweight & 8 grains of silver). Morris was appointed the Colonial Governor of New Jersey in 1738 and served until his death in 1746.⁵ The Morris family owned a large tract of property in Morrisania, which was later incorporated into the present Bronx, New York.⁶ With an estimate of \$500-\$750, despite some condition issues, but befitting its rarity, it sold for a hammer price of \$1,100.

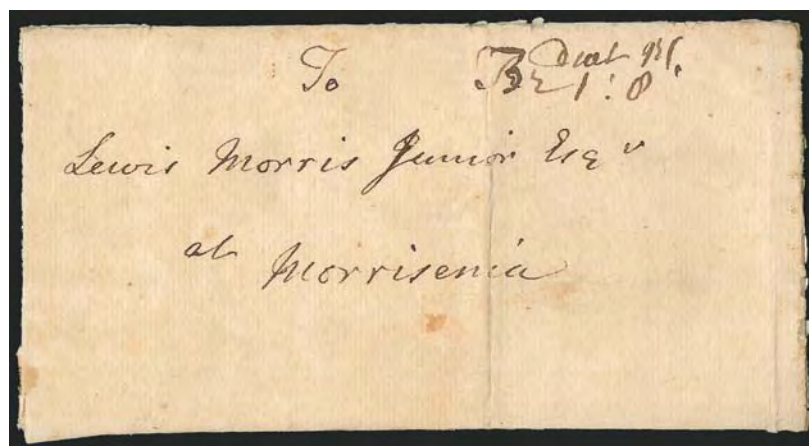


Fig. 2: Second Earliest Recorded Use of a manuscript postmark from New Jersey in 1743.

The Haddonfield negative lettered handstamp postmark has been described as “probably the most outstanding New Jersey postal marking from the standpoint of appearance.”⁷ This negative handstamp was used on stampless mail from 1840 to 1853 and is also found on covers with the 3 cent 1851 issue.⁸ The author’s unpublished census of this marking counts over two dozen examples of this marking, and as Coles notes: “They are not rare, but command a good price because of their striking character.”⁹ A September 20, 1840 usage to Salem, New Jersey is shown in *Figure 3*, with a manuscript “Paid 10” paying the single letter rate for 30 to 80 miles.¹⁰

Against an estimate of \$300-\$400, the cover sold for a hammer price of \$450.



Fig. 3: The Haddonfield Negative lettered handstamp.

The auction also included the earliest recorded use of the Peapack oval handstamp postmark, dated February 8, 1828.¹¹ This cover was featured in an article by the author that appeared in *NJPH* in 2002 that included a census picturing and identifying the nine reported covers with this oval handstamp.¹² This handstamp is reported on covers from 1828 through 1850.¹³ The cover shown in *Figure 4*, with a somewhat watery postmark, was sent unpaid for 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents to Auburn, N.Y. at the single letter rate for 150-400 miles. The auction description states that the cover has “some overall soiling.” Against an estimate of \$200-\$300, the cover sold for a hammer price of \$225.



Fine example of Peapack oval.



This example of Peapack oval.

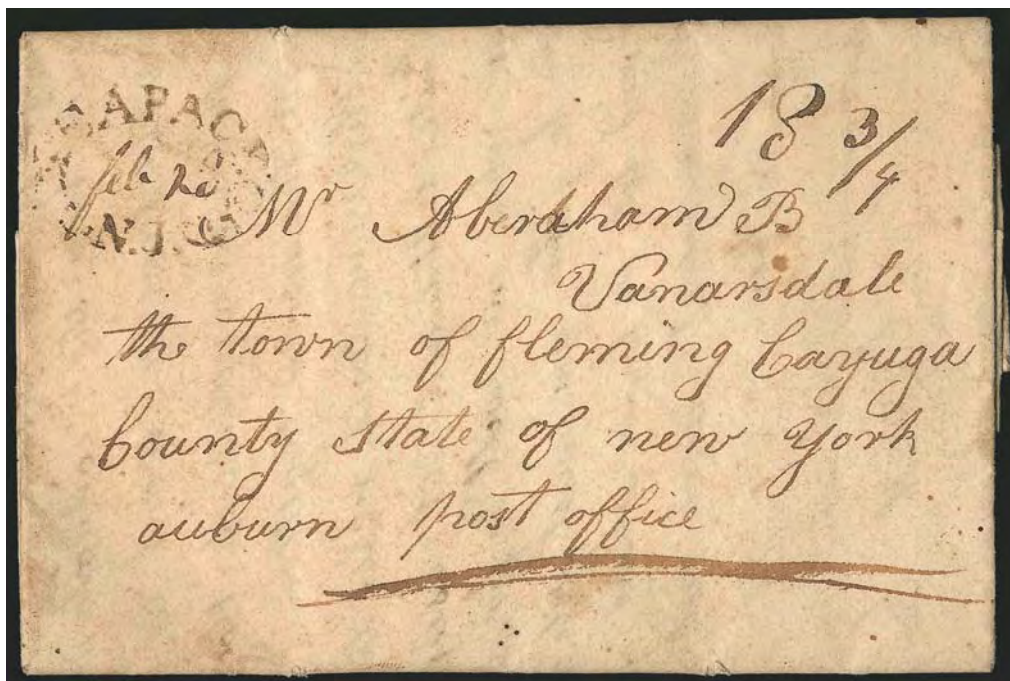


Fig. 4: The earliest reported use of the Peapack oval handstamp postmark. in 1828.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Robert G. Rose, *Discovery of Colonial Newark Manuscript Postmark*, *NJPH*, Vol. 32, No. 4, 2004, p.143. <http://www.njpostalhistory.org/media/journal/nov04njph.pdf>
- ² Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale No. 1002, December 13-15, 2010, Lot 3049.
- ³ This cover is illustrated in Alex L. ter Braake, ed., *The Posted Letter in Colonial and Revolutionary America*, II-66, NJ 8 (American Philatelic Research Library, 1975).
- ⁴ Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale No. 1002, December 13-15, 2010, Lot 3050.
- ⁵ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Morris_\(1671-1746\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Morris_(1671-1746)) (February 5, 2011).
- ⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁷ William C. Coles, Jr., *The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers*, p.46 (The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1983).
- ⁸ *Ibid* at p. 43.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰ Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale No. 1002, December 13-15, 2010, Lot No. 3254.
- ¹¹ *Ibid*, Lot. No. 3258.
- ¹² Robert G. Rose, *The Peapack Oval: A Further Revision and Update*, *NJPH*, Vol. 30, No. 4, 2002, pp 119-127, <http://www.njpostalhistory.org/media/journal/nov02njph.pdf>.
- ¹³ *Ibid* at p. 127.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL IN MORRIS COUNTY, 1760-1850

Part II: Morristown

An Exhibit by Donald A. Chafetz

This continues our series on Morris County postal history from 1760 to 1850, as shown in an exhibit by Donald Chafetz. For pre-Statehood covers, we refer you to our last issue, November 2010, Volume 38, No 4, Whole number 180.

The following pages are presented in their original form as an exhibit. This section begins with the Statehood Period. The first post office established in Morris County during Statehood was Morristown, and this section is devoted entirely to Morristown covers. The covers are arranged in chronological order, and show mail both to and from Morristown.

Future issues will show exhibit pages of other Morris County town markings.

Statehood Period 1789 to 1847

Morristown

Established April 29, 1790

Morristown

Dateline: August 22, 1797 Morristown, NJ
Markings: Upper right corner markings refer to merchandise ordered
To: New York City, NY ... Out of the mail
Excerpt: ...I will send you the money by the next stage..



Statehood Period

Morristown

Dateline: October 28, 1799 Morristown, NJ
Forward: October 31, 1799 Newark, NJ
Via: Burlington, VT
To: December 11, 1799 Montreal, Canada

Type N2 1799 - 1813 black
over 500 miles - 25 cents
American border to Montreal - 7 d



Postmark: May 25
To: Philadelphia

Type M43 1800 - 1813 black
40 - 90 miles - 10 cents

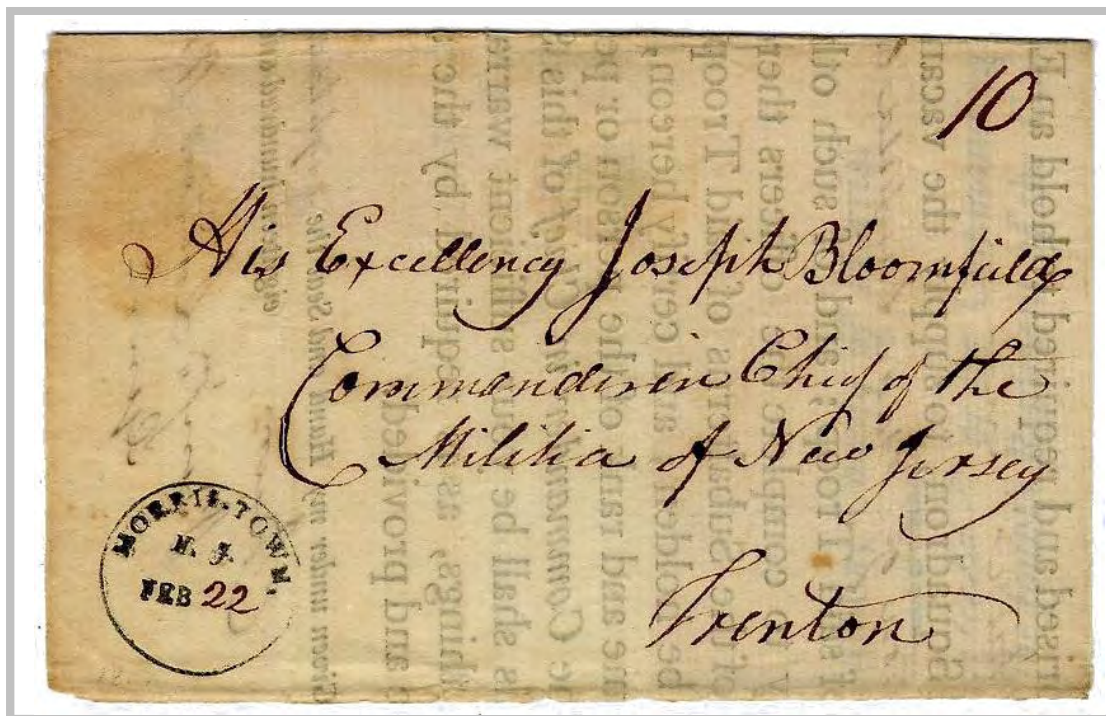


Statehood Period

Morristown

Postmark: February 22, 1807
To: Trenton, NJ

Type M43 1800 - 1813 black
40 - 90 miles - 10 cents



Postmark: September 4, 1812
To: New York City, NY

Type M43 1800 - 1813 black
under 40 miles - 8 cents



Statehood Period

Morristown

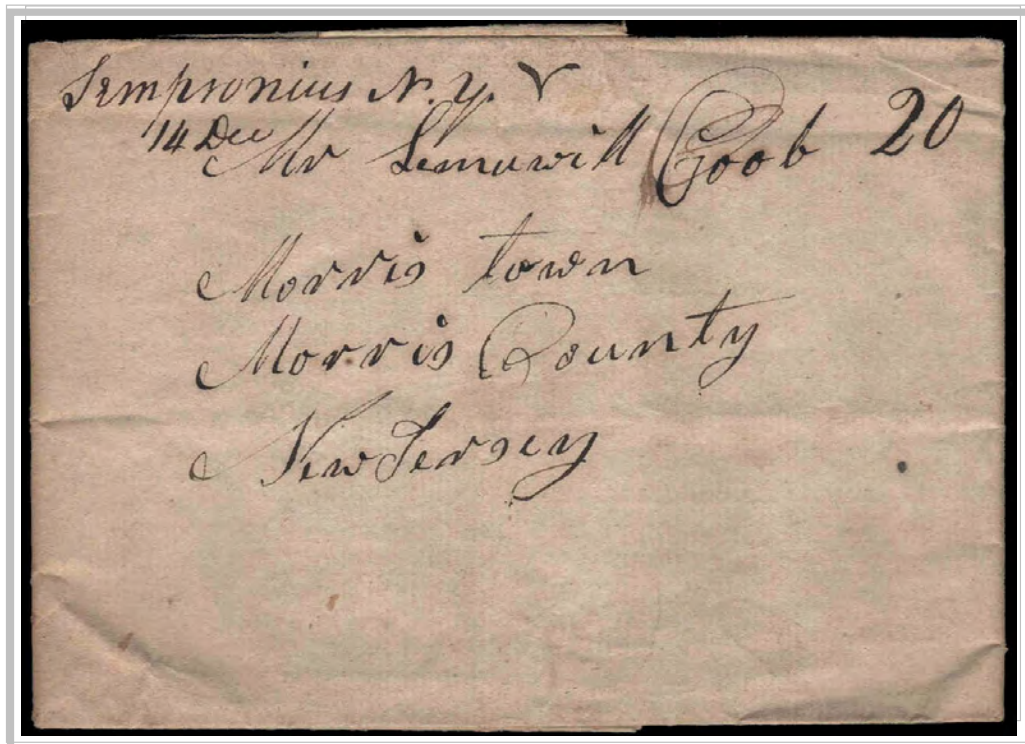
Postmark: April 21, 1811
To: Lenox, MS

Type M43 1800 - 1813 black
150 - 300 miles - 17 cents



Manuscript: December 6, 1812 Sempronius, NY
To: Morristown, NJ

40 - 90 miles - 10 cents
Double weight - 10 cents
total - 20 cents



Statehood Period

Morristown

War of 1812 Postage Rate

Postmark: May 12, 1815
To: Randolph, VT

Type M44 1813 - 1818 black
sent to Post Master - free

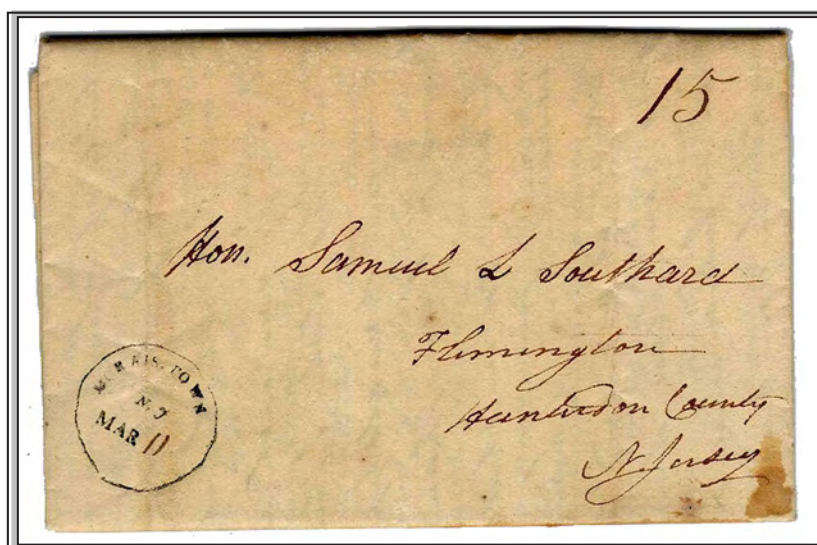


War of 1812 Postage Rate

Postage rate increased 50%

Postmark: March 11, 1816
To: Flemington, NJ

Type M44 1813 - 1818 black
40 - 90 miles - 15 cents



DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL IN MORRIS COUNTY – Part II: Morristown ~ Don Chafetz
Statehood Period

Morristown

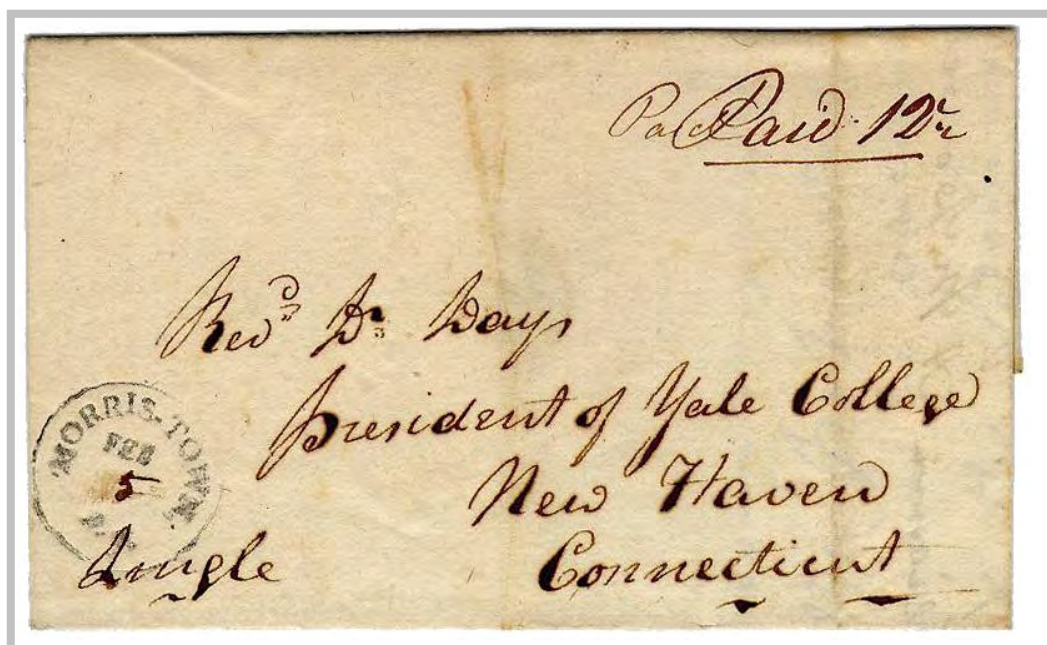
Postmark: March 29
To: New York, NY

Type M45 1819- 1822 black
under 30 miles - 6 cents



Dateline: February 5 1821 Harrisonville, NJ
Postmark: February 5, 1821 Morristown, NJ
To: New Haven, CT

Type M45 1819- 1822 black
80 - 150 miles - 12 ½ cents



Morristown

Statehood Period

Postmark: February 5, 1821
Via: February 10, 1821 Hartford, CT
To: Ellington CT

Type M45 1819- 1822 black
to Hartford 80 - 150 miles - 12 ½ cents
forward to Ellington under 30 miles - 6 cents
total - 18 ½ cents



Postmark: July 28, 1821
To: New York, NY

Type M46 1821- 1834 black
under 30 miles - 6 cents



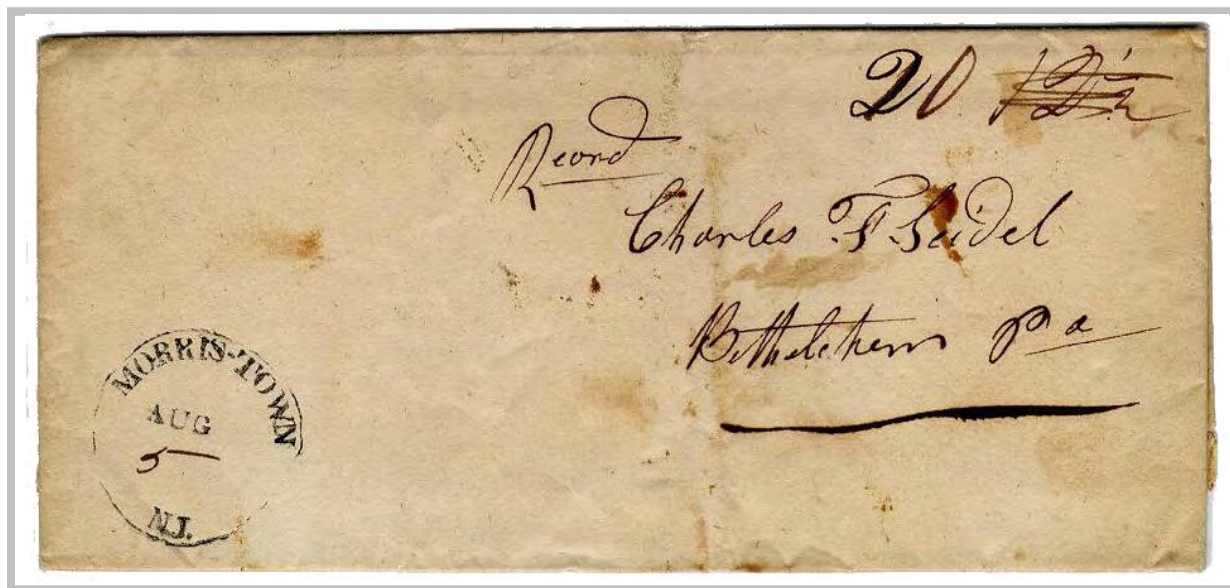
DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL IN MORRIS COUNTY – Part II: Morristown ~ Don Chafetz

Statehood Period

Morristown

Postmark: August 5, 1823
To: Bethlehem, PA

Type M46 1821 - 1834 black
80 - 150 miles - 12 ½ centss
30 - 80 miles - 2 x10 - 20 cents
(rerated double weight)



Postmark: January 10, 1833 New York, NY
Postmark: January 14, 1833 Morristown, NJ
To: Morris County, NJ

Type M46 1824 - 1839 red
not over 30 miles - 6 cents
Forward - 4 cents
total - 10 cents



Don Chafetz~ DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL IN MORRIS COUNTY – Part II: Morristown
Statehood Period

Morristown

Postmark: May 10, 1834
To: Trenton, NJ

Type M46 1824- 1839 red
30 - 80 miles - 20 cents
(double weight)



Postmark: January 3, 1835
To: Trenton, NJ

Type M47 1835 - 1848 red
30 - 80 miles - 10 cents

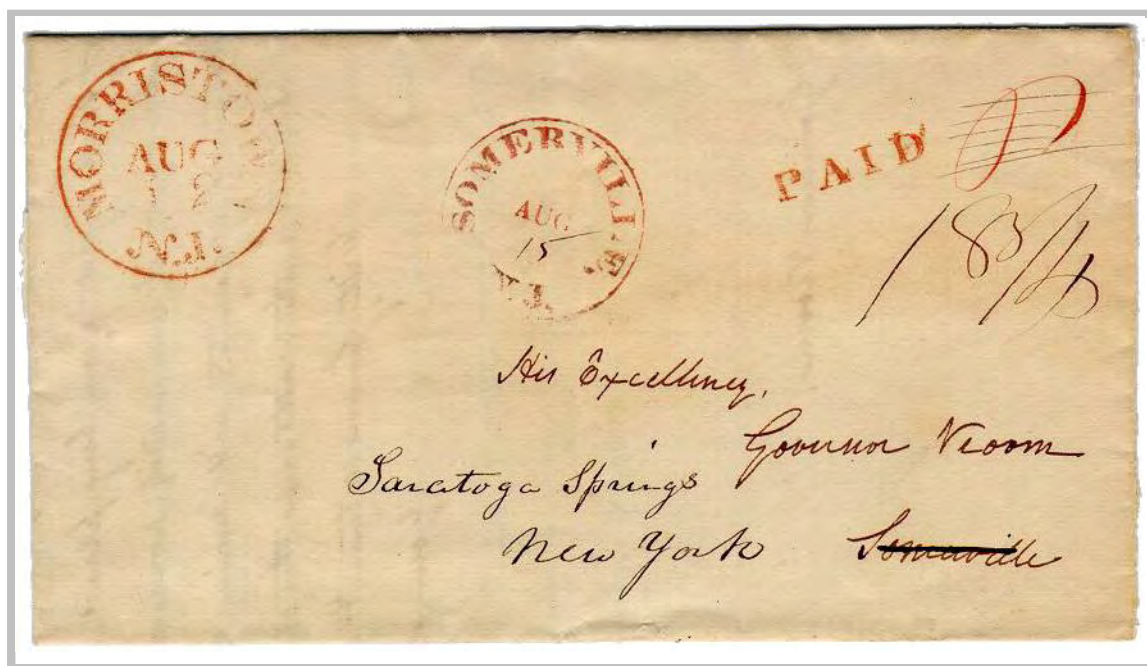


Statehood Period

Morristown

Postmark: August 12, 1836
To: August 15, 1836 Somerville, NJ
Forward: Saratoga Springs, NY

Type M47 1835 - 1848 red
under 30 miles - 6 cents
forward 150 - 400 miles - 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents



Type M47 1835 - 1848 red

Postmark: February 14
To: Mendham, NJ
under 30 miles - 5 cents



Statehood Period

Morristown

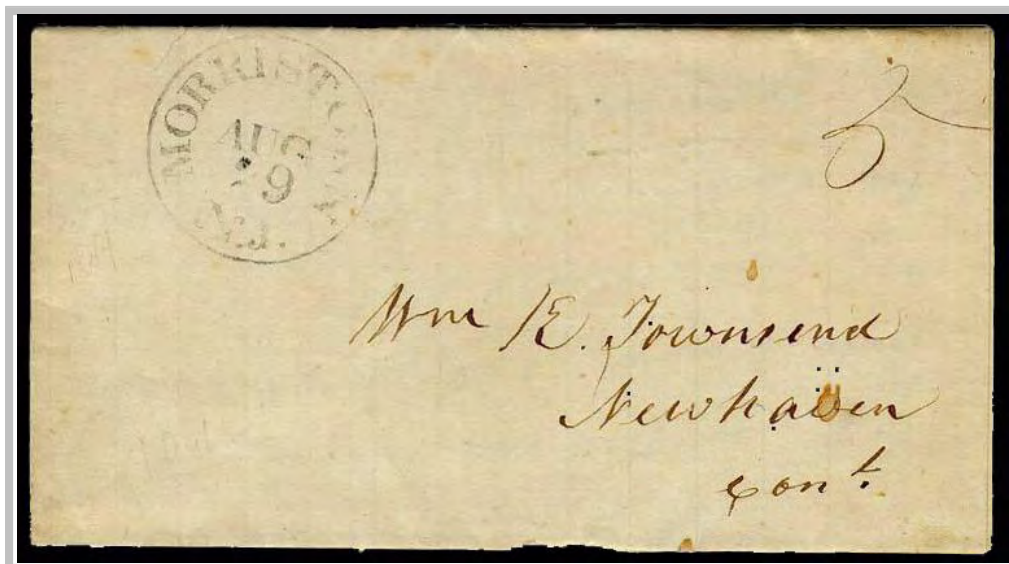
Postmark: July 28
To: New Brunswick, NJ

Type M47 1841- 1849 black
under 300 miles - 5 cents



Postmark: August 19, 1849
To: New Haven, CT

Type M47 1841- 1849 black
under 300 miles - 5 cents



Statehood Period

Morristown

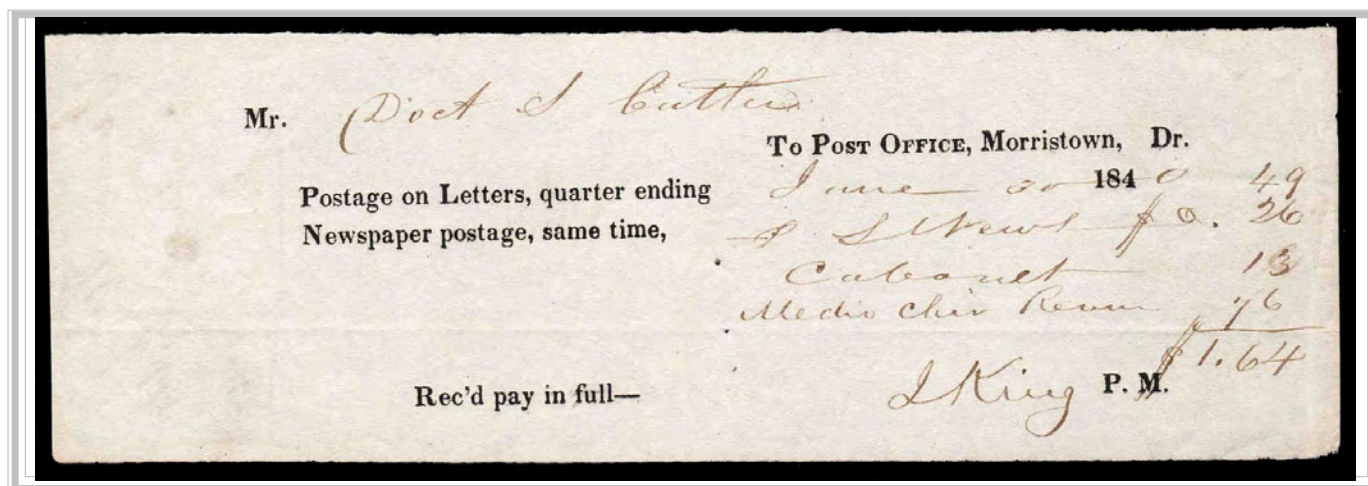
Type M47 1835 - 1848 red



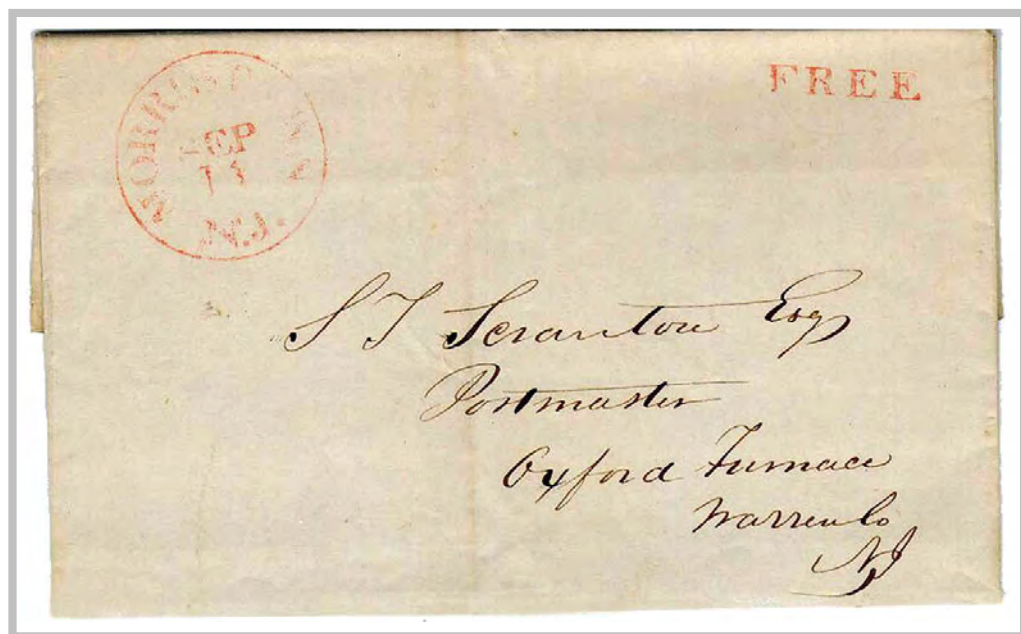
Postmark: December 2, 1838
To: Suffield, CT
Postage: 1 ½ cents
Type mail: newspaper wrapper

June 30, 1840

Beginning in the early 1840's, the postmasters at many towns regularly charged the postage to box holders and regular customers, submitting a bill at quarterly or monthly intervals.



Type M47 1835 - 1848 red
Postmark: September 11, 1843
To: Oxford Furnace, NJ
to a postmaster - free

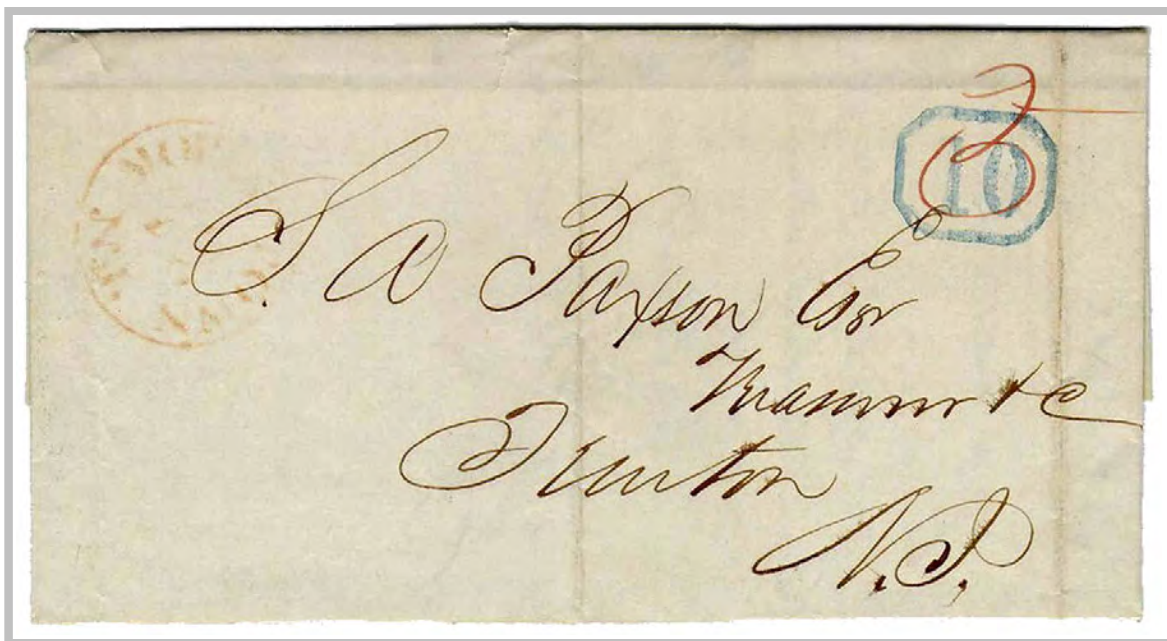


Statehood Period

Morristown

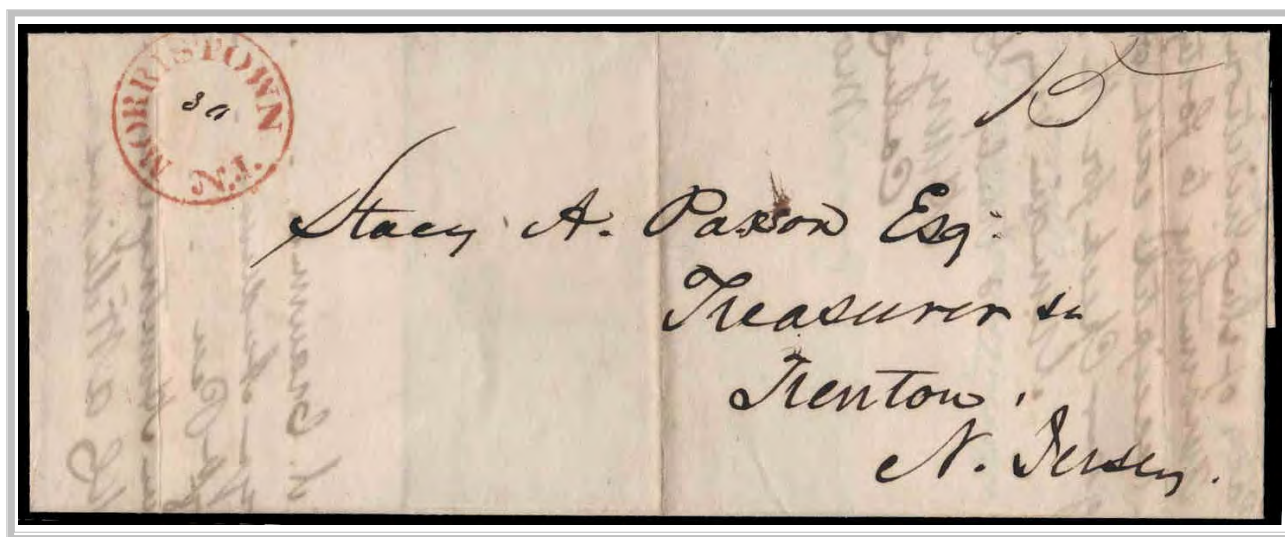
Postmark: January 9, 1846
To: Trenton, NJ

Type M47 1835 - 1848 red
under 300 miles - 5 cents
rerated: double weight - 10 cents



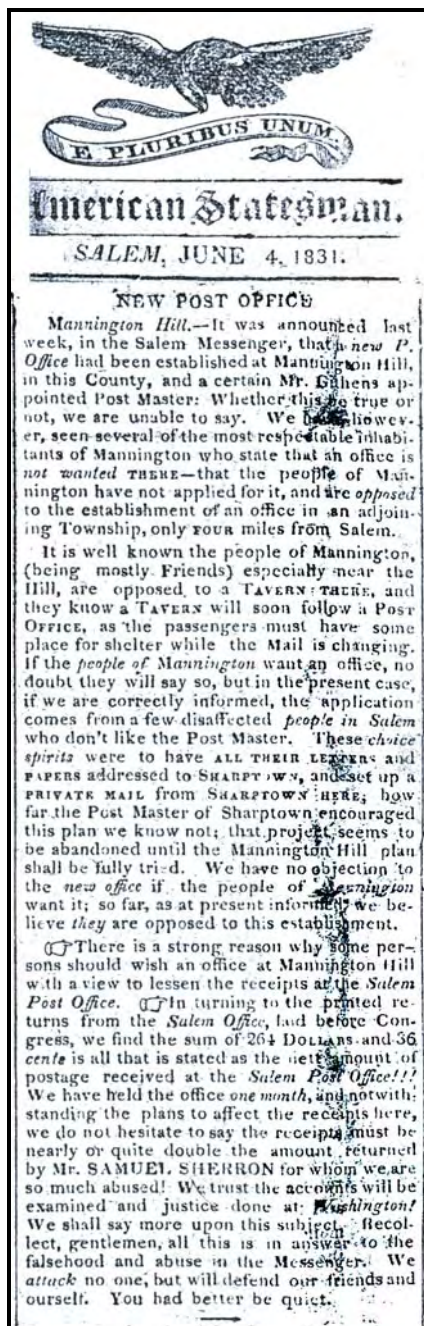
Postmark: April 30, 1847
To: Trenton, NJ

Type M47 1835 - 1848 red
under 300 miles - 5 cents
triple weight- 10 cents
total - 15 cents



THE SHORT-LIVED MANNINGTON HILL (Salem County) POST OFFICE

We may have discovered the reason for the very brief existence of a post office at Mannington Hill. It was established June 9, 1831 and survived until November 2, 1832, with Samuel W. Githins as the only postmaster. Dr. J. Harlan Buzby, of the Salem County Historical Society, passed on the attached clipping from the *American Statesman*, a newspaper printed in Salem, June 4, 1831. The story is headed "New Post Office." We have transcribed the text for better legibility:



Mannington Hill.—It was announced last week, in the Salem Messenger, that a new P. Office had been established at Mannington Hill, in this County, and a certain Mr. Githins appointed Post Master: Whether this is true or not, we are unable to say. We [have] however, seen several of the most respectable inhabitants of Mannington who state that an office is not wanted THERE—that the people of Mannington have not applied for it, and are opposed to the establishment of an office in an adjoining Township, only FOUR miles from Salem.

It is well known the people of Mannington, (being, mostly Friends) especially near the Hill, are opposed to a TAVERN THERE, and they know a TAVERN will soon follow a Post Office, as the passengers must have some place for shelter while the Mail is changing. If the people of Mannington want an office, no doubt they will say so, but in the present case, if we are correctly informed, the application comes from a few disaffected people in Salem who don't like the Post Master. These choice spirits were to have ALL THEIR LETTERS and PAPERS addressed to SHARPTOWN, and set up a PRIVATE MAIL from Sharptown here; how far the Post Master of Sharptown encouraged this plan we know not; that project seems to be abandoned until the Mannington Hill plan shall be fully tried. We have no objection to the new office if the people of Mannington want it; so far, as at present informed, we believe they are opposed to this establishment.

There is a strong reason why some persons should wish an office at Mannington Hill with a view to lessen the receipts at the Salem Post Office. In turning to the printed returns from the Salem Office, laid before the Congress, we find the sum of 264 DOLLARS and 36 CENTS is all that is stated as the net amount of postage received at The Salem Post Office!!!

We have held the office one month, and notwithstanding the plans to affect the receipts here, we do not hesitate to say the receipts must be nearly or quite double the amount returned by Mr. SAMUEL SHERRON for whom we are so much abused!! We trust the accounts will be examined and justice done at Washington!

We shall say more upon this subject. Recollect, gentlemen, all this is in answer to the falsehood and abuse in the Messenger. We attack no one; but will defend our friends and ourself. You had better be quiet.

Fig. 1: Clipping from the American Statesmen reporting the establishment of a post office at Mannington Hill.

For background, please see the letter from the Postmaster General's Office to the Salem postmaster (*Figure. 2*). The postmaster was actually James Sherron, not Samuel, who was his son and assistant. The memorials (or petitions) raised complaints against Samuel. Whether James Sherron, the father, ever saw this letter, or whether his son Samuel kept it to himself, nothing was done until 1831, when the Salem office was "reformed," and a new postmaster, Henry T. Elwell, was appointed.² The Mannington article is (although unsigned) clearly written by the new postmaster at Salem, perhaps looking to remove his competition for receipts.

The Salem residents had found many ways to circumvent the Salem post office, and in a complaining frame of mind, did not succumb easily. Sharptown is mentioned as one circumvention. A memorial sent to Samuel Southard (reprinted in *NJPH* in February 2008³.) clearly indicates that Roadstown was another choice for Salem residents. Mannington Hill (just north and east of Salem) appears to have been yet another.

So it would seem the Mannington Hill post office was established only at the behest of some Salem residents who still wished to avoid using the Salem post office, and complained that the new postmaster was too young and that the office was too far from the center of town. However, in time, the populace was mollified, and by 1832 the post office in Mannington Hill was no longer necessary.

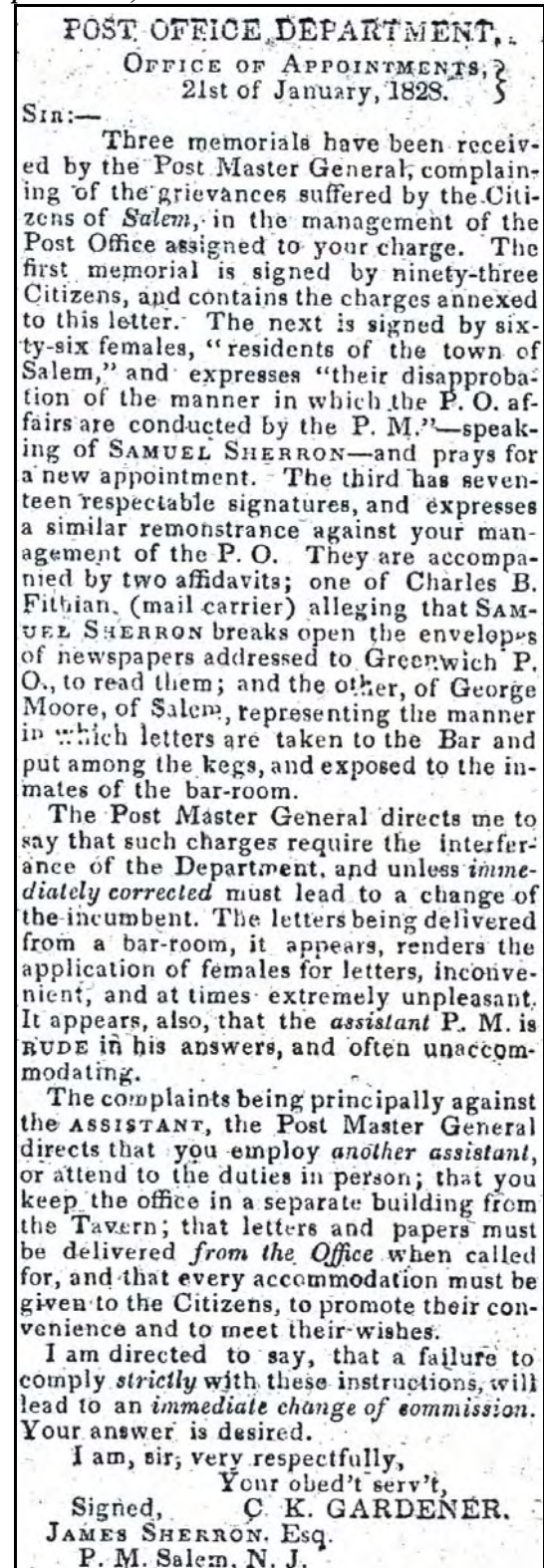
Our thanks to Dr. J. Harlan Buzby of the Salem County Historical Society for keeping us in mind and sending along this interesting material. Visit the [Salem County Historical Society](http://www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com/) at <http://www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com/> (Ed.)

¹ Reprinted in the American Statesman, June 4, 1831.

² Reported in the American Statesman on June 4, 1831, and also sent by J. Harlan Buzby.

³ For more on this situation we refer you to our February 2008 *NJPH*, "Samuel L. Southard – Redux" – to a letter to Samuel Southard, which you can access by going to our [Feb 2008 journal online](http://www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com/).

Fig. 2: Letter from PMG's office to the Salem postmaster, James Sherron.¹



HOMETOWN POST OFFICES: Ocean Grove, NJ

By Doug D'Avino

The Telegraph-Postal Building of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church was opened on August 1, 1881. The total cost for the building, including town clock, bell furniture, post office fixtures, was a little over \$22,000. In addition to the Post Office and Telegraph Office, the building at one time also housed the town's jail cell, Feddes Jewelry Shop, the Ocean Grove National Bank and Archie Griffith's sign shop.

The Telegraph office operated in the rear of the Post Office, in a large caged in area, from 1881 until after 1915. Every day except Sunday, local residents gathered at 6 PM on Association Hall porch outside the Post Office to await the evening mail. This custom ended around 1927 when the porch was enclosed. During the week, parcel post mail was delivered to residents in the afternoon using a Dort truck rented from the owner of the local butcher shop. (Meat deliveries were made in the morning, leaving the truck available in the afternoon.).¹

Fig. 1. Official Cover of the Historical Society of Ocean Grove, N.J. 07756, July 17, 1981, on the 100th Anniversary Cover of the Association's Telegraph-Post Office Building.²



Fig. 2: Ocean Grove Post Office view; at right, a 1911 Ocean Grove flag cancel.³

¹ See also *NJPH*, Feb. & Aug 2005 (whole numbers 157 & 159, <http://njpostalhistory.org/media/archive/157-feb05njph.pdf> and <http://njpostalhistory.org/media/archive/159-aug05njph.pdf> .

² Association Hall Highlights No. 62.

³ Wayne T. Bell and Christopher M. Flynn, *Ocean Grove In Vintage Postcards*, Postcard History Series, Arcadia Publishing, © 2004

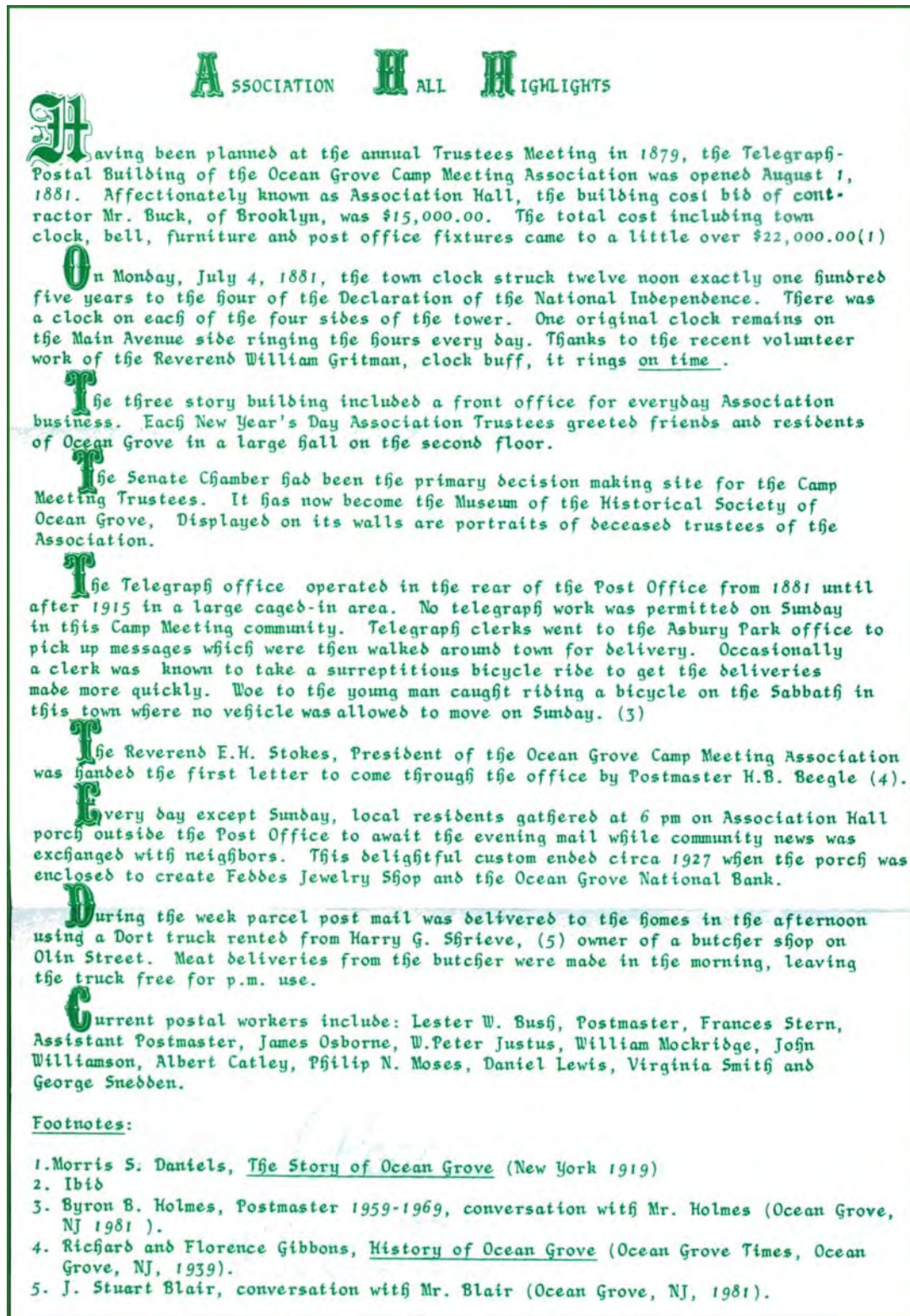


Fig. 3: History of the Association's Telegraph-Post Office Building developed for the 100th Anniversary, based on written and oral histories.

If you have a post office to feature in the "Hometown Post Offices," please let us know, or send material to Doug D'Avino at davinod@earthlink.net.

MEMBER NEWS: DONATIONS, MEMBER CHANGES

MEMBER NEWS:

Most important, we wish to thank all the members who have donated to the Society with their 2011 dues Payment. If you have not yet paid your 2011 dues, please take a moment to do so.

Our sincere thanks to NJPHS DONORS 2011 (to date)			
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John D. Hankin	Jean R. Walton		
Joseph Haynes	Stephen S. Washburne		
and Nathan Zankel			

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:
Gianluigi Soldati, 710 Graisbury Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033, GDSoldati@comcast.net , Camden County, Hunterdon County, 19 th Cent.
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:
Len Frank: change address to 200 Bristol Glen Dr., Apt 359B, Newton, NJ 07860-2337
Matt Stoll: change address to 29 Cherry Hill Road, Livingston, NJ 07039
SOME EMAIL CHANGES:
Joseph Geraci email J.J.Geraci@att.net .
Stephen Washburne email stevewashburne@gmail.com

If we've missed any, please let us know at Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org, or write Jean Walton, at 125 Turtleback Road, Califon, NJ 07830. Please also check your add to be sure it is present, if you want one, and correct. A membership directory is available on request to all members. Again, contact your secretary at Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org

CHECK THESE OUT! Neat web sites – if you find others you want to feature, let us know:

A History of Post Offices in Camden, <http://www.dvrbs.com/camden-texts/CamdenNJ-PostOffice-History.htm>
and New Gretna/Bass River PO history at <http://bassriverhistory.blogspot.com/2009/02/new-gretna-postmasters.html> . Both are very nice presentations!



Web Update

By Warren Plank,
[Webmaster](#)

ANOTHER MILESTONE REACHED: Launching the Members Exhibition Hall

I am delighted to report that the [NEW Members Exhibition Hall](#) has debuted on our website! Almost two years in the making, members now have a dedicated space in which to share their collections. Whether you want to submit an entire collection anonymously, or have a dedicated page somewhat like a display at one of the stamp shows is up to you. If it is 500 covers, or just one – contact your [webmaster](#) and I'll help you through the process.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the contribution of member Doug D'Avino for our [Members Exhibition Hall](#) launch. Doug has scanned and described approximately 550 postcards in his exhibit [Post Offices of New Jersey - A History Told Through Postcards](#) and offered them online for the viewing pleasure of everyone. Please take a moment to visit Doug's exhibition now – **you won't be disappointed!** Doug's exhibit is extensive and **growing**. We are hoping that it also draws many new members to our hobby and our Society. Once all the search engines scour the cards, it certainly will draw much interest to our site.

In conjunction with [Members Exhibition Hall](#), we are also launching several smaller galleries of specific interest items that have been part of past articles in the *NJPHS Journal*. These galleries will be displayed under the heading of **NJPH Society Galleries** and this is where a member may contribute additional images from their collection. For the February launch, and this issue of the *NJPHS Journal*, we are launching two special galleries: [New Jersey Stage Mail](#) and [New](#)

[Jersey Advertising Covers](#). Please take a moment to enjoy the view – and remember to contact your [webmaster](#) if you have items of interest to contribute.

Along with – and part of these improvements, we now have a [Picasa Online Album](#) that may be accessed here, and from the Gallery pages. This Picasa album also drives the slideshow program on our webpages – the CoolIris Photo Wall application. Please read how to use this, and the Picasa Albums to view our Society offerings. Play around with the CoolIris Wall and don't forget to use the full screen mode for optimum viewing.

...webstats since January 1, 2011

The [Free Library](#) and the archive of the [NJPHS Journals](#) are certainly proving popular – driving visits to our website like nothing before! January saw 536 unique visitors on our site for 1790 page views. Most popular among visitors was the September '93 *Journal*, the May '80 *Journal*, and the May and November '05 issues of the *Journal*. It looks as if the search engines, especially Google, are sending more people our way. Hopefully we are silently recruiting a new generation of members! The top ten countries/unique visitors (after the US with 3600+) so far in 2011 are:

• Russian Federation	302
• Germany	134
• Romania	192
• Great Britain	109
• China	92
• Canada	70
• Switzerland	70
• Iceland	68
• Italy	62
• Poland	35

...in the Works

We are still working on refining specific pages within the website to deliver the *Journal* without using the Excel download. By the time you receive the November 2011 *NJPHS Journal*, I am hoping to have all of the literature pages redesigned for free downloads. We are working hard at providing you the best website for knowledge and fun.

See you soon on [NJPostalHistory.org!](#)

TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 1, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	January 1, 2010		\$8,371.34
INCOME	DUES x 102	\$1,530	
	DONATIONS x 45	\$ 892	
	CD & LITERATURE SALES	\$ 100	
	AUCTION PROCEEDS	\$ 155.66	
	NOJEX cash sales (CDs/lit)	\$ 40 (no accounting)	
	TOTAL		\$2,717.66
EXPENDITURES	PAYPAL FEES	(\$12.09)	
	JOURNAL	(\$2,477.10)	
	TOTAL		(\$2,489.19)
NET CHANGE			\$ 228.47
BALANCE YEAR END 12/31/2009			\$8,599.81

Month	Journal Expenses By Issue		
	Printing	Mailing	Total
February 2010	\$394.00	\$246.40	\$640.40
May 2010	\$394.00	\$207.00	\$601.00
August 2010	\$389.00	\$277.70	\$666.70
November 2010	\$345.00	\$224.00	\$569.00
TOTAL	\$1,522.00	\$955.10	\$2,477.10

The only expense the Society incurs is the printing and mailing of the Journal, and Jean Walton and Bob Rose have once again earned our praise for all of their hard work in producing the fine journal that we all enjoy. Without the Journal, it is doubtful that the Society would continue. The Journal costs are nearly identical to 2008 and 2009, but the coming rise in postal rates will add to our expenses.

We lost eight members and eight donors. But the 45 donors who gave so generously this year have raised the bar and the donations for the year that were \$775 in both 2008 and 2009 to a whopping \$892 this year. Their kind contributions allowed the Society to turn what would have been a significant loss into a modest increase, and to hold dues at the very reasonable \$15 annual rate yet again. I thank the many Society members who contributed beyond their dues, and hope that the membership will continue to donate in 2012.

Andy Kupersmit, Treasurer

MEMBER ADS ~ YOUR AD MISSING? LET US KNOW AT

SECRETARY@NJPOSTALHISTORY.ORG OR BY MAIL**STAMPLESS MANUSCRIPTS WANTED –**

New Jersey and Maine only – pls send copies with prices to PLS 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.

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

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.

SAMUEL SOUTHARD CORRESPONDENCE ALWAYS WANTED!

Always interested. Please contact Jean Walton, 125 Turtleback Rd, Califon, NJ 07830, 908/832-9578 or send scan and e-mail to jwalton971@aol.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.

WANTED: JERSEY CITY POSTAL HIS-

TORY, 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 07070-1136/973-977-4639/email JTJersey@verizon.net.

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

WANTED: Port Murray, Anderson, Changelwater, 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.

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since 1972. 8000 items, 1690s to 1990s. Visit our searchable website: www.felcone.com. Joseph J. Felcone, PO Box 366, Princeton, NJ 08542 609/924-0539; felcone@felcone.com.

NOW AVAILABLE: *Annotated Cumulative Subject Index to the Chronicle of the U.S. Classical Postal Issues for Issue Numbers 1-200*, 591 pages with searchable CD-ROM. \$75.00 + \$10.00 shipping. Order from Joseph J. Geraci, Box 4129, Merrifield, VA 22116 or call 703-280-5928.

WANTED: SHIP CANCELS FROM WWII,

Morris, Sussex County covers, Patriotic covers, and postal cards. Clean clear strikes preferred. Willard Johnson, 24 Salmon Lane, Ledgewood, NJ 07852, or 973/584-0359.

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 jiwalker@embarqmail.com.

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, P.O. Box 1945, Morristown, NJ 07962 or e-mail rrose@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

WANTED: Picture Post card of WEST ENGLEWOOD NATIONAL BANK. Contact Bill Berdan, 475 Forest Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666 or by email at WilliamBerdan@gmail.com.

ESPECIALLY WANTED: TANS-BORO(UGH) (1862-1884, 1898-1906), WILTON (1884-1898) CANCELS ON CARDS/COVERS, or addressed to these P.O.s. Note: There is a C.W. correspondence to Tansboro. Contact Craig Mathewson, 114 Hayes Mill Rd, Apt D-202, Atco, NJ 08004, phone: 856/809-7484

WANTED: 1970'S UPS DENOMINATED STAMPS SOLD IN NORTHERN NJ BY UNITED PARCEL SERVICE. Also any literature, waybills, etc., about this UPS experiment with prepaid stamps. Contact Bruce Mosher, POB 33236, Indialantic, FL 32903, 321/723-7886 or e-mail bhmexp@digital.net.

WANTED: POSTAL HISTORY OF SUSSEX COUNTY: DPO postmarks: Culvers, Cutoff, Edison (pre 1910); stampless letters, OLD DEEDS, documents, memorabilia of all kinds. Contact Leonard R. Peck, 200 Bristol Glen Dr., Box 312, Newton, NJ 07860 or call 973-300-5788 & ask for Len Peck.

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, unclebubba1954@comcast.net.

WANTED: SCOTT #610 MATCHED SET OF PLATE BLOCKS, F-VF or better, NH not required. Send scans or photocopies with price to Al Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, 607-732-0181, alatholleyrd@aol.com.

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

ALWAYS DESIRED: FISH HOUSE, COVERS, BURLINGTON COUNTY ADVERTISING COVERS AND CORNER CARDS; BURLINGTON COUNTY DPOs. Email Paul W. Schopp at pwschopp@comcast.net.

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.

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

WANTED: 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.

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

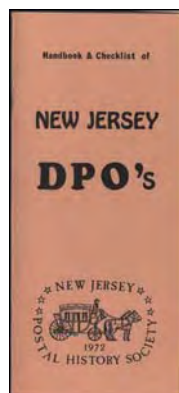
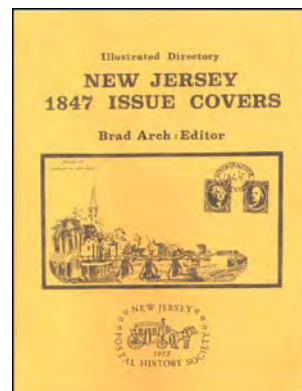
19TH CENTURY AND INTERESTING PATERSON WANTED. Contact George Kramer, 199 Charles St., Clifton, NJ 07013-3853, or email gikk@optonline.net

NJPHS LITERATURE AVAILABLE postpaid from Robert G. Rose, NJPHS, One Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054-2891, or email Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org for Paypal invoice.		Member price	Non-members
CD or hard copy: <i>The Postal Markings Of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update</i> by Donald A. Chafetz (2004) hardcopy, 28pp. or available on CD in PDF format Updates the extensive work of William C. Coles, with new markings and dates since that original work was published in 1983 Also available to members free as a downloadable file		\$10.00 FREE	\$15.00
CD only: <i>Washington Organ Manufacturers</i> on CD, by Len Frank - 3 articles + many many illustrations not in <i>NJPH</i> , in Acrobat Reader [.PDF] format..... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of 3 articles on the advertising covers and history of the organ manufacturers of Washington, NJ, Adds a picture gallery of many covers not illustrated in those articles. Includes much paper ephemera as well. An impressive collection. 		\$7.50	\$10.00
Hard copy: <i>Catalog of New Jersey Railway Postal Markings</i> , 1984, Frederick D. MacDonald, 136pp. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still the "bible" of New Jersey railway postmarks. A must for any RPO collector. Routes and cancels shown Terminal markings 		\$7.50	\$10.00
Hard copy: <i>Illustrated Directory of New Jersey 1847 Issue Covers</i> , Brad Arch, ed., 1987, 44pp & Supplements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the collector of the 1847 Issue, this book by Brad Arch is the comprehensive work on New Jersey covers 5¢ and 10¢ covers in separate sections Detailed descriptions of each cover, arranged by office of origin. 		\$4.00	\$7.50
Hard copy: <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 Also available to members free as a downloadable file		\$3.00 FREE	\$4.00
Hard copy: <i>New Jersey's Foreign Mail</i> , 1997, Gerard J. Neufeld, 76pp. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fine monograph on foreign mail to and from New Jersey in the 19th Cent. Profusely illustrated Each cover explained 		\$8.00	\$10.00
CD: Mosher's NJ Private Express Companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
CDs: Back issues of the NJPH Journal are available on CD for 2003 to 2009 at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each CD includes the 4 quarterly journals for one year, in color, pdf format CD: 2010 <i>NJPH</i> Issues on CD in PDF format, may color illustrations		\$5.00 each \$5.00	\$7.50 each \$12.00
Members only: 2 back issue CDs, \$8.00, 3 back issue CDs \$12.00, 4 back issue CDs \$15.00, 5 CDs \$18, 6 CDs \$22, 7 CDs, \$25, all 8 CDs (including 2010) \$28. (Also available to members free as a downloadable files) Non-members: 2 back issue CDs, \$12.00, 3 back issue CDs \$15.00, 4 back issue CDs \$18.00, 5 CDs \$25, 6 CDs \$28, 7 CDs, \$31 all 8 back issue CDs (including 2010 CD), \$35.			
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Brad Arch's handy DPO book available in Excel format (for hardcopy see above).		FREE	2.95
Stampless Era Post Offices, based on Coles and the Coles Update in Excel format.		FREE	2.95
Brennan, Lawrence, <i>New Jersey-Built Air Craft Carriers</i> , a long series with many covers in PDF format.		FREE	12.95
Chafetz, Don <i>Coles Update</i> – a supplement and update to Wm Coles study of <i>New Jersey Stampless Markings</i> , in pdf format.		FREE	2.95
Chafetz, Don, <i>Development of Morris County Mail Service – 1760-1850</i> – a digital exhibit, PDF.		FREE	4.99
Edge, Jack, <i>Post Towns of Burlington County</i> . All of Jack's Burlington series, as published in the pages of <i>NJPH</i> , compiled into one document, in PDF format.		FREE	7.99
Edge, Jack, <i>Postmasters of Burlington County</i> . List of Burlington County postmasters from in Jack's Burlington series, in PDF format.		FREE	4.99
Englund, Arne, <i>New Jersey Summer Post Offices</i> – seasonal POs of NJ, in PDF.		FREE	
Law, Mary E., <i>The Postal History of Cape May County, NJ</i> including postmaster list, published in <i>NJPH</i> between March 1993 through May 1994, PDF format.		FREE	8.99
Walker, Jim, <i>Hunterdon County Postal History</i> , serialized articles 2007-2010, pdf		FREE	
Peck, Len, <i>Essays on Sussex County & New Jersey Postal History</i> , articles 2004-10, pdf		FREE	9.95

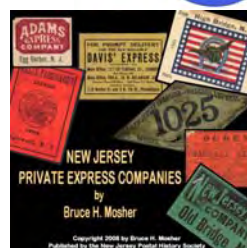
* see our web site at www.NJPostalHistory.org for other files available free to the public

THE NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY LITERATURE

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY, Post paid, send check to: Robert G. Rose, New Jersey Postal History Society, One Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054-2891 , or email President@NJPostalHistory.org.
PayPal payment available – email Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org with wants for Paypal invoice.



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CD or hard copy: <i>The Postal Markings Of New Jersey Stampless Covers: An Update</i> by Donald A. Chafetz hardcopy, 28pp. or available as CD in Acrobat Reader [.PDF] format (2004)..... Updates the extensive work of William C. Coles, with new markings and dates since that original work was published in 1983	\$10.00	\$15.00
CD: Bruce Mosher's <i>NJ Private Express Companies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 compiled articles by Bruce Mosher on many aspects of private express mail in New Jersey Many color illustrations Previously unpublished material in lengthy postscript Alphabetical index 	\$10.00	\$15.00
CD: <i>Washington NJ Organ Manufacturers</i> on CD, by Len Frank - 3 articles + many illustrations not in <i>NJPH</i> , in Acrobat Reader [.PDF] format, 2004.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of 3 articles on the advertising covers and history of the organ manufacturers of Washington, NJ, Adds a picture gallery of many covers not illustrated in those articles. Includes much paper ephemera as well. An astounding compilation of material. 	\$7.50	\$10.00

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