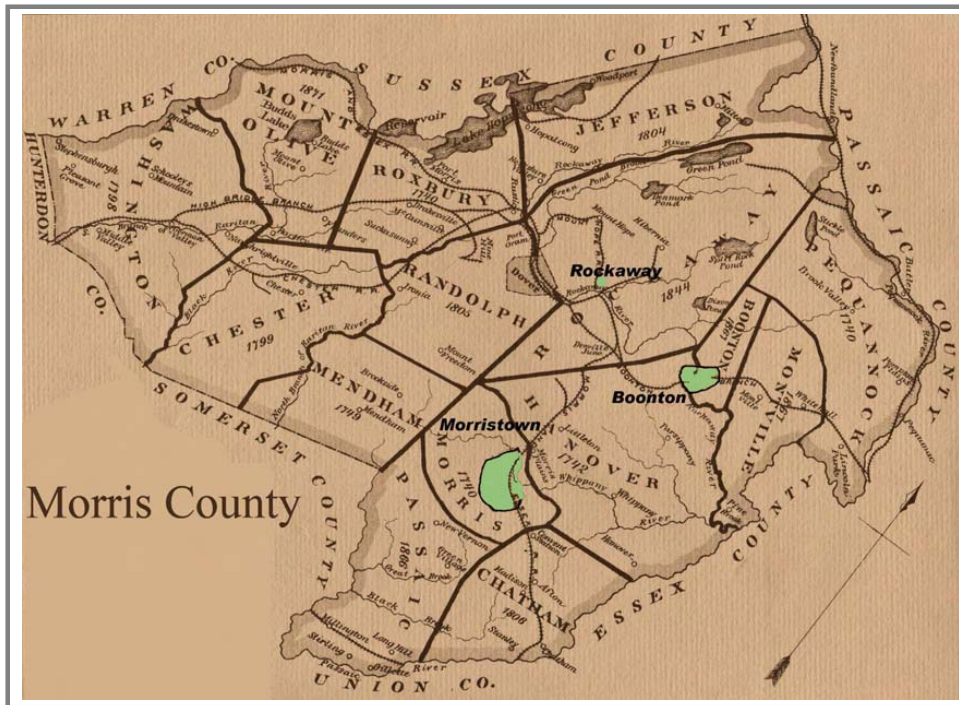


DEVELOPMENT OF MORRIS COUNTY MAIL SERVICE

Revolutionary Period [to 1789]

By Donald A. Chafetz

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



I am not aware of any mail items in private hands with postal markings from Morris County prior to 1800. Many of the covers formed the basis for the Morris County listings in books **The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers** by William Coles, Jr. and the **The Postal Markings of New Jersey Stampless Covers: an Update** by Donald A. Chafetz. The identification of the postmark types is based on Coles' nomenclature.

Vol. 38/No. 4
Whole No. 180



NJPH
November 2010

Revolutionary War

1775 - 1783

Morristown

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



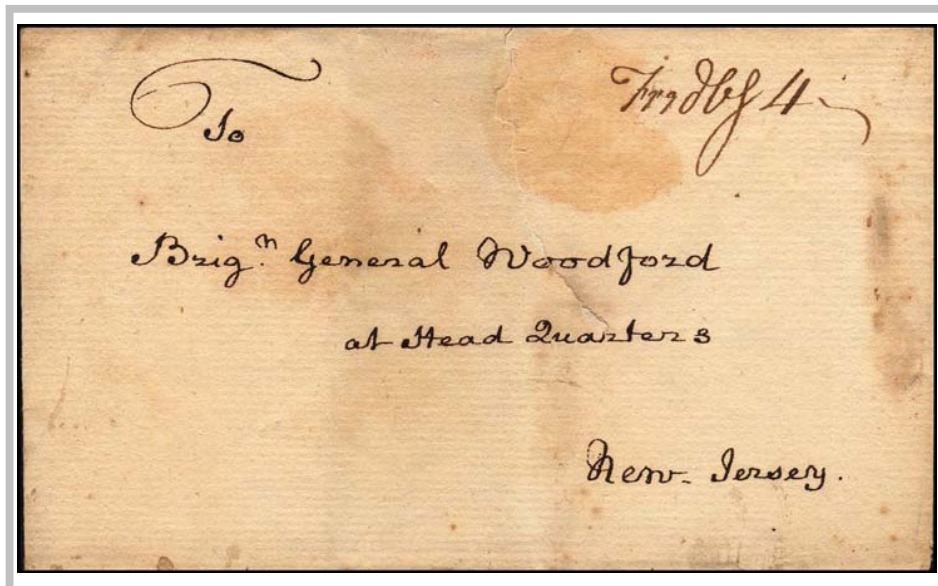
Dateline: May 28, 1777 Morristown, NJ
From: John Fitzgerald, Aide-de-Camp
To: Boundbrook, NJ
Excerpt: *Places will be necessary for the Paymaster General & Adjutant General, also some places for the Post Office Master*

Military Express



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

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



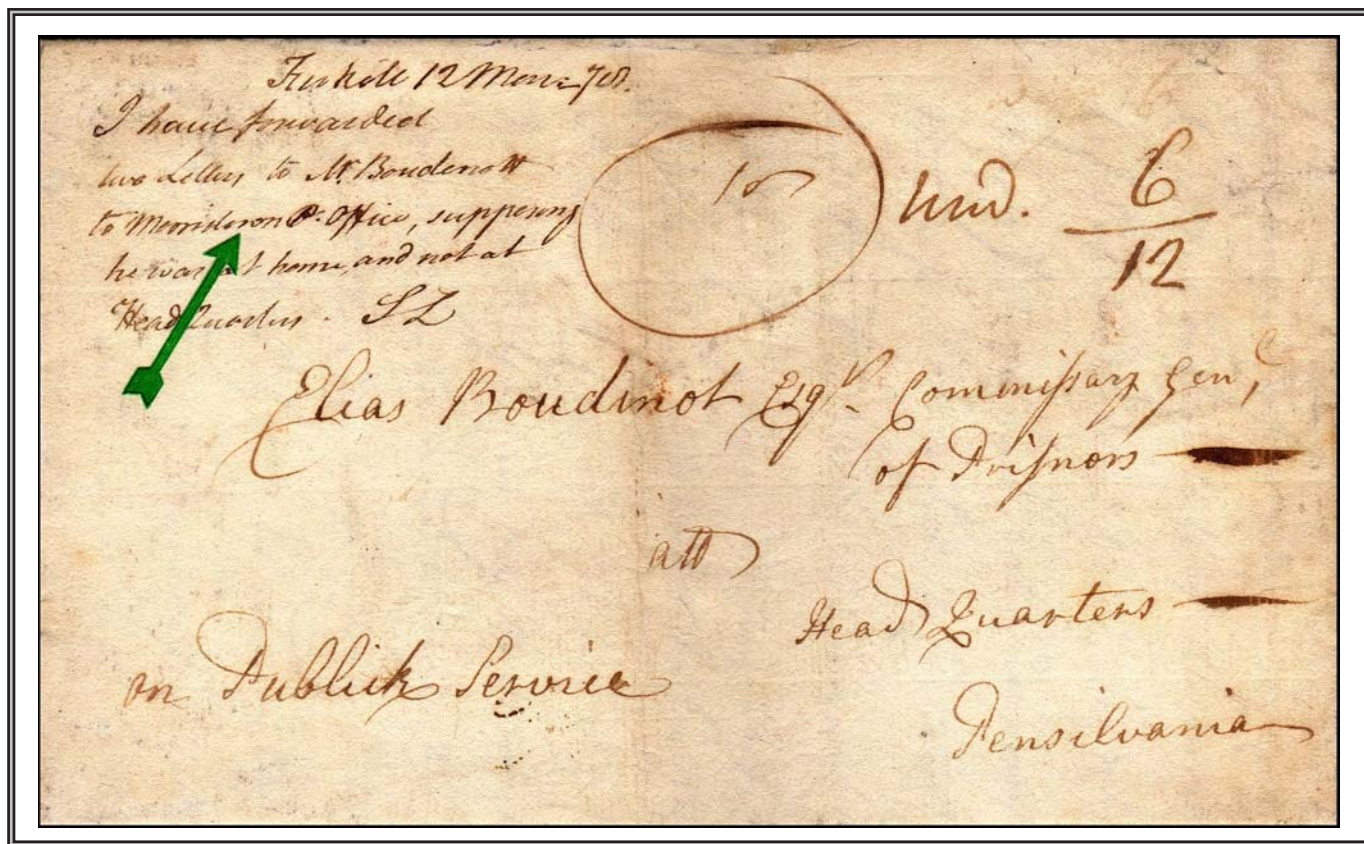
Revolutionary War

Morristown

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

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

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

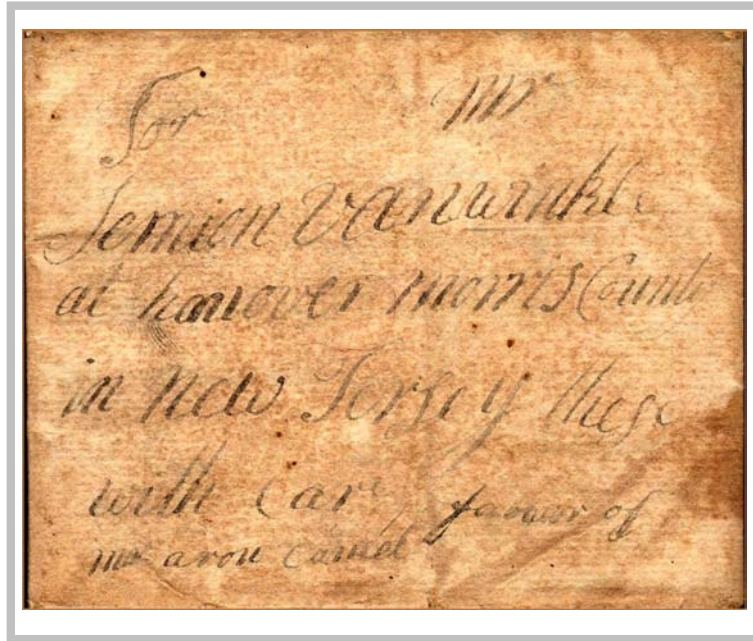


Only non-archive reference to Morristown Post Office during this period

Revolutionary War

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

Out of the mail
with care favor of Mr Aron Carnel



Docket: Morristown, 1779
To: Morristown, NJ

Out of the mail

