

# Doctor Benjamin Franklin reviews the American Post Office

Chester County Historical  
Society January 2018

Letter from the Council  
of Road Island received  
Aug: 9: 1672 of Gov: r

Winthrop's Answer

These: for the Hon<sup>d</sup> John Winthrop Esq  
Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Colony of Connecticut  
To be also Communicated to the Rest of the  
Hon<sup>d</sup> Council of that Colony L.

MHS

“Letter from the RI Council of Road Island  
recd Aug 9 1672”

“these ffor the Hand of John Winthrop Esq Gov of the Colony  
of Connecticutt to be also Communicated to the Rest of the  
Counsill of that Colony”



406 2.  
rec: Feb: 6: 1672

For the honora<sup>ble</sup> John  
Winthrop Esq Governor of his  
Ma<sup>ty</sup> Colony of Caneticut, and  
Hartford  
These

F Lovelace

Post Payd

Address panel with "Post Payd", "recd Feb 6, 1672/3



MHS

Written February 17, 1672/3  
Docketed Mr. John Richards  
rec Feb 22, 1672



## Colonial Calendars

Julian Year March 25 to March 24 (Old Style)  
lost days due to misuse of leap years

Gregorian January 1 to December 31 (NS),  
proclaimed by Catholic Pope in 1582.  
Protestant England didn't accept the change.

Year dates between Jan 1 and March 23  
appear 1711/12 OS/NS, gradually ending in  
America by about 1754.

For  
My Loving Brother  
Mr. Andrew Russell  
Merchant  
in  
Holland Rotterdam

Fort Albany August 1, 1675



Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Dudley  
Esq<sup>r</sup> New Boston  
in New England  
Sent

Harrington Pennsylvania, later Delaware, April 1687



For His Majestys Service

To The Hon<sup>able</sup> John Usher Esq<sup>r</sup>

His Majestys Lieut. Govern<sup>r</sup> &c.

of Province  
New Hampshire

Praying all Justices & Constables  
to be Aiding & Assisting.

Fast Post Fast

New Castle (New Hampshire) December 10, 1695  
Neale Patent 1693-1707

Earliest non-Archival Official mail, ? Special Delivery



No  
Mr Samuel Lellie

Merchant

in Boston

Newengland

Via Bermudon



To  
Robt Moore Liverpool

Shew

At Capt Blundell

Rappahannock 1702

Capt Bryan Blundell Master of the Liver of  
Liverpool



To  
Capt Robert Moore  
Command of ye Co<sup>th</sup> in Lapaham  
mach River in Verginey

Thes

Z

Liverpool 1705



10 Mr. David Jeffrey  
and Company  
Merch:  
In Boston  
my no

New York August 8, 1709



For his Majestys Service  
To Conrad Weiser Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at Heidelberg in Lancaster  
County  
Potomack Pennsylvania  
Boyd's Hole 4<sup>th</sup>  
Post paid John Short

Boyd's Hole on the Potomack (Virginia) 1744

# Colonial Currency

Coins of 15+ Nations, 12 Colonies in circulation, all  
with multiple “sizes”

Letters rated in “local”, Sterling and specie

12 pence Sterling = 1 Shilling

1 pence Sterling = 8 grains Specie

24 grs = 1 Pennyweight (Dwt) = 3 pence Ster.

Neale Patent Law in “local mony”

Queen Anne in Sterling

1754 Franklin/Hunter Instructions all in Specie

Continental Congress rates in Specie

Accounts settled in various currencies



# A Table of COINS, as they now pass in the following Places.

	England.			Philadelphia			N. York.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
English Sixpence,	0	0	6	0	0	9	0	0	0
English Crown,	0	5	0	0	7	6	0	8	0
Venice Crown,	0	5	0	0	7	6	0	8	0
Guinea,	1	1	0	1	14	0	1	16	0
Spanish Pistole,	0	16	6	1	2	0	1	9	0
French Pistole,	0	16	0	1	6	6	1	8	0
Moydore,	1	7	0	2	3	6	2	6	0
Johannes,	3	12	0	5	15	0	6	6	0
Half Johannes,	1	16	0	2	17	6	3	3	0
Doublon,	3	6	0	5	8	0	5	16	0
Spanish Dollar,				0	7	6	0	8	0
Pistreen,				0	1	4	0	1	0

N.B. Most sorts of Spanish Silver are sold in London, by the Ounce, and often varies, but seldom or ever exceeds 5s. 5d.

1759: from *Father Abraham's Almanack*, Philadelphia  
 From Newman and Doty, *Studies on Money in Early America* (1976), p. 35.



Go

3.  
P. del  
Ph: 3:16

James Alexander Esq<sup>r</sup>

at

New York.

Surrey Street London 15 May  
1747

Triplicate letter, arrives 11 months later, BF handwriting  
Postmaster Philadelphia 1737 by Alexander Spotswood  
King George's War 1740-1748, aka War of Austrian  
Succession, one of the French and Indian Wars



NEW  
YORK

3<sup>rd</sup>

To

PN

John Pemberton

Merchant

Philadelphia

By the Packet  
Via N. York }

London December 13, 1755

Falmouth Packet Service, new ships, lighter , faster, some armaments, postal service helps to underwrite, 1 Shilling, closed bag London to Falmouth to New York, prepayment,

? New Handstamp for NEW YORK



Three Mr.  
Mr Thompson

From the Army

To

M<sup>rs</sup> Abigail Pomroy

At

Hebron  
To the Care of Revd Mr Dorr Hartford

Camp Fort Ontario August 8, 1760

Free Mail "From the Army" ? Free in Conn. as letters given to  
Revd Mr. Dorr of Hartford.



The Books which we tho't were  
lost came safe, in my chest—  
I am still in health, &  
yours in the Dearest Bonds  
B P

Aug<sup>th</sup> 9, 1760

We shall probably march to morrow  
Farewell





NEW YORK

in laath

Forwarded from Philadelphia 8th February 1764  
by your assured friend  
Joh. Jemmel

Van De  
Wel edele Heeren Myn heeren  
Directueren der Comertij  
Compagnie  
Resideerende  
Tot Middelburg in Zeeland

Enge





Forwarded from Philadelphia 8th February 1766  
by Your assured Friend  
Jos. Pennell

NEW  
YORK



1764.  
To The Honorable  
John Moultrie Esq Lieutenant Governor  
of East Florida at  
St Augustine  
of West Florida

Jamaica 1765

John Moultrie, Lieut. Governor of East Florida, ceded to Britain as part of Seven Year's War with West Florida, effective administrator, brothers William, James, Thomas and Alexander were famous Patriots. Daughter married Capt John Bligh. Double weight letter, rare Florida mail.





Georgia Gazette, May 2, 1765 "Schooner from Jamaica, Alex Mills, Master, to be quarantined on the Tybee River for 10 days, all mail has been recovered"



An Estimate of the Estate and effects of James Moultrie  
deceased, late Chief Justice of East Florida, by  
Robert Catherwood, John Forbes and Tho. Moultrie  
Sworn appraisers

### Household Furniture

one nest mahogany Schenone	£ 10 u	Starling
Eight mahogany Chairs w <sup>t</sup> Chins on Damask Bottoms	10 u	
two Arm'd do	10 u	
two mahogany Card Tables	4 u	
one nest mahogany Card Tea Table	4 u	
one pair of Gilt Glasses	5 u 10	
one Old Carpet	u 10	
one Set of Tea China	2 u	
one Tea Board	u 6	
two large Mahogany Dining Tables w <sup>t</sup> covers	7 u	
one small side Table	1 u 5	
Six mahogany leather Bottom'd Chairs	3 u 1/2	
one mahogany Desk	4 u 10	
one painted floor cloth	u 10	
one Round Tea Table	1 u	
one Mahogany Bedsted Bed & furniture	20 u	
five Carved Mahogany Chairs w <sup>t</sup> yellow Damask Bottoms	6 u	
one Arm'd do	3 u	
one Dressing Table w <sup>t</sup> drawers	1 u 10	
one Dressing Glass w <sup>t</sup> do	7 u 10	
one painted Bedsted w <sup>t</sup> do	2 u 8	
four Mahogany Chairs w <sup>t</sup> leather Bottoms	u 18	
one pair of Glass Shades	u 6	
one mahogany Bed Chair	20 u	
one Mahogany Bedsted Bed & furniture	1 u 10	
one Close stool Chair	8 u	
one Mahogany Chest of drawers		
one mahogany wash-hand stand		

"An Estimate of the Estate and Effects of John Moultrie Esq  
deceased late Chief Justice of East Florida by Robert  
Catherwood, John Forbes and Tho. Moultrie Sworn appraisers",





9 Pence Quire tax on paper, 1 shilling Stamp Act tax  
on legal documents



To

W<sup>m</sup> Franklin

via New York  
by Packet



Philadelphia

Bene Franklin

Address panel only 1766-1774, London  
FREE franking privilege  
Co-Deputy PMG 1753-1774  
Franklin-Hunter Instructions of 1753-4



2-16  
P  
Israel Pemberton  
Merchant  
in  
Philadelphia

ANNA  
STODOLSKA

West River (Maryland) January 12, 1767 2 dwt 16 grs = 8p for the 125 mile trip



25

POST  
PAID

PAID  
DET. PH.  
J. A. W.

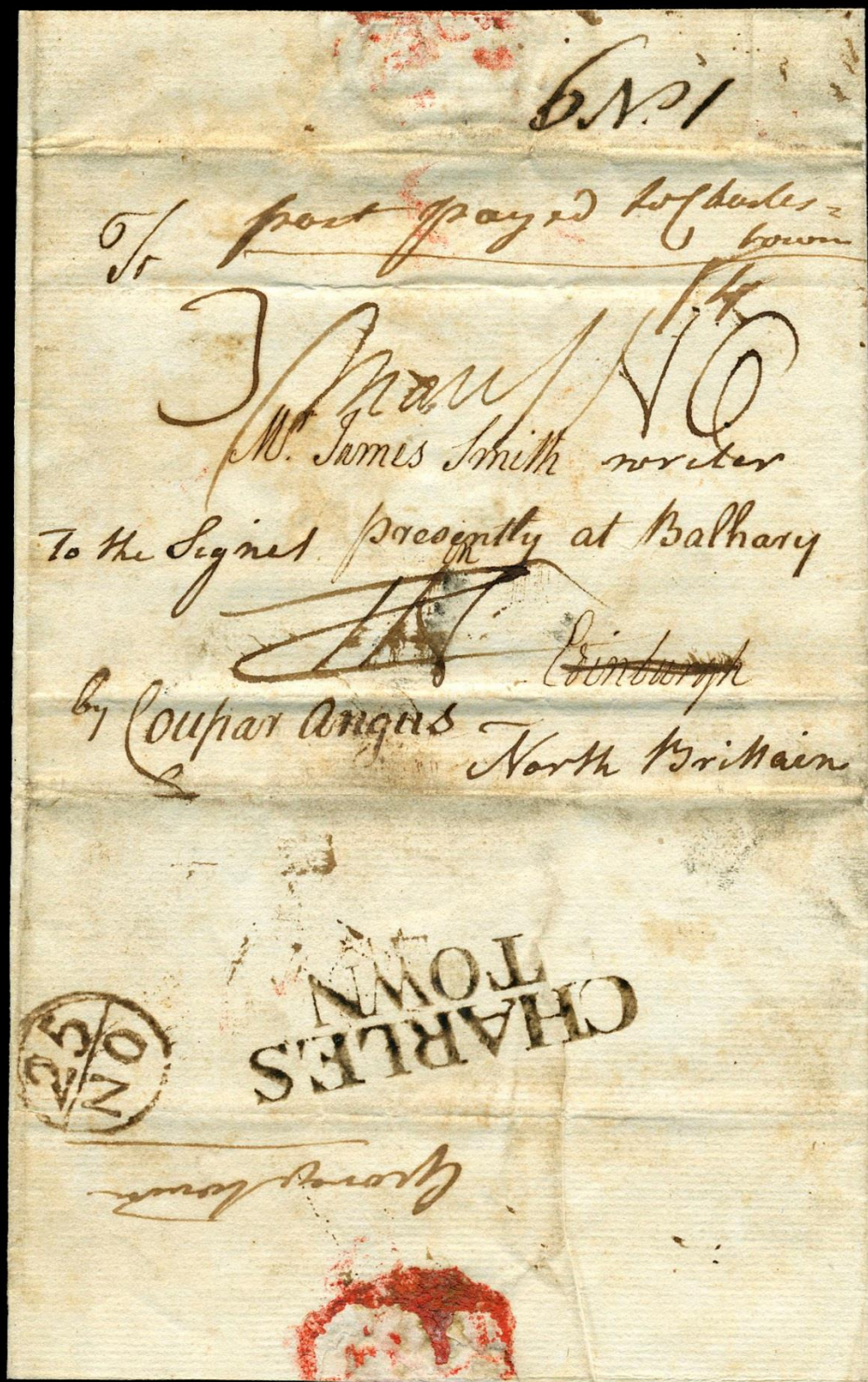
Major — Fundy —  
Trader on the  
Mohawk River

To the Care of Mr. Robert French  
at Schenectady, who is acquainted to forward  
it to the proper Authority & will greatly  
obey his Orders. Johnes P. 23



To the care of Mr Robert French at  
Schenectady, who is Equipped to forward  
it proper Opportunity & He will greatly  
Oblige his Oblserv. John Jay Jr





Georgetown (Wynah Bay So. Carolina) Sept 3, 1772.

Post Payed to Charlestown /4, 1N (crossed out) Packet rate, Eagle dep Ch-  
town Oct 1, arr London 25NO, 6p to Edinburgh, 3p to Balhany, 1N9.



Jos: Peddle  
8<sup>th</sup> Nov  
1772

John Cadwalader Esq:  
in

1/4

2-16

sb

Post

Philadelphia

Talbot Maryland 1772

Eastern Shore Maryland mail transit via New Town on the Chester River

$2.16 = 8p$ , x  $1.67$  depreciation =  $14p$ , +  $2p$  City delivery =  $16p = 1/4$



1829..14...

NEW  
TOWN

<sup>5</sup>  
1834 14-





For

To pay 6

Thomas Nickleson

INLAND AND  
PACKET POSTAGE

Inall 1n10

at

Packet, via  
New York

Pool

Dorsetshire

204



Philadelphia January 4, 1774

"To Pay 6d", Accountancy Marking 1N6, 4p to Pool, Inall 1n10



Mr. John Hamant Esq  
all  
Meddle  
with Care & Speed

Sturbridge August 27, 1774



INA

4

Doctor Elisha Hall

Lancaster County

Virginia

Philadelphia November 11, 1774





Pigg Point (near Upper Marlborough) March 7, 1775

Specie rating for 135 mile trip to  
Philadelphia



To

The D. Post Master at

FREE

Newport.

From  
R. Hobbs

NEW YORK N



closed

L

New York March 7, 1775



N 8

To Samuel Johnston Esquire

To the care of Edenton  
North Carolina  
Messrs. Gibson & Co  
Suffolk Virginia

JUN:20

SUFFOLK

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1775

Suffolk Virginia April 7, 1775

Hugh Finlay Diary.. "Edenton is 55 miles from Suffolk on the mainline of the Post" N8 = double weight



May 6

Albany

To

10/1/75

Isaac Todd Esq.  
Mont. in

Montreal.

Albany May 6, 1775

Ticonderoga falls May 10



1/8 To ~~RS~~ N8  
The Rev. M.<sup>r</sup> Batwell  
at York Town  
Pennsylvania

Talbot Court House July 8, 1775

N8 inland to Philadelphia + 6 p to York Penna. = 1N2, 1/8 in  
Penn local



RECEIVED

1913

TALBOT C HOUSE

JULY 3



3/6 2H  
Mr John Mitchell Senr

1/1. Front Street

Philadelphia

OCT. 2

NORFOLK

John Hancock  
Sept. 6. 1775  
Barbadoes

Barbadoes September 6, 1775

1/1. Caribbean ship + Captain's penny, 2H = 2 Shillings, double weight inland, 3/6 = 42p, Penn local equivalent



Toid ~~1/4~~ N 8

W<sup>r</sup> John. Mitchell

Merchant

Post

Philadelphia

CHESTER\*T SEPT 19

1775

Talbot Court House (Maryland) September 17, 1775

Rated in Sterling, N8, and bearing a Crown type CHESTER\*T, letter suggests cooperation between postal systems.



1775  
N<sup>Y</sup> YORK AU<sup>GA</sup>

Cam<sup>b</sup> 7/8

M<sup>r</sup> Reynells & Coates

march

In philadelphia

Newburyport August 11, 1775

Camb of Massachusetts Provincial Post

Turquoise marking of Congressional Post, July 26, 1775





Barnstable, March 9, 1776



Phil:<sup>a</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>  
JH  
Messrs  
To  
Nicholas Brown & Co.  
Merchants  
Providence

Philadelphia April 20, 1776

Via New Haven, from Josiah Hewes, Signer



To  
Mr. John Mitchell  
Merrett in  
Philadelphia

1776  
9d

BALTIMORE,  
JULY 9.

Baltimore July 9, 1776



To Mr. Franklin  
Col. Bull  
of the Pennsylvania  
Forces  
South Amboy

PHILADELPHIA  
AUG 27

Philadelphia August 27, 1776