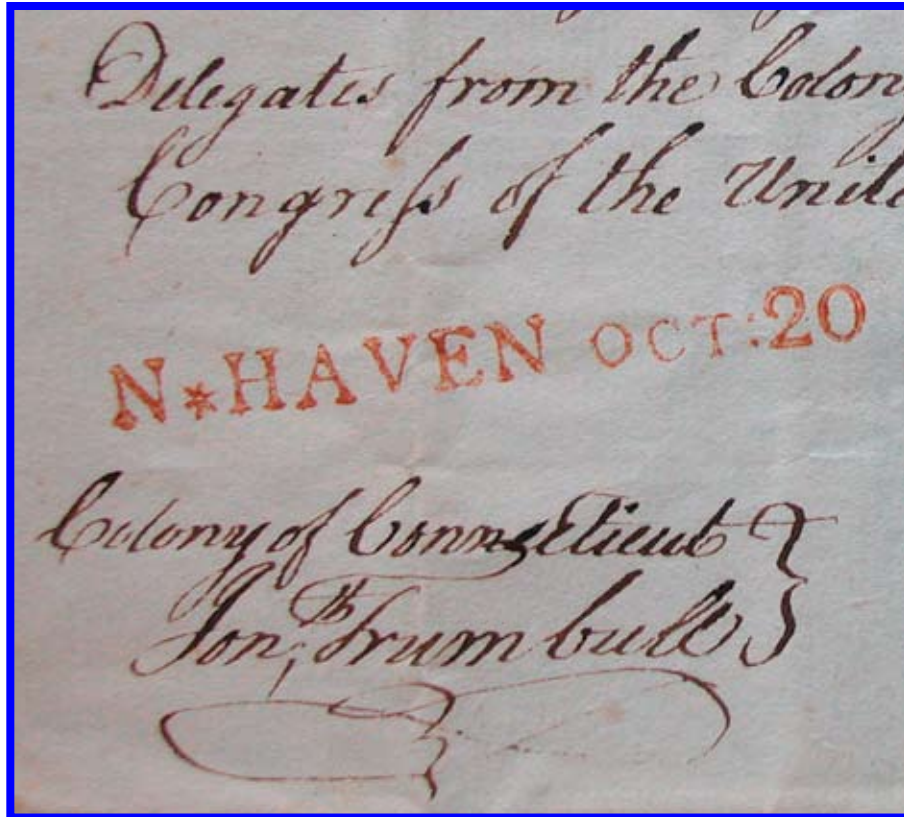


CONNECTICUT



STRAIGHTLINE CENSUS

Compiled

by

WJ Duffney

Introduction

Straightline postmarks are among the first handstamps used in the United States. Simply defined, they are markings in which the post office name appears in one or two straight lines, with or without a frameline. When the postmark has more than one line, the lines are parallel. These devices were made from movable type procured from local print shops.

The larger post offices had seen mail arriving from Europe with straightline markings and they served as models for American handstamps. The earliest straightline marking currently recorded used on these shores was a two-line NEW / YORK of March 15, 1756.

By July 26, 1775, when Benjamin Franklin became the first Postmaster General of the United Colonies, he had established a network of business partners in the printing trade, several of whom were patriots during the American Revolution. Franklin appointed many of them, or their relatives, as postmasters. These early printer-postmasters had a clear business advantage for distributing their newspapers using the mails. We can imagine them reaching for the type at hand to create their straightline handstamps. Following just a single branch of Franklin's network in Connecticut yields some interesting facts.

In New London the Franklin appointment went to printer Dr. Giles Goddard. In 1775 his son, printer-patriot William, set up the Constitutional Post which operated from Massachusetts to Virginia. It ran independently from the British Post and quickly ran them out of business. Because of this William Goddard is remembered as the "Father of the American Postal System." His associates John Parker and John Holt ran the New Haven Post Office under the British system. It was John Holt who assisted Goddard in establishing the Constitutional Post. Under Goddard's new authority the New Haven postmastership was given to another printer, Elias Beers, who continued under Franklin. William's sister Mary Katharine Goddard became our first woman postmaster, in Baltimore, and Congress chose her to print the Declaration of Independence. Research on the biographies of earliest Connecticut postmasters would be a captivating project and is long overdue.

This census is an on-going effort to record all Connecticut straightline postmarks of the 18th and 19th Centuries. The Connecticut Postal History Society first published the census on compact disc in 2008. It has been compiled through the generous contributions of the members of the CPHS, searches of auction catalogs, philatelic literature, and the internet. It relies on previous studies done by Robert F. Chambers, David L. Jarrett, and Dr. James W. Milgram, as well as information from the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. The information has been updated for this website. I intend to continue to collect data and hope that eventually other philatelists will carry on the work. We were fortunate to have access to the photographic and philatelic archives of the late Arthur J. Warmsley.

A total 472 examples from 57 different Connecticut post offices are currently recorded. Contributions of new information to the census are welcomed. A numerical summary follows.

~ W.J. Duffney

Acknowledgments

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All entries reside in private collections unless source information is given. Commercial philatelic dealers are given credit when items have been recorded from their stock.

Post Office	Number	EKU/OKU	SL Styles
Black Hall	4	04-06-1894	1
Bridgeport	8	- -1805	1
Brookfield	1	05-22-1840	1
Canaan	1	08-17-1827	1
Central Village	3	05-19-1847	1
Chaplin	1	10-07-1829	1
Chelsea Landing	4	11-10-1823	2
Colebrook [2]	1	11-29-1830	1
Danbury	4	04-19-1794	2
Deep River	1	Unk Date	1
Derby [1]	5	08-06-1799	1
Durham	3	06-22-1800	2
East Goshen	4	03-06-1828	1
East Guilford	1	08-23-1821	1
East Lyme	1	05-06-1846	1
Essex	5	07-31-1882	1
Farmington	15	09-07-1829	1
Fisherville	1	06-19-1846	1
Franklin [2]	24	06-24-1862	5
Greenwich	2	07-18-NYD	2
Hartford	45	01-23-1766	4
Killingly [1]	1	10-13-1827	1
Litchfield	52	06-18-1804	5
Lyme	7	11-15-1836	2
Middle Haddam	1	- -1838	1
Middletown	4	- -1792	1
New Hartford	1	09-26-1832	1
New Haven	53	01-06-1775	3
New London	38	01-05-1774	2
Northville	1	- -1859	1
Norwalk	1	02-14-1775	1
Norwich [1]	21	10-14-1789	3
Oakland	2	03-14-1842	1
Pomfret	11	09-22-1829	1
Poquonock	2	07-15-1827	1
Quinebaug [2]	1	02-08-1888	1
Ripton	1	- -1808	1
Rocky Hill	1	- -1833	1
South Farms	1	- -1829	1
Southford	2	12-29-1882	1
South Glastonbury	5	- -1841	2
South Norwalk	3	07-17-1845	1
Stamford	10	09-29-1800	1
Sterling Hill	1	01-25-NYD	1
Stonington	21	03-18-1800	4
Thompson	5	09-11-1826	1
Tolland	4	09-11-1826	1
Washington	2	10-06-1837	2
West Cheshire	4	06-26-1854	1
West Hartland	5	08-12-1843	1
West Meriden	29	03-24-1846	2
West Woodstock	7	06-07-1830	1
Willington	8	10-31-1851	2
Winchester	2	08-27-1827	1
Windham	8	01-12-1795	3
Windsor	21	06-29-1840	2
Woodstock [1]	2	03-13-1851	1

Chronological List of Connecticut Straightline EKUs

Hartford	01-23-1766	Colebrook [2]	11-29-1830
New London	01-05-1774	New Hartford	09-26-1832
New Haven	01-06-1775	Rocky Hill	__-__-1833
Norwalk	02-14-1775	Lyme	11-15-1836
Norwich [1]	10-14-1789	Washington	10-06-1837
Middletown	__-__-1792	Middle Haddam	__-__-1838
Danbury	04-19-1794	Brookfield	05-22-1840
Windham	01-12-1795	Windsor	06-29-1840
Derby [1]	08-06-1799	South Glastonbury	__-__-1841
Stonington	03-18-1800	Oakland	03-14-1842
Durham	06-22-1800	West Hartland	07-07-1843
Stamford	09-29-1800	South Norwalk	07-17-1845
Litchfield	06-18-1804	West Meriden	03-24-1846
Bridgeport	__-__-1805	East Lyme	05-06-1846
Ripton	__-__-1811	Fisherville	06-19-1846
East Guilford	08-23-1821	Central Village	05-19-1847
Chelsea Landing	__-__-1824	Woodstock [1]	03-13-1851
Tolland	09-11-1826	Willington	10-31-1851
Poquonock	07-15-1827	West Cheshire	06-26-1854
Canaan	08-17-1827	Northville	__-__-1859
Winchester	08-27-1827	Franklin [2]	06-24-1862
Killingly [1]	10-13-1827	Essex	10-09-1882
Thompson	__-__-1827	Southford	12-29-1882
East Goshen	03-06-1828	Quinebaug [2]	02-08-1888
Farmington	09-07-1829	Black Hall	04-06-1894
Chaplin	10-07-1829	Deep River	Unk Date
Pomfret	10-12-1829	Greenwich	Unk Date
South Farms	__-__-1829	Sterling Hill	Unk Date
West Woodstock	06-07-1830		

Table Layout

Date	Straightline	Size	Notes
Date that the straightline was struck, or datelined	General configuration of the handstamp*	Size from source or from actual measurement**	Rate, Description, Destination, Source
	Postmaster		
	Postmaster at the time of use		
<p>*General configuration is not accurate for items which were not viewed or available in illustrations. Such entries are recorded as [No Photo Available].</p> <p>**New measurements done for this census are based on the criteria set forth in the <i>ASCC</i>. Size includes the town name and state designation, plus any star or punctuation mark immediately adjacent. Size does not include month, day, or year. If the town name is in two lines, the height includes both lines. Size should be taken only as a guide because not all sources measured in the same way.</p>			

Key

DL	Double Line	Re-est	Re-established
EKU	Earliest Known Use Currently Recorded	Sc	Scott Catalog
LKU	Latest Known Use Currently Recorded	SL	Straightline
OKU	Only Known Use Currently Recorded	St	State
Co	County	Twn	Town
c	Circa (placed before or after figures)	2L, 3L	Two Line, Three Line, etc.
Disc	Discontinued	Unk	Unknown
DPO	Discontinued Post Office	/	Beginning of new line below
Est	Established	[1], etc.	Denotes a single name designation that was assigned more than once, not necessarily to the same office location
FF	Free Frank	AJW	Arthur J. Warmsley Archives
hs	Handstamp	ASCC	American Stampless Cover Catalog
MD	Month Date	CHS	Connecticut Historical Society
MDD	Month and Day Date	C-RL	Christie's Robson Lowe
MDDY	Month, Day Date and Year	DK	Daniel Kellogg Auction
Ms/ms	Manuscript	MB	Matthew Bennett International
NYD	No Year Date	Nutmeg	Harmer Nutmeg Auctions
Op	Operating	Paige	Samuel C. Paige Auction
PM	Postmaster	RAS	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries
PMFF	Postmaster Free Frank	RCF	Richard C. Frajola Auction
Pmk	Postmark		
PO	Post Office		
PSE	Postal Stationery Entire		

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