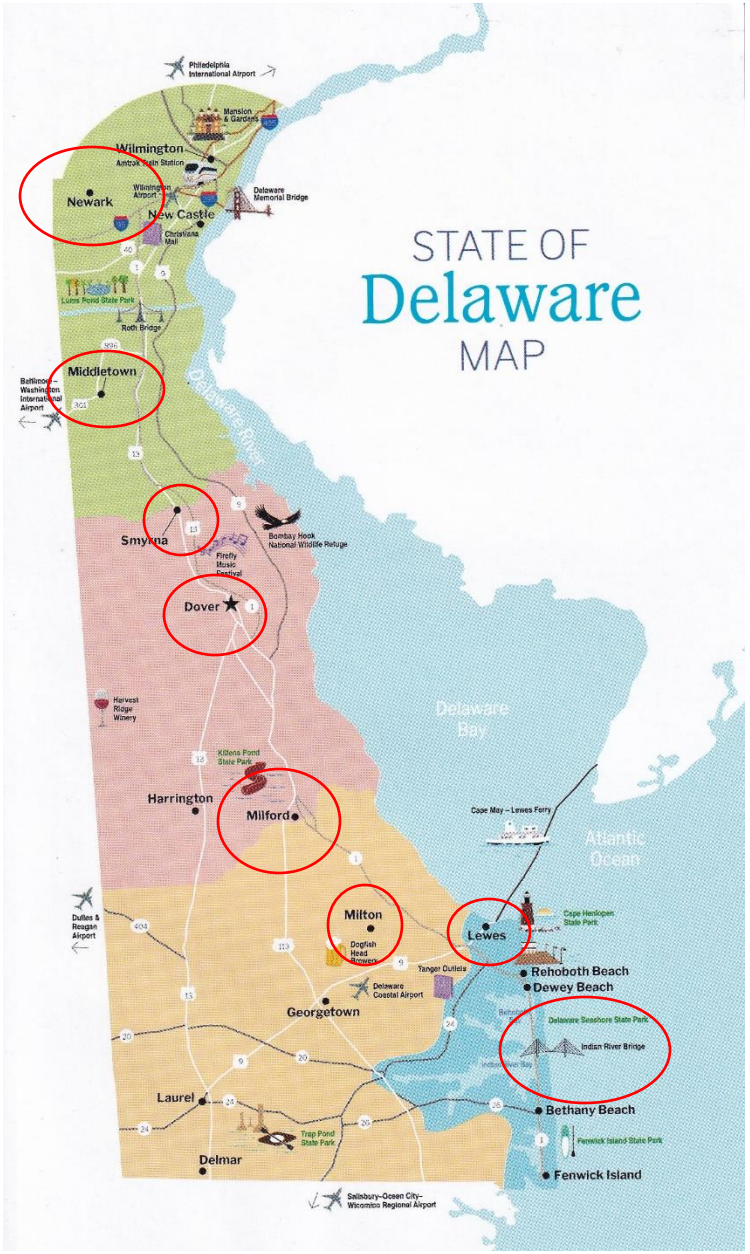
A Trip to the Seashore

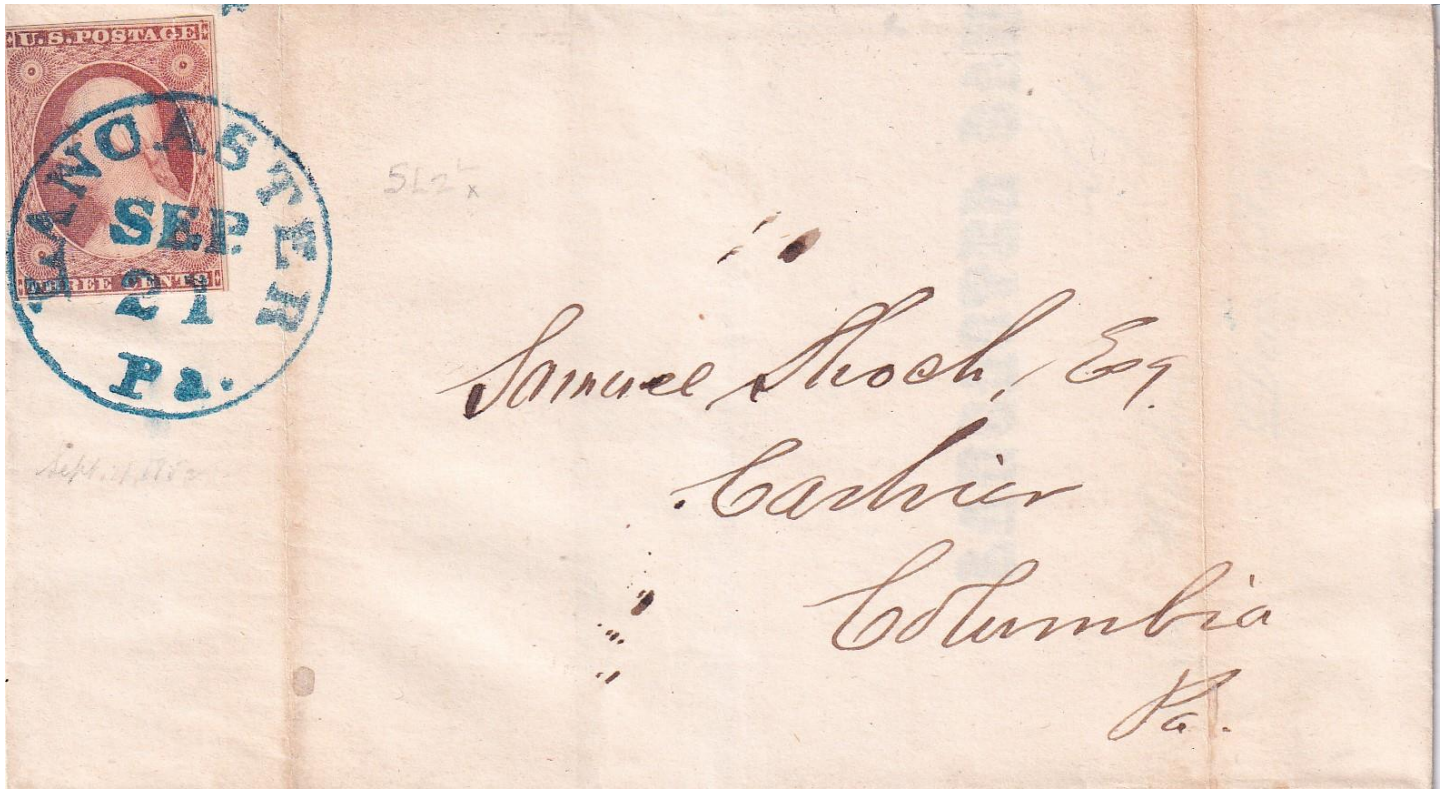
A PSLC Show and Tell Presentation

By Scott Ney

August 28, 2024


STATE OF
Delaware
MAP
Philadelphia International Airport
Mansion & Gardens
Wilmington
Amtrak Train Station
Newark
Wilmington Airport
Delaware Memorial Bridge
New Castle
Christiana Mall
Lums Pond State Park
Roth Bridge
Middletown
Baltimore–Washington International Airport
Delaware River
Smyrna
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
Firefly Music Festival
Dover
Harvest Ridge Winery
Delaware Bay
Killens Pond State Park
Harrington
Milford
Cape May – Lewes Ferry
Atlantic Ocean
Dulles & Reagan Airport
Milton
Dogfish Head Brewery
Lewes
Cape Henlopen State Park
Tanger Outlets
Rehoboth Beach
Dewey Beach
Georgetown
Delaware Coastal Airport
Delaware Seashore State Park
Indian River Bridge
Laurel
Bethany Beach
Trap Pond State Park
Fenwick Island State Park
Delmar
Fenwick Island
Salisbury–Ocean City–Wicomico Regional Airport

Our trips from Lebanon always went through Lancaster, usually picking up at RT 896 where the outlet stores are now. Sometimes our route went through Gap, and when I went to the beach with my Boy Scout troop, we usually went south through the City of Lancaster.



One landmark we frequently passed on South 896, near Oxford in Chester County, is Lincoln University. Founded in 1854, it was renamed for President Abraham Lincoln in 1866, and is a public state-related historically black university. This cover is from early in its history, long before future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall graduated with honors in 1930.

Our first glimpse of Delaware was usually Newark, and the University of Delaware's campus. We'd also pass the Chrysler plant, which has long since been redeveloped.

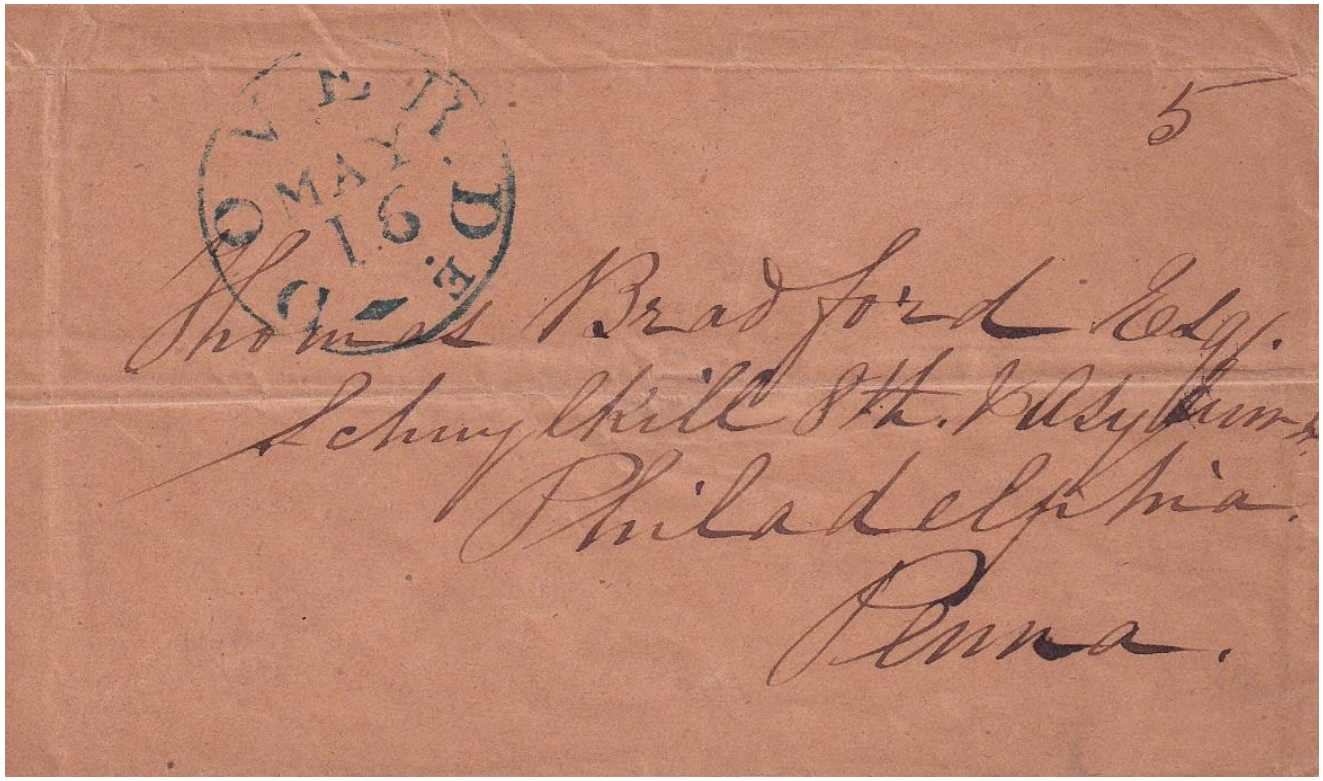
Our family normally didn't drive through Wilmington, especially on the way down, as my dad liked to avoid traffic by traveling at night and avoiding cities. If he was in a shopping mood, he had some shopping areas outside of Wilmington that he liked to stop at on the way home, particularly the old Sears Outlet.

On our trips down via RT 896, we would cut across before we got to Middletown, and get on RT 13 where 896 ends at a place called Price's Corner. Now, at the same location, there's an option of getting on the RT 1 toll highway, which runs past Dover and saves a considerable amount of time. The RT 1 toll highway was not built until I was in high school, and I remember driving parallel to it as it was being built. Despite the difference in travel times, I still enjoy taking the old RT 13 with my family, especially if we are not in a hurry.

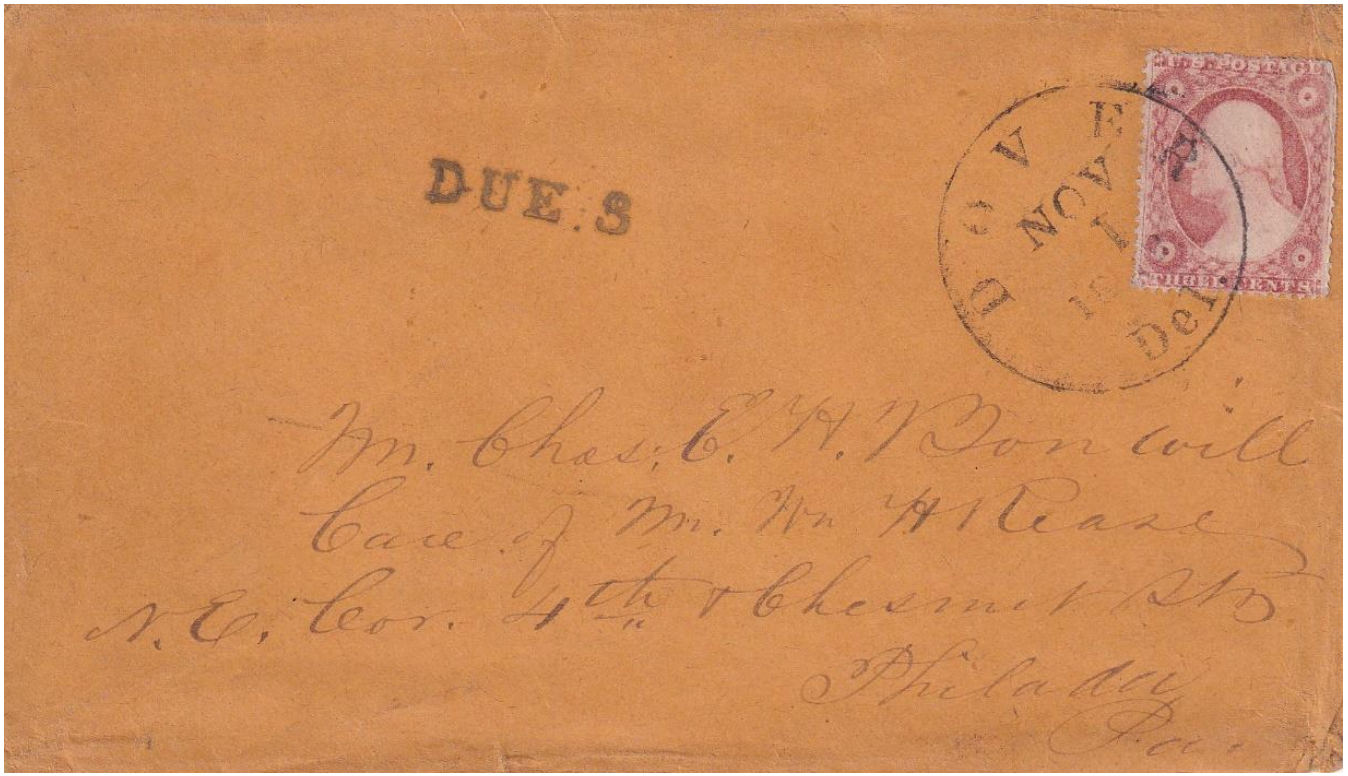
Odessa, which doesn't appear on many smaller maps, was a town my dad was careful not to drive through too fast. A Delaware State Police troop is located there.

Smyrna is a place outside of Dover where we take a break, in the present day as we did back then. McDonald's was a frequent stop then, and presently we almost always stop at the modern rest area off of RT 13, which is directly accessible from limited access highway RT 1.

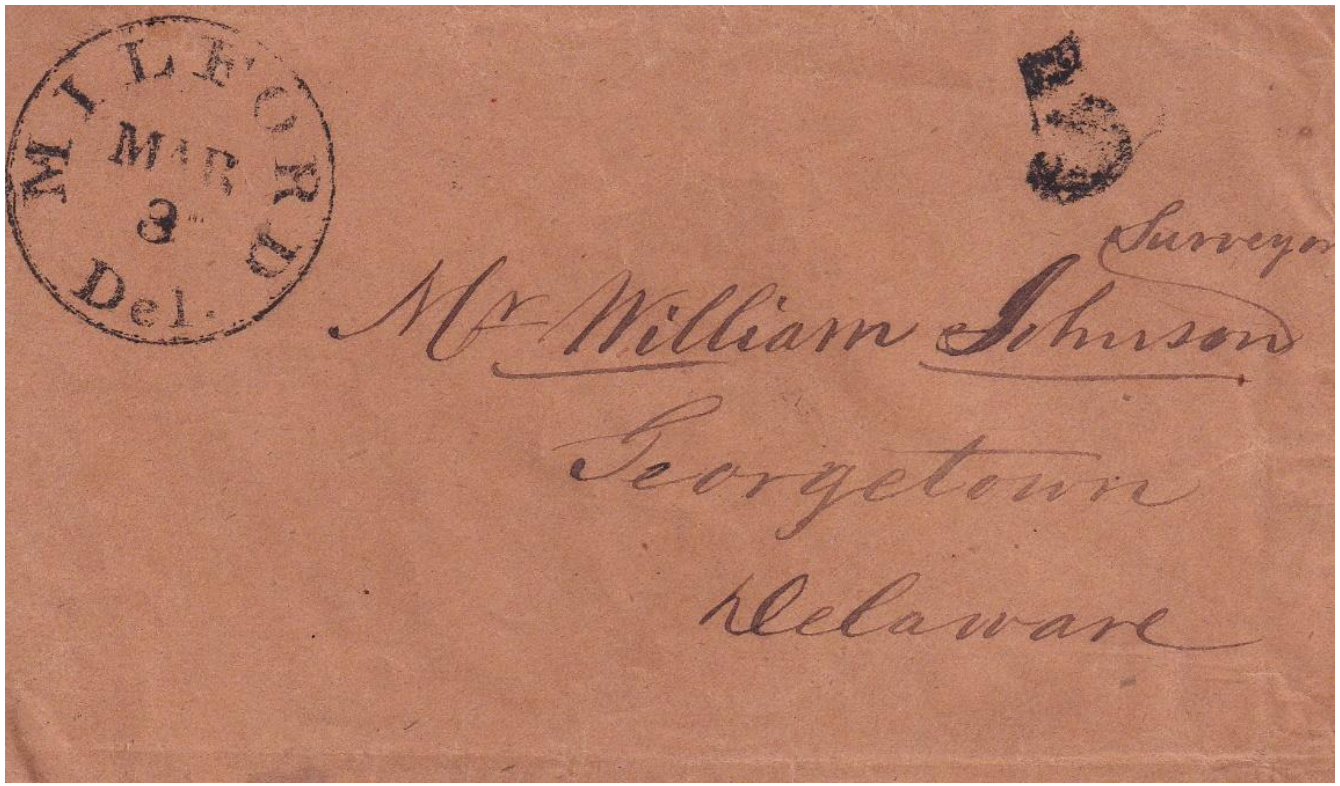
Once we got to Dover, the capitol of Delaware, we knew we were getting close to the beaches.



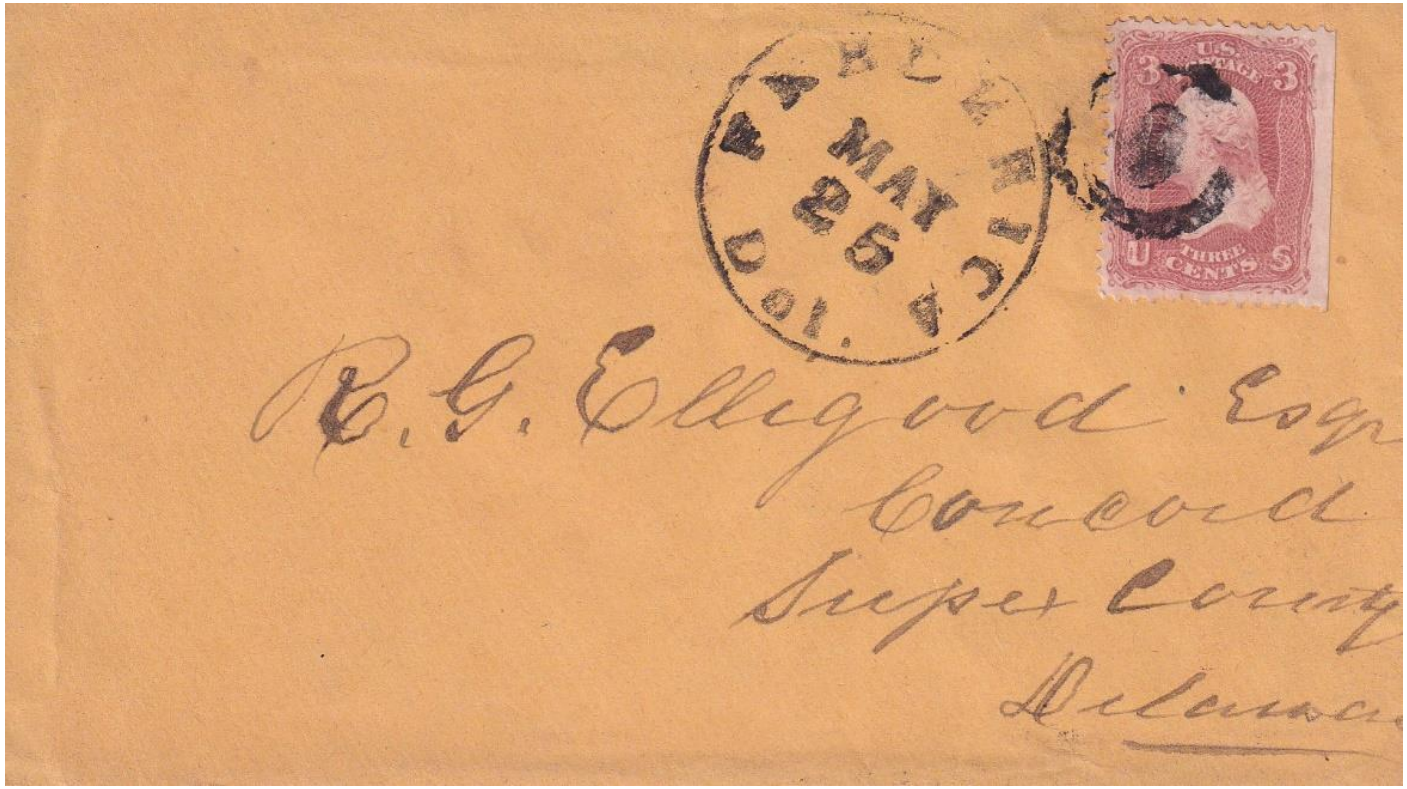
Dover Air Force Base has always had the biggest airplanes you will ever see, and now I enjoy pointing them out to my own kids as we are driving by.



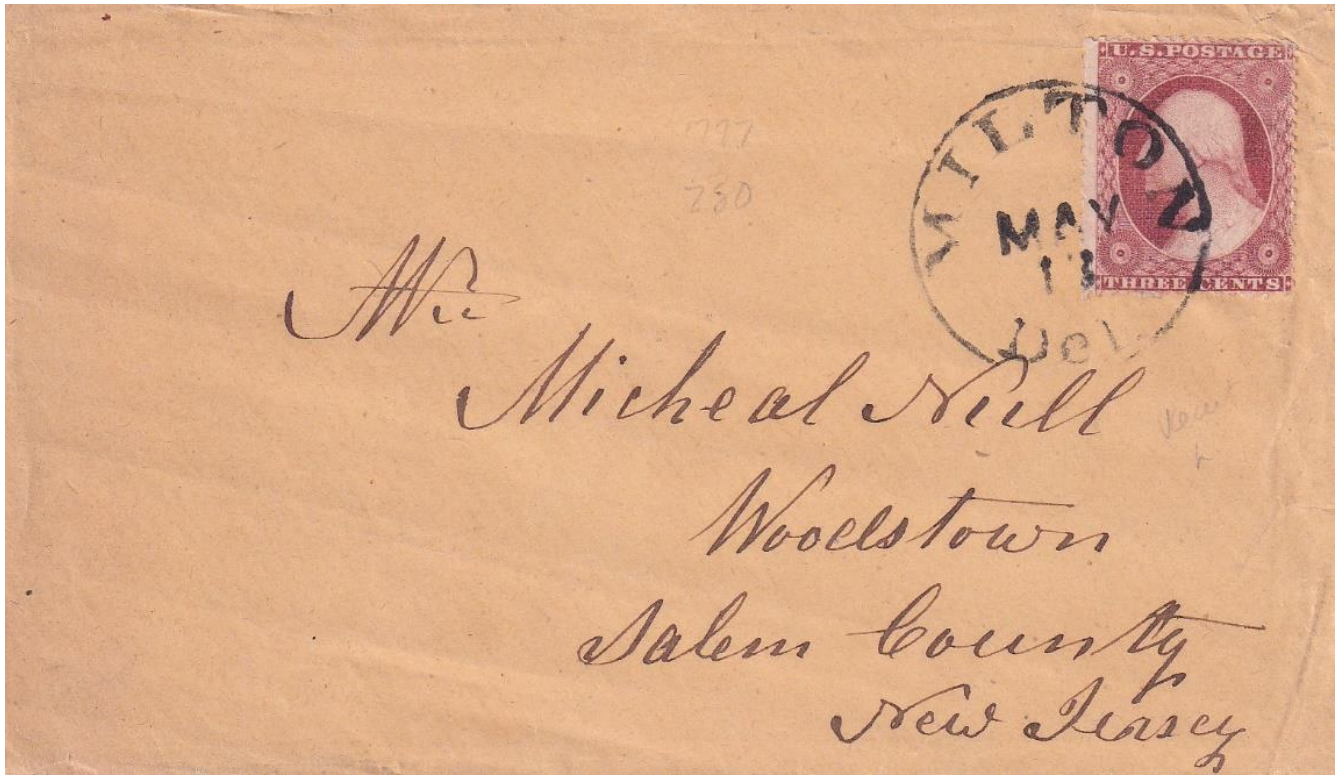
Back in the day, Milford was never a stopping place on the way to the seashore, because there was almost nothing there along the highway. Over the years the highway front has been built up to match the bustling town adjacent to it. Now we usually stop for lunch at Milford's Grotto Pizza before we get to the beaches.



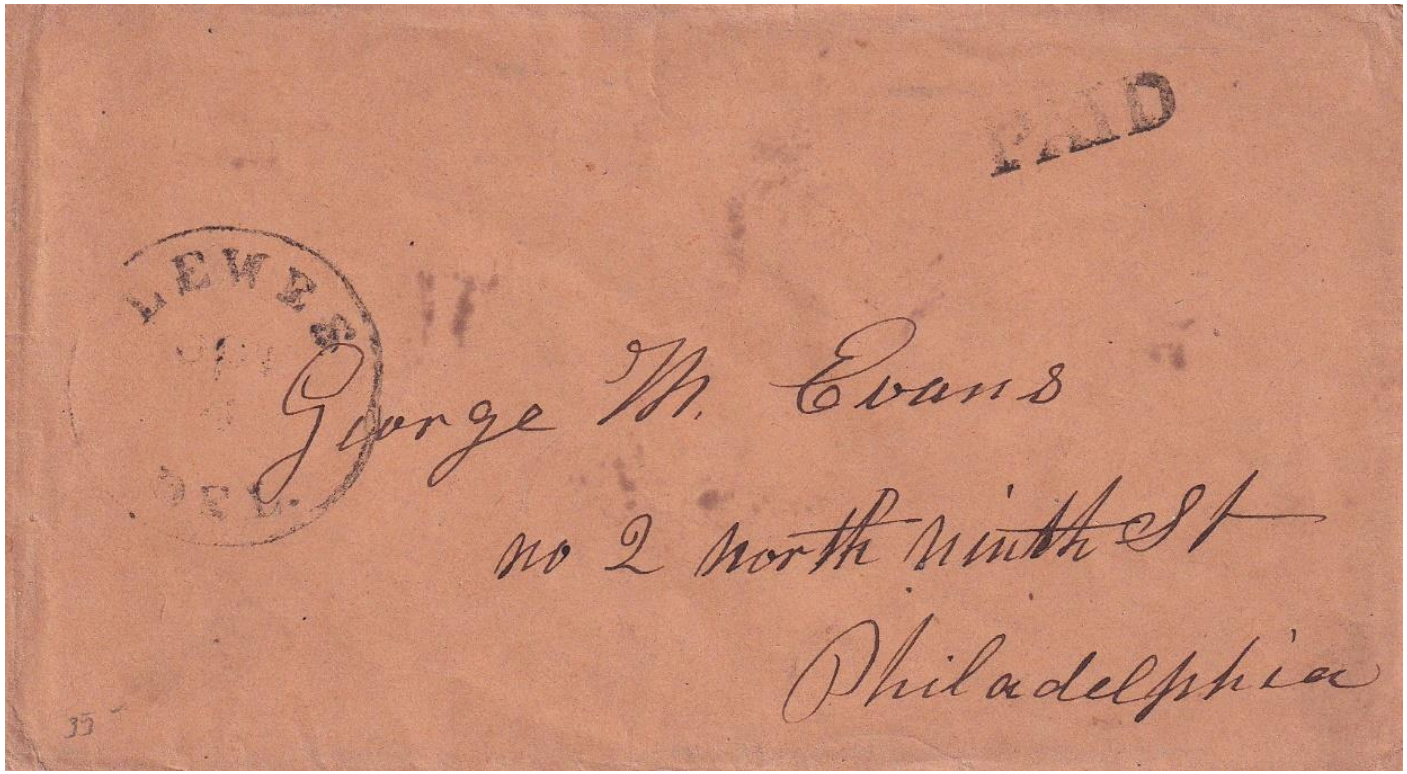
Past Milford, the Coastal Highway swings east towards the coast around Frederica. There you can take the coastal highway to Rehoboth Beach and points south, or take RT 113, the back way that runs all the way to Ocean City, Maryland.



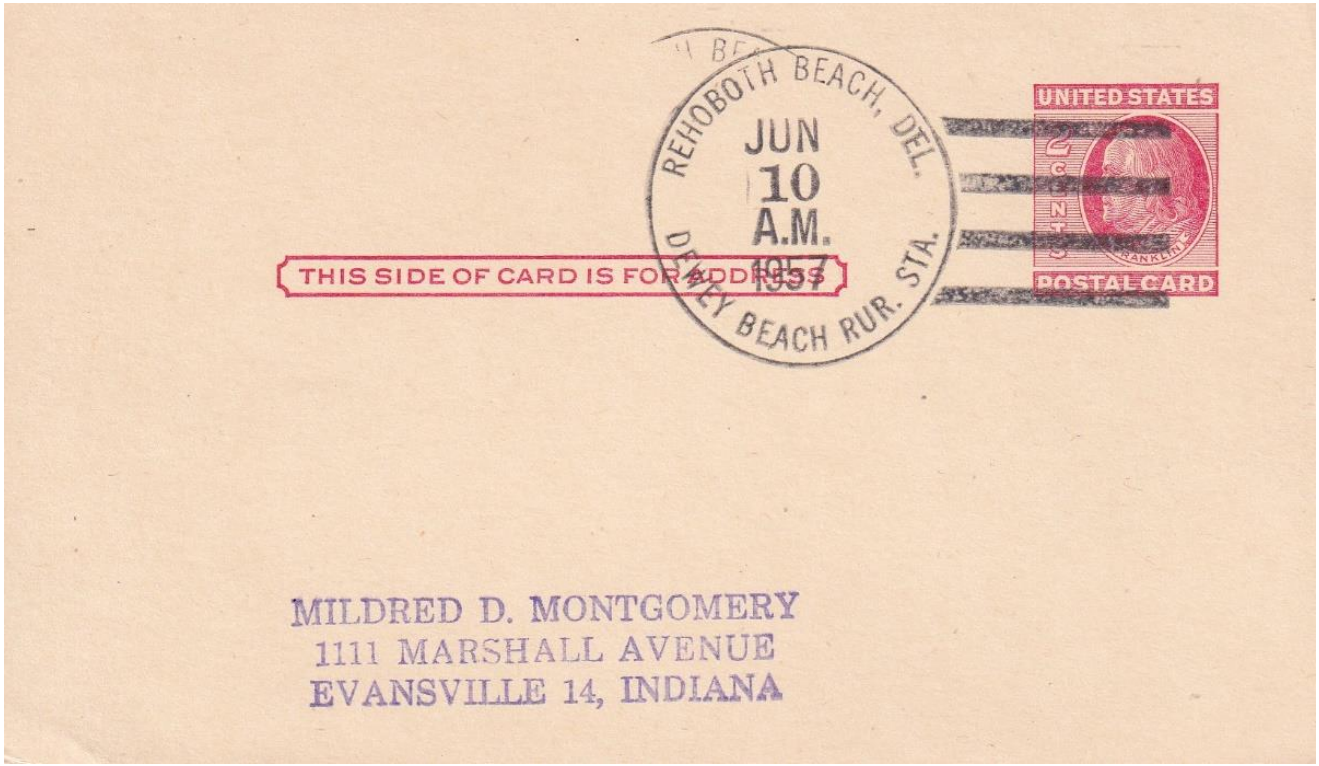
Milton is a quaint old town we used to pass by without seeing and without thinking too much about. Nowadays, we have friends who live down there, and get to enjoy its charm when we visit with them.



By the time we get to Lewes, we're all but at the beach. Lewes is another very old town, with a small museum that honors their history as a Dutch trading post that was founded in 1631.



The trip to the seashore has changed a lot since the carefree days of my childhood. When we'd arrive at the seashore, in the small hours of the morning, my most vivid memory is of the brightly colored sign of the Sea Esta III Hotel, well-lit and standing watch over the quiet streets of Dewey Beach. That sign hasn't changed much over the years, and it remains a comforting sight to behold.



I hope this trip down the highway of my summer memories encourages you to take a trip or two of your own to share with us!