

U.S. REVENUE STAMPS USED in MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.

By Donald A. Chafetz

Beginning in 1862, the first revenue stamps printed for the United States government were issued during the Civil War to help raise the revenue to pay for the war's costs. To confirm that taxes were paid, a revenue stamp was affixed to the taxable document. The stamps paid the taxes due on a wide variety of financial transactions including checks, stock purchases, medicines, receipts of goods and a wide variety of services.

Just as philatelists collect postal history to document the routes and payment of rates shown by postage stamps on covers, revenue collectors are drawn to the variety of documents to which these revenue stamps are affixed. This article shows a cross section of Morris County uses of 19th Century revenue stamps.

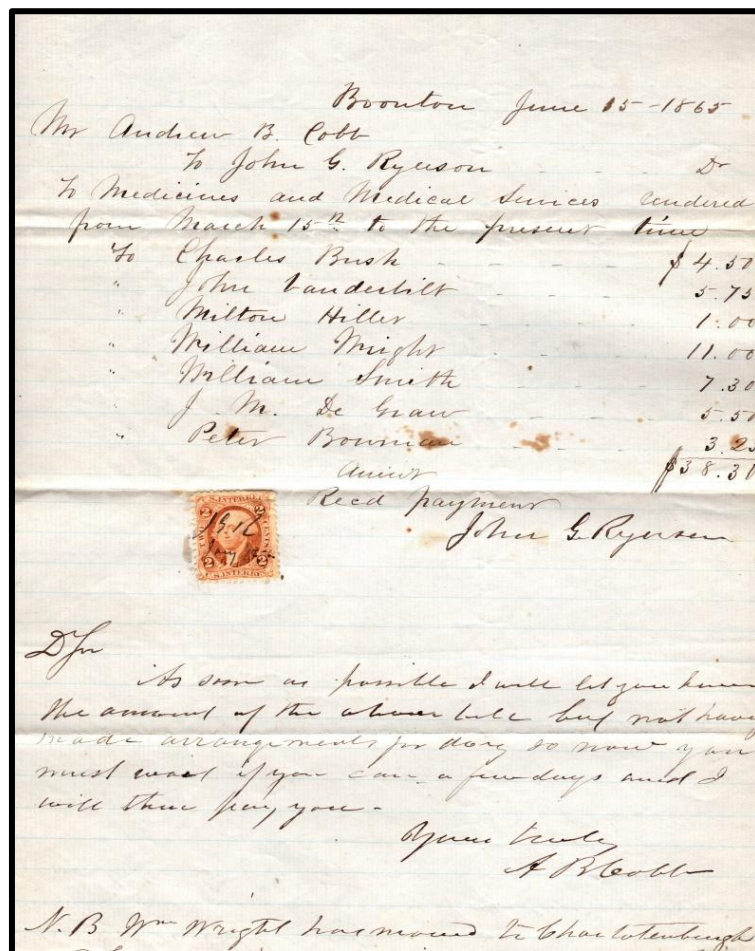


Fig. 1. "Morris Canal Banking Co." April 25 1868 handstamp cancel on
25-cent Power of Attorney (Scott #R48c)

Fig. 2. 2-cent U.S. Internal Revenue (Scott #R15c) pen cancelled, on Boonton, N.J. promise of
payment of bill for medicines and medical services in amount of \$38.30, June 15, 1865.

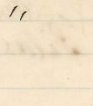
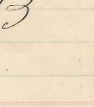
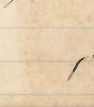
Received, <i>February 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>P. D. Spring</i> <i>2 D. Sheep</i>  	Received, <i>Feb 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>one chest</i> <i>Joseph G. Marsh</i> 
Received, <i>Feb 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>C. V. Freeman</i> <i>1 Bbl Angolan</i> <i>1 Bbl Coffee</i> <i>C. V. Freeman</i> 	Received, <i>Feb 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>J. G. Stickels</i> <i>1 Bbl Ale</i> <i>Samuel S. McKee</i> 
Received, <i>Feb 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>A. W. Canfield</i> <i>1 Bbl Oil</i> <i>13 Bran</i>  	Received, <i>Feb 21</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>J. M. Benjamin</i> <i>3 Stubs 4 bottles</i> <i>2 Pch</i> <i>12 Bran H H</i> <i>A. W. B</i> 
Received, <i>Feb 20</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>L. & Caly</i> <i>5070 Can</i> <i>Samuel (Clifford)</i>  	Received, <i>Feb 21</i> 186<i>5</i> In Good Order, from the MORRIS & ESSEX RAILROAD COMPANY, the following: <i>Brint & Atno</i> <i>1 Bbl 2 Boxes</i> <i>A. L. Murray</i> 

Fig. 3. Morris & Essex Railroad, Sheet of 8 bill receipts for delivery of goods, each with 2 cent Orange Bank Check affixed and pen cancelled (Scott #R6c), February 20 and 21, 1865.

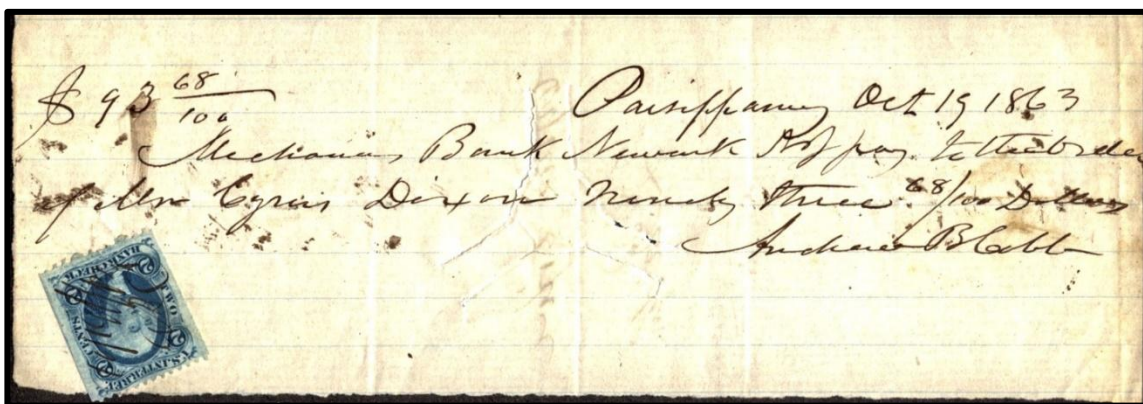


Fig. 4. 2 cent Blue Bank Check, pen cancelled (Scott #R5c) on hand drawn check in the amount of \$93.68, Parsippany, N.J., October 19, 1863.

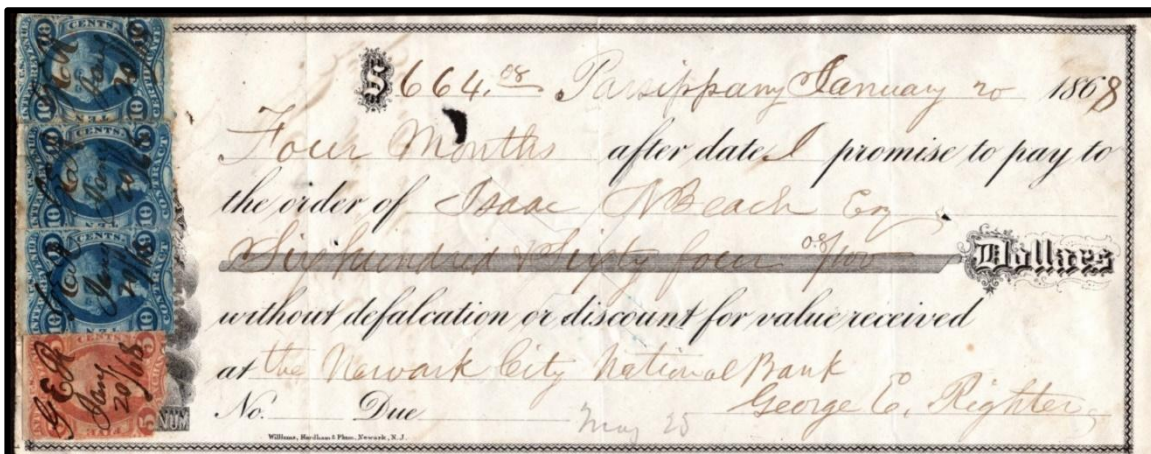


Fig. 5. Single 5 cent Red Inland Exchange, pen cancelled (Scott #R27c) and three copies of 10 cent Blue Contract (Scott #R34c) on form of blank check in the amount of \$664.08, Parsippany, N.J., January 2, 1868.

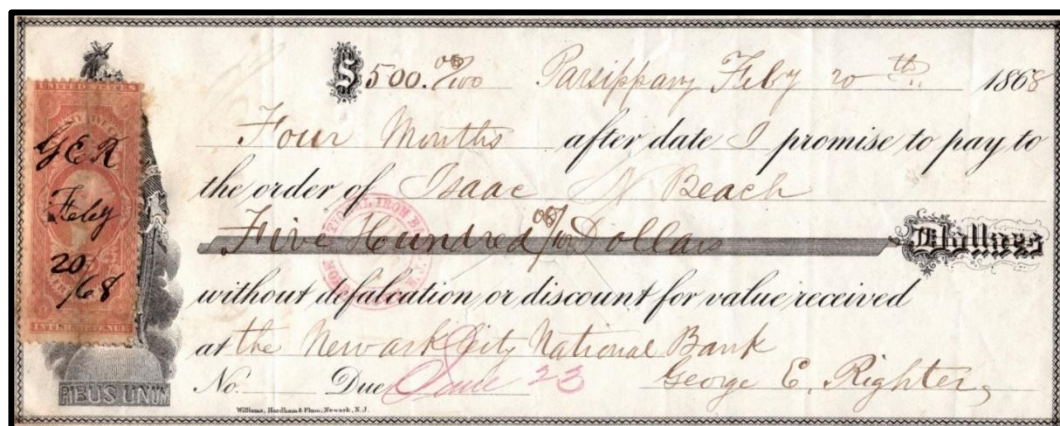


Fig. 6. 25 cent Red Certificate, pen cancelled (Scott #R44c) on printed form of check in amount of \$500.00, "National Iron Bank, Morristown, N.J." in red double circle hand stamp, Parsippany, N.J. 1868.

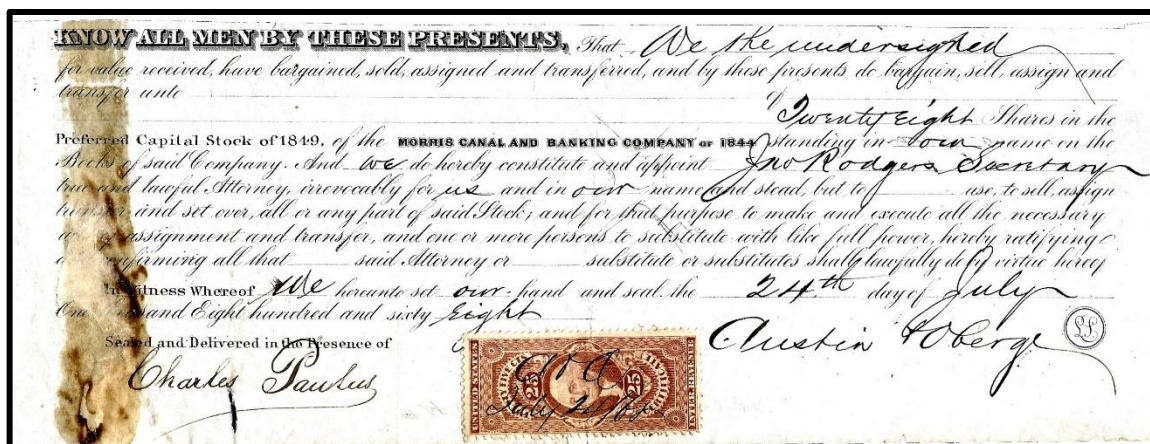


Fig. 7. 25 cent Red Certificate, pen cancelled (Scott #R44c) on printed form of stock transfer for "Morris Canal and Banking Company," July 24, 1868.

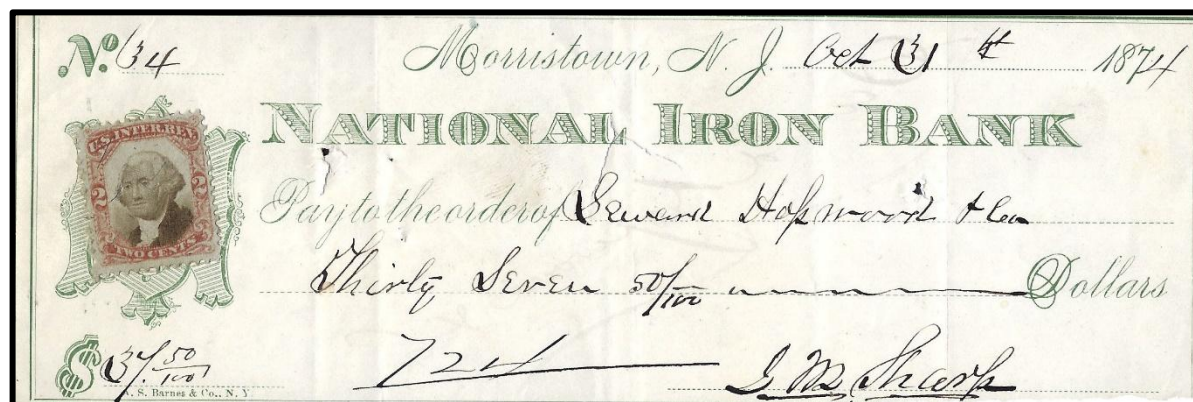


Fig. 8. 2 cent Orange & Black (Scott #R135) on printed check of National Iron Bank of Morristown, N.J. in the amount of \$37.50, October 31, 1874.



Fig. 9. 2 cent Orange Revenue Stamped Paper (Scott #RN-M2) on printed check of First National Bank of Morristown, N.J., September 19, 1876, in the amount of \$50.00.

With the onset of the Spanish American War in 1898, a new series of revenue stamps depicting the Battleship Maine were issued to help fund the hostilities.

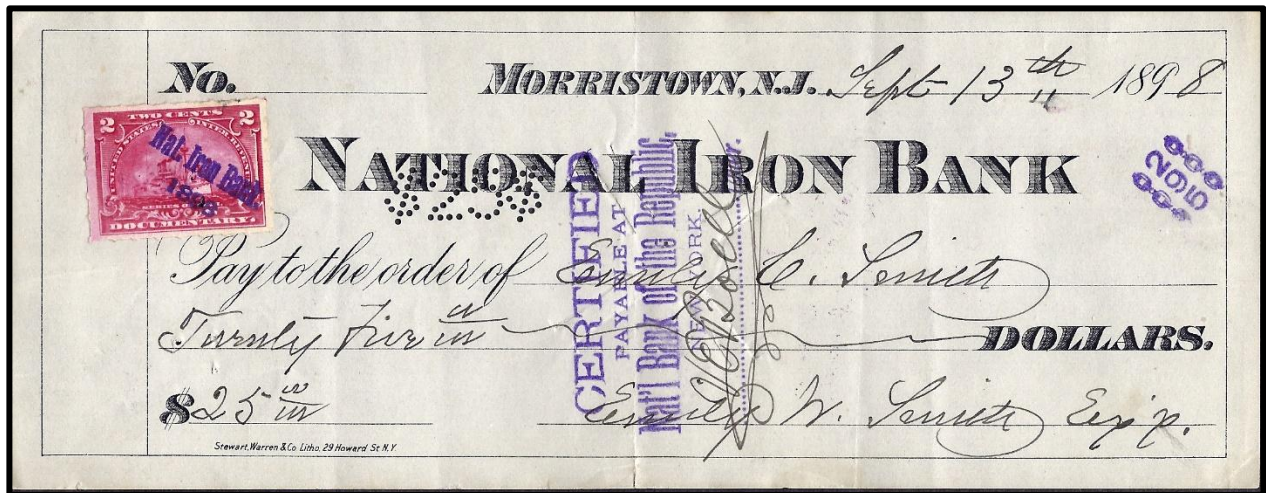


Fig. 10. 2 cent Carmine Rose (Scott #R164), cancelled with purple bank handstamp, on printed check of National Iron Bank, Morristown, N.J., September 13, 1898, certified in amount of \$25.00.



Fig. 11. Photo of National Iron Bank, c.1890, located on Washington Street, Morristown, N.J.

Courtesy of the Morristown & Morris Township Public Library