

Map 3

Post Roads 1763

This map represents the three major Post Roads in Southern New England in 1763. Before there was an organized system to send and receive mail, it was the recipient that had to pay for the item that was sent. This was because if the person sending the mail paid before the delivery trip was made, there would be no guarantee your item would make it to the recipient. But in 1750, Benjamin Franklin was appointed assistant postmaster of his majesties northern colonies. Once in charge, he created this series of post roads. The Post Roads shown are Upper Road, which leads from Boston, West to Agawam then south to New York. Middle Road, which leads from Boston, southwest to Hartford where it meets Upper Road. The Lower Road, which leads from Dedham, south to Middletown then makes a dog leg West to New Haven where it meets with Upper Road. Then there is the Providence-Norwich spur that starts in Pawtucket and travels southwest to New London. On the way along these roads there were markers that were spaced one mile apart throughout the length of the road. This gave the person sending the mail an idea of cost and the time it would take to send the item. Also instead of paying the delivery person every trip, he had a certain salary he would earn after a certain amount of time. This would guarantee the service that your mail would reach its destination. Coincidentally, this was the first actual trail map for travelers with mile markers. Now, when people traveled, they could plan how far the trip would be and how long it might take them to reach their destination.

Sponsored by: Anonymous & Barbara Clancy

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9/30/09