

Lebanon Stamp Club Newsletter

August, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Club is in the community room of the Lebanon Community Library, on the third Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 to 8:00. This month's meeting is on Tuesday, August 20.

Greetings Everyone! This is my second attempt at putting together a newsletter for our club. Those of you who were at the club meeting in July received a copy of my first effort, and everyone else received it in a less than timely manner with this month's edition. Please read both of them, as the first edition puts forth some of my ideas and goals on the project. The first two editions have fit on the front and back of a single page, but I would be more than happy to expand it to a third or even a fourth page. I'll need your help to do that!

The July meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Club

The Lebanon Stamp Club met in the community room at the Lebanon Community Library on July 16, with five members present. Scott Ney discussed plans for a regular newsletter, which he would take responsibility to produce, and had copies of a July edition that was not ready when the monthly meeting notice went out. Members present

gave their blessing to go forward with the project. Afterwards he shared a few pieces of Lebanon County postal miscellany and presented on the different uses of the Germania stamp, which was the German definitive from 1900 to 1922. Several overprinted varieties that were used in occupied territories during and after World War I were shared.

Event Calendar

August 14: Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Annual Picnic, Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville

August 20: Lebanon Club Meeting

August 25: Some Sunday Stamp Show, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster

September 17: Lebanon Club Meeting

Finding the Ney Post

Office: An Adventure in Philatelic Genealogy

The day I discovered my name on an old map of Lebanon County, I wondered if it had any relation to me. With the help of local history buffs and philatelists, I was able to confirm that it did.

At a PA German heritage festival in Lebanon, I talked with a man named David, dressed in black top hat and cape for the occasion, who had recently published a gazetteer of Lebanon County. He had the

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documentation that I needed – a chart of county post offices, with the name of my great-great grandfather Elias Ney listed as postmaster. At the same event, he introduced me to someone we all know: Glenn Blauch. He shared photocopies of his covers and other documentation with me, and alerted me to an original available for sale online, which I quickly bought. It was a bittersweet purchase, in that when the cover arrived, the name of the postmaster, which was on the postmarking device, was no longer Elias Ney. Apparently, Elias was only a temporary postmaster, just long enough to get our name on the map, and was probably the original applicant because he was one of the few people who permanently lived in the area.

The Ney PO was located in Cold Spring Township, a destination known for its refreshing natural springs, and a stop on the railroad. A large hotel that accommodated all of its visitors burned down over a century ago, and the area has been reclaimed by wilderness. A local historian who had seen the original application for a post office there once asked me if I knew why the original name written on the application was scratched out. Glenn had the answer to that – he explained that the original name proposed,

Disston, was already in use somewhere else. So as was common at the time, the new post office was named for its first postmaster.

How did the Ney family end up there? I will never know for sure, but their move to the area followed a common east to west pattern. Elias' parents married in Berks County and migrated one county west into Lebanon County. There were other members of the same branch of the Ney family who were living further west in Dauphin County. Evidence suggests that the Ney family were farmers on what was not very good farmland. Elias' father Daniel testified at the infamous Blue Eyed Six trial that two members of the gang once stole one of his cows. He listed his address on Civil War pension documents, filed as a dependent parent of his oldest son Levi (who was killed in battle in 1864), as Ney.

The Ney P.O. operated until 1903; but the place was still listed on some maps until at least 1911, the year that the Century Atlas page I discovered in the antique shop was published.

Submissions for inclusion in our newsletter

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