

# Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

## May, 2020 Supplement

The May meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club was cancelled, due to the ongoing public health emergency and stay at home orders. In lieu of a third-Tuesday meeting I have cobbled together a few pages of thoughts and observations that I hope will prompt you to think about your friendships in the LSCC for a few moments while your mind is on your own stamp collecting pursuits. I hope you're enjoying the extra time to devote to your stamps as much as I am!

## More things for you to read, courtesy of our members!

Hal Klein, longtime member of the LSCC, contributed an article to *Korean Philately* which has been reprinted in the May/June PSLC newsletter. His subject is an interesting cover which provides a one-stop survey of early classic Korean stamps. Check it out! <http://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Newsletter-2020-05-06.pdf>

And, courtesy of the PSLC, we have Dick Colburg's exhibit on Condom Postal History. Condom, as we all know, is a place in France! Dick shared this topic earlier in the year with the LSCC, and as he was not able to present his exhibit at LANCOPEX this year, he has scanned it into a virtual exhibit which

is featured prominently on the exhibit page of the PSLC website. The exhibit shows most of the postal markings used in Condom between 1791 and the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Check it out here! <http://lcps-stamps.org/presentations/exhibits/>

## So many new stamps . . .

The April newsletter of the Wyoming Valley Stamp Club had an interesting President's Letter about all the new issues of stamps that come out every year. In the letter, the club president cited an article in a recent edition of Linn's Stamp News about the cost of adding mint copies of the 2019 U.S. stamp issues to our collections. Linn's reported that the cost for one copy of each of the 117 stamps issued in 2019 is \$101.33, and the cost to obtain all the 2019 issues directly from the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services rises significantly, to \$427.45.

This conversation reminds me of one that was recurring in the sports card hobby papers a couple of decades ago. As a result of the baseball card boom of the early 1990s, companies competing in the baseball card market put out dozens of "special" baseball card sets every year. Often these sets focused on "superstars", and ignored the journeymen whose less frequent moments in the sun still tended to win ballgames for their teams. As a result of all the new issues, baseball card price guides in the 1990's ballooned

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to the size of Sears catalogs, and a guide listing all baseball cards by player, published in 1992, came to resemble a New York City phone book when the final edition was published in 2007. The unwieldy size of the latter book is an indication that collecting every card of your favorite player went from being a fun challenge in the days prior to Internet commerce, to a quixotic quest which will only lead to frustration (and possibly bankruptcy). I'm sure many stamp collectors have come to the same conclusion over the years regarding the natural desire to collect everything available on the market.

The Wyoming Valley Stamp Club president's advice, which I heartily agree with, is to simply buy the new stamps that you like, and ignore the others.

I loved the Classics Forever stamps that were introduced in 2016 so much that I felt a sense of loss when they were taken off the market by the USPS at the end of last year. I've saved a sheet or two and used dozens of them on my mail. Recently I've come to terms my loss, and have embraced the fact that, with the Classics Forever series gone, I can now purchase more of the other great new issues that the USPS has for us, like those Transcontinental Railroad stamps. I think they are pretty fantastic!

## Locating Civil War pensioners by Post Office

As I was thinking about finishing up this supplemental newsletter on Memorial Day weekend, I realized that, for the first time I can remember, we are celebrating this solemn holiday without any parades or radio commercials hyping Memorial Day sales at retailers and car dealerships. While I can certainly do without the latter, I feel that it would be thoughtless of me if I did not include a topic pertaining to the remembrance of our military and the sacrifices that their members have made since we were born of the Declaration of Independence and purchased by the blood and sacrifice of Patriots of all eras and backgrounds.

An index of Civil War pensioners published in 1883 lists the names of Pennsylvania soldiers or their next of kin who were receiving government pensions for their service in the Civil War. One of the reasons it might be of interest to postal history specialists is that the information listed for each pensioner includes the name of the post office where they resided.



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You can surely imagine all of the pension related correspondence that the U.S. Post Office carried back and forth in the decades after the war from veterans, their attorneys, and pension offices all over the country. For those of us with more than a casual interest in the soldiers who fought in the war, there is a wealth of information collected in the pension files curated by the National Archives in Washington, DC.

I came across the pension rolls several years ago, in volumes on the shelf in the genealogy room at the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg. They are also available online; a link to an online listing for Lebanon County is below.

I had a chance “meeting” with my great-great grandfather’s brother Levi in a book about Linglestown at the Dauphin County library in Colonial Park. Private Levi Ney served in the 46<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, and we bestowed the middle name of Levi upon my son Wyatt in his honor. Levi was killed at the Battle of Peachtree Creek on July 20, 1864. His mother didn’t apply for a pension until after the pension roll of 1883 was published, but Levi’s best friend (as I have determined from Levi’s pension documents), Edward King, whose address was the Union Forge post office, received a pension of \$8 per month. Edward, who was by that time living in Tower City, filed an affidavit on behalf of Levi’s

mother for her claim in 1885. Levi’s father Daniel eventually received a dependent’s pension on Levi’s behalf when he became old and incapacitated, after Levi’s mother died. Daniel’s address is listed on some of the paperwork as Ney P.O., which was named after Levi’s younger brother Elias, the first postmaster and one of the few permanent residents in the area that the post office served.

Peter Kreiser, a neighbor of Levi’s, stated on an affidavit for Levi’s father that he helped carry Levi off of the battlefield after he was mortally wounded. Peter Kreiser and Edward King are important figures to me because I have been able to visit their resting places in Union Township and Tower City. I don’t know where Levi was buried, so I have been able to visit the site of the battlefield in Atlanta where he was mortally wounded, but likely will never see his final resting place.

<http://www.pacivilwar.com/pensions/1883lebanon.html>



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## The Joys of packet making

A couple of days' worth of philatelic activity last month consisted of making packets with some of my large accumulation of Germany inflation stamps. This period of German philately turned my attention from the American issues that I remembered seeing as a kid, and has resulted in me becoming primarily a collector of pre-World War II Germany and Austria. As stocks of this material can normally be had for pennies on its Scott catalogue value, I have accumulated hundreds of duplicates of the most common issues.

Ever since I was a kid sorting baseball cards on my mom's card table, I have enjoyed the activity of putting my collectables in order. So, I didn't mind taking a few hours to make a couple dozen packets of inflation issues. It helped me to relax, and I figure the extra time I have to devote to my stamps right now is also a fine time to start sorting through my stock and putting them in order to sell, trade, and share with other collectors.

If you would like to experience the inflation period of 1921 through 1923 in Weimar Germany, I'll send a packet of stamps to you. All I need is a note and a self-addressed stamped envelope to mail them back to you. My address is on the PSLC website where they host the LSCC newsletters. I'm extending this offer

throughout the month of June, and in the event that I run out of the packets I have already made, I will make more!



This space is reserved for *your* contribution to a future LSCC newsletter!