

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

January 2021

Number 18



Philatelic Time Machine: The Post Office in Lebanon 100 Years Ago

Editor's Note: Back in 2007, LSCC member Glenn Blauch shared in the PA Postal History Journal the post office information that was found in Polk's Lebanon City and County directory in 1907. Recycling his idea, here's the information found in the 1921-1922 edition of the Polk directory.

POSTOFFICE

S 8th cor Chestnut

Grant W Lineaweaver, acting postmaster

Fred Heilman, acting assistant postmaster

Office hours, 7 a m to 8 p m

General Delivery and Stamp Window – Open from 7 a m to 8 p m

Money Order Department – Open from 7 a m to 6 p m

Registry Department – Open from 7 a m to 8 p m

Special Delivery Letters – Delivered expeditiously

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Carriers make three deliveries and four collections. Leave at 7 and 10 a m and 2:15 p m.
Collections are made with deliveries. Morning collection 6:30 a m; night collection, 7 p m

Sunday Mails – Lobby open from 9 to 11 a m. City collection made at 4:45 p m. There is but one out-going mail on Sunday, closing at 6:15 p m. All first-class mail matter with at least one rate (two cents) postage, and all other mail matter properly pre-paid will be dispatched at this time.

C U Boger, John H Bashore, T R L Elbur, M H Gockley, mailing clerks; R J Light, superintendent of mails; G B Steckbeck, Allen G Ulrich, Harry A Laudermilch, Paul Kuhlman, Charles Gingrich, Clayton Hollinger, Abner Spangler, W T Atkins, clerks; Pierce G Edris, Harry H Shucker, sub clerks

City Carriers – George H Kimmel, Julius P Bowman, Cyrus H Shantz, Gideon F Light, Richard G Stanley, L H Rhein, C M Zimmerman, W A Trenkle, C J Trafford, C E Hemerly, J W Betz, John Adams, Charles B Shirk, Jacob F Wolf, John Bixler

Sub Carriers – Robert Altenderfer, Charles McConnell, Robert D Yingst, John S Koehler jr

Rural Carriers – John Shaeffer, David T Miller, Charles Shirey, Harry G Boughter, Chalice W Morgan, George D Miller, J D Grumbine, Joseph D Umberger

Sub Rural Carriers – Harry Spotts, Azor A Albert

Janitor – Charles F Dissinger

Special Delivery Suggestions to the Public – Do not send money in the ordinary mail; purchase a money order; this mode of remittance is absolutely safe, being guaranteed by the government. Valuable mail matter of every class should be registered to insure its safe transmission and proper delivery; costs 10 cents in addition to regular postage. Address all mail matters legibly and properly, carefully giving name of postoffice, county and state, together with correct name of street and number of house, or box number. Place your name and address and request for return on the upper left-hand corner of all mail matter; by so doing mail matter will be returned to you, or you will be notified by receiving postmaster of its non-delivery, thus preventing its being sent to and opened at the dead letter office. Notify postmaster when you change your address. Always prepay postage in full on all letters and packages before mailing same. Inquire at Postoffice if in doubt as to sufficient amount of postage; by complying with this request there can be no possible delay in dispatch of any mail matter. Do not ask stamp clerk to affix stamps to letters or packages. Do not drop money for stamps in the street letter boxes, nor letters without stamps; a delay in dispatch is most invariably caused by so doing. Make all complaints to the postmaster or assistant postmaster. Address all communications to the postmaster.

Sub-Stations No 1 – West Lebanon

No 2 – Sixth and Maple, Shucker's Store

No 3 – 4th av and E Cumberland

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No 4 – Pleasant Hill, 17th and Center

No 5 – 509 N 7th

Calendar of Events

Information courtesy of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (lcps-stamps.org)

We are planning in 2021 to hold **Virtual Bi-Monthly Meetings**, which shall begin promptly at 6:30 PM and run for ~90 minutes via Zoom video conferencing. For details to attend these meetings please contact [Paul Petersen](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net) via email (pcpetersen@comcast.net) or call +1 (717) 299-5640. We usually hold a brief business meeting led by President DiComo, followed by our keynote speaker(s) and a Show & Tell, where Members & Guests can share in a few minutes their favorite stamp, cover, or other philatelic item(s) and take a question or two. We look forward to seeing you! And it is never too late to start planning ahead – speakers are requested. Please contact [Paul Petersen](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net).



January 12: *French Balloon Mail*, by Richard Colberg. Dick Colberg is the longstanding President of the Lebanon (PA) Stamp Collectors Club. His specialty is postal history largely for U.S., France, and Mexico, among others. He exhibits and publishes widely here and in France where he is a member there in several societies. He is active in APS, PSLC, CCNY, the PA Postal History Society, and others. He is an accredited philatelic appraiser, and lives several months of the year in France.



January 27: *The Map Stamps of Panama*, by John Howker. These detailed map stamps originated in Columbia and then changed issuance to Panama when the latter gained its independence. This was shortly followed by the demarcation of the Canal Zone across the isthmus in preparation for the construction of the Panama Canal. As a new country, Panama used existing map stamps of Columbia and overprinted then in 1904 with both 'Panama' and 'Canal Zone'. Other renditions followed for the next two years. Various overprints were used during this period, and they varied by city. Bio: John Howker is the Treasurer of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and Chairman of the the club's DELPEX Committee, their annual stamp show.

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- February 10: 1890: *The Jubilee Celebrations of the Penny Post*, by Michael Bach



February 24: *The Providence, R.I. Pre-Mailing Control Marking on the U.S. 3 Cent 1851-57 Stamp*, by Charles J. DiComo, PhD, President of PSLC & ESPHS. The re-discovery nearly 20 years ago of a number of covers and adhesives led to a re-examination of what had previously been termed a silent precancel on the U.S. 3¢ stamp, 1851-57 Issue. The adhesives have either a single horizontal and/or vertical ruled line (or both) in black pencil and/or red pencil (or both) spanning the stamp from edge to edge. An examination of over 600 Providence covers (and many more stamps) from 1851 through 1860 and the discovery of thirteen year-dated covers confirmed the period of use as April 1855 to October 1857. These control marked 3¢ adhesives were post-cancelled with the Providence, RI CDS and accepted for postage at the Providence PO. Brown University appears to be a main “account” holder, with other prominent businesses and families partaking, e.g.: Corliss Steam Engine Co.; H.F. Walling Publishers; Slade; Comstock; Steere, et al. This original research and remarkable story of ingenuity at the Providence, RI Post Office can now be shared. The lecture shall be followed by our ever-popular Show & Tell

The Tobacco Follies of 1888

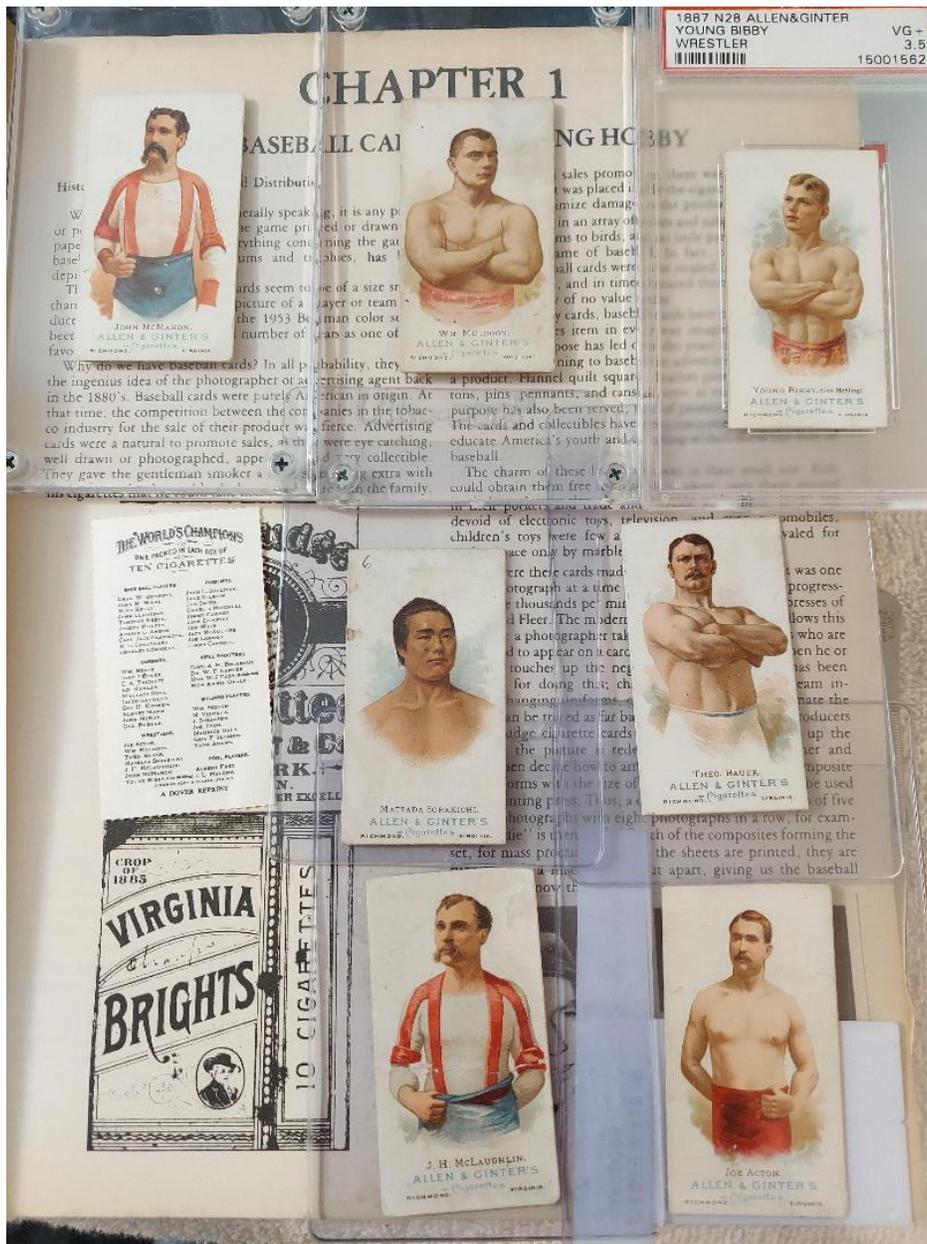
When the first adhesive postage stamp was issued in 1840, a new hobby was born shortly thereafter. There has been speculation about the existence of a “collecting gene”, but however our genetic composition affects the human desire to collect and accumulate things, clearly some of us enjoy engaging in hunting and gathering certain objects more than others. Is there any of us who collect stamps who *don't* collect other things too? A scholarly study of what people have collected over the years would be a very interesting read.

A few decades after Scott and others began commercializing the hobby of stamp collecting, another collectable entered the national scene: the tobacco card. Six or seven decades would pass before the first serious studies focusing on the health effects of smoking cigarettes. Nonetheless, this marketing tactic created what was possibly the first controversy surrounding tobacco use: just as men and boys both collected stamps, they were also avid collectors of the pictures which were pulled from boxes of cigarettes. Before Joe Camel was accused of beckoning teenagers to the prospect of a life of smoking-related diseases, tobacco cards were being blamed for encouraging America's youth to take up cigarette smoking, which at the time

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was considered a vulgar habit even for adults to partake in (in the early 20th century, the tobacco industry practically created the modern advertising industry in their quest to convince society that smoking cigarettes in public, even by women, was acceptable.)

Besides the tobacco controversy, there was another reason some objected to tobacco cards: many of them featured pictures of women. They are, in almost all cases, fully dressed by today's standards, but back then the series of actresses and other "beauties" produced by cigarette manufacturers were considered quite risqué. But while cards of women were very plentiful, so were cards of many other subjects – including cards with actual foreign postage stamps attached!



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I can personally attest to the attractiveness to juveniles of the little lithographed pieces of cardboard, as they caught my eye almost 100 years later. One of my favorite places to go as a kid was The Green Dragon in Ephrata. My dad would drag us all down there on Friday evenings to spend what would seem like hours at the hardware vendors. But when I started collecting baseball cards it turned into a magical place where I could go to visit the baseball card vendors who had permanent stands within the buildings (one of the vendors at the Green Dragon could also be found at the Key Drive-in flea market on the east side of Lebanon on Sunday mornings). From my first summer as a collector, I was attracted to old baseball cards; it was truly a disappointment if we arrived after one of the card vendors closed up for the evening.

One of my dad's tool stands provided me with a little bit of redemption, in a publication rack. Among the nostalgia publications they had for sale was a book packed with 98 classic baseball cards, reprinted in full color and ready to be removed by perforation. Babe Ruth was in there! And the recently dethroned hit king, Ty Cobb. And so were dozens of tobacco cards. I surely didn't have the \$3 or \$4 to buy it, but I successfully convinced my mom and dad to buy it for me.

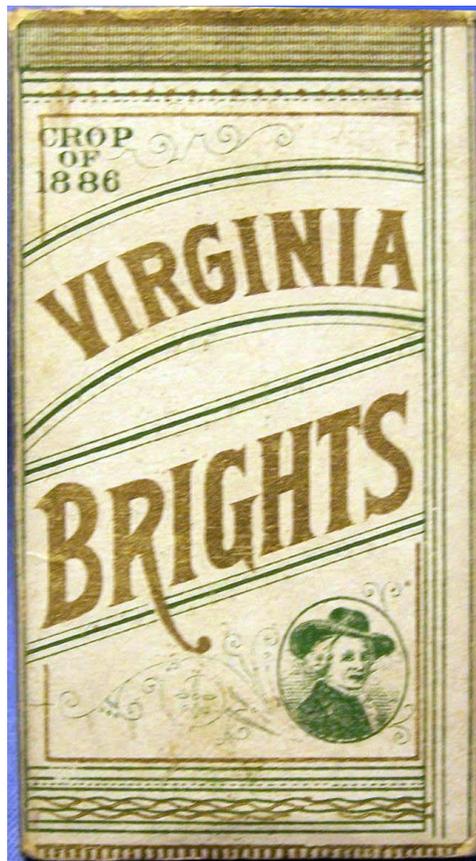
The cards that fascinated me the most were also the earliest, the Allen and Ginter issues. Allen and Ginter formed a tobacco company located in Richmond, Virginia in the early 1870's, and they were the first to include picture cards in packages of cigarettes. Most of the ladies' pictures were actual photographs, while many of their other subjects were lithographs produced in New York. All of the 10 baseball players from their "World's Champions" issue of 1887 were there in my Dover reprint book, as well as two players from the "second series" of the Champions issue. Some of the ball players pictured in those issues are legends; the others have been largely forgotten, but today genuine examples of each one of them can sell for thousands of dollars each. The backs of the cards contained a list of all 50 subjects in the set: baseball and billiard players, pugilists, rifle shooters (basically, the cast of Buffalo Bill's traveling Wild West show), and rowers. And there were wrestlers, too. This part of the list fascinated me the most – I became a fan of pro-wrestling in the days when Vince McMahon Jr. of the World Wrestling Federation, with the help of pop superstar Cyndi Lauper and MTV, was in the process of successfully turning his father's regional wrestling promotion into the first national pro-wrestling enterprise. Sometimes, after we got back from a Friday evening at the Green Dragon, I would catch a late showing of WWF Championship Wrestling on channel 43.

Of course, professional wrestling was different in the 1880's, even more so than the professional wrestling of the 1980's is different compared to wrestling today. Whereas today's matches are quick, scripted affairs that in some instances don't end before one of the performers falls off of a ladder and crashes through a folding table (or two), matches in the late 1800's were legitimate, often grueling tests of power, endurance, and athleticism, which could last as long as six hours. I, of course, didn't know that back then. I presumed the names listed on the back of those cards were the forebearers of Hulk Hogan, Rowdy Roddy Piper, and all my Wrestlemania favorites. As to who the wrestlers in Allen and Ginter's champions series were, I

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wouldn't know more about them than their names for quite a long time – a quaint reminder of the days before the Internet brought the instant gratification that even my blue-bound set of World Book Encyclopedias could not.

Fast forward a couple of decades, and I purchased my first Allen and Ginter wrestler at an antique shop: John McMahon (no relation to Vince), a burly Vermonter, born in 1842. A veteran of the Civil War, he is said to have thrown 17 of his fellow Volunteers in camp competition in one evening. He was a “collar and elbow” style wrestler, and is pictured in the colorful outfit that the rules of his sport dictated collar and elbow practitioners had to wear in competition. He was indeed recognized as a “world’s champion”, and carried around a championship belt to prove it. There were six other wrestlers in the first series of Champions: fellow Civil War veteran Col. James H. McLaughlan, who was one of McMahon’s biggest rivals, Greco-Roman specialist Theobaud Bauer, “Young Bibby”, Sorakichi Matsuda, Joe Acton, and William Muldoon. Muldoon lived well into his 80’s, and is also a very important figure in the history of boxing. Matsuda, who died young, was perhaps the first big professional wrestling star to hail from Japan, a country that has a very vibrant professional wrestling industry in 2021. Matsuda’s most memorable opponent was Muldoon, and he wrestled several of the other competitors featured in Allen and Ginter’s set.



Allen and Ginter’s famous smoking southerner logo. Did this box once sport a tax stamp?

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I recently completed my sub-set of all seven wrestlers – I guess you could say it took me 35 years, but obviously I wasn't pursuing it for a significant amount of that time. The connection that this collection has to my younger days does make me think about why "old things" continue to fascinate me so much. Now, each of those pieces of cardboard is more than 130 years old. And I've gone from perceiving 30 years as a long, long time ago to it being a significantly distant but not terribly long time ago in my life. Finally, information technology continues to unlock more and more knowledge of the world that those little pieces of cardboard came from.

Last summer, the librarian of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, who is a stamp collector and member of the local stamp club in Cooperstown, New York, gave a stamp chat which wedded the subject of tobacco cards to stamps. He used J. B. Duke's Postage Stamps issue as an important conduit to unite the two hobbies. Duke, namesake of the university in Durham, North Carolina, bought Allen and Ginter, along with most of the other trading-card issuing cigarette manufacturers of the time, and formed the American Tobacco Company in 1890. Production of tobacco cards, which were a significant promotional expense, ceased until the trust-busters came knocking. The ATC again began issuing cards of baseball players and other subjects around 1910, thus opening a window to a new generation of young smokers frantically pursuing a collection of the portraits of their favorite baseball heroes. Here's a link to the YouTube presentation if you'd like to check it out: [\(68\) Stamp Chat with James Gates "Cardboard Culture Card Collecting and Postage Stamps" - YouTube](#)

In case you missed it . . . 2021 LSCC Dues are now payable!

I contacted Don Smith about the matter of dues payments, and since we won't be meeting at the library again any time soon, we decided to collect dues by mail this year. Dues are \$10 and may be mailed to me at the following address: Scott Ney, 3187 Oak Street, Lebanon PA 17042. I will also accept dues payments via PayPal (stnst2@aol.com). I will forward all payments received (the full amount, including any service charges that may be incurred by PayPal) to Don for deposit into our account. If you are like me, and didn't have the opportunity to pay your dues before the pandemic hit last spring, please consider including a \$10 payment for last year as well. This newsletter is produced and provided via email free of charge; dues payments cover the use of our home room at the Library. Thank you to all of you who have already paid for 2021!

9th and Cumberland Street

Market Square, get it? Want lists, items for sale or trade, and notices of general interest will be found here in the market place. If you're a member of the LSCC and would like to place an "ad", please contact me at the above email address.

Wanted: Covers, maps, and any kind of ephemera from the Ney Post Office, which operated in the Cold Springs area of Lebanon County from 1881 – 1903. My great-great grandfather Elias Ney somehow had the honor of being the first postmaster there. If you are not interested in

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selling, or just have some historical info on the place, I'd still love to hear from you. Scott Ney
stnst2@aol.com

