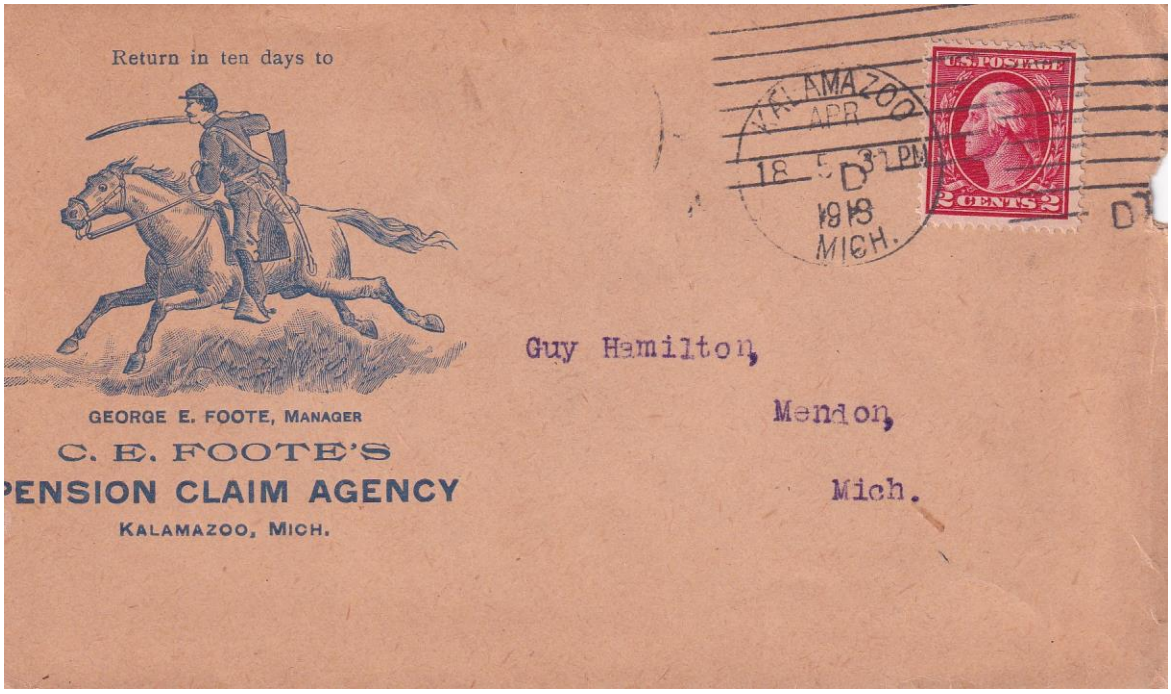
Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

November, 2021 **Number 28**

The November meeting of the LSCC will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Lebanon Community Library (125 N. 7th Street, Lebanon 17042)

Please bring a stamp album, book, or other favorite item to share with the group. Scott Ney will bring along his pension items that we didn't have time to discuss last month, but there will be plenty of time to spare for some show and tell.



Federal pensions existed for those early patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War through the late Mexican War. But in the decades after the Civil War, the Department of the Interior, which managed them, found themselves servicing the cases of hundreds of thousands of Union soldiers and their dependents who applied for a pension due to death, disability, old age, or other reasons. Soldiers, their widows and orphaned children, and even their parents applied for and received pensions. Naturally, this generated a lot of mail back and forth from Washington DC and the towns and cities where soldiers and their dependents resided.

At the next meeting you will see copies of pension files ordered from the National Archives and Records Administration, along with some of the postal history related to Civil War pensions that Scott has collected over the past year or so. It'll be an opportunity to learn about different types of mail sent by the government, pensioners, and their lawyers, and to discover what the NARA has available for people who are interested in researching their ancestor's service via their pension and military records.

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The October Meeting of the LSCC

Three members attended the October meeting of the LSCC at the Lebanon Community Library, the last one before daylight savings time ended. We spent time organizing more of Arthur Groff's collection, and can now say that it's mostly in order. It was another month for great conversation as well. The red storage bin we worked from included more first day covers, and some of the year sets that the USPS issued back in the 1980's. We spent a few minutes looking at the fascinating pictures in a book about the transportation coil issues. Don found a few nice historical FDC's as he was boxing covers, and Jim found some nice Black History FDC's, and passed a commemorative baseball folder from 1989 to Scott that he found among the yearly mint sets. We all took something home with us to add to our collections. Don remarked that there were a lot of nice space covers in there (e.g. Skylab and Apollo-Soyuz) and it gave us the idea to sort the US covers topically, as opposed to chronologically.

During our discussion we were thinking of Glenn, Dick, Hal, and Mike, who were not able to be with us, as well as some of our newer members who have not had the chance to meet with us yet. Don confirmed we have $90 cash on hand, which is good for six months' worth of meetings at $15 per month room rental.

Revenue Stamps in the 1890s

I know that many of us, particularly our friends in the PSLC, have a keen interest in collecting the revenues. So here's an item from *The Pennsylvania Philatelist,* Reading's premier stamp journal 120 years ago; I'll share the conclusion of this piece in next month's newsletter. This is less for your information, as I can't vouch for the accuracy of the facts stated in this piece, and more for your enjoyment. (Illustrations are taken from an image search on the Internet)

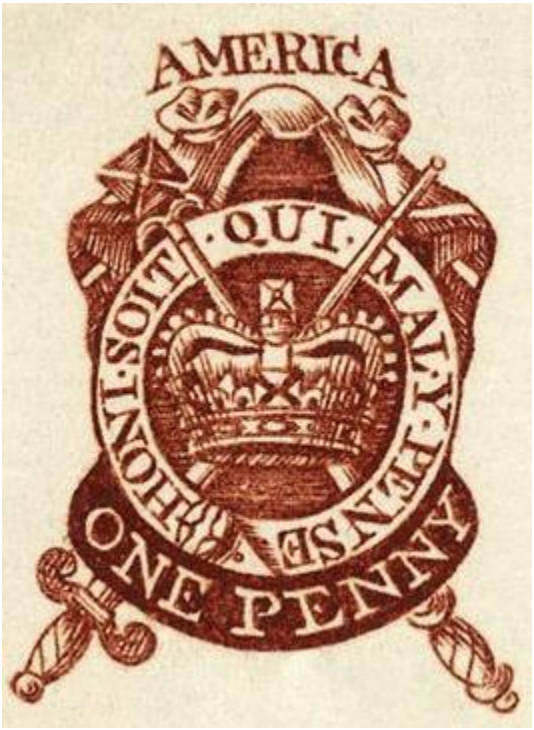
Uncle Sam's Fiscals

By E. E. M'D. Oliver (May, 1892)

I consider revenue stamps as being of two classes, namely postage and fiscals. Fiscals are of two kinds – regular government issues and private revenue stamps. Under the regular Government Issue, I include the documents, tobacco, and spirits stamps. Private revenue stamps, which were printed for private parties by the government, are generally divided into the match series and the medicine series.

Each of these classes has its peculiarities which distinguish one series from the other. Of these peculiarities I intend to speak, but as an article of this kind would be incomplete without at least a brief history, I will commence with the origin of revenue stamps. I have traced the matter as far back as the days of Cromwell, who, when Protector of England, levied a tax on certain articles, the evidence of the payment of which was in a small stamp affixed to the article taxed. It is possible that revenue stamps were used many years before Cromwell, but there is no evidence to show that such was the case. Since that time I find revenue stamps were used in

France about 1739. Every student of United States History will remember how the famous Stamp Act was passed by the English government and was one of the causes of the Revolutionary War. This act, passed in 1765, provided that all legal documents were to be stamped by officers of the crown, otherwise they would be worthless in law. I need not tell how the officers commissioned to enforce this law were driven from the country, neither is it necessary to say that very few documents were stamped. However, there is a specimen of the stamp in existence, and I believe it is rarer than a Brattleboro'. A brief description of this historical stamp would not be out of place. In shape the stamp was rectangular, on it was printed a large panel in which a circular ribbon was inscribed. Upon the ribbon were the French words *Honi soit qui mal y pense*. At the top of the circular ribbon was a crown, on either side was a vine, in the centre a rose, below the panel the value. The size of the stamp was 36 by 28 mm.



After the Revolutionary War, all legal documents were stamped by the government until 1809, when revenue taxes on documents were abolished.

In July 1862, President Lincoln affixed his signature to a bill passed in both houses which provided for general taxation on documents and necessaries of life. This led to the first issue of document stamps. These stamps were used on express packages, telegrams, insurance policies, photographs, receipts, and all kinds of legal documents, and on imported articles, the values of the stamps ranging from one cent to $2.00. A description of each stamp is not necessary, suffice it to say that the general design of the stamps is an oval in which is inscribed the head of Washington with various borders and colors. Below the oval was expressed the articles on

which the stamps were to be used. The colors in which the different values were printed are blue, green, orange and red, but there are a very large number of shades of each. This series existed in an unperforated condition only. Those worth $5 or more are: $15 mortgage, blue, $200 U.S. Internal Revenue, green and red, unperforated.

On July 16, 1864, a new bill was passed which led to the issue of stamps similar to the 1862 issue, but perforated, the rarest being the 6 cent Proprietary, $20 Probate of Will, $200 U.S. Internal Revenue.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

The TIMES are Dreadful, Dismal Doleful Dolorous, and DOLLAR-LESS.

An Emblem of the Effects of the STAMP

O! the fatal Stamp.

Thursday, October 31, 1765. THE NUMB. 1195.

PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL; AND WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

EXPIRING: In Hopes of a Resurrection to LIFE again.

I AM sorry to be obliged to acquaint my Readers, that as The STAMP-Act, is fear'd to be obligatory upon us after the First of November ensuing, (the fatal To-morrow) the Publisher of this Paper unable to bear the Burthen, has thought it expedient to stop awhile, in order to deliberate, whether any Methods can be found to elude the Chains forged for us, and escape the insupportable Slavery, which it is hoped, from the last Representations now made against that Act, may be effected. Mean while, I must earnestly Request every Individual of my Subscribers many of whom have been long behind Hand, that they would immediately Discharge their respective Arrears that I may be able, not only to support myself during the Interval, but be better prepared to proceed again with this Paper, whenever an opening for that Purpose appears, which I hope will be soon. WILLIAM BRADFORD

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USA Philatelic quarterly catalog is available now!

Thanks to Jim Joppy for sharing this with us. If you did not receive it through the mail, you can find a link to the PDF here: [USA Philatelic | USPS.com]

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

Corner Cards of Lititz, PA

Dick Colberg is a serious collector of Lititz postal history, and has an illustrated article about these in the November 2021 issue of the Pennsylvania Postal Historian. I know there's a few of us in the LSCC who are also members of the PAPHS, but if you are not currently a member, please consider joining us. Their full-color, professionally edited quarterly journal always has interesting features, and is well worth the yearly membership dues of $25.

Dick notes in his PAPHS article that Lancaster County has historically been a leading tobacco producer. My family ties to Lititz run through one of my great-grandfathers, who as a boy had a job harvesting tobacco; there's a picture of him, covered in tar and standing behind a wheelbarrow, which I wasn't able to borrow from my mom to share at press time. His future wife rolled cigars at a cigar factory in Manheim when she was a teenager. – Scott Ney

Some (Saturday and) Sunday Stamp Show returns in December

Mark your calendars for a holiday stamp show at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on December 18 and 19 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This will likely be our last opportunity of the year to attend an in-person show, which, considering the year we've had, might be a pretty nice way to close out our personal philatelic event calendar for 2021.

More than meets the eye . . .

This cover, a beauty sent to me this past month by my friend and philatelic mentor Paul Petersen, has quite a back story. If you haven't yet read about it in the PSLC's November-December 2021 newsletter, make sure you check it out when you're done reading this one.

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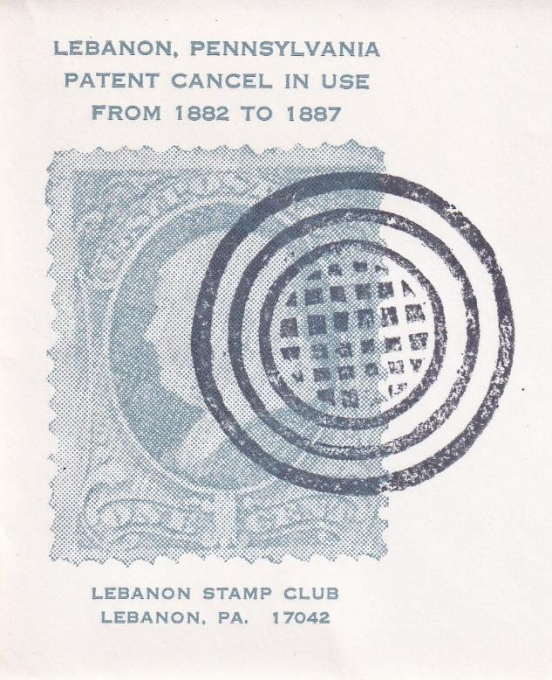
From something old, something new



Underneath that one final cliché for the month, I'd like to propose we make the above image our logo. It comes from a cover that was recently found in Arthur Groff's collection. Art's cover was not used, but it dates from at least the early 1970's, as I recently saw it on eBay used for a Scott 1474 first day cover, posted on November 17, 1972. I think it would make a perfect logo for the club; when we originally talked about a logo, the Lebanon patent cancel was decided upon. Currently, our "official" logo is a LEBPEX 84 medal.

If there are no objections, I'll ask the PSLC's webmaster to have the medal replaced by the cachet on our subpage; I'll use it as a regular part of our newsletter and any promotional materials created for the club as well. – Scott Ney