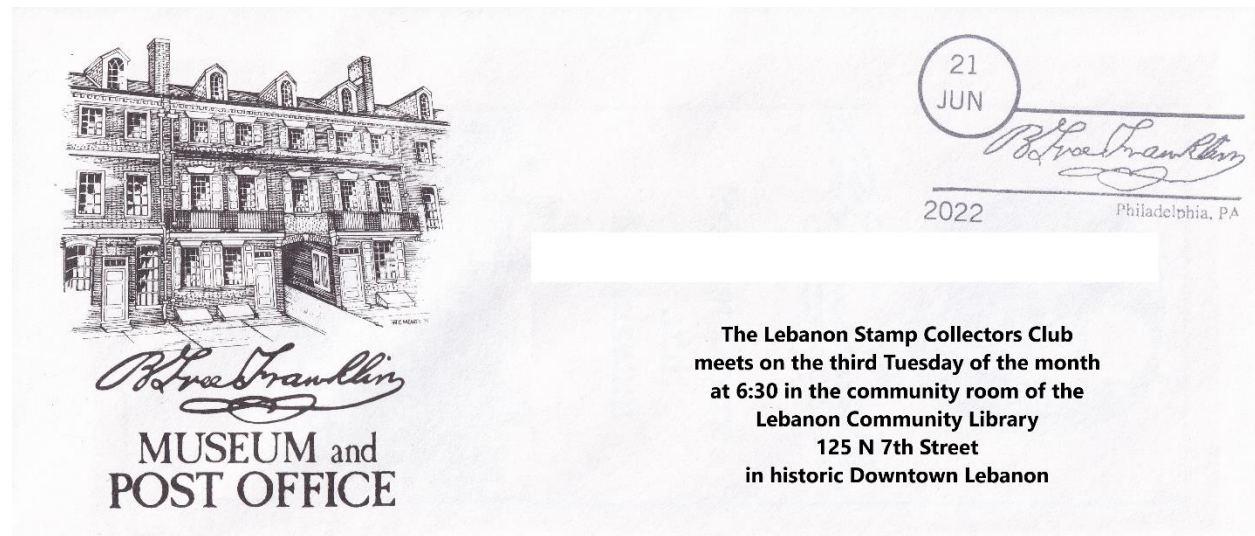


Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

July 2022

Number 36



Independence Day Greetings!

Independence Day, the 4th of July, or whatever you like to refer to it as, means different things to all of us. One thing everyone can agree on is that July 4th is the day we celebrate our nation's birthday. As a Bicentennial baby* I've always felt I was somewhat destined to develop an interest in our nation's history. As a life-long learner, my perceptions of historical events have become quite nuanced, and sometimes have changed completely, as I've gotten older and (hopefully) wiser.

I was disappointed to miss last month's club meeting, but in addition to seeing my favorite band, Tears For Fears, perform live at the Mann Music Center, my wife and I had several hours to stroll around the Independence Mall historical area. I visited Independence Hall as a fifth-grader on a school trip, and remember encountering a school group from California there, and thinking about how lucky we were to have such a historical treasure so close by. I realize that over the years I've taken my proximity to places like Philadelphia and Gettysburg for granted.

In times like these, we all need opportunities to enjoy our favorite things, as well as be energized and inspired to hold onto the things that we've held dear over the course of our lives. Seeing my favorite musicians performing on stage together and knowing how much they've matured over the years as friends and artists since they met as teenagers was inspiring, and so was spending a couple of hours at the National Constitution Center the following day.

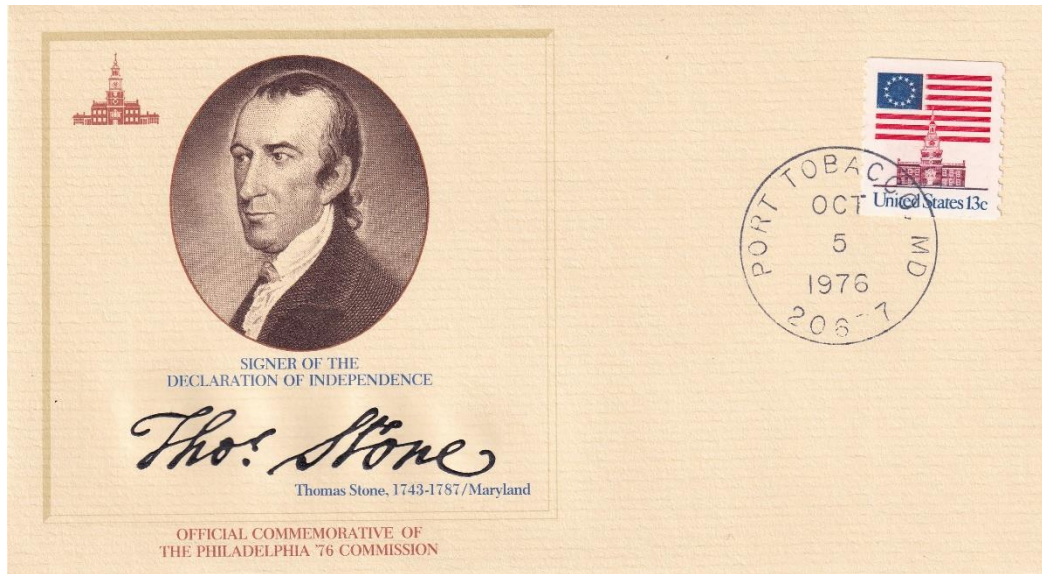
This July 4th I'll be at Lebanon Valley College for the 4th annual community reading of Frederick Douglass' 1852 oration, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?", which makes me feel even more thankful for the moments of reflection my recent trip to the Cradle of Liberty provided to me. I hope everyone reading this enjoys all of the food and festivities that Independence Day

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brings, and that you all have some time in the midst of your family and friends to take a few moments to reflect upon the special meaning that Independence Day holds for you.

*I was born in 1975, but I understand that by then we had been celebrating the Bicentennial for a few years, and the mint couldn't wait for another year to produce the higher denomination coins with the "1776 – 1976" date. – Scott Ney

Philatelic evidence of a Signer of the Declaration of Independence



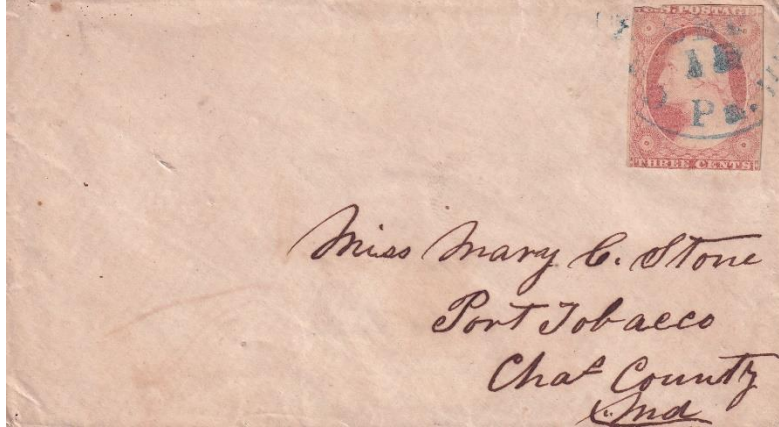
According to ushistory.org, relatively not much is known about Thomas Stone, signer of the Declaration of Independence from Charles County, Maryland. He was a “prosperous landowner and moderately successful lawyer”, but during his political career in Congress he “didn’t speak much”, and he died at the young age of 44, grieving the recent loss of his wife and leaving no letters or papers to account for his achievements and experiences.

I’ve accumulated a small amount of philatelic evidence of Mr. Stone’s family. A nephew, Major William B. Stone, must have kept an archive of correspondence, as I’ve seen stampless covers addressed to Major Stone that have shown up in different places.

The Stone family’s Maryland plantation, named Haverdeventure, was in Port Tobacco, a place with a population of 18 according to the 2020 census. A timeline in the appendix of a study of the plantation, *New Perspectives on Haverdeventure Plantation in Charles County, Maryland, 1770 – 1787*, states William Briscoe Stone moved to Haverdeventure in 1821, so I believe that it is he who is addressed on the stampless covers in my collection. He purchased the property from Mildred Stone, a daughter of Thomas Stone and his wife, Margaret (based on the genealogical information in another appendix of *New Perspectives*, I believe William B. Stone was a cousin of Mildred Stone).

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The interesting name “Port Tobacco”, along with the small geographical size of the area, is what helped me make this connection between Thomas Stone and his descendants. The Stone plantation is now maintained by the National Parks Service as the Thomas Stone National Historic Site.



A cover addressed to Miss Mary Stone of Port Tobacco was acquired before I knew of the family’s historical significance. The cancel on it is not legible but the “C.....GH Pa.” that can be deciphered makes me think it might have come from Chambersburg.



This stampless cover was one of four addressed to Major William B. Stone that I picked up at an early post-COVID stamp show at the Farm and Home Center from a Maryland dealer. They all have a Baltimore CDS and other markings in blue or red, and appear to be business letters.

I will leave it up to the genealogists to fill in the gaps regarding how the recipients are related to Thomas Stone, but hope that this brief piece about postal history and genealogy will help the reader make an interesting connection or two to history among items that they have in their own collections.

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While the multitude of commemorative issues that coincided with our national Bicentennial in 1976, which is closing in on a half-century into the past itself, are fun to collect, it seems that the material is becoming more and more available and thus less challenging to find. But if you're lucky, you might stumble upon a few things that are related to a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or perhaps someone else connected to another event from that period of history. – Scott Ney

[Thomas Stone National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/thomasstone/)

[Signers of the Declaration of Independence: Thomas Stone \(ushistory.org\)](https://www.ushistory.org/signers/)

Calendar of Events

****The next meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club is on Tuesday, July 19, 2022****

Capital City Philatelic Society

Since 1925

FALL STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

Lower Swatara Firehouse

1350 Fulling Mill Rd., Middletown, PA 17057

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Directions: **From I-81:** Take I-83 South to I-283 (to Airport/Turnpike), then I-283 East toward Lancaster. Get off Union Street Exit, turn left onto **north Union Street**. At Fulling Mill Rd., turn left, continue to Firehouse. **From the west**, take I-83 North to I-283 (Airport/Turnpike), then continue to follow the above. Use MAPQUEST or similar program for alternate routes.

***Dealers--stamps, covers & postcards *Philatelic supplies, hinges, tongs, mounts, albums
*FREE stamps for youths—our effort to get young people interested in collecting stamps! *Food Available**

EASY Parking! FREE Admission!

Bring a friend--Come on in and look around--Ask questions—Enjoy!

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY PROGRAMS

We are planning to hold **Virtual Bi-Monthly Meetings** until further notice, 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 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.

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July 13: **USS Local**, by Ron Breznay. This presentation is about covers from U.S. Navy ships that are named after places in the Wilkes-Barre area. Ron was born in Wilkes-Barre and lived in one suburb or another for most of his life. He became interested in these naval covers after he did an eBay search for Wilkes-Barre items and came across a USS Wilkes-Barre cover. He then started adding USS Pennsylvania covers and became inspired to look into just how many ships are named after local places, such as the Susquehanna River and the Appalachian Mountains. The presentation shows not only covers but also shows photos of the ships and gives information about the ships.



July 27: **The American Philatelic Society (APS) and the State of the Hobby**, by Scott English, Executive Director. Scott will discuss how the APS is leading the membership modernization initiative. The APS has accomplished recruitment and membership changes not seen for decades in the past two years. Specifically, Scott will address the website overhaul, library digitization, and building an active online education platform for collectors. There will be time for questions and comments from participants. So get your questions ready and join us. Biography: Scott D. English, Executive Director, American Philatelic Society; Administrator, American Philatelic Research Library; Life Member of the APS and APRL. In August 2015, Scott became the 7th Executive Director of the APS. Before joining, he served in a variety of positions in public office. In Washington, Scott spent 11 years working on Capitol Hill for two U.S. House of Representatives members. Following his tenure in Washington, Scott spent eight years on the staff of South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, serving as Policy Director in Sanford's first term. After a brief tenure as Deputy Chief of Staff, Scott served as Chief of Staff for three years. From 2011 to 2015, Scott served as the Chief Operating Officer of the South Carolina Department of Education. There he managed the day-to-day operations of a 950-person staff and a \$4 billion budget. Since joining the APS, Scott led the recovery of Position 76 of the McCoy Block in 2016, led a modernization of the APS to broaden its reach and impact on philately, and, in 2020, completed the mission to pay off the APRL mortgage debt fifteen years ahead of schedule. Scott is a 1993 graduate of

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the University of Maryland, where he received degrees in History and English. Scott and his wife, Kendra, are the proud parents of three children.

August 10, **PSLC Annual Picnic**, Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville, PA (contact Paul Petersen for more details)

August 24, **Toledos of the World**, by Dave Plunkett. Dave will present and discuss a compendium of postmarks, maps, PPCs, aerial views, photos, vintage documents, covers, and local post office images of the cities named Toledo in the U.S. and other foreign countries.



National Park Service Photo

Mr. Franklin's Post Office

On our overnight visit to Philadelphia last month (Philly's more fun when you sleep over®), my wife and I stopped by the B. Free Franklin Post Office. The nature of the United States Postal Service, and their mission to deliver the mail to anywhere there is a valid address, is such that there are thousands of small, unique post offices scattered across the land, each charming in its own way. The B. Free Franklin Post Office is unique among all of them because of its connection to the man himself, and a visit there demonstrates that the Postal Service and the National Park Service do not take the connection for granted.

We easily struck up a conversation with the clerk, as we were the only three people in the lobby for the short time we were there. I broke the ice by reciting one of the facts that I already knew about the place, that they were a popular origin for couples putting their wedding invitations in

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the mail. Ms. Thompson, who was hand-stamping a stack of wedding invitations as we spoke, confirmed with a smile that I was correct, and as we had no apparent need for wedding invitations in our future, suggested that we mail our Christmas cards from there this year.

You can, in fact, ship them your invitations, cards, or other items you would like them to cancel with the special *B. Free Franklin* postmark for you (I'd imagine it works a lot like requesting FDCs, but I'm of a generation of collectors who has never actually done that.) There is currently a limit of 50 items per day, and mail pieces in excess of that amount are subject to a small surcharge.



Franklin Court, which is the area behind the post office that contains the Benjamin Franklin Museum and the site of his house and business, is a reminder of how history can easily pass from our grasps. There are two metal frames which stand where his house and print shop once did; they were both torn down by his children early in the 19th century, as they no longer wished to maintain them.

This little spot of history should not be taken for granted either, as the B. Free Franklin Post Office was on a list of “endangered post offices” back in 2011. Even now, its posted hours of operation are contingent on staffing availability. A museum that used to occupy the second floor is no longer operating, and the lobby contains memorabilia that was likely a part of it.

A fun fact about the B. Free Franklin Post Office that demonstrates its uniqueness among American post offices is its status as the only post office in the postal system that doesn't have its own zip code, or an American flag displayed on the property; the latter is to keep the appearance of the area, which pre-dates the American Revolution, more authentic. – Scott Ney

[B. Free Franklin Post Office \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/bffr/)

[Get the B. Free Franklin Cancellation \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/bffr/)

[B. Free Franklin Post Office and Museum - AUSPL](https://www.auspl.com/)

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Please send any correspondence regarding the club or the newsletter to the editor at stnst2@aol.com.



Me and my friend, Mr. Zip