

“Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties”

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

October 2025
Number 73

The October meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library in historic downtown Lebanon. We welcome guest David Rosenthal, who will present on the topic of First Day ceremonies, the First Day Catalog, and collecting First Day covers.

The Post Office that Never Was! Bettinger, Lebanon County

*By Glenn Blauch
Late member of the LSCC*

Bellegrove, Pa. is located in Lebanon County, three miles north of Annville, and five miles south of Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Bellegrove has had several name changes from 1846 to 1903. It started out as Bellview in 1846 to 1867, Bellview from 1869 to 1871, and Bellevue from 1872 to 1884. According to Kay and Smith's list of post offices and US postal records, the name was then changed to Bettinger, Pa, April 14, 1884 to February 28, 1887. The name was then changed to Belle Grove April 2, 1887 to December 1, 1895. On December 1, 1895, the name was consolidated into one word, Bellegrove, and was discontinued on June 30, 1903.

I was always interested in discovering the reason for the name change to Bettinger. I searched newspaper accounts of the 1884 – 87 time period and could not find any references to the name change. In looking at census records from the time period, I could not find anyone with the Bettinger Name.

I then discovered the US Postal Bulletins website and searched for the Bettinger Post Office. There I found the answer to the riddle. Postal Bulletin 1262a, April 25, 1884, under Post Office Name Changes lists Bellevue Pa. as being changed to Bettinger, Pa. US Postal Bulletin 2129, March 1, 1887, lists under Post Offices Discontinued: Bettinger, Pa. Lebanon County, Pa. Mail to Annville, Pa. So it looks like there was a Bettinger Post Office, **but wait!**

US Postal Bulletin 2146, March 21, 1887, lists under Post Offices Discontinued: Bellevue, PA., Lebanon County, mail to Annville. **To correct the wrong announcement in Bulletin 2129, the office of Bettinger, Pa. was given as discontinued, when the proposed change of name never went into effect.**

PENNSYLVANIA.
Bellevue, Lebanon Co. Mail to Annville,
(To correct wrong announcement in
BULLETIN 2129, the office of Bettinger
being given as discontinued, when the
proposed change of name never went
into effect)

The reason that I could never find any information on the name change or any covers with a Bettinger postmark is that it never went into effect! Letters from the time that it was supposed to be Bettinger were postmarked using Bellevue canceling devices as indicated in the next paragraph and shown on the next page.

The cover illustrated in Figure 1, posted on January 17, 1885, contains a letter clearly datelined "Bellevue January 16, 1885." The letter begins with "Dear Chester". The cover in Figure 2 with a beautiful strike of the **BELLEVUE, Lebanon Co. / PA.** postmark was posted on June 4, 1886. The scan of the latter cover was made from a scan of a page from the collection of Ervin Herkowitz, a former member of the Lebanon Stamp Club and the PPHS.

This essay appeared in the Pennsylvania Postal History Society's Historian journal in February, 2015 (Vol. 43, No. 1, Whole No. 202) and is republished by permission of editor Hal Klein.



Figure 1. Posted at Bellevue, Pa. on January 17, 1885



Figure 2. Posted at Belleview, Pa. on June 4, 1886

French Revenues: Stuff you may not know!

*By Richard Colberg
President – Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club*

When my wife and I first started living in France part of each year, it didn't take me too long to find a local stamp club. The problem was, I didn't like what they collected – French new issues – and they didn't like what I collected – U.S., G.B., and Canada. So, I blinked first. I found a dealer at BALPEX soon after who was selling collection remainders of French revenues. I fell in love with these engraved stamps and was soon organizing and adding to the collection. Now I had something French to show the French collectors.

Identification was a problem because neither Scott nor Yvert & Tellier listed the revenue stamps in their main catalogue. Soon after, however, I found my way to the Yvert & Tellier store in Paris and, lo and behold, they (Y&T) published a revenue stamp catalogue! Best 29-euro investment I ever made.

So, this article will be a hodge-podge of French revenue stamp items for your edification.

First off, here are four revenue stamps with what looks like oversized cancellations. One might not buy these examples due to this overprinting.



In reality, these are Y&T #AF-13, -18, -14, and -15 issued in 1891 and 1910. AF = affiches. An affiche is a poster. Posters were taxed at 5 & 2/10, 10 & 2/10, and 20 & 2/10 centimes depending on size and number of advertisements on the poster. See the next page for the answer to this enigma.





The practice was to apply the necessary revenue stamps on the paper BEFORE the printing of the notice. There was no set placement of the stamp(s). Then printing was done on top of the stamp(s). In this case, the poster is large, 24 ¼ in, high x 16 ½ in. wide. This poster advertises the sale of a house and garage to be held Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1938, at 11 a.m. The house is valued at 4,000 francs and the garage at 500 francs. So, now when you see stamps with weird overprints like this, you'll have a better understanding of how they got that way.

Next, we have some se-tenant pairs of revenue stamps that need explanation. (Y&T numbers)



CN 1B

CN 11B

CN 15B

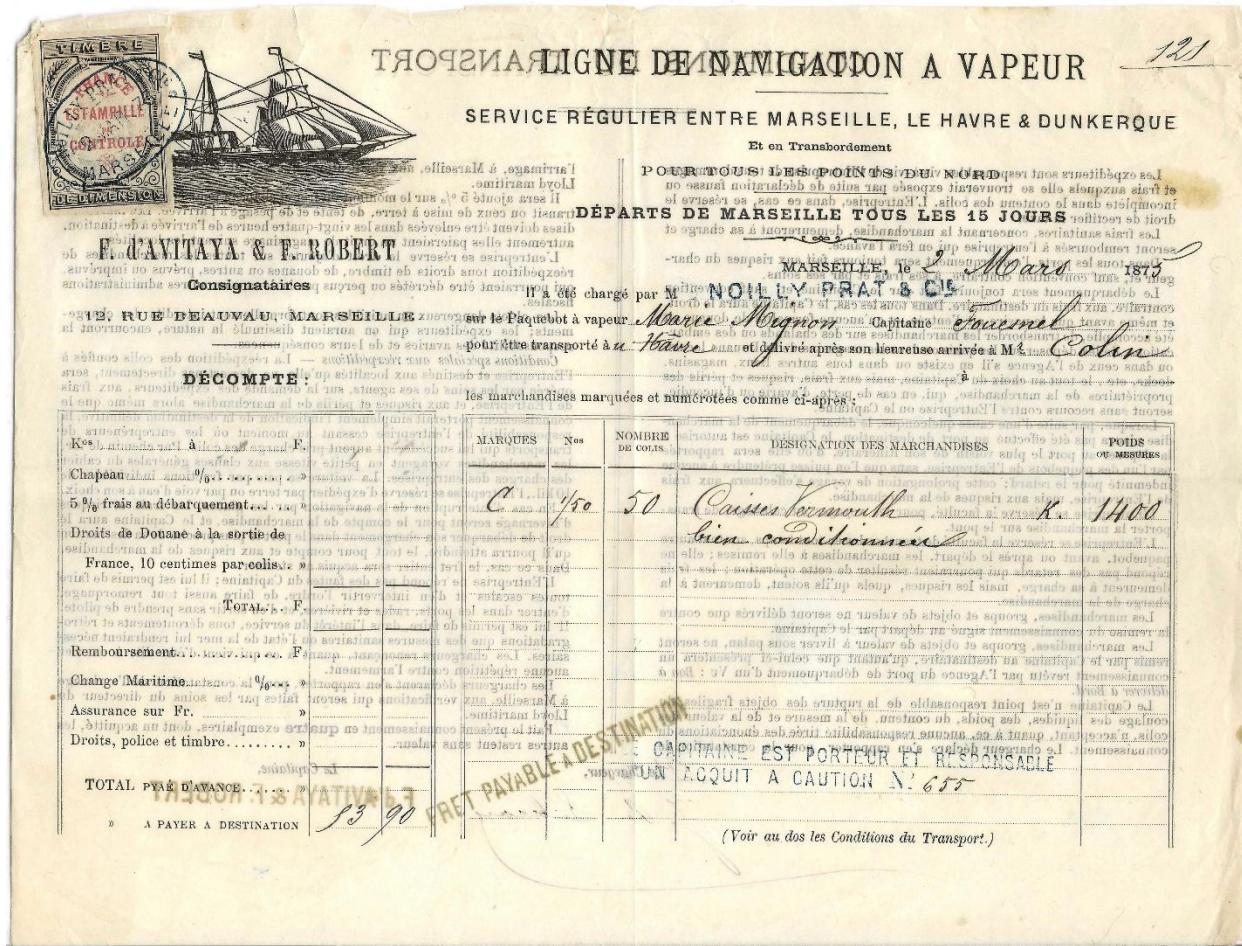


CN 16 & 16A

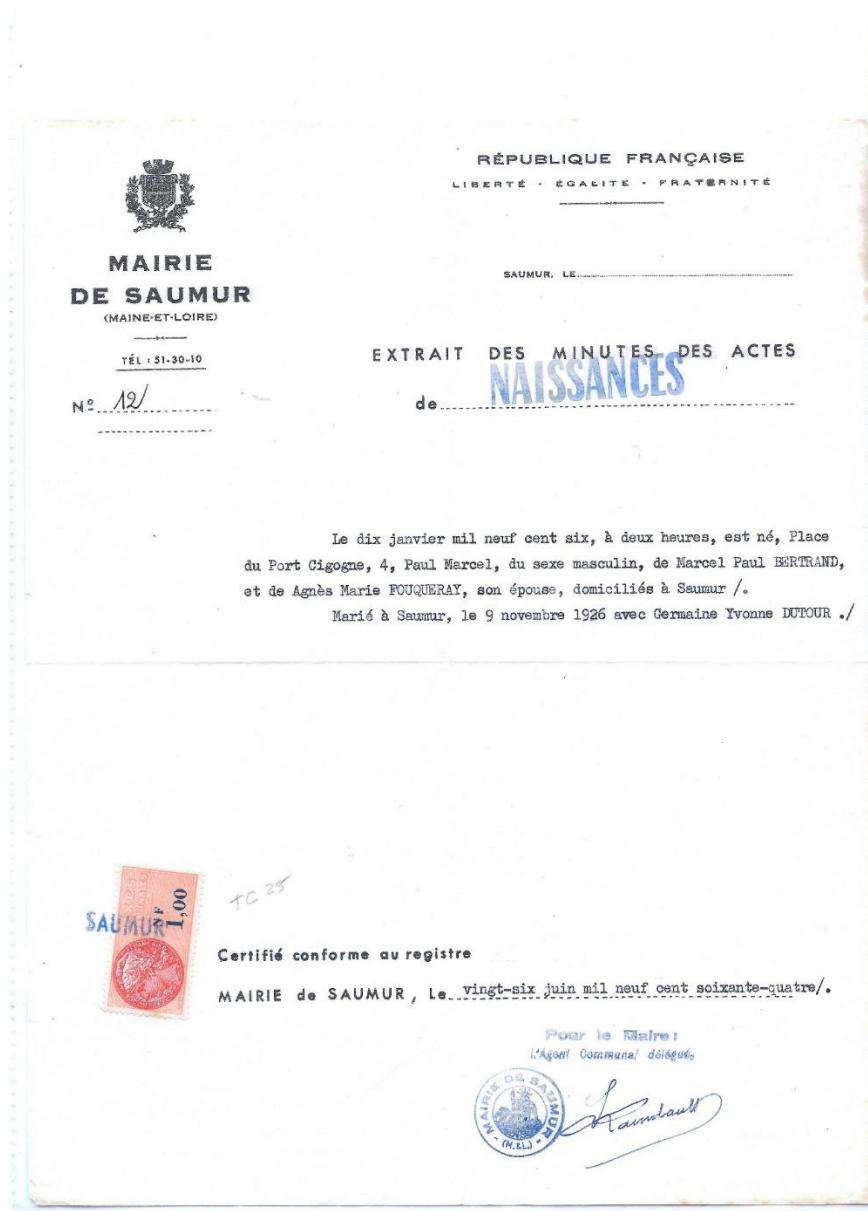
CN 22 & 22A

These five pairs of stamps are in the category called "Connaissements". That's Bill of Lading in English. These stamps are usually seen as separates, because that's the way they were to be used. The left-hand stamp is inscribed Connaissements and the right-hand stamp is inscribed "Estampille de Contrôle". The value half was to be affixed to the original of the Bill of Lading and given to the Master of the vessel transporting the goods. The control half of the stamp was to be affixed to another copy of the Bill of Lading; usually accompanied the shipped goods. Clearly, this did not always happen. CN 1B, CN 11B and CN 15B are all unsevered pairs. CN 16, 16A, 22 and 22A are separates, I just copied them as attached. The Y&T Catalogue prices these as separates and joined pairs.

The top three stamps were issued in values of 50c. & 2/10, 1F & 2/10, and 2F & 2/10. The bottom two as 50c & 2/10, 1F & 2/10, 2F & 2/10, 4F & 2/10, and 8F & 2/10. I do not know what the rates stood for, but I suspect it was weight related.



Here is CN 1A, the Control half of the CN 1B pair shown above. This Bill of Lading is for a shipment of 50 cases of Noilly Prat Vermouth. The shipment went from Marseilles to le Havre. It looks like the shipment weighed 1400 Kg. (3080 lbs.)

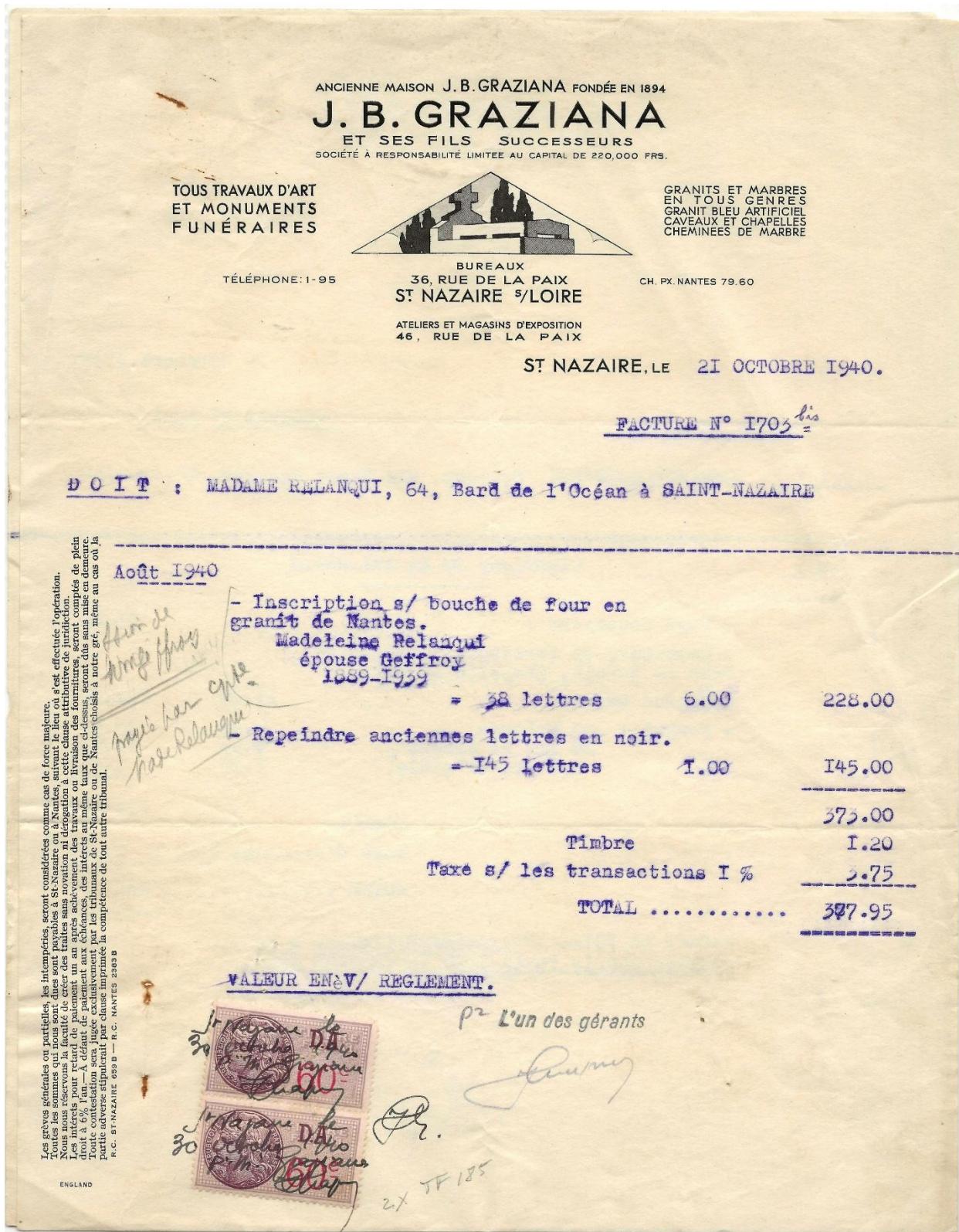


Above: A Birth Certificate for Paul Marcel, born January 16, 1906. Copy made June 26, 1964.

Below: An invoice for the funeral of a Mr. David, on January 3, 1939. 3,452 Francs + 2.4 Francs for the tax stamps.



Below: An invoice for a headstone for Madeleine Relanqui.



Rue Mad 1993 Amendes P.28

VOLET A CONSERVER PAR LE CONTREVENANT POUR JUSTIFICATIF DU PAIEMENT

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| CONTRAVIEN | LE 22.04.89 A 15 h 00 | 03511234 |
| AGENT | 76195 | 068 |
| CONTRAVIEN AU STATIONNEMENT | LIEU D'INFRAC | |
| INTERDIT MATERIALISE | COMMUNE | DÉPT. |
| UNILATERAL NON OBSERVE MATERIALISE | NATURE DE L'INFRAC | |
| DOUBLE FILE | 50 | Rue Eléments coloris |
| ARRÊT AUTOBUS | 51 | |
| STATION DE TAXIS | 52 | |
| PASSAGE PIÉTONS | 53 | |
| R | 54 | |
| E | 55 | |
| E | 03 RENAULT 1 CITROEN 2 PEUGEOT 3 | IMMATRICULATION |
| E | 04 TALBOT 4 FIAT 5 OPEL 6 FORD 7 | CHIFFRES LETTRES DÉPT. |
| E | 24 AUTRES 8 GENRE OU MODELE | ETRANGER |
| E | 23 Solv | Cas n° 1 |

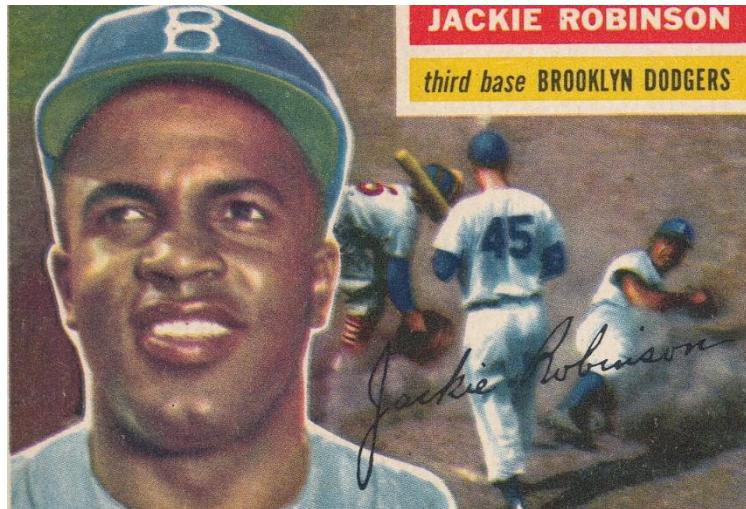
RÈGLEMENT DE CETTE CONTRAVIEN, SUVEZ LES INDICATIONS PORTÉES SUR LA CARTE-LETTER

And, last but not least, we have two traffic tickets. The item above was issued for improper colors of some sort. I can't figure it out. 75 Francs is not the fine, it's just the cost of the tax stamp.

VOLET A CONSERVER PAR LE CONTREVENANT POUR JUSTIFICATIF DU PAIEMENT

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| CONTRAVIEN | LE 22.05.92 A 15 h 05 | 76769807 |
| AGENT | 10287 | 781 |
| CONTRAVIEN AU STATIONNEMENT | LIEU D'INFRAC | |
| INTERDIT MATERIALISE | COMMUNE | DÉPT. |
| UNILATERAL NON OBSERVE MATERIALISE | NATURE DE L'INFRAC | |
| DOUBLE FILE | | |
| ARRÊT AUTOBUS | | |
| STATION DE TAXIS | | |
| PASSAGE PIÉTONS | | |
| SUR TROTTOIR | | S' trottoir |
| PROLONGE DE PLUS D'UNE HEURE | | |
| DÉFAUT DE DISQUE | RENAULT 1 CITROEN 2 PEUGEOT 3 | IMMATRICULATION |
| TEMPS DÉPASSE | 04 FIAT 5 OPEL 6 FORD 7 | CHIFFRES LETTRES DÉPT. |
| STATIONNEMENT NON PAYE | AUTRES 8 GENRE OU MODELE | ETRANGER |
| | foto | Cas n° 9 |

The item above was issued for driving (or perhaps parking) on the sidewalk, believe it or not! This tax stamp cost 230 francs. While after 1990 these documents could also be issued to pedestrians, this one was issued in 1992 to the driver of a VW Polo.



What was I thinking? A collector's recollection

By Scott Ney

One place from Lebanon's past I truly miss is the Key Drive-in theater that for decades was a prominent fixture at the east end of town. Not because I saw a lot of movies there; I saw a few, and I also have pleasant memories of driving by it at night as a movie was playing on the Key's big screen that faced East Cumberland Street.

The reason the Key Drive-in has a special place in my memory is the Sunday morning flea market. It was there that my interest in vintage baseball cards bloomed into what has become a lifelong hobby.

There were three stands that I always loved to stop at on Sunday mornings. One belonged to a gentleman who wore a Phillies cap, who brought boxes and three-ring binders chock full of vintage cards, mostly from the 1960's, that at the time were less than 25 years old. For some reason, a 1960 Topps card of Milwaukee Braves pitcher Juan Pizarro caught my eye one morning and became my very first vintage card purchase. I ran back to our full-sized van and bummed a quarter off my mom, who was waiting for my dad and I in the front seat, to buy it. Another time I was looking through one of his binders and saw a Gus Bell card from 1961. Gus and his son Buddy were part of the 1985 Topps father and son subset. I exclaimed, "Gus Bell!", and I recall him shooting me a strange look, as if he was thinking, "How does this kid know who Gus Bell is?" I still have the Bell I bought from him, and I hope to find the Pizarro, which was rendered into a unique item by a previous owner due to a mathematical equation written in pen on the back of it next to the cartoon, hiding somewhere in a box.

Down the row from the man with the Phillies cap was a man who shared his name with a member of the Baltimore Orioles at the time, Larry Sheetz. He had new cards and vintage cards, and later, ran a small card shop out of the front room of his Quentin Road home. We bought a lot of our supplies at his shop (sheets and binders) in 1988, the year my dad would buy my

brothers and I a box of cards a week at Smith's Candies retail store in Myerstown. One evening we were there, Mr. Sheetz was looking at my dad, sure that he knew him from somewhere. As it turns out, they both caddied at the Lebanon Country Club when they were teenagers.

There was one other card stand I remember fondly, and it was always set up almost directly across from the man with the Phillies cap. I don't remember the person who had the stand, and it included just a small wooden box that held mostly cards from the 1950s. It was in that box, circa 1986, that I found one of my best cards. And to think, I almost passed it up.

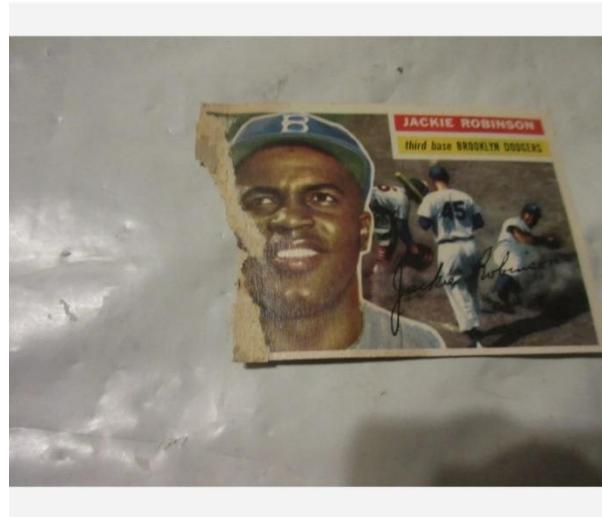
After almost 40 years I can still remember that this box held a stack of cards produced by the Bowman gum company in 1952, which were smaller than the jumbo cards that Topps began producing that year. There was also a neat pile of 1956 Topps cards; these had their white borders trimmed. As I thumbed through them, I saw a card of the great Jackie Robinson. Mr. Robinson, of course, is a historical figure who transcends baseball, and whose memory and accomplishments belong to the ages. I could have easily asked mom for fifty cents if I needed it, but I left it in the box and went home without it.

There is no excuse, even back then, for walking away without that card. Back in 1986, fifty cents would have bought a pack of 15 of the current year's cards. I have little doubt that I rejected it because it was trimmed, because even as a ten-year-old I was reading hobby magazines and becoming aware of how important a factor condition was. But fifty cents were fifty cents (a mere \$1.48 today). It didn't take me too long after I got home to realize what a big mistake I had made by leaving that card in the box.

I can't be sure when we got back to the flea market again, the next week or sometime after that, but whenever it was, I made a beeline for that table. The same wooden box could also be encountered at the Green Dragon in Ephrata on Friday nights, next to a much bigger baseball card stand, and there could have been ample opportunity for a collector who was wiser than myself to snag that card before I had a second chance at it. I can still remember my heart pounding as I looked through that stack of cards again. Finally, suspense turned to relief, as I saw Mr. Robinson's picture staring back at me again. To add to my good fortune, I also snagged a card of his teammate, Roy Campanella, from the same set, also with its borders trimmed. Both cards set me back a dollar, but that dollar secured one of the best hobby purchases I had ever made or will ever make.

I recently searched eBay for a 1956 Topps Jackie Robinson in a similar condition as mine, just to see what they're selling for now. \$500 could possibly not get you one that has four intact white borders and no major creases or surface damage. This past spring I bought an Ernie Banks card from 1956, with no major damage other than three of the four white borders neatly trimmed off, for about \$30. Nonetheless, Mr. Cub's card does not equally compare with Mr. Robinson's. I found no trimmed 1956 Jackie Robinsons that were currently available, but I happened upon a live auction for one which is missing part of Jackie's left cheek. As it happened, there was someone who was willing to pay 200 times what I paid for a trimmed but otherwise intact copy about 40 years ago.

This listing has ended.



• • • •

**1956 Topps Jackie Robinson #30
Brooklyn Dodgers Damaged**



ant58 (4115)
100% positive feedback



\$97.00

21 bids • **Ended**

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Please contact the editor if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings.

| Date | Presenter and Subject |
|-------------------|--|
| October 21, 2025 | The First Day Ceremony Catalog and what we Collect – David Rosenthal |
| November 18, 2025 | Open – show, tell, and philatelic fellowship |
| December 16, 2025 | Holiday Dinner at The Rotunda Restaurant and Pub |

**The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for
hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:**

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization
dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun.
\(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046

Scott Ney, newsletter editor



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

**Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church,
1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale.**

**Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area.
(About a mile north of Rt 222)**

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
(doors open around 6:30 for pre meeting social time)**

TUESDAY November 4th

**THE TOPIC IS:
Bring a cover that has a story or a Journey**

RSCC TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Account as of 07/31/2025: \$ 1,135.80

Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,414.63

**As your editor became a US Citizen this year, I feel that
is now OK for me to include the following article!!**

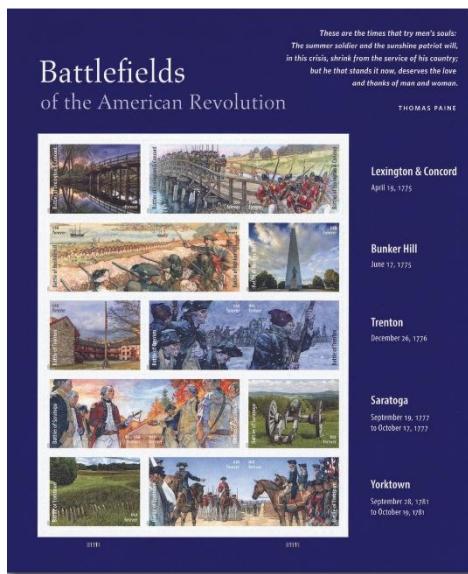
USPS issue remembers the past and present of Revolutionary War battlefields

On April 16 in Concord, Mass., the United States Postal Service honored five battlefields of the American Revolution with 15 nondenominated (73¢) forever commemorative stamps were issued in a pane of 15. The pane includes watercolor paintings featuring scenes of five battlefields appearing beside more recent photographs of the historic sites.

“On farm fields and town greens, along countryside byways and city lanes, the people of a new nation, some famous, others forever unknown, committed their lives to American independence. As we prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, we honor the battlefields where so many sacrificed to make our celebration possible,” the Postal Service said in providing the historical context for the new issue.

A first-day ceremony for the Battlefields of the American Revolution issue was scheduled on April 16 at the Minute Man National Historical Park’s North Bridge Visitor Center, 174 Liberty St., Concord, Mass., at 11 a.m. Eastern Time. The outdoor ceremony is free and open to the public.

Postal Service vice president of corporate affairs Judy de Torok was the dedicating official.



Designed by USPS art director Derry Noyes, the pane includes five rows of three stamps each, with each row showing one of the five battles of the Revolutionary War: Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Saratoga and Yorktown.

In a press release for the new issue, the USPS hopes these stamps encourage the public to visit these historic locations as a remembrance of the nation's foundational history. "Many battlefields have been preserved or restored as national, state, or local parks, or as private sites open to the public. Each one offers a profound and highly personal opportunity to retrace the steps of those who fought, hear echoes of hard-won victories and devastating losses, and keep their memory alive," the USPS said.

In the blue selvage area of the pane, the name and date of each battle appear to the right of each row of stamps. In the upper right corner of the pane is a Dec. 18, 1776, quote from Thomas Paine from his essay "The American Crisis," which reads: "These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Each row features a recent photograph, alternating down the pane from the far left to far-right position in each row, of a location commemorating each battlefield site. Spanning the adjacent two stamps in each row is a watercolor illustration, done by artist Greg Harlin, of a scene associated with that battlefield.



During Dave Hunt's Halloween presentation on October 7th, he had a cover from Anoka MN with a cachet stating that it was named the “Halloween Capital of the World”. I felt that this warranted further investigation and so here is what I found.



The History of Anoka Halloween Capital of the World®

Anoka, Minnesota is believed to be the first city in the United States to put on a Halloween celebration to divert its youngsters from Halloween pranks. When Anokans awoke to find their cows roaming Main Street, windows soaped and outhouses tipped over, they decided something had to be done. But *what*?

A costume parade and block party seemed like the perfect, *trick!* Halloween became a wonderful distraction for our town for generations to come, and we wouldn't have it any other way. The crisp of the season, the creativity of the shops, the schools, the costumes, the laughter, the food, the fun, and the parties! There are so many reasons to love the month of October, and baby, we count those blessings every day around here!

The Timeline

1920

Getting Organized

In 1920, George Green and other Anoka civic leaders suggested the idea of a giant celebration. The idea was adopted by the Anoka Commercial Club and the Anoka Kiwanis Club; both giving their full support. In September of that year, a Halloween committee was organized.

Working hand in hand were businessmen, teachers from the Anoka public and parochial schools, parents, and students. For weeks before the big event, more than a thousand Anoka school children made plans and costumes for the big event.

1920

Taking It Down Main Street

A parade was scheduled for the evening. Participants included local and neighboring bands, drum corps, the Anoka police, and fire departments, the Kiwanis Club, the Commercial Club, and the Anoka National Guard; all working together to make the evening a success. Afterward, hundreds of bags of popcorn, candy, peanuts, and other treats were given away to the children who marched in the parade. And, everyone was invited to a large bonfire that was staged at Bridge Square. Celebrations have been held every year since 1920 with the exception of 1942 and 1943 when the festivities were canceled because of World War II.



1937

Taking It To The Capital

By the 1930s, the festivities had expanded as had the attendance at the parades. There were over 2,000 costumed children marching down Main Street. It was estimated that 20,000 spectators lined the streets to watch this night-time spectacle. In 1937, 12-year-old, Harold Blair, donning a sweater embellished with a Halloween Capital insignia, carried with him to Washington, D.C. a proclamation naming Anoka Halloween Capital of the World®.

1960

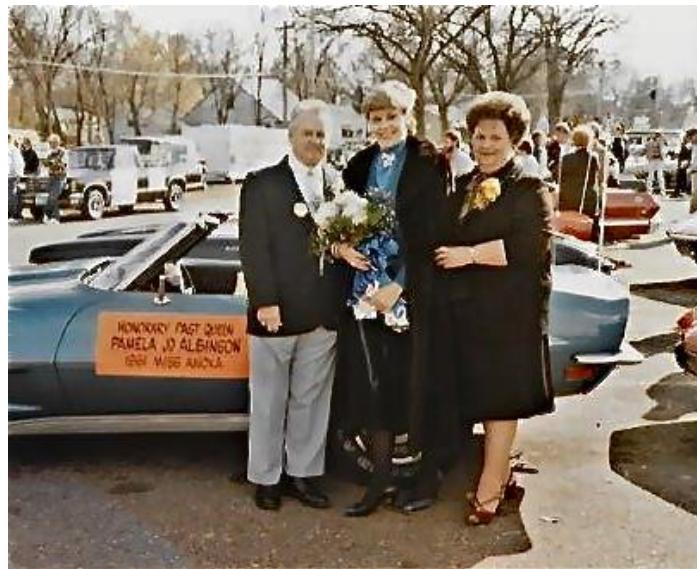
Ever-Evolving Celebration

Anoka has always worked to keep a family spirit alive in its Halloween festivities. Activities have included pillow fights, a kangaroo court, firework displays, royalty coronations, concerts, dances, window painting contests, house decorating contests, celebrity appearances, costume contests, style shows, story-telling, races and, in the 1960s, a snake dance that took long lines of participants in and out of area businesses and homes.

1968

Miss Anoka Joins The Party

1968 marked the first year that Miss Anoka joined in on Anoka Halloween Capital of the World® festivities.



1970

Winners Of The Dating Game

The winners of the TV game show, The Dating Game, were awarded with a trip to Anoka to ride in the Halloween parade!



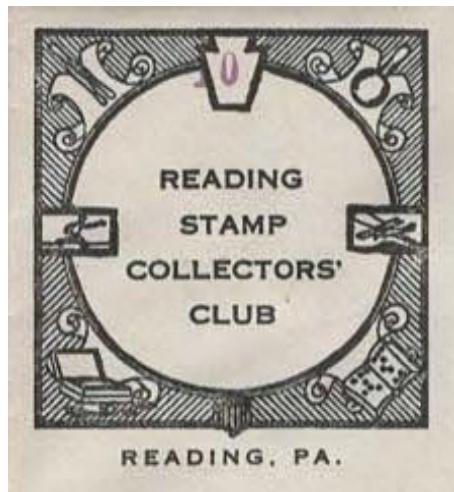
Today

The Tradition Lives On

Anoka Halloween Capital of the World® celebration continues to be world-class. Participation in the night parade and Grande Day parade has grown to include units from all over the mid-west. The original concept of having costumed students parade down Main Street continues on as well on Friday preceding the Grande Day parade. Anoka residents can watch their grandchildren or great-grandchildren continue the tradition they started so many years ago.



..... and now you know the rest of the story



Mike Bach, newsletter editor