

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

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

December 2025

Number 75



The December meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rotunda Brew Pub and Restaurant in historic Annville. We enjoyed a fine time of good food and fellowship, as we give thanks for our blessings this holiday season and look ahead to 2026 . . .







Warm holiday wishes from all of us in the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club!

A look back at our holiday dinner in 2024 . . .



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
January 20, 2026	
February 17, 2026	
March 17, 2026	
April 21, 2026	
May 19, 2026	
June 16, 2026	Meeting at Cornwall Manor, program to be determined
July 21, 2026	
August 18, 2026	
September 15, 2026	
October 20, 2026	
November 17, 2026	
December 15, 2026	LSCC Holiday Dinner

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)

NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY
MARCH 3rd 2026**

Topic still to be decided

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Account as of 11/30/2025: \$ 1,125.80

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

AN 1866 LETTER TO LOGAN CITY, UTAH TERRITORY

I very recently acquired the cover below from Liverpool, England to Logan City, UTAH Territory, USA. Although the condition is not the greatest (Afterall it is nearly 160 years old) it piqued my interest as to who in England would send a letter there.

Well, what follows is a little history about Utah, Territory and Logan City and Mrs. William B Preston to whom the letter is addressed. I hope you find this interesting.



The letter was written on June 3rd 1866 in Liverpool, England and mailed to Utah Territory, arriving on July 27th 1866, a journey of 54 days!!

A One Shilling Green with a wing margin (SG 89 issued between 1862-64) is affixed to the letter with a Liverpool cancel with town cancel # 446



Now the background:

UTAH TERRITORY:

The Utah Territory was established on September 9, 1850, as part of the Compromise of 1850, a large land area that included present-day Utah, most of Nevada, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Created to organize the land acquired from the Mexican-American War, it was initially a refuge for Mormon settlers and Brigham Young was appointed its first governor. The territory's existence was marked by conflicts with the federal government and non-Mormon settlers, especially concerning issues like polygamy, and it officially ended when Utah was admitted as a state in 1896.

Map of Utah Territory
The State of Deseret was proposed by the Mormons but was rejected by Congress



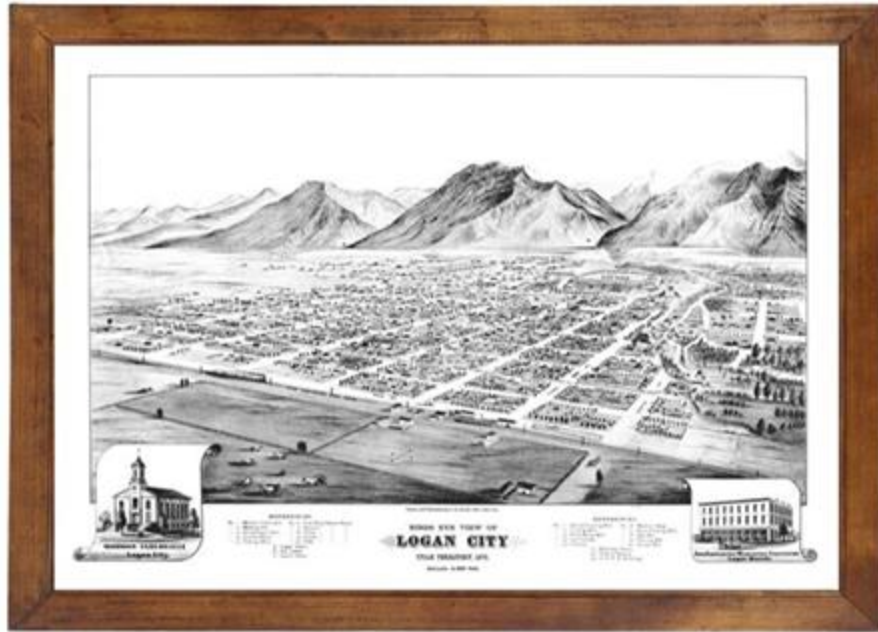
LOGAN CITY:

Founded in 1859, Logan, a city of approximately 33,000 today, is located on the east side of Cache Valley in northern Utah, (almost on the border with Idaho) at the mouth of Logan Canyon. Logan City is located about 80 miles north of Salt Lake City.

On 6 June 1859 a small group of Mormon settlers sent to Cache Valley by Brigham Young surveyed a fort site near the banks of the Logan River and began harvesting logs for houses. By the middle of the month, the first drawing for parcels of land took place. A second group plowed land and planted three acres of wheat on 10 June on an area called "the island." They constructed two rows of cabins facing each other, patterning the settlement after Salt Lake City, including streets wide enough for several vehicles to pass each other.

By March 1860 there were 100 houses in the settlement, which was named Logan after an early trapper, Ephraim Logan. The city was incorporated on 17 January 1866 and Alvin Crockett was elected Logan's first mayor.

Though not the first white settlement in Cache Valley, Logan became the principal city because of its central location and its abundant water supply for mills and irrigation. Farmers and their families gathered there to buy and sell; industries grew to service the community. Eventually, Logan became the county seat for Cache County.



Logan City in 1875. (I could not find anything earlier)

In November 1859 Mormon apostles Orson Hyde and Ezra T. Benson installed William B. Preston (**Here is the tie in to this letter but more about William later**) as bishop of Logan. That winter the citizens built a schoolhouse which doubled as a meetinghouse for the seventeen families of the settlement. The founding settlers included John B. and Aaron D. Thatcher, W. B. Preston, George L. Farrell, Thomas E. Ricks, and their families. The Thatchers (**also relevant to this letter**) developed a family empire in Logan . . . including business interests in banking, merchandising, manufacturing, mining, building of railroads, and commerce. In the spring of 1860, the Thatcher patriarch, Hezekiah, brought the first assortment of general merchandise to the city. Other early industries in the town consisted of a sawmill, a lime kiln, a tannery, and a carding mill. Of course, agriculture formed the basis of the local economy.

WILLIAM B. PRESTON:

William Bowker Preston, a native of Virginia, was born in 1830. In 1852, he went to California and eventually settled in Yolo County as a farmer. **His neighbors were the Thatchers**, an LDS family. **By 1857, Preston had fallen in love with Harriet Thatcher**, and in February of that year he was baptized into the LDS Church. Preston was soon called by George Q. Cannon to serve in the Pacific Coast mission. Preston asked for Harriet's hand in marriage, but her father, Hezekiah Thatcher, refused to allow the union.

In the fall of 1857 California LDS were called back to Utah to assist in defending the territory against the U.S. Army. Preston, the Thatchers, and other LDS families arrived in Salt Lake City in January 1858. Preston and Harriet were married in February 1858 and first settled in Payson, Utah where Preston built an adobe house.

However, in August 1859, the Prestons and the Thatchers moved to Cache Valley and in November Preston was named bishop of Logan.

In April 1865, Preston was called to serve a mission in Europe. Upon arrival in Liverpool, England, Preston was assigned to Newcastle and Durham. **In January 1866, he was called to serve in the Liverpool office**, which at that time was the headquarters of the European Mission. Preston's two mission diaries, and the complementary letters to Harriet, give rich, full details of his daily activities in the field of labor and in the mission office. He was released from his mission in the summer of 1868 and sailed from Liverpool in charge of 600 emigrating Saints.

In 1871, he was appointed presiding bishop of Cache Valley (a regional bishop with jurisdiction over twenty wards). In 1877, he was called to the Cache Valley stake Presidency, serving as counselor to his brother-in-law, Moses Thatcher. In 1879, Preston was called as Cache Valley stake president, and in 1883 vacated that office to assume the responsibilities of the Presiding bishop of the Church. He was released in December 1907 due to poor health and died in August 1908.

PROOF REGARDING THIS COVER:

In doing my research I discovered the following archive that has the original letter sent on June 3rd 1866

Archives West - Orbis Cascade Alliance

William B. Preston papers, 1857-1920

Preston, William B., Liverpool, to Wife, Harriet (4 pieces)

Dates: 1866 June 3

Container: Box 1, Folder 6

Location: Correspondence, 1857-1900 / Correspondence, 1866

HOW MAIL GOT FROM LIVERPOOL TO LOGAN CITY IN THE 1860'S

Liverpool England to New York City was by ship.

In 1866, mail from NYC to Salt Lake City traveled via the **Central Overland Route**, primarily using Ben Holladay's **Stagecoach lines** (part of Wells, Fargo & Co. by then), connecting via railroads where available from the East, then stages and relays across the plains and mountains, a journey taking weeks, far slower than the Pony Express (defunct in '61) but faster than early wagon trains, relying on rugged horses and drivers.

The Journey Explained:

1. **East Coast to Midwest:** Mail would first travel by **railroad** as far west as possible, likely to Missouri (like St. Joseph), which was a key hub.

2. **The Central Overland Route:** From the railhead, it entered the overland stage system.
3. **Stagecoach & Horses:** Ben Holladay's lines (later acquired by Wells, Fargo) used Concord coaches, changing horses at stations every 10-15 miles, covering long distances daily.
4. **Salt Lake City Hub:** Salt Lake City was a crucial transfer point, with mail continuing west with Wells, Fargo & Co. after Holladay's sale in 1866.

Final Summary of the Letter:

Mrs. William B. Preston (maiden name Harriet Ann Thatcher) was the recipient. Her family were neighbors of William Preston in California. They married in 1859.

In 1865, William was sent on a mission to Europe and was assigned to work in Liverpool, England in 1866 where he wrote frequently to his wife.

This is the cover of a documented letter dated June 3rd that is in the Archives West of the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

**How this cover got separated from the letter is a mystery I may never solve.
Perhaps Archives West only wanted the contents**

See the next pages for some Christmassy Stuff !!

Canada Post ushers in holiday season with Nov. 6 stamps



A stamp issued Nov. 6 by Canada Post shows a Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the foreground and the three wise men, the star of Bethlehem and an angel in the background. Canada Post also issued three Holiday Tinsel Tales stamps Nov. 6.

By David Hartwig

Canada Post introduced four stamps Nov. 6 to usher in the festive Christmas season, continuing a tradition that began in 1964. As in previous years, the 2025 stamps include both sacred and secular imagery.

A single religious-themed permanent-rate stamp shows a rendition of the Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. The Magi (also known as the three kings or the three wise men) are seen arriving in the distance, and an angel appears next to the star of Bethlehem at the top of the stamp.

Canada Post issued the permanent-rate stamp (currently \$1.24) in a booklet of 12. The Christmas stamp was illustrated by Bex Morley and designed by Sputnik Design Partners Inc. The first-day cover for this stamp bears a cancel from Hope, British Columbia, featuring a line-drawn illustration of the star of Bethlehem.

Canada Post's secular holiday stamp offering is titled Holiday Tinsel Tales. These three stamps depict different woodland animals decorating trees for the holiday season.

A fox in a scarf decorates a pine tree on the domestic-rate stamp.

The \$1.75 stamp for letters mailed to the United States shows two squirrels, both wearing mittens and one wearing a winter hat with the other wearing earmuffs, decorating the trunk of a tree.

Last in the series is a rabbit wearing a scarf and decorating the branches of a tree. This is the design for the \$3.65 rate for letters to other international destinations.

All three Holiday Tinsel Tales stamps are set-tenant (side-by-side) on a souvenir sheet. The sheet's background shows decorated pine trees set against the night sky.

Canada Post's Holiday Tinsel Tales FDC is franked with the souvenir sheet. The FDC is postmarked from Fox Creek, Alberta, with a cancel depicting a ball ornament with a snowflake inside.

New plate number reported for U.S. Holiday Cheer stamps

Nov 14, 2025, 2 PM



A block of four 2025 Holiday Cheer forever stamps from a pane of 20 shows the festive designs printed by Ashton Potter. A new plate number, P2222, has appeared on recent printings, replacing P1111 following a change in the paper used for production.

In late October, *Linn's Stamp News* learned of a new plate number, P2222, for the United States Holiday Cheer stamps (Scott 6033-6036) that were issued Sept. 13 in double-sided panes of 20.

Plate number P1111 was used by printer Ashton Potter of Williamsville, N.Y., to produce 500 million Holiday Cheer stamps that were finished into 25 million double-sided panes of 20 for sale at post offices and other outlets authorized to sell postage stamps.

Linn's contacted Albert Ruiz, a senior public relations representative for the U.S. Postal Service, for more details about the plate number change.

"The plate number change from P1111 to P2222 for Holiday Cheer was due to a change in paper," Ruiz said in a Nov. 4 email. When asked to clarify, Ruiz said that the new plate number was the result of a change in the size of the paper roll used to print the stamps.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL RSCC AND PSLC MEMBERS AND
TO MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER CLUB WHO MAY RECEIVE THIS
NEWSLETTER**

**ONWARDS TO 2026
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.**



The Reading Stamp Collectors Club

Mike Bach, newsletter editor