

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

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

July 2026
Number 82

The July meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. In the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library, 125 North 7th Street, in historic Downtown Lebanon (17046). Dick Colberg will be presenting on French Telegraph Stamps and is planning to complement his presentation with an assist from Don Smith and his fine specialized collection of the world's telegraph stamps.



Harpel Family Collection

Lebanon's Bicentennial Celebration

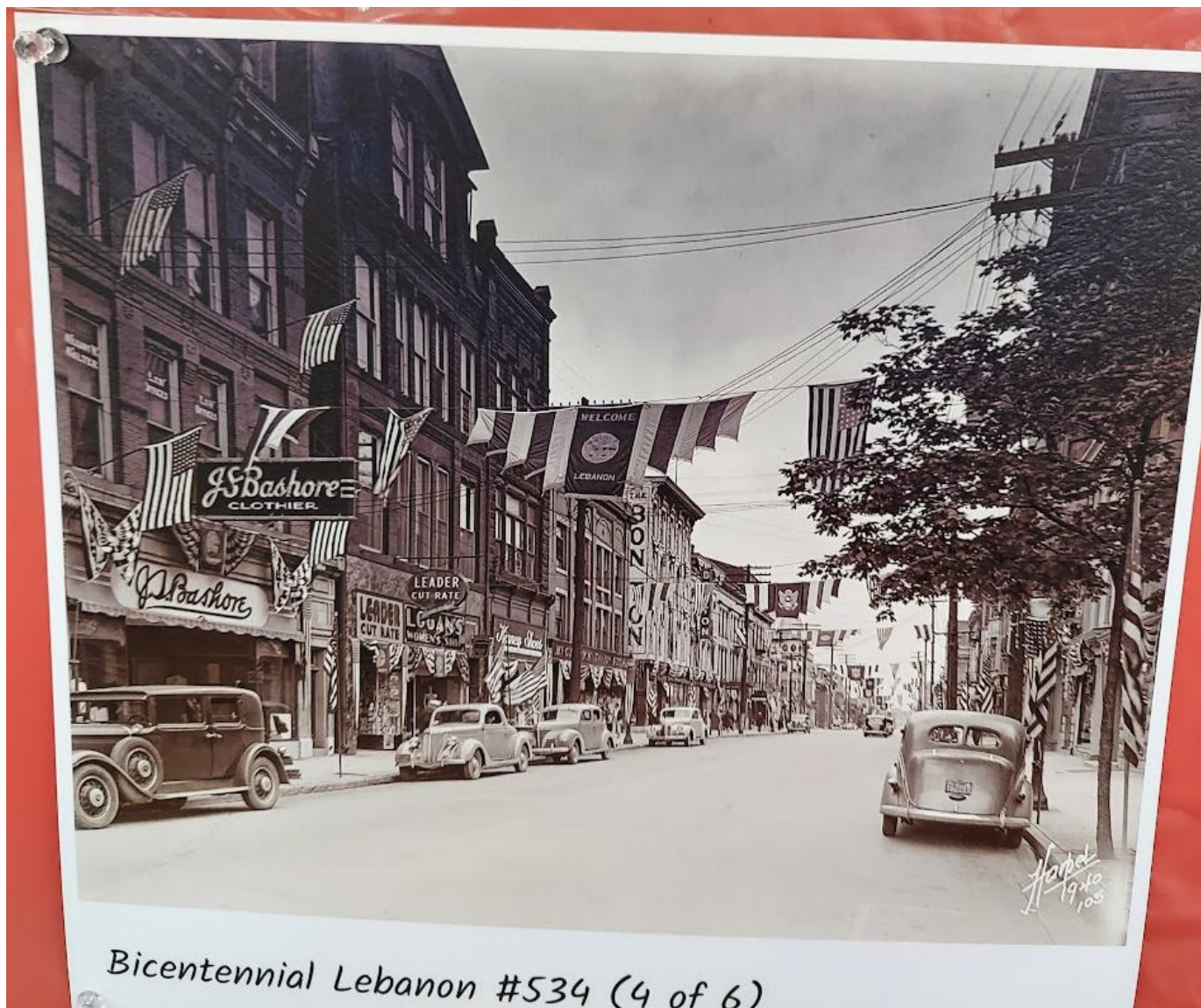
The City of Lebanon was incorporated on November 25, 1885, so this is the date that is usually placed on the welcoming signs at the city's limits. However, old "Lebanon Town" began to be settled by European immigrants about a century and a half before that. Our little piece of the map is, in fact, older than our nation.

European settlement of Lebanon's environs began as early as 1720, and history tells us that George Steitz founded Lebanon in 1740; before it received its Biblical name, it bore the name of its founder, Steitztown. Thus, on the two hundredth anniversary of its founding in 1940, the city threw itself a big party. Some pictures of the event from the *Harpel Family Collection* appeared at the semiquincentennial celebration at the Lebanon Expo Center this past July 4. Many of us Lebanon collectors no doubt have a few philatelic souvenirs from the event in our collections.



The picture shown above is one of the photos that Harpel took of the event, looking east at 8th and Cumberland Streets. The logo below is featured on the welcome banner in the middle of this photo.





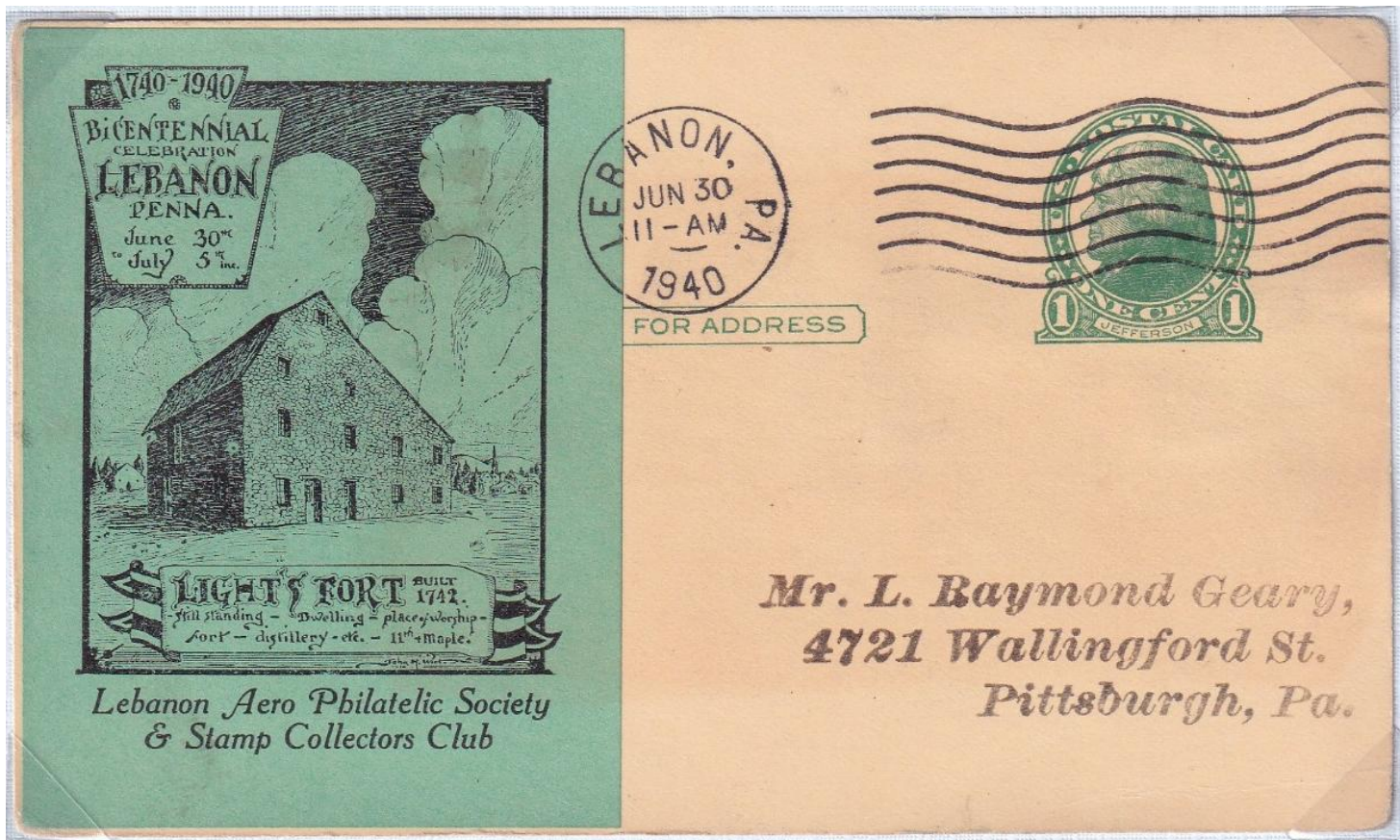
Bicentennial Lebanon #534 (4 of 6)

Here's a view from 8th and Cumberland Streets, looking west. You can see John S. Bashore's men's clothing store on the left. You can't see the courthouse, which was on the right, and undoubtedly decorated for the occasion.

Most of the covers commemorating the event carry a keystone logo commemorating Lebanon's Bicentennial Celebration, which was the week of June 30 through July 5, 1940, and a depiction of Light's Fort. This graphic can be found printed on the envelope or on a colored label produced by the Lebanon Aero Philatelic Society and Stamp Collectors Club. If you look closely, you will note the sketch of Light's Fort is signed at the bottom by John M. Wirt, the collector that was profiled in this past February's *Patent – Overprint*.

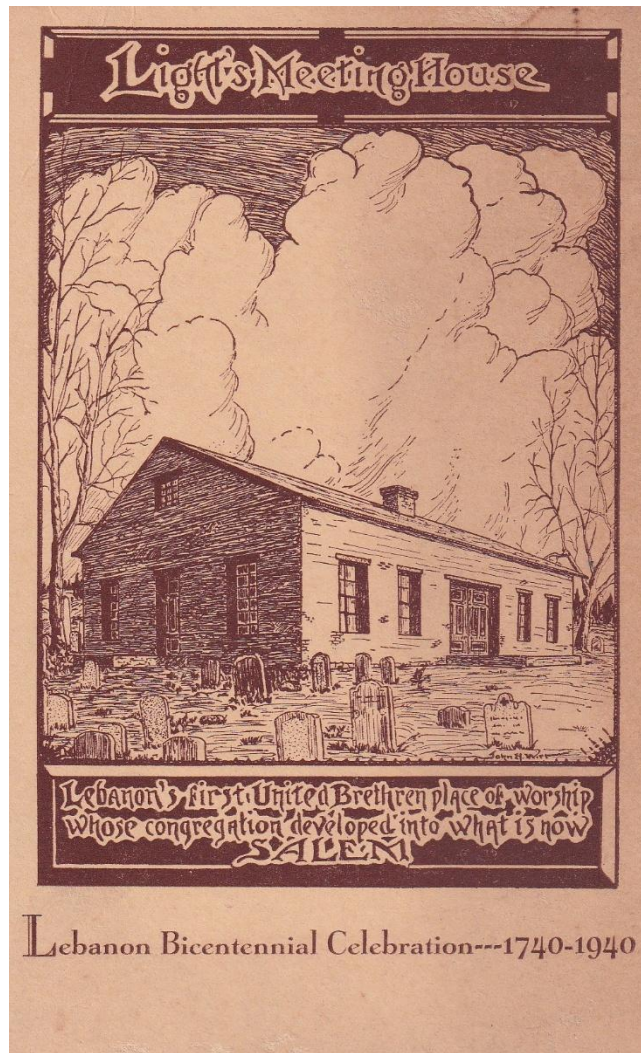
There were also postcards issued for the event. Shown below is an ordinary postcard with a green Lebanon Aero Philatelic Society and Stamp Collectors Club label, and a specially printed post card signed by club president Henry B. Richter and sent to a collector in Minnesota. There was at least one other postcard design that commemorated the event, of the Light Meetinghouse; I am not aware of the precise location of Light's Meetinghouse.







This is the front of the postcard signed by Henry B. Richter; cards and covers are shown larger than actual size.



The week of Lebanon's Bicentennial was a busy one, with many small events going on. Below are the daily happenings as they were advertised in a brochure inviting citizens to attend the festivities:

Religious Observance Day
SUNDAY, JUNE 30:

<i>Morning</i>	Homecoming Services in Churches Field Mass at Stadium
<i>Afternoon</i>	3:00 P.M. Dedication of Moravian Cemetery
<i>Evening</i>	Union Protestant Services at the Stadium—Massed Choirs



SALEM EVANGELICAL
LUTH. CHURCH

Homecoming Day

MONDAY, JULY 1:

Morning Registration of Former Residents and Visitors
11:00 A.M. Unveiling and Review of Historical Windows in the Stores
Opening Amateur and Historical Photographic Exhibit, High School
Registration of Visitors

Afternoon 3:30 P.M. Parade of Committee Personnel and Costumed Pageant Participants to Harding Junior High School Auditorium for Formal Homecoming Program—Speakers for Occasion—Music

Evening Band Concert
Coronation of the Bicentennial Queen
—Reception



Governor's Day

TUESDAY, JULY 2:

Morning Dedication to Patriots and Soldiers of City and County who have distinguished themselves in Service of their Country

Morning and Afternoon Opening and Reviewing of Flower Show

Afternoon Governor James will speak at the Stadium

Evening Band Concert
First Formal Presentation of Mammoth Historical Spectacle—
"Cavalcade of Lebanon"



MAMMOTH HISTORICAL PAGEANT

The dramatic story of 200 years of progress
... over eight hundred participants ... four
gala nights ... at new athletic field ...
spectacular costumes and lighting ... the
outstanding event of the week.

Mayor's Day

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3:

Merchants' Bicentennial Sales Day
Attractive Prices

Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Bicycle and Pet Parade
4:00 P.M. Appearance of Visiting
Mayors

Evening Band Concert
Second Performance of Spectacle

Reunion Day

THURSDAY, JULY 4:

Starting morning and continuing afternoon and evening Old-fashioned Family Picnic—Ox Roast, Refreshments and Baby Parade—Coleman Park

Evening Band Concert
Third Performance of the Spectacle

Parade Day

FRIDAY, JULY 5:

Morning Folk Dances

Afternoon Military Parade
Parade of Progress (Floats and Marching Bands, Industrial, Commercial, Fraternal and Civic, Firemen and Apparatus—Bands and Drum Corps)

Evening Band Concert
Final Performance of Spectacle, Merrykhana—Street Festival and Dance





The event issued its own currency, a humble wooden nickel, which was redeemable at any bank in the city during the week of Lebanon's Bicentennial. These were printed in different colors with a different location featured; for example, the red nickel featured the county courthouse, and the blue the Cornwall Iron Furnace.



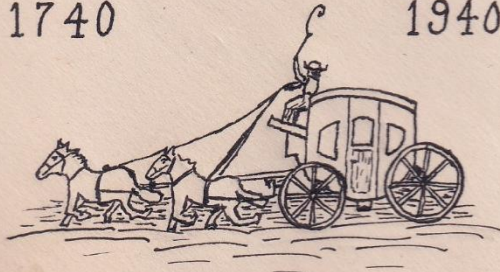
There were some attractive collectables created by philatelists for the event. Pictured are three hand-drawn or hand-colored "First Day" cachets.

LEBANON
BICENTENNIAL



1740

1940



JUNE 30 - JULY 5

FIRST DAY CANCELLATION

Robert G. Hunsicker,
313 Park Avenue,
Lebanon, Pa.

LEBANON
BICENTENNIAL



1740

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JUNE 30 - JULY 5

FIRST DAY CANCELLATION

Robert G. Hunsicker,
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THE OLD LEBANON

• WILLIAM PENN made a personal reconnaissance of this valley in 1690 and he was so impressed he recommended that the State capital be located here.

The emigrants who followed in 1723 came with a definite plan of settlement, floating down the Susquehanna River from Schoharie Valley, New York, on rafts.

Among these pioneers was the leader and diplomat of Indian fame, Conrad Weiser. Later a treaty was made by the Indians conveying all this land to the white man.

In 1740 this community was known as Quittapahilla Township, the first political identity of this settlement. In 1750 the name was changed to Lebanon township.

In 1776 Washington called upon Lebanon for men and arms. About 300 responded for action while others produced cannon and shell at Cornwall.

Lebanon received the best pioneer blood and from this melting pot outstanding characters arose to become national leaders in civil and military life.

In 1827 the first tunnel in the United States, located in Lebanon, was drilled 729 feet through solid rock, thus completing, after great difficulty, 79 miles of inland waterway known as the Union Canal.

A plank road was built in 1852 connecting Lebanon with its iron ore, five miles to the south.

Lebanon is rich in traditions and there are many other points of historical interest located in the Lebanon Valley.

THE MODERN LEBANON

• TODAY Lebanon is a city of 26,000 of which 42% own their homes. The city is governed by a commission of five men and enjoys all modern public improvements.

Industrially Lebanon is one of the most strategically located cities in the east, being out of the metropolitan high price area, yet within overnight shipping distance of over twenty million consumers. While iron and steel predominate, a healthy diversification of industry is apparent in the rapid growth of textiles, silks, shoes, food products, chemicals, paper boxes and tobacco products. Two trunk line railroads and five motor bus lines serve the Community.

Lebanon grew from an agricultural community. The populace of the Lebanon Valley is hard working, thrifty and home loving. It is from this type of people that the workers for industry are drawn. Because of this background, the worker produces a more consistent and a finer finished product. Lebanon made products command respect throughout the nation.

The local trading area embraces 75,000 prosperous buyers. The thrift and progressive conservatism of the people is reflected in sound banking institutions. Ample financial facilities are afforded by three national banks and three trust companies whose aggregate assets approach sixteen million dollars.

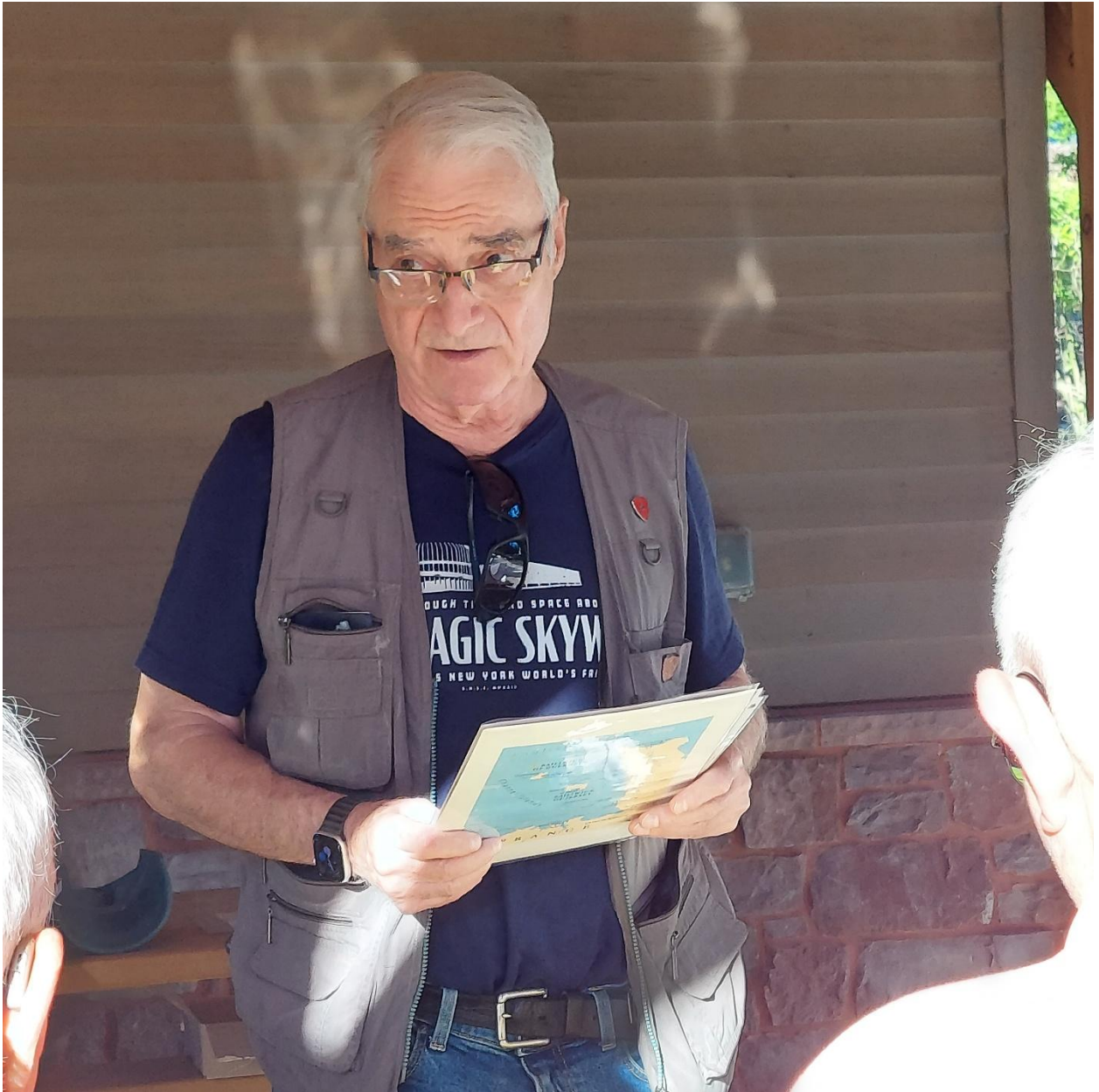
A modern public school system, two hospitals, thirty-five churches and five public playgrounds serve other community needs, so hats off to the Old Lebanon and coats off to the New.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES — PARADE — CONCERTS — HISTORICAL PAGEANT

The Bicentennial brochure featured the contrasting narrative of the "Old Lebanon" and the "Modern Lebanon". There was a big souvenir program produced for the event, packed with information about the festivities, advertisements for local businesses sponsoring the event, and a historical narrative. The narrative that appeared in the Bicentennial program in 1940 was reused for Lebanon's 1976 Bicentennial program, and recycled once again this year, in the program for our semiquincentennial celebration.

1740 - LEBANON'S BICENTENNIAL - 1940

Celebrate with us our Two Hundred years of Progress — Lebanon, Pennsylvania



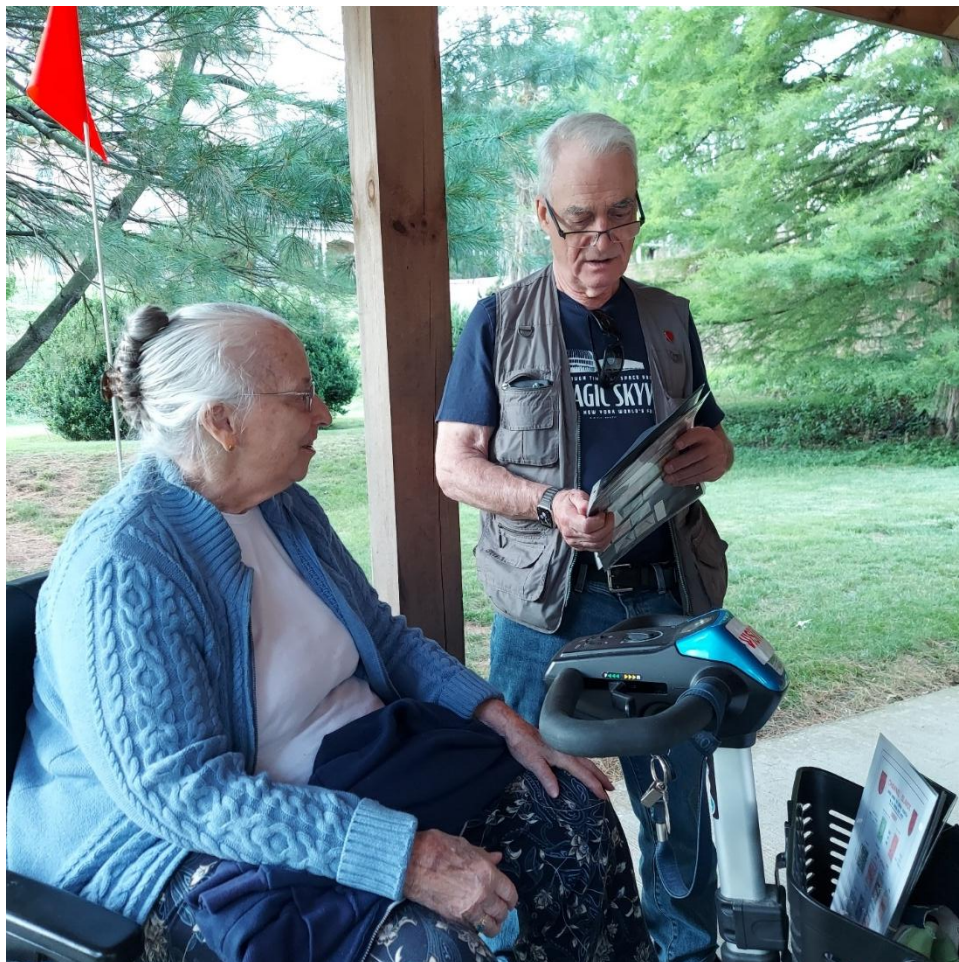
Our June Meeting in Cornwall

Dr. Paul Petersen made the drive to Cornwall again this year to share an evening with the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club at Cornwall Manor, hosted by Dennis and Lucy Shoemaker. This year's weather was kinder to us than the weather that confronted us last year, and we had a sunny and pleasant evening to listen to Paul share about his collection of Channel Islands occupation stamps. Three guests from the Manor also joined us for an evening of stamps and cookies at the bocce ball courts.



Channel Islands stamps are of special interest to collectors who pursue stamp issues related to World War II. The islands were occupied by Germany during the war, and Paul told us a few of the many stories behind those issues and showed several examples of their usage on covers from his collection. He brought with him stamps with many interesting features, such as secret marks that were quietly worked into the design in defiance of the occupiers.

Thank you to Dr. Petersen for coming to deliver a fantastic program to us, and to Dennis and Lucy for hosting us again in the beautiful woods of Cornwall Manor. We are planning to meet outdoors there again next summer, and we hope that Paul will be able to visit us again!



The Underground Railroad Quilt

By Scott and Wa'Tanya Ney

To recognize America as it enters its 251st year of fellowship with the world as one of its many nations, WaTanya and I thought we'd temporarily expand the intended audience of this newsletter once again and invite our quilting friends and loved ones to share a piece of *The Patent* with us for another month.

Our existence as a great and diverse nation includes many great and small contributions to mankind; it also includes many shameful events and afflictions that some of our neighbors argue we should not talk about. Our family does not ignore ugly facts that are interspersed among our triumphs, which allows us to appreciate the good and wonderful people and things that have been produced from the struggles and afflictions of those who have lived before us.

One of the wonderful things that has resulted from our nation's checkered past is the Underground Railroad Quilt Sampler, a project that many a quilter has found hours of enjoyment in creating. Each block on the quilt tells a story, for which we'll give you a taste of as you read on. This was one of WaTanya's early projects as a quilter, a very challenging project for a novice to complete. She created it with the help of classes offered at Stitch and Craft, a small sewing and fabric store just off the Lancaster – Lebanon Pennsylvania Turnpike exchange on PA 72.

If you'd like to learn even more about the blocks on this sampler quilt and how to make them, we recommend Quilt in a Day's *Underground Railroad Sampler*, by Ellen Burns and Sue Bouchard. The simple explanations of each quilt block we have provided come straight from their book.

Originally, the 15 blocks on this sampler quilt were created and presented as 15 full quilts to communicate vital information in code that slaves needed to increase their likelihood of making a successful escape to freedom. We encourage you to learn more about these wonderfully practical pieces of folk art by reading Burns and Bouchard's book or finding out more about them at your local library or on the internet.



Sail Boat : The sail boat block is a symbol of safe passage to Freedom. It also represents the importance of free Black sailors to the Underground Railroad.



The North Star: The North Star was the guiding light leading slaves to Canada and freedom. It was vital to the ability of boat owners to navigate the Great Lakes with people escaping to freedom in Canada from Cleveland and Detroit.



The Bow Tie: The bow tie block reminded slaves to dress in a formal manner. Free Blacks would meet slaves who had escaped in a safe place such as a church to provide them with fresh clothing to replace the tattered and torn garments that put them continuously at risk of being identified as a “fugative slave” and captured.



Flying Geese: This block taught slaves rushing toward freedom to take their direction, timing, and behavior from the migrating habits of the geese. They fly north in the spring, the best time for slaves to begin their own flight. They stop at waterways along the journey to rest and eat. The flight pattern of Geese is made easier to follow due to the loud honking noises that they make to communicate with their gaggle.



The Birds in the Air: this block is symbolic of flight or migration. Sometimes, the choice of fabric or placement of the blocks was done to indicate the direction that the slave should take in their migration.



The Carpenter's Wheel: this block has a spiritual significance; Jesus is the "master carpenter". A popular song that was sung while working in the fields was "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", a song that the workers could hide a meaning – plan your escape well – within the words.



The Log Cabin: The meaning of the Log Cabin block is unclear, so there is much speculation as to how it would have been understood. It could have meant a specific log cabin that was a safe house, or it could have had a more general meaning to the escapee to be prepared to take shelter.

William Lloyd Still, a famous black Underground Railroad conductor in Philadelphia, had a log cabin quilt in his home that had a bright yellow center, which represented a light or beacon in the wilderness.



The Shoo-Fly: This block represented a person who might have provided aid to escaping slaves, specifically aiding and harboring them in secret.

Another popular spiritual, "Steal Away", held great meaning, providing advice to a slave on when to leave and where to hide, and inspiration to accept the danger that each one faced when they took their chance at freedom.



The Bear's Paw: This block taught the slave to follow the footprints of the bear as well as other animals towards their freedom. The bear's route indicated the best path forward, and led to food and water.



The Basket: This block is the symbol of the provisions required for the long journey north to freedom. Slaves were obviously unable to carry much with them when they began their journey, and were instructed to pack carefully. They depended on safe houses and friends along the way; sometimes a woman would hide provisions in a laundry or sewing basket so as not to arouse suspicion.



The Wagon Wheel: The wagon wheel was the symbol of “a chariot that was to carry them home”. Slaves were instructed to pack for their journey as if they were packing a wagon, and wagons with hidden compartments were a primary means of transporting slaves escaping to their freedom.



The Monkey Wrench: The monkey wrench, a tool used by a blacksmith, reminded the man or woman planning their escape from bondage to quietly collect the tools that they'll need to facilitate their escape. The "monkey wrench" was also the nickname of the plantation's blacksmith, who had strong, skillful hands that communicated to the slaves on the plantation with his rhythmic hitting of the anvil.

Frederick Douglass had a monkey wrench quilt in his family home.



The Dunkard's Path: This block was a reminder to move in a staggering fashion in order to ellude the pursuing slave hunters. Sometimes they'd even move backwards to confuse their pursuers. There's a story of how the Underground Railroad got its name in the explanation of this block in Burns and Bouchards' book.



The Underground Railroad: This block is also known to quilters as a “Jacob’s Ladder”. Its alternating path of dark and light can be used to show direction.

It is estimated that as many as 100,000 people escaped slavery between the American Revolution and the Civil War. Harriet Tubman escaped to her freedom, and then returned to the South 19 times, bringing back over 300 more people with her to their freedom. In that time she made many friends of the good people who helped enslaved people escape to their freedom, and she never lost a single “passenger”.



Calling all quilters!

I happen to know that I'm not the only stamp collector with a quilting spouse, so I would like to share an invitation to all of the quilters in your life to participate in a Unity Quilt project to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America in Pennsylvania.

Drawing inspiration from the profound impact of the 1987 AIDS Quilt, the Unity Quilt project is envisioned as a vibrant celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary. Just as the AIDS Quilt became a national symbol of collective memory and hope, the Unity Quilt aims to unite communities across all 67 Pennsylvania counties and three capital cities (Harrisburg and former capitals Philadelphia and Lancaster) honoring their unique democratic contributions. The goal of the project is to have all 70 quilt designs submitted by August 31st and have an exposition of all of the completed quilts on Sunday, October 11, 2026 in Harrisburg, which coincides with the anniversary of the date that the AIDS quilt was displayed in Washington DC on October 11, 1987.

Planning for Lebanon County's contribution to the Unity Quilt is well underway, and the committee continues to look for volunteers to help. If you are interested in joining the project, please contact me, Scott Ney, via email at stnst2@aol.com or 717-383-1736. My wife is helping with the project, and I am helping her to provide images for the quilt – if you would like to learn how they plan to produce the quilt, please contact me, and I'll refer you to the local committee. Themes of Lebanon's quilt include Heritage, Industry, Agriculture, Commercial and Transportation, Military, Education, Political History, and Changing Women's Roles.

To learn more about the project, which was initiated by one of our Lebanon County neighbors, check out this article which appeared on Lebtown.com:

[Local nurse and cancer survivor initiates statewide Unity Quilt project - LebTown](#)

You can also visit the statewide project's website: <https://www.unityquiltproject.org/>

If you are interested in working on the project but are not a resident of Lebanon County, I would suggest visiting the statewide project's website to determine if a committee is already formed and working on your county's contribution to the unity quilt; but I'll be happy to help you seek localized information just the same.

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
July 21, 2026	Telegraph Stamps of France and the World - Dick Colberg and Don Smith
August 18, 2026	My trip to Boston 2026! - Tom Shott
September 15, 2026	
October 20, 2026	
November 17, 2026	
December 15, 2026	LSCC Holiday Dinner – The Batdorf in Annville

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 \(lpcs-stamps.org\)](http://lpcs-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. \(lpcs-stamps.org\)](http://lpcs-stamps.org)

Mark your calendars in 2027

July 1 is National Postage Stamp Day! Observe it by mailing a letter and experiencing how easy it is to put a stamp on the envelope and allow the USPS to deliver it for you. Whether we are mailing a letter across town or across the country, the cost of postage remains a great value for our money. – Jim Joppy and Scott Ney



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 12)

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

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY August 4th 2026

TOPIC: Summer

Although we seem to have already experienced the Dog Days of Summer in June and July see what you can find in your collection that could pertain to this time of year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Account as of 06/31/2026: \$ 765.80

Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,570.82

We earned \$156.19 in interest over 14 months. Annual interest rate of 4.0%

USPS announces new rates for July 2026

The USPS has announced an average rate increase of 4.8% for market dominant (mailing) products including First-Class stamps, metered letters, postcards and Certified Mail. Pending approval by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), these rates will go into effect on July 12, 2026. Here's a quick snapshot of what's changing:

- First-Class Mail Forever Stamp: Increase from 78¢ to 82¢
- Metered 1-oz letters: Increase from 74¢ to 78¢
- Domestic postcards: Increase from 61¢ to 65¢
- Certified Mail fee: \$5.30 to \$5.55

OUTDOOR STAMP MARKET IN THE CENTER OF PARIS CONTINUES TO SURVIVE

• By Jay Bigalke



The outdoor stamp market on Avenue de Marigny, just off the Champs-Élysées in Paris, continues a long philatelic tradition, offering stamps, postcards, collections and other collectibles in an open-air setting. From left are Jay Bigalke, president of Scott Stamp LLC; American collector Austin Foo; a dealer; and the market organizer at the Avenue de Marigny stamp market in Paris.

- One of the great joys of stamp collecting is that it often leads us to unexpected places. During a recent visit to Paris, I had the opportunity to spend a Sunday morning exploring the outdoor stamp market on Avenue de Marigny, just off the famed Champs-Élysées.
- The weather could not have been better on the morning I visited. While only a single dealer had set up that day, the market organizer told me that two dealers is more typical, with as many as six dealers participating during busier periods. According to Google Maps, the market operates from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Even with just one stand, there was plenty to examine. Boxes of used stamps sat alongside unused issues, collections, postcards and assorted philatelic material. Part of the appeal of an outdoor stamp market is the element of discovery. Unlike browsing an online auction site, a market table invites collectors to slow down and see what surprises might be waiting in the next stockbook or box
- Many collectors may recognize the market from its appearance in the 1963 film *Charade*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. In the film, Hepburn's character visits a stamp dealer while trying to unravel the mystery surrounding a valuable stamp collection, helping make the market one of the most recognizable philatelic locations in popular culture.
- Today, the market remains a reminder that stamp collecting is still best experienced in person. Whether at a major exhibition, a local stamp show or a small outdoor market in Paris, the thrill of discovering something unexpected continues to bring collectors together. If your travels take you to Paris on a Thursday, Saturday or Sunday, Avenue de Marigny is worth a visit. You may not know what you will find, but that uncertainty is part of the charm.

New sprayed-on postmark for the U.S. mail service 250

While looking for articles for the 250th celebration I came across this article from last year.

Has anyone come across this cancellation?

Jul 28, 2025 Philatelic Foreword by Jay Bigalke



A new sprayed-on postmark celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States Postal Service began appearing on mail in July 2025. The design features a stylized eagle in flight alongside the text marking the Postal Service's historic milestone.

These sprayed-on cancellations are appearing on letter mail across the country as part of the yearlong recognition by the Postal Service of its founding in 1775. Keep an eye out for them. While the clarity and placement may vary, collectors are beginning to report nice examples turning up in daily mail.

The USPS introduced a dynamic Eagle in Flight emblem on April 25, crafted in collaboration with branding agency Turner Duckworth. The symbol features a majestic bald eagle poised mid-takeoff, perched atop the bold "USPS 250" typography in classic USPS red, white, and blue. This refreshed design pays homage to the iconic sonic eagle logo of 1993 and the original 1970 postal seal, symbolizing the agency's heritage of connecting Americans while projecting its readiness to serve into the future.

The postmark example nearby is the USPS publicity image for the postmark, minus the location information of the cancellation. On the actual postmark the eagle is closer to the center with the years 1775 and 2025 within the two bars as shown.

For collectors intrigued by postmarks, I highly recommend exploring the website of the Post Mark Collectors Club at www.postmarks.org. You'll find directories of post offices, research resources, and details about the Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Library near Bellevue, Ohio.

The club's site also includes an extraordinary gallery of more than 30,000 photos of post offices across the United States, its territories, and even a few international locations. I've visited the museum myself and found it well worth the stop — especially if your travels bring you near Cleveland.

The Declaration of Independence Is Honored with a New Stamp



In 1776, the Declaration of Independence gave powerful voice to a bold idea: that government exists to serve the people. On the 250th anniversary of America's founding document, the U.S. Postal Service pays tribute to the written instrument that codified our national ideals with a new Forever stamp.

The first day-of-issue event for the Declaration of Independence stamp will be part of this year's Celebration of Freedom at the birthplace of our nation in Philadelphia and is free and open to the public.

Lucy Trout, secretary of the USPS Board of Governors

When: Saturday, July 4 at 10 a.m. Eastern

Where: B Free Franklin Post Office Philadelphia PA

Background:

Adopted on July 4, 1776, by the Second Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence announced the Colonies' break from Great Britain and expressed the bold idea that government is a social contract based on the consent of the governed. Its words have echoed through two and a half centuries, reminding us that liberty and justice are at the heart of the American story.

The Reading Stamp Collectors Club

Mike Bach, newsletter editor