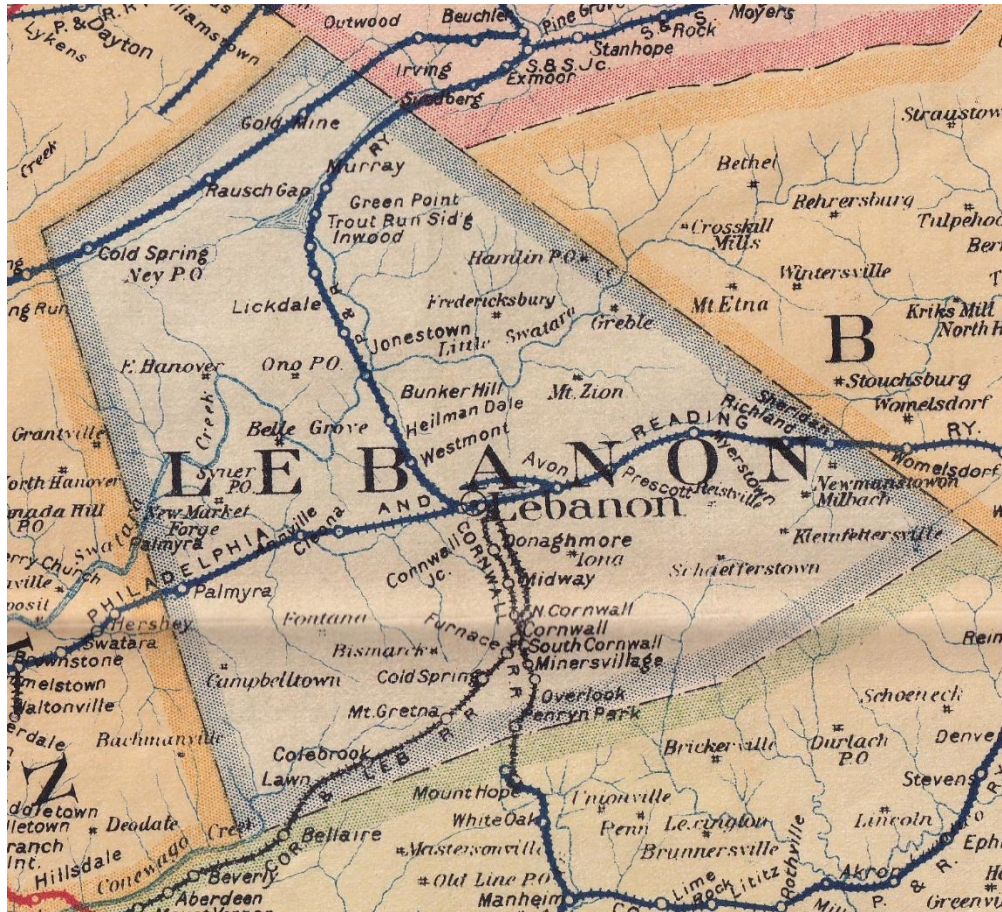




Railroad Map of Pennsylvania, 1911

# **COLD SPRINGS HOTEL,** **COLD SPRINGS, NEY P. O., LEBANON CO., PA.**

## **The Mountain Post Offices of Cold Spring, Lebanon County Pennsylvania**

or

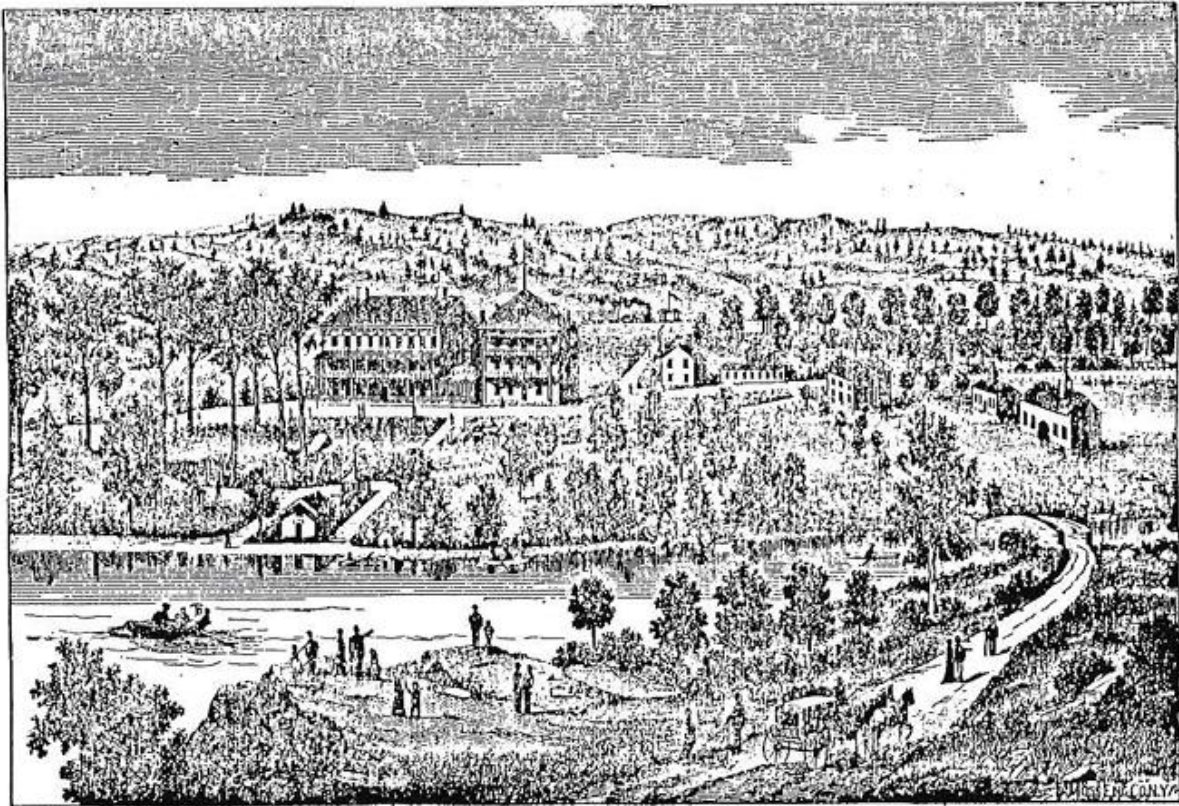
## **A Journey to the Ney Post Office**

*By Scott Ney, a great-great grandson of the first postmaster*

*August 26, 2026*

*Philatelic Society of Lancaster County*





# COLD SPRINGS HOTEL

IN THE MOUNTAINS.

*F. Grosch, = Proprietor.*

**COLD SPRINGS, LEBANON CO., PA.**

On the Line of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, Branch of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad,

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# Prologue

*“About one out of nine towns and post offices are named for the postmaster or his family.”*

*Pennsylvania Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1994 by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr.*

The Ney Post Office was located in Cold Spring Township, Lebanon County. It was accessible by rail, and located in a sparsely populated village, which was known for its resort hotel.

## The History of Ney P.O. (from Kay and Smith)

Cold Spring: 8/12/1852 – 6/20/1853

Pearson: 11/11/1872 – 10/26/1877 (Service from Mifflin, Schuylkill Co.)

Ney: 6/16/1881 – 6/15/1903 (Service from Ellwood, Schuylkill Co.)

Lotell: 7/13/1910\* – 3/15/1939 (Service from Jonestown, Lebanon Co.)

\*The difference between this date and the one given by Kay and Smith in their book is explained below

# Part I

## Cold Spring

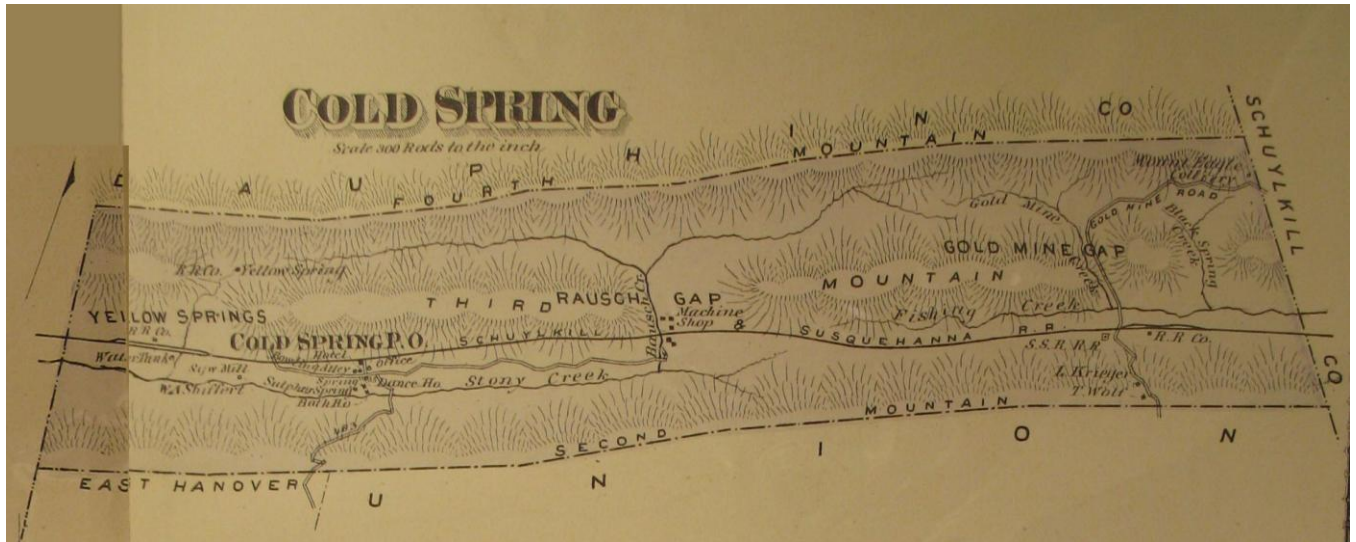
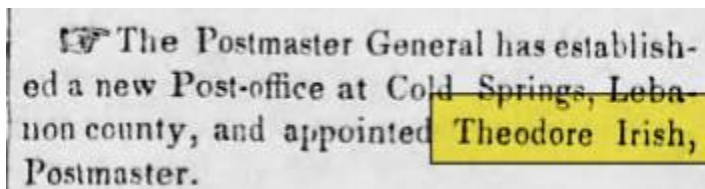


Image taken from the Beers 1875 Lebanon County Atlas – [AncestorTracks.com](http://AncestorTracks.com)

The postmaster was named Theodore D. Irish; the post office existed for little more than 10 months. The first hotel at Cold Springs was established around this time.

The name “Cold Spring” was subsequently selected for a post office in Wayne County, which existed from 1858 – 1895 (spelled “Coldspring” from 1895 – 1934).

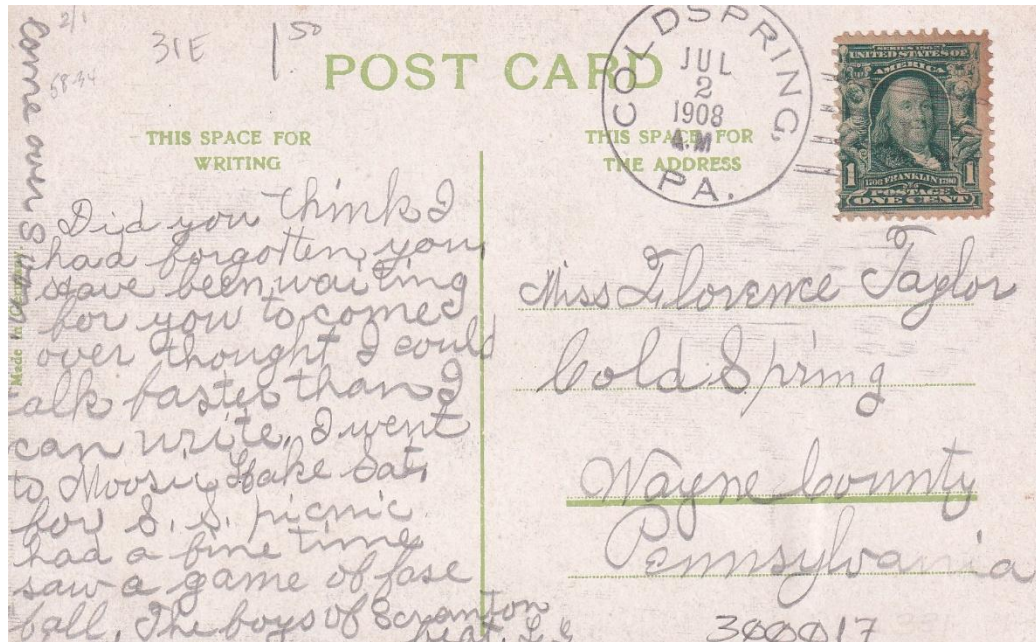
Friday, August 20, 1852: Lebanon Courier and Semi-Weekly Report (p. 2)



Note: All newspaper clippings in this presentation are found on [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com)



By the time the short-lived post office at Cold Spring was re-established, it had been claimed by the other location in Wayne County.



A postcard from Coldspring, Wayne County, from 1908.

# Part II

## Pearson

The post office was named for Judge John J. Pearson, of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, which comprised Dauphin and Lebanon Counties. The postmaster was William Lerch, who was also the proprietor of the Cold Springs Hotel. Lerch resigned upon selling the hotel property to the St. Joseph's Society of Philadelphia and moving to Pine Grove. The next postmaster, according to Newspaper accounts, was Mr. John Nichols.

Monday, January 13, 1873: Lebanon Daily News (p. 4)



—A new post-office has been established at Cold Spring, Lebanon county, and is named Pearson, in honor of Judge Pearson. A telegraph office has also been established at that place.

Thursday, November 5, 1874: Lebanon Daily News (p. 4)

**Cold Springs Hotel.**  
Mr. William Lerch, proprietor of the Cold Spring Hotel, has sold the same to the St. Joseph's Society of Philadelphia for about \$6,500. The gentlemen who represented a society in Washington, having the papers made to this Catholic organization. It will be occupied as a retreat for Catholic priests.

Tuesday, April 6, 1875: Lebanon Daily News (p. 1)

**Change of Residence.**  
Mr. William Lerch, formerly the popular proprietor of the Cold Springs Hotel, this county, on the first of April removed his place of residence to Pinegrove, Schuylkill county. He has become the landlord of a very fine House, at that place, and will be glad to see his friends give him a call. Mr. Lerch is sociable, attentive, and has every qualification for the business.



Tuesday, April 6, 1875: Lebanon Daily News (p. 4)



There was a crime committed at the Pearson Post Office that made the news in 1877; a registered letter, addressed to "Pearson's, Luzerne County", was missent to Pearson P.O. in Lebanon County, and the defendant, who gained knowledge of it and claimed it under false pretenses, and was found guilty of a federal crime and sentenced to two years in prison.

I wrote of this "Occurrence at the Pearson Post Office" in the November 2025 *Pennsylvania Postal Historian* bulletin. *Historian* editor and friend Hal Klein is still waiting for someone to report the existence of a cover from this elusive post office.

### **Government Prosecution.**

Yesterday in the U. S. District Court, Philadelphia, before Judge Cadwalader, the case of Benjamin Mines was put on trial upon the charge of obtaining a letter from the Post Office at Pearson Station, Lebanon county, by fraud. The averment was that a registered letter addressed to one Charles Ludstrom was received at the Pearson Station Post Office, and the defendant, representing that it was intended for him obtained possession of it and signed a receipt for it. It contained a draft for \$42 37, which the defendant appropriated to his own use. The letter was addressed to Pearson's, Luzerne county, and had by mistake gone to Pearson Station, Lebanon county, and the defendant gained knowledge of it from the fact that his father had been questioned by the Postmaster as to whether he knew of any man named Ludstrom in that neighborhood. The draft was enclosed in a letter of advice written in the Norwegian language, and when subsequently special agent Barrett interviewed him about it. The latter returned him the letter of advice, saying that was all the registered package had contained; when before the commissioner he told Mr. Barrett he would pay all the expenses, all the costs, return the money, and pay Mr. Barrett \$200 additional if he would let up on him. He was found guilty.

Benjamin Nines, of East Hanover township, Lebanon county, was last week convicted in the United States court at Philadelphia for obtaining by fraud possession of a registered letter out of the Pearson post office, Lebanon county, not belonging to him, and appropriating its contents. He was sentenced to two years confinement in the penitentiary.

## COLD SPRING TOWNSHIP.

This township is bounded on the east by Schuylkill county, north and west by Dauphin county, and on the south by East Hanover and Union townships, Lebanon county. The celebrated Cold Spring, from which the township derives its name, is situated between the Second and Third Mountains, and was at one time a noted summer resort. The township was organized in 1853, from portions of Union and East Hanover townships, and had a population in 1870 of 80. Its present population is 40—a decrease of 40 within the last decade.

See  
Blank  
Page.

### H

Politics

Huvley David 27, laborer—Mary, Mamie, Clara  
Hoster John 25, laborer—Elizabeth  
Heisler Benjamin 17—Alice, Lehra  
Mease Daniel 36, laborer—Mary A., Sarah A., David G. 11, John H. 8, Ellen A., Savilla M. Union Forge post office  
Nye Elias 29, laborer—Lavina, Maggie, Katie Emannel G. 1. Yellow Springs post office, Dauphin county, Pa  
Raber Franklin L. 28, laborer. Jonestown p. o.

See  
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Page.

### S

Politics

Stichler David 33, laborer—Juliann, David 9, Sarah, Thomas J. Yellow Springs  
Stichler Josiah 39, laborer—Sarah, Charles 5-12. Yellow Springs  
Shultz John sr. 57, agent—Leah. Yellow Springs  
Shultz William 31, laborer—Kate, Annie, John 1. Yellow Springs  
Wade John 31, gold miner—Belle, Barbara, Lizzie. Yellow Springs

The residents of Cold Spring as listed in the 1880 Lebanon County Census Directory, published by C. M. Bowman. Elias Ney's post office is listed as Yellow Springs; however, I can't find a post office that was at that location in Dauphin County.



## Part III

### Ney

Named after the first postmaster, Elias Ney; re-establishment of the Post Office at Cold Spring was likely initiated due to new ownership of the hotel.

Monday, August 2, 1880: Harrisburg Telegraph (p. 1)

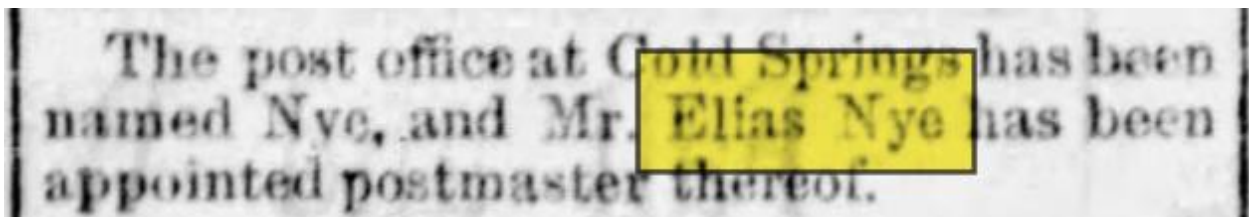
**ANOTHER SUMMER RESORT.**

**Cold Springs Hotel** Property Purchased by  
Harrisburg Gentlemen.

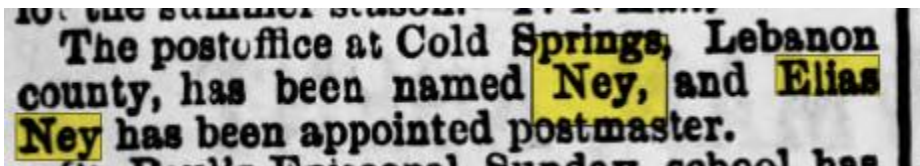
Arrangements were concluded on Saturday by which Messrs. George F. Rohrer, Frank R. Leib, George W. Hunter, John C. Herman, Christian Heikel and John Morrow, all well known Harrisburgers, become sole owners of the valuable property in Lebanon county known as Cold Springs. The property consists of about eighty acres of land lying along the line of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna railroad, twenty-six miles from Harrisburg, and easily accessible. On it is the celebrated Cold Spring, in former days one of the most frequented picnic resorts in this vicinity. A large hotel is built near the spring, and a cottage is included in the purchase. The present owners will fit up the grounds as a summer resort and a place for picnics, putting everything in order by next season. A number of new cottages will be erected, and every improvement necessary will be made. The spot is one of the coolest in the State, situated right between the mountains, and will no doubt be a mecca for the excursionists next summer.

The notice printed in the Lebanon Daily News illustrates the issue my family has with the spelling of our name; his name was misspelled “Nye” in the Lebanon newspaper notice. His name, and therefore, the name of the post office, is spelled correctly in the notice published in the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Friday, July 1, 1881: Lebanon Daily News (p. 4)



Saturday, June 18, 1881: Harrisburg Telegraph (p. 4)



## Some highlights of Ney family history:

1736: Fallendin Neü arrived in North America at the Port of Philadelphia on September 1, on the *Harle*, from Germany via Rotterdam. He settled in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, along Northkill Creek.

1750's: Two of Fallendin's sons are attacked, and one murdered, by a marauding band of Natives as they were out gathering firewood.

1777: Two of Fallendin's sons were on the muster rolls of Capt. John Soder's militia company in Berks County.

1790: Fallendin Neü died. In the inventory of his estate there is listed an amount of Continental money which I presume could have been received for providing food for Washington's army during the war. It's likely this would have been undocumented if not for

an Act of Congress passed August 4, 1790, providing for the redemption of Continental money at the rate of \$1 for every \$100. (cf. Q. David Bowers, *A Guide Book of Continental Currency and Coins*, p. 19).

*Inventory of the Personall Estate of Valentin Ney  
deceased of Tullock Township Berks County  
in the State of Pennsylvania. made and done according  
to his last Will and Testament by his substituted  
Executors George Ney & Sylvester Neyn, in the presents  
of Christian Albrecht & Jacob Fisher (as Witnesses,  
the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of August, in the Year of our Lord 1790*

|                                                            | <i>£.</i> | <i>Sh.</i> | <i>D.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| <i>His Clothings in hole</i> -----                         |           |            |           |
| <i>in real specie hard Money</i> -----                     | 7         | 14         | 3         |
| <i>in Continental Money</i> -----                          | 54        | 13         | 7         |
| <i>Seven Bonds in real specie from Valentin Ney.</i> ----- | 129       | 4          | 5         |

1820: Daniel Ney, father of Elias Ney, was born on July 20.

1840: The first child of Daniel and Catherine Ney, Levi, was born in Bernville, Berks County, July 25.

1845: Daniel Ney moved his family from Bernville in Berks County to "the Gap" in northern Lebanon County.

1849: Elias Ney was born on August 21.

1864, July 21: Elias' oldest brother, Levi, died of wounds received the previous day at the Battle of Peachtree Creek near Atlanta, Georgia.

1881: Elias Ney becomes postmaster of the new post office at Cold Springs, June 24.

1903: Daniel Ney died, November 15.

1916: Elias Ney died, November 11.

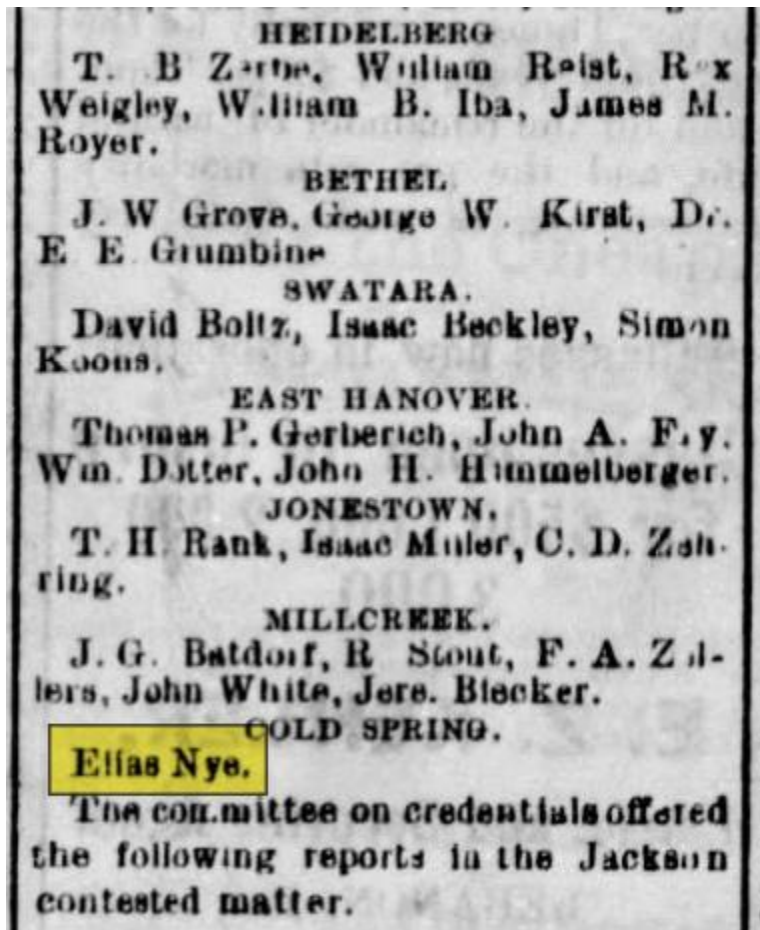


## Why was Elias Nye picked to be the postmaster?

It's clear that his family was one of the few who lived in the vicinity of the hotel. An item was published after the 1881 season had concluded, reporting that "Farmer Nye" was looking after the hotel over the winter. But I wasn't sure if being one of the few permanent residents of the township would be enough for "Farmer Nye" to be appointed postmaster.

Searching newspapers, however, I found that Elias Nye was the tax collector in Cold Spring Township and was active in the local Republican Party. Either one, or both, of these things may have provided him with the requisite political connections for the postmaster job.

Partial list of delegates to the Lebanon County Republican Convention, from the Lebanon Daily News, Monday, September 1, 1879



List of Lebanon County Tax Collectors, from the Lebanon Daily News, Monday, August 23, 1880.

### **Tax Collectors.**

The following is a correct list of the collectors appointed by the County Commissioners for the collection of State and county taxes for 1880. Said taxes must be paid on or before 2nd of October, to entitle a person to vote:

First Ward—William G Ward.

Second Ward—Daniel Musser.

Third Ward—Daniel Musser.

Fourth Ward—Elias R Light.

Fifth Ward—Franklin M Allwein.

Sixth Ward—Adam Allwein.

North Annville—Charles Arndt.

South Annville—John Arndt.

Bethel—William Brown.

Cold Spring—Elias Nye.

Cornwall, North and South — James Hummel.

East Hanover — David T Gerberich.

Heidelberg—William Seiders.

Jackson—Martin Manderbach.

Jonestown Borough—Solomon Kern.

North Lebanon—Moses Light.

South Lebanon — Daniel Bomberger.

Londonderry—John Forrest.

Millcreek—Daniel Keller.

Swatara—Ezra H Light.

Union—Jacob Kreiser.



### Disston Post Office?

Apparently, the name of the new post office in Cold Spring was intended to be "Disston". The question of why "Disston" was picked has eluded everyone I've ever talked to about it, and I'm not sure if there's a definitive explanation still existing for it.

At the time the post office was established, there was a prominent industrialist in Philadelphia named Hamilton Disston, who had just purchased four million acres of Florida swamp land. This was widely reported, but it's unclear to me that Hamilton Disston had any connections to Cold Spring or the hotel.

On Saturday, June 18, 1881, the same day that the Harrisburg Telegraph published the notice that the post office at Cold Springs has been named Ney, the name Disston still appeared in their advertisement for the Cold Springs Hotel. On Tuesday, June 21, 1881, the post office name in the advertisement was changed to Ney.



Saturday, June 18, 1881: Harrisburg Telegraph (p. 4)

The postoffice at Cold Springs, Lebanon county, has been named **Ney**, and **Elias Ney** has been appointed postmaster.

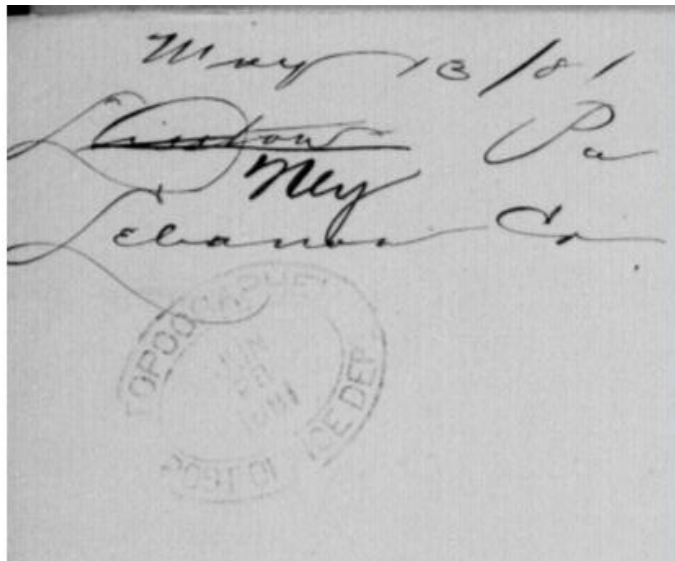
Saturday, June 18, 1881: Harrisburg Telegraph (p. 4)

**COLD SPRINGS HOTEL,**  
**COLD SPRINGS, LEBANON CO., PA.**  
**TWENTY-SIX MILES FROM HARRIS-**  
**BURG,** offers rare attractions for summer boarders. Large, airy rooms, fine piazzas, elegant groves, billiard rooms and bowling alleys. Finest springs in the State. Will open June 15. Furnished new throughout.  
**C. N. BLACKWELL, Manager,**  
176 Disston P. O., Lebanon Co., Pa.

Tuesday, June 21, 1881: Harrisburg Telegraph, Page 4

**COLD SPRINGS HOTEL,**  
**COLD SPRINGS, LEBANON CO., PA.**  
**TWENTY-SIX MILES FROM HARRIS-**  
**BURG,** offers rare attractions for summer boarders. Large, airy rooms, fine piazzas, elegant groves, billiard rooms and bowling alleys. Finest springs in the State. Will open June 15. Furnished new throughout.  
**C. N. BLACKWELL, Manager,**  
176 Ney P. O., Lebanon Co., Pa.

The original Post Office Department application in the National Archives, which was addressed to Elias Ney, shows that the name "Disston" was crossed out, and "Ney" written next to it. There was a post office in Pennsylvania called Disston, in Lancaster County, but it was not established until 1891.



U N

(No. 1001.)

**Post Office Department,**  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., \_\_\_\_\_, 188 .

Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for a new post office at Disston, County of Lancaster, State of Pa. at which you are recommended for postmaster, he requires that the blanks in the following statement be filled, and the questions carefully and correctly answered, verified by your signature, certified by a neighboring postmaster, and returned to this Department, addressed to me. The contractor should be informed of this application; and if the site of the proposed office be off the mail route, you will forward his certificate as to the practicability of supplying it, and also as to the increase of distance. If the proposed office is not on any route now under contract, it can only be established as a "Special Office," to be supplied without expense to the Department other than net proceeds.

Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined queries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

Very respectfully, **JAMES N. TYNER,**  
First Assistant Postmaster General.

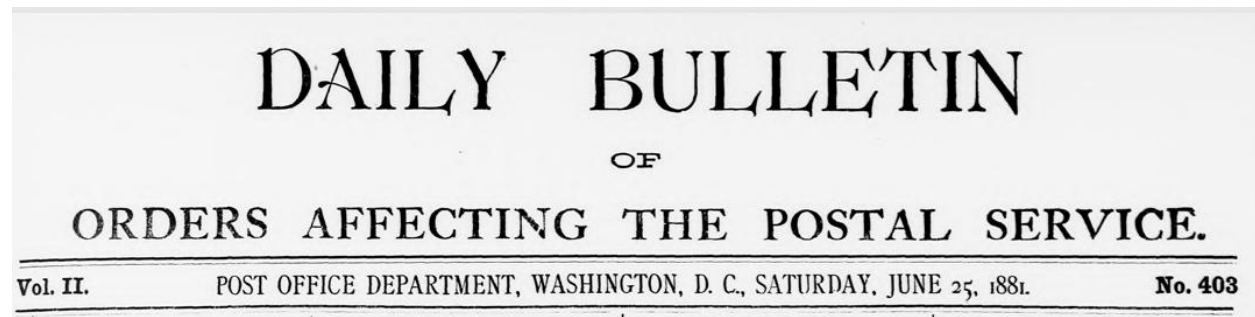
To Mr. Elias Ney  
care of the Postmaster of \_\_\_\_\_, who will please forward to him.

**STATEMENT.**  
The proposed office to be called Disston Ney

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

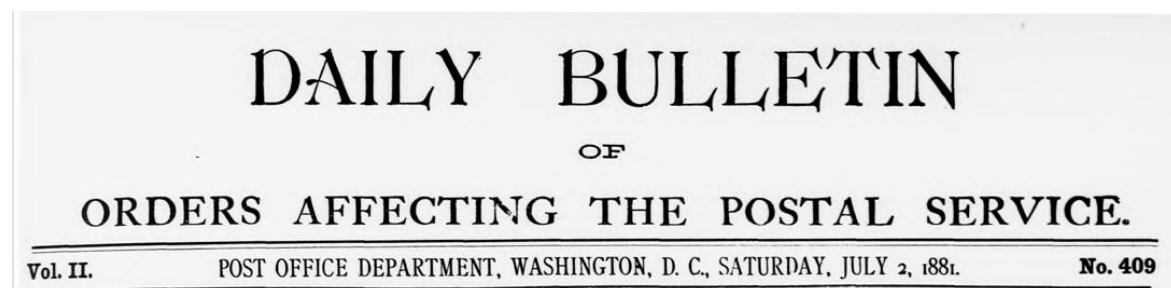
It will be situated on the \_\_\_\_\_ quarter of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

Notice of the establishment of the Ney Post Office was included in the [Daily Postal Bulletin](#) of Saturday, June 25, 1881



PENNSYLVANIA.  
Ney, Lebanon Co., Route 8028, bet. Ellendale Forge, 9 ms. S. W., and Pine Grove, 12 ms. N. (Supplement 55.)

Notice of the appointment of Elias Ney as postmaster was included in the Postal Bulletin of Saturday, July 2, 1881



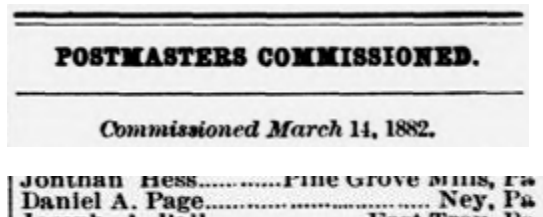
*Commissions sent June 24 1881.*

*New Offices.*  
David Ivy, Tupelo, Jackson Co., Ala  
Luther H. Sullivan, Mentor,  
Arkansas Co., Ark  
James C. Liston, Red Mountain,  
Gunnison Co., Colo  
John C. Johnson, Sulphur Springs,  
Hall Co., Ga.  
Jackson C. Culver, Independence,  
Pike Co., Ill  
Louis P. Buettner, Wartburg,  
Monroe Co., "  
Sallie M. Williams, Ceppo, Person Co., N C  
Jehu A. Allen, Macphelor,  
Lincoln Co., "  
Elias Ney, Ney, Lebanon Co., Pa  
Oscar Thibaudeau, Peot,  
Kewanee Co., Wis



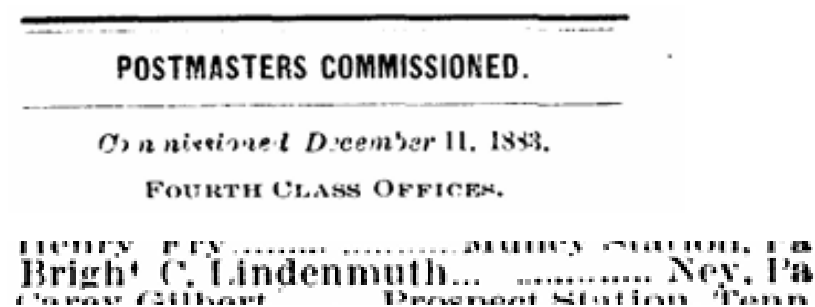
Elias Ney's address continued to be the Ney Post Office, but his tenure as postmaster didn't last long. The next man appointed to the post was Daniel Page.

Thursday, March 16, 1882: Postal Bulletin



Less than two years later, Bright C. Lindenmuth was appointed postmaster at Ney.

Wednesday, December 12, 1883: Postal Bulletin



The Cold Springs Hotel was sold late in 1890 and was bought by Francis Grusch. Grusch (also spelled "Grosch") owned another resort, Grusch's Mountain House, in Wernersville.

Wednesday, November 5, 1890: Lebanon Courier and Semi-Weekly Report (p.2)

**SHERIFF'S SALE.**

**BY VIRTUE OF A CERTAIN WRIT** of Venditioni Exponas, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Lebanon county, and to me directed, I will expose at public sale or out-cry, on

*Saturday November 29th, 1890,*

at 1 o'clock, p. m., at the Public House of JOHN REIDEL, (CITY HOTEL,) in the CITY OF LEBANON, Lebanon county, Pa., all the estate, right, title, claim, interest and demand, lands and tenements of the COLD SPRING HOTEL AND LAND COMPANY, of, in, and to the following Real Estate, viz:

All that certain Messuage, Tenement and Tract of Land, situate in COLD SPRING TOWNSHIP, Lebanon county, Pa., adjoining lands of the Philadelphia & Reading Rail Road Company, containing **80 ACRES**, 1 Rod and 11 Perches, be the same more or less.  The improvements consist of a Three-Story Frame HOTEL BUILDING, 50 by 88 feet; Three-Story Frame Annex, 36 by 44 feet; Two-Story L. to main building, 26 by 35 feet; Bake House, with Oven, 10 by 15 feet, and other Out-Buildings.  Also, Two Story Frame COTTAGE HOUSE, 15 by 37 feet; Bowling Alley, 12 by 54 feet; Bath House, 24 by 24 feet; Pump House, 8 by 10 feet; Restaurant House, 10 by 20 feet; Dancing Pavillion, 48 by 60 feet.  Also, Two-Story Frame COTTAGE, (Farm House) 12 by 30 feet, with Wing, 12 by 16 feet; Frame Stable, 16 by 31 feet; Pig Sty, Chicken House, Wood House, and other Out-Buildings.

 Seized and taken into execution as the property of THE COLD SPRINGS HOTEL AND LAND COMPANY, and will be sold by THOS. V. MILLER, Sheriff.

Monday, July 1, 1878: Reading Times

**H**O! FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY.

To spend a pleasant day on the "Fourth of July," you should go to **GRUSCH'S MOUNTAIN HOUSE**, near Wernersville. A splendid dinner of spring chickens, numerous side dishes, ice cream, fruit, &c., will be served. Fine accommodations for families. Carriages will meet all trains at the depot. Please inform the proprietor by postal card of your coming. **FRANCIS GRUSCH**, Proprietor of the "Mountain House," Wernersville, Pa.

7-1a3-2t\*

Tuesday, July 2, 1878: Reading Times

*Summer Resort.*

**MOUNTAIN HOUSE,**

**FRANCIS GRUSCH**, Proprietor,

one and a half miles south of Wernersville; pure and dry mountain air; fresh spring water; substantial board; spacious and well ventilated rooms; hot and cold baths. Rooms, including board, \$7 to \$12 per week. Milk from one cow for infants or others. Address communication to **FRANCIS GRUSCH**

6-8-2m Wernersville P. O. Berks county, Pa.



Tuesday, June 12, 1883: Reading Times

**South Mountain Sunset House.**  
Higher up on the mountain is situated Francis Grusch's South Mountain Sunset House, a large four-story building, containing fifty-seven well furnished rooms. The building was erected especially for a summer resort, and is capable of accommodating from 110 to 115 guests. An elevator was recently introduced to make it as complete as possible in all its appointments. The view from this resort is very fine, embracing a beautiful view to the south as well as the far extending landscape to the north. The building is so situated as to command at all times an invigorating breeze. The proprietor has the assistance of his daughters, who are well versed in hotel management. There are twenty-one acres of cleared land surrounding the buildings, with a tract of forty-two acres of timber land belonging to the property. A number of improvements have been made this spring. The proprietor has received a large number of applications for accommodations during the season, and expects to have all his rooms occupied by the first of July.

Monday, July 11, 1892: Reading Times

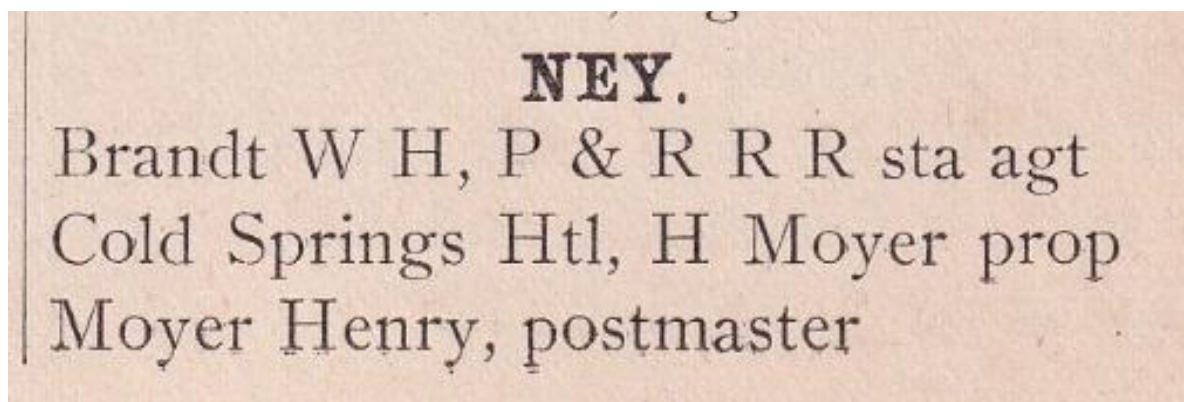
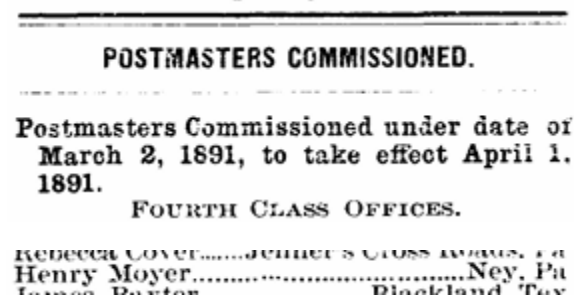
**Reading People at Cold Springs.**  
That old resort in the mountains—Cold Spring, on the line of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna branch of the P. & R. railroad, is now under the personal management of the owner of the property, Mr. Francis Grusch. A great many improvements have been made and others are contemplated. The season of 1892 promises to be a good one. Among the places already represented by the patrons are Reading, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, Shippensburg, Williamstown and Marietta. George R. Frill, of this city, spent several weeks there this season and used the baths for a rheumatic affection. He obtained great relief in a few days. Among other visitors to Cold Spring this summer may be mentioned: William H. Norton, Joseph F. Rodgers, Cyrus T. Fox and Harry C. Boyer and wife. Rooms have been engaged by Miss Kate Immel, H. B. Hagy and others.

Henry Moyer, the son-in-law of Francis Grusch, was appointed postmaster of the Ney P.O. in 1891. Moyer later became the proprietor of the hotel.

Thursday, June 18, 1891: Lebanon Daily News (p. 3)



Thursday, March 5, 1891: Postal Bulletin



This is the listing for Ney in the *Lebanon City Directory and County Business Directory* for 1897 – 1898, published by Charles Shaffer and Co.

The hotel was put up for sale again in 1899, and as no buyers were found for it, Moyer opened it up for the 1900 season.

Wednesday, October 11, 1899: Lebanon Courier and Semi-Weekly Report (p. 1)

**PUBLIC SALE**  
OF THE WELL-KNOWN RESORT  
**The Cold Springs Hotel**  
AND GROUNDS.

Will be sold at Public Sale, on  
**Saturday, October 14th, 1899,**

At the Eagle Hotel, in the City of Lebanon, Pa., the following Valuable Hotel Property, viz:

A Tract of land, containing about 80 ACRES, of which about 20 are under good cultivation, situated at Cold Springs station, Lebanon county, Pa., on the Schuylkill and Susquehanna branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, about 26 miles northeast of Harrisburg, and about the same distance from Lebanon.

 The improvements consist of Two Large Hotel Buildings. The first building contains 10 bed rooms, 2 large dining rooms, seating 100 people; 2 Kitchens, 1 with 2 large ranges and the other has a store room attached; baking, wash and coal house attached; One Office, one Toilet Room one large bar room, with necessary fixtures; the other building has 42 rooms, including bath, with hot and cold water and parlor rooms. Both buildings have large halls and porches and a dancing floor adjoins the two buildings. One Cottage, about 600 yards from hotel, with six rooms and cellar; 2 Ice Houses, one with large refrigerator; bathing house, with six vats. Water supplied from spring, about 20 yards away, known as the Cold Spring. Beautiful Park, with three springs, Cold Spring, Magnesia Spring and Birch Spring. Dancing Pavilion, size 30 by 50 feet, with music stand, 5½ by 10 feet attached; one Refreshment House, one Cook House, one Bowling Alley, 75 feet long, with double track. The Park adjoins the hotel, and is supplied with nice benches. Farm House, with 6 rooms and cellar; Summer House attached; one large stable, one hen house, one pig sty, two corn cribs, one blacksmith shop. Apple Orchard, in good bearing condition, and one large good bearing Vineyard.

On the tract near the hotel is a large lake with boats and boat houses.

This is a splendid Summer resort, and every year is visited by hundreds of guests. The altitude is high, affording pure, invigorating air, free from malaria. Asthma and hay fever are unknown here. The dry and bracing air of this locality is almost a specific cure for persons suffering with, or predisposed to pulmonary or nervous complaints.

The water is unsurpassed. There are three large Springs—Cold Springs, which is 46° cold, has bath houses attached, used as a curative in Rheumatic cases, has never been known to fail. Magnesia Spring and Birch Spring, all of which are pure and health-giving waters, and are daily in demand.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock, p. m., when conditions will be made known by  
**HENRY MOYER.**

September 20,

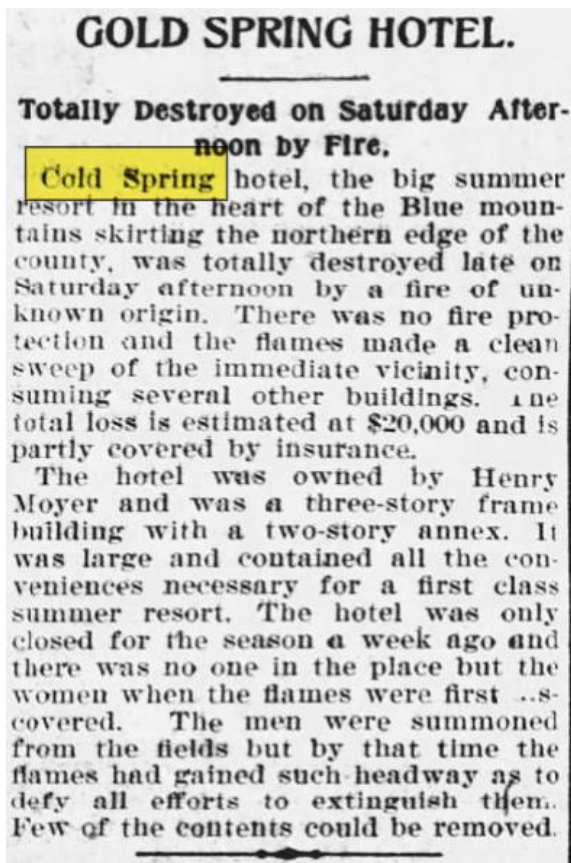


Saturday, June 23, 1900: Lebanon Daily News (p. 1)



1900 was the last year that the Cold Springs Hotel would operate, as the structure burned to the ground shortly after the summer season ended.

Monday, September 24, 1900: Lebanon Daily News (p. 1)





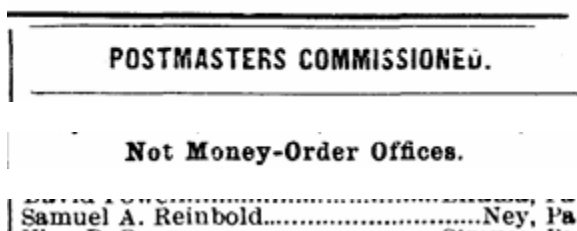
There were plans to rebuild a “far superior” hotel at the site, but they never came to fruition.

Thursday, October 8, 1900: Lebanon Daily News (p. 1)

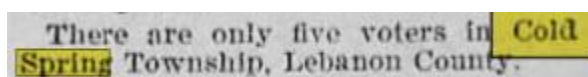


The final postmaster appointed at Ney was Samuel A. Reinbold, with the hotel gone and a sparse population to serve.

Thursday, March 27, 1902: Postal Bulletin

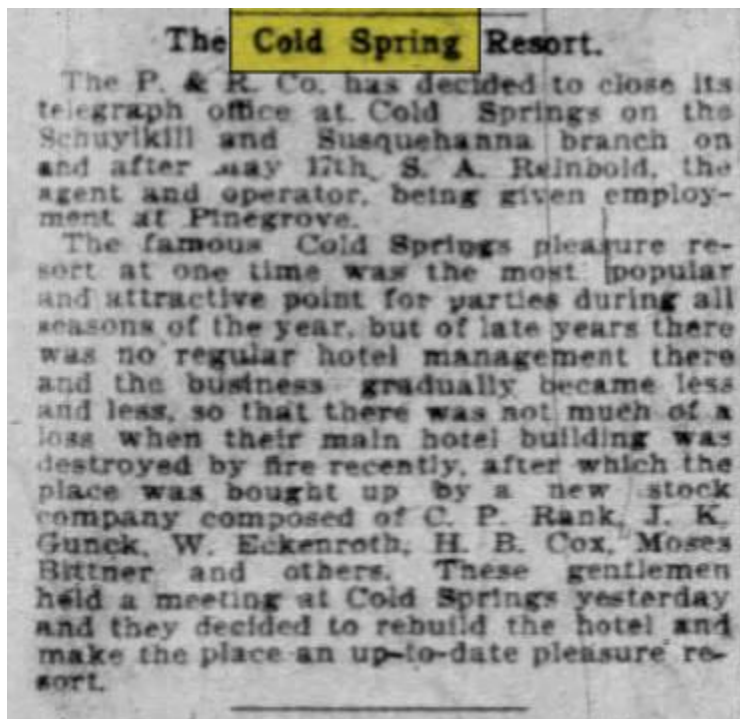


Friday, September 25, 1903: West Schuylkill Press and Pine Grove Herald (p. 1)

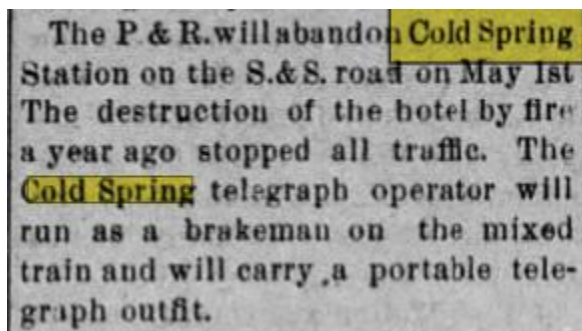


The Ney Post Office at Cold Spring was finally discontinued on June 15, 1903. The final blow was probably the abandonment of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad's Cold Spring Station on May 1. The telegraph office, operated by postmaster S. A. Reinbold, was closed on May 17.

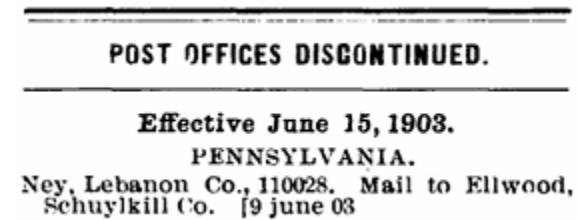
Friday, May 8, 1903: Pottsville Republican (p. 5)



Friday, April 24, 1903: Schuylkill Haven Call (p. 2)



Wednesday, June 10, 1903: Postal Bulletin:



*If you'd like to visit the old Cold Spring Station, you can still do so, and you don't need to travel to the mountains to do it: it was rebuilt in the basement of the Lebanon County Historical Society quite a few years ago, and it remains there to this day.*

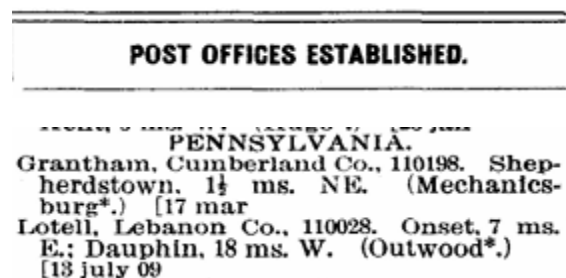
## Part IV

### Lotell

After the occasional reports of the resurrection of the Cold Spring Hotel never came to pass, the area was used for bottling spring water, chicken farming, and ultimately became Lancaster YMCA's Camp Shand. Despite the fact that the area was almost uninhabited and inaccessible, another post office was established in 1910.

Kay and Smith record the establishment date of October 3, 1903. However, based on the paperwork I have found, this date does not appear to be accurate.

Saturday, April 16, 1910: Postal Bulletin



# Detail of the Lotell Post Office Application

Front

*B*

Location of Proposed Post Office

Post Office Department  
OFFICE OF FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL  
Washington

IN REPLY, PLEASE  
MENTION NUMBER AND DATE

JUN 9 1910  
DIVISION OF  
POSTMASTER-APPOINTMENTS  
RECEIVED  
FEB 17 1909

Sir:

With reference to the proposed establishment of a post office at  
*Lotell* (name), *Lebanon* (county), *Pa* (state)

you are requested to supply promptly, on this form, the information  
and the plot called for, and to cause the proper certificate (page 3)  
to be correctly filled out.

Respectfully, *C. P. Grandfield*  
First Assistant Postmaster General.

Name, county, and State:  
*George Ketur* (name), *Lebanon Co* (county), *Pa* (state)

Nearest mail route to proposed office (if not on a railroad):  
*R. F. D.* route No. *1*, from *Lickdale*  
to *Wilches Store*; *daily* times a week.

Nearest railroad: *Gettysburg P&R*; *200 yds*; *North*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Nearest station: *Cold Springs*; *200 yds*; *North*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Nearest post office on same route: *Outwood*; *10*; *N. East*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Nearest post office not on route: *Onset*; *7 miles*; *East*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Nearest prominent river: *Susquehanna*; *18 miles*; *West*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Nearest creek: *Stone*; *1/2 mile*; *East*  
(distance in direct line) (direction)

Office from which mail can best be supplied, if proposed office is  
not on a mail route (see page 4): *No office handy*

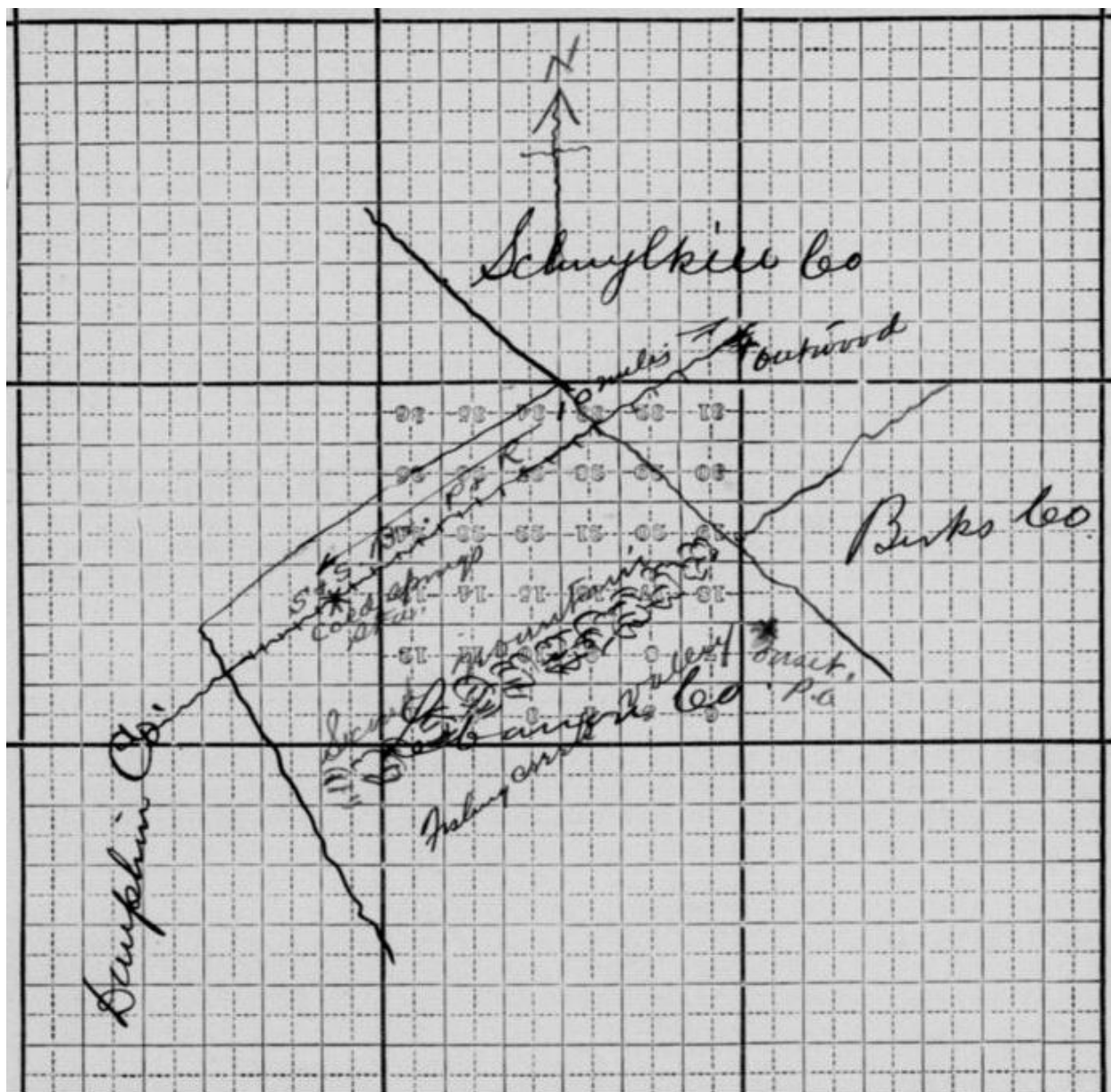
Village to be supplied with mail, if any: *Yellow Springs*  
*Hoar's Fork (Lumber Camp)* *West*  
(distance from proposed site by shortest road) (direction)

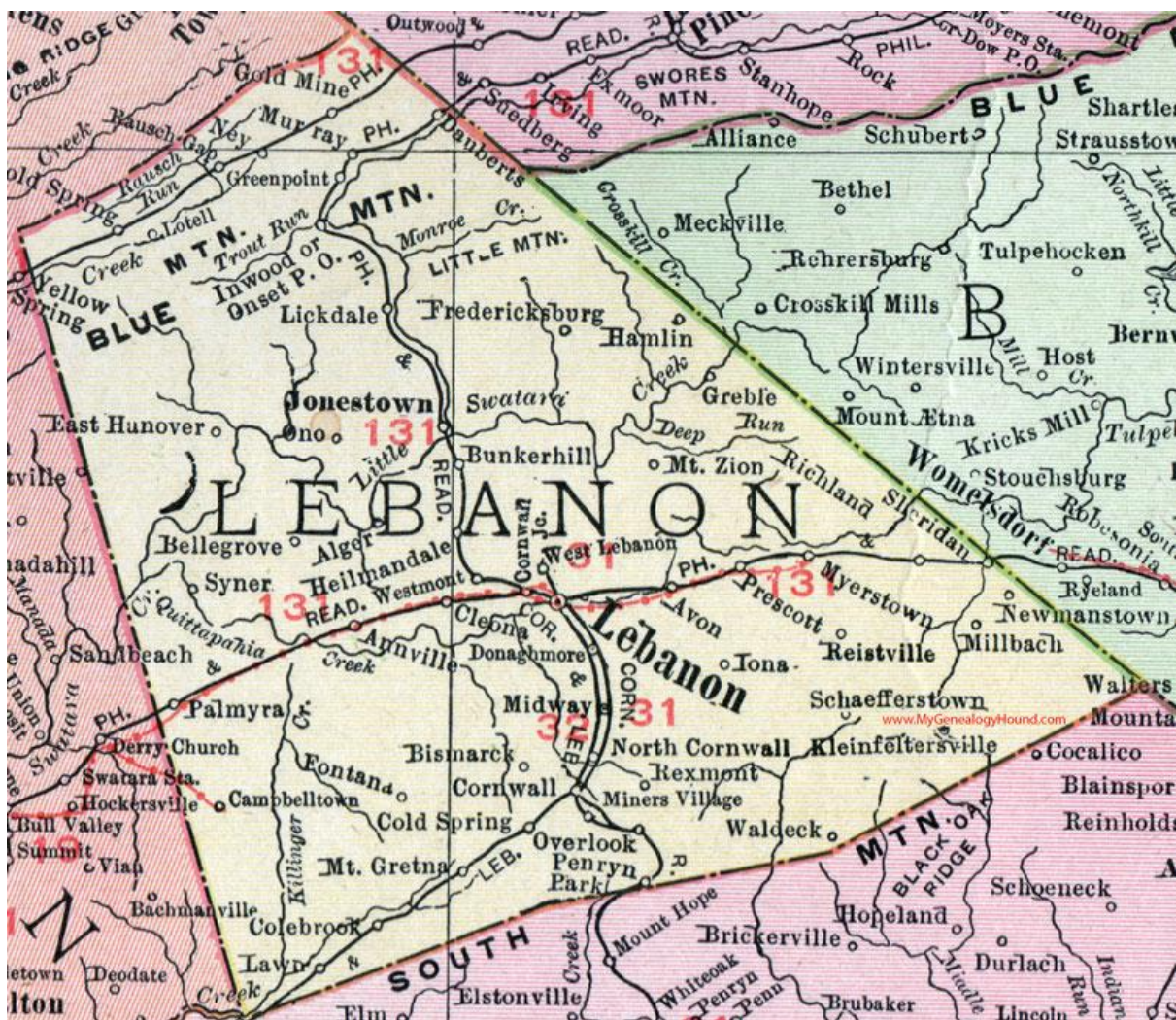
Total population to be supplied with mail: *70 to 90*

A-11



[Back](#)





This map from the Rand-McNally Atlas of 1911 has separate locations for Cold Spring, Ney, and Lotell. The official Railroad Map of Pennsylvania, published by the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, listed the Ney P.O. at Cold Spring for several years after the P.O. closed in 1903. The approximate location for Cold Spring/Ney/Lotell is at Cold Spring on this map.

The first postmaster of Lotell, as listed in Kay and Smith, was Elmer Beard; he was listed in the Lebanon Daily News among the officers of the Cold Spring Water Company. Beard was a city engineer in Reading and retired from there in early 1909.

David J. Bachman in his *Gazetteer of Lebanon County Pennsylvania* (2007) attributed the name of the post office to Beard's wife, Lottie. A personal note: Mr. Bachman confirmed for me that the Ney Post Office was named for my family, and introduced me to Glenn Blauch, a distant cousin, who directly or indirectly enabled me to acquire five of the Ney covers that I've had in my collection.

Saturday, April 24, 1909: Lebanon Daily News (p. 3)

The members of the Board of Public works, Reading, presented to the retiring City Engineer, Elmer H. Beard, a beautiful clock.

May 29, 1908: Lebanon Daily News (p. 6)

**CHARTER NOTICE!**

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, June 24, 1908, at 10 a. m., by James M. Cummings, Elmer H. Beard, Hermann Merriman and Harry W. Beard, under the Act of Assembly, entitled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29th, 1874, and the supplements thereto, for the charter of an intended corporation to be called "**Cold Springs Water Bottling Company,**" the character and object of which is the manufacturing, bottling and selling pure water, carbonated waters, ginger ale, seltzer, club soda, sarsaparilla, and other similar carbonated soda and mineral waters, and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of said Act of Assembly and supplements thereto.

**WILLIAM J. ROURKE,**  
5-29-4t Solicitor.

Friday, June 26, 1908: Ephrata Review (p. 3)

The property of the Cold Springs Hotel in Lebanon county is being converted into a poultry farm.



Friday, August 7, 1908: Lebanon Daily News (p. 4)

## State News in Brief.

**Elmer** H. **Beard**, one of the city officials of Reading, while spending his vacation at Cold Springs, Lebanon county, encountered a wildcat in the yard at the chicken-house, and opened fire, but missed the beast.

Exciting times at Cold Springs!

Saturday, November 25, 1911: Lebanon Daily News (p. 3)

**FOR SALE—PIGEONS. BEST**  
homers. Mated and banded. From  
a successful squab farm. Dark  
birds, 70c per pair; Creams, \$1.00  
per pair.  
**LOTELL** POULTRY FARMS,  
11-23-3t **Lotell** Pa.

Thursday, June 17, 1915: Lebanon Daily News (p. 7)

**SACRIFICE SALE—75 PAIR OF**  
guaranteed mated and working  
Homers, \$1.00 per pair. Most of  
these birds are from extra fine  
stock recently purchased from  
The Plymouth Rock Squab Co.  
M. B. FOSTER,  
**Lotell**, Pa.,  
6-17-3t Lebanon County.



Monday, June 26, 1922: Pottsville Republican (p. 4)

**COLD SPRING NATURE FARM  
FOR SALE**

Exceptional opportunity to secure gentlemen's country home at a low price. Was for 60 years a well patronized resort until hotel was destroyed by fire. In recent years has been partially occupied in summer by boys camp and as a private home. Two dwellings, lot of buildings, fruits and berries, beautiful scenery, fine lake for bathing, boating and fishing, famous health and medicinal springs, from which water has been bottled and shipped for many years. Fully equipped bottling plant.

Situate on Reading Railroad between Harrisburg and Pine Grove. Post Office **Lotell**, Lebanon County, Pa. located on premises. Nearly one hundred acres, twenty cleared and tillable, extensive poultry and pigeon pens all supplied with running water.

Wonderful location where health conditions are supreme and you do not have to be rich to buy it.

G. T. BURD, Agent  
Mortimer Bldg., Pottsville, Pa.

By December 1924, Lotell P.O. was on the closure list. However, an order to close it was quickly rescinded.

Thursday December 4, 1924: Postal Bulletin

PENNSYLVANIA  
\*Lotell, Lebanon County, 162880. Mail to be sent to Pine Grove. Other records and Government property to the central accounting office. Effective December 15, 1924. [2 December.]

Friday December 5, 1924: Postal Bulletin

PENNSYLVANIA  
Lotell, Lebanon County, 102880. The order of  
December 2, 1924, discontinuing this office  
effective December 15, 1924 (Bul. No. 13640),  
is rescinded. [4 December.]

Eva Fegley was appointed Postmaster at Lotell on June 15, 1925. (Postal Bulletin, June 20, 2025)

## \*c Lotell, Pa., Eva Fegley.

Edwin B. Searles was appointed acting Postmaster at Lotell on February 1, 1929, and received a full commission on April 12. (Postal Bulletin February 15, 1929 and April 15, 1929).

Railroad service to Harrisburg was terminated on August 20, 1929, yet the Lotell P.O. would remain open for almost 10 more years. Service to Harrisburg was re-established periodically for the short summer season. Rail service would alternate between Harrisburg and Pine Grove for the remainder of Lotell's existence.

The remaining history of the Lotell Post Office can be traced through the various changes of status published in the daily Postal Bulletins.

Wednesday, August 21, 1929: Postal Bulletin

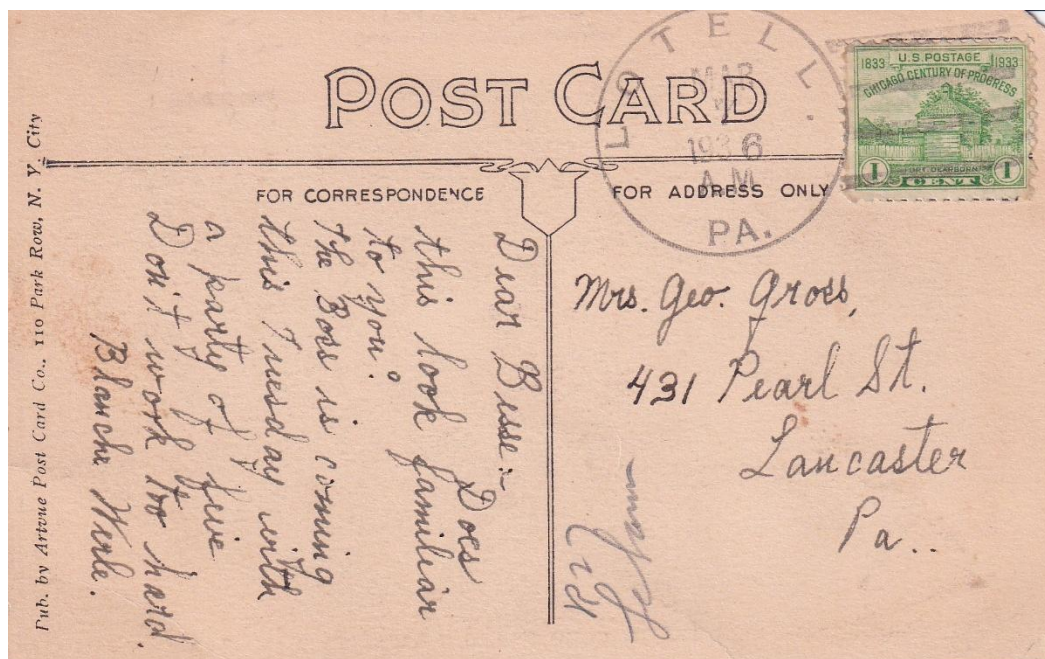
|                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>RAILROAD SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>Terminated</b></p> <p>102880. From August 20, 1929, service by the Reading Co., from Lotell to Harrisburg railroad station (n. o.), Pa., 26.2 miles, is terminated.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



MOUNTAIN REST LODGE, CAMP SHAND, LANCASTER Y. M. C. A.

The Lancaster YMCA opened Camp Shand at the site of the hotel in Cold Spring. This postcard shows the "Mountain Rest Lodge" at camp, also known as the "Caretaker's House", which also housed the Lotell Post Office and postmaster James Neal. Beginning in 1933, the post office operated seasonally for the remainder of its existence.

This postcard was sent through the mail, postmarked at Lotell on March 7, 1936:





Wednesday, December 20, 1933: Postal Bulletin

ATY 47002.  
**Year-Round Office Changed to Summer Office**  
Lotell, Lebanon County, Pa. This office will hereafter be known as a summer office. It will be open from July 1 to Aug. 15.

Railroad service between Lotell and Pinegrove was terminated in August, 1936, but re-established in September. On the same day the notice for re-establishment to Pine Grove was published, it was noted that service between Lotell and Harrisburg was discontinued.

Entries in the Postal Bulletin indicate that at the beginning of the summer, the rail service between Pine Grove was terminated and rail service to Harrisburg established. In the fall, the service between Harrisburg was terminated, and re-established with Pine Grove.

Monday, May 4, 1936: Postal Bulletin

**RAILROAD SERVICE**  
**Terminated**  
102880. From Apr. 25, 1936, service on route 102880 of the Reading Co. between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles, is terminated.

Tuesday, October 6, 1936: Postal Bulletin

**RAILROAD SERVICE**  
**Authorized**  
102880. From Sept. 27, 1936, service between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles is authorized as route 102880 of the Reading Co.  
110742. From Oct. 1, 1936, trackage between Conde and Aberdeen, S.Dak., 28.17 miles, is authorized as a part of the Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R. Co.'s route 110742, formerly covered by route 110851 of the same company.  
**Discontinued**  
102880. From Sept. 26, 1936, service on route 102880 of the Reading Co., between Lotell and Harrisburg, Pa., 26.2 miles, is discontinued.  
110851. From Sept. 30, 1936, trackage over that part of the Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R. Co.'s route 110851 between Conde and Aberdeen, S.Dak., 28.17 miles, is discontinued to be covered by route 110742 of the same company from Oct. 1, 1936.  
111822. From Sept. 16, 1936, service over that part of route 111822 of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Ry. Co. from Malvern to Butterfield, Ark., 4.98 miles, is discontinued.



Monday, May 3, 1937: Postal Bulletin

| RAILROAD SERVICE    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Authorized</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 102880.             | From Apr. 25, 1937, service between Lotell and Harrisburg, Pa., 26.2 miles, is authorized as route 102880 of the Reading Co.                                                          |
| <b>Discontinued</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 102880.             | From Apr. 24, 1937, service on route 102880 of the Reading Co., between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles, is discontinued.                                                     |
| 109727.             | From Apr. 24, 1937, service on that part of the New York Central R. R. Co.'s route 109727 between Andover, Ohio, and Oil City, Pa. (West Side station), 61.38 miles, is discontinued. |

Wednesday, August 11, 1937: Postal Bulletin

| RAILROAD SERVICE    |                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Discontinued</b> |                                                                                                                                                             |
| 102880.             | From June 30, 1937, service by the Reading Co., between Lotell and Harrisburg, Pa., 26.2 miles, is discontinued, covered by route 115728 from July 1, 1937. |

Wednesday, September 29, 1937: Postal Bulletin

| RAILROAD SERVICE  |                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Terminated</b> |                                                                                                                                |
| 115728.           | From Sept. 25, 1937, service on route 115728 of the Reading Co. between Lotell and Harrisburg, Pa., 26.2 miles, is terminated. |
| <b>Authorized</b> |                                                                                                                                |
| 115728.           | From Sept. 26, 1937, service between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles, is authorized on route 115728 of the Reading Co. |

Wednesday, July 6, 1938: Postal Bulletin

| RAILROAD SERVICE    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Authorized</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 107717.             | From July 1, 1938, service by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., between Little River and Galatia, Kans., 57.07 miles, is authorized as a part of route 107717, formerly covered by route 107775 of the same company. |
| 115728.             | From June 30, 1938, service by the Reading Co., between Harrisburg and Lotell, Pa., 26.2 miles, is authorized as route 115728.                                                                                              |
| <b>Discontinued</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 107775.             | From June 30, 1938, service by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., between Little River and Galatia, Kans., 57.07 miles, is discontinued, covered by route 107717 from July 1, 1938.                                   |
| 115728.             | From June 29, 1938, service by the Reading Co., between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles, is discontinued.                                                                                                           |

Monday, August 22, 1938: Postal Bulletin

| RAILROAD SERVICE    |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Discontinued</b> |                                                                                                                                       |
| 107806.             | From Aug. 13, 1938, service by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., between Holly and Lamar, Colo., 35.48 miles, is discontinued. |
| 115728.             | From Aug. 11, 1938, service on route 115728 of the Reading Co., between Harrisburg and Lotell, Pa., 26.2 miles, is discontinued.      |
| <b>Authorized</b>   |                                                                                                                                       |
| 115728.             | From Aug. 12, 1938, service between Pine Grove and Lotell, Pa., 14.95 miles, is authorized on route 115728 of the Reading Co.         |

Lotell Post Office, which over the years became a target of both curiosity and derision, was finally closed on March 15, 1939.

Thursday, February 23, 1939: Postal Bulletin

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**POST-OFFICE CHANGES**

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**Discontinued—Fourth Class****PENNSYLVANIA**

Lotell, Lebanon County, route 115728. Effective Mar. 15, 1939. Mail to Jonestown.

Thursday, February 17, 1938: Lebanon Semi-Weekly News (p. 3)

Lebanon's fourth class offices are — Avon, Campbelltown, Cleona, Kleinfeltersville, Colebrook, Lawn, Lotell, Ono, Quentin, Remont, Cornwall, Newmanstown and Schaefferstown. (By the way, did you note Lotell? Don't know and never heard of it? Well, it's Cold Spring Station in Cold Spring township, in the Blue Mountains to the north. It has had that name on the records for years, but few people hereabouts know of it.)

Friday, November 25, 1938: West Schuylkill Press and Pine Grove Herald (p. 5)

## News And Current Events Of The Week In Pine Grove

● Mrs. Harrietta Wolfe, suffered a stroke at her Outwood home and is confined to her bed.

● Robert Rauck, conductor on the Lebanon-Tremont train, is ill at his Lebanon home and extra conductor, Charles Trommetter, is filling his position.

● George Mease, son Ralph and Morris Knapp motored to Myers-town and other nearby points. Returning they motored to the top of the mountain west of Gold Mine and parking the car walked to Lotell Postoffice, the smallest in this section of the state, otherwise known as Cold Springs.

## Lotell Post Office Out of Existence

Lotell Post Office, Lebanon County, is no more. The tiniest of Uncle Sam's post office with only two patrons, Mr. and Mrs. James Neal, has been abandoned.

Many people do not know where Lotell Post Office is located. It is in the upper corner of Lebanon County along the S. & S. branch of the Reading Railway. It was served from the Pine Grove Post Office three times a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays by Harrison Adams, section foreman, or one of his men, and the trip was made by small railway motor that chucked the nineteen miles between Pine Grove and Lotell to the satisfaction of the Post Office Department.

In its early history, due to the splendid drinking water there, the place attained the name of Cold Springs Post Office and also Cold Springs Station on the Reading Railway. The big hotel erected by the Cold Springs Hotel Company proved a veritable summer resort with special excursions from Harrisburg, Lebanon and Pottsville to this place. Cold Springs water was bottled and shipped to distant places. Before passing into the hands of the Hotel Company the place was owned by the Catholic people for an intended retreat.

History, however, has repeated itself. Once a fine resort, it now is only a shadow. The name of the place was changed and as Lotell very few people knew of it. For many years it was a polling place when only six families lived there and the joke of political parties was to get the first returns from Cold

Springs, which had only enough voters to fill the polling place.

The place is now owned by the Y. M. C. A. of Lancaster and there still are a number of unused summer camps there. A special train would bring the mail daily from Harrisburg to the place so long as the camp was open, but when the camp closed it was discontinued.

### RECOVERING

George Neal, of Tremont, who was injured at work at Westwood Colliery recently, is able to get about on crutches.



**IDEAL  
BEAUTY  
SHOPPE**

**SPECIAL**



**PERMANENT**

**MARGARET CLARK, Prop.**

Phone 31R21

Good Spring



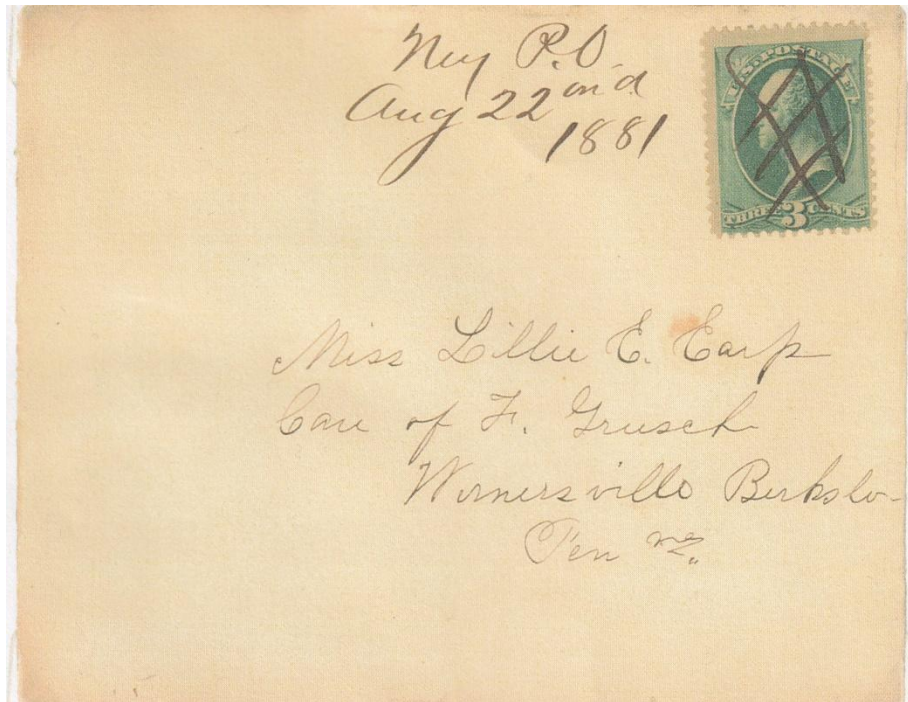
# Part V

## Covers, Cards, and Cancels

### Ney

Manuscript cancel, date August 22, 1881

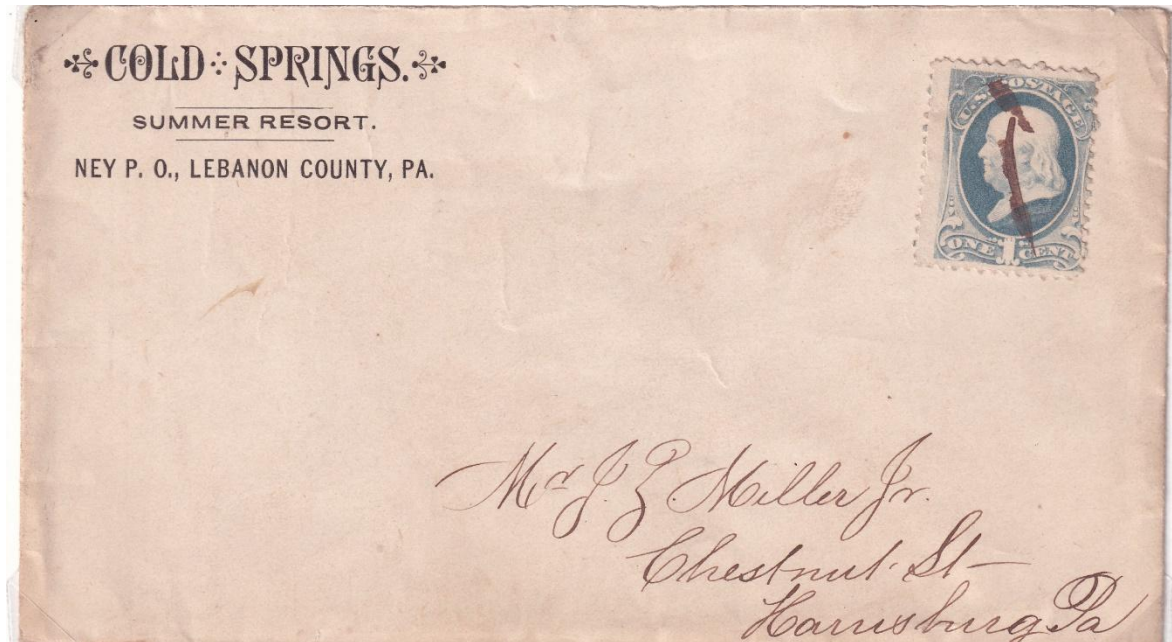
Postmaster: Elias Ney



This piece of correspondence was sent to Wernersville, Berks County, in care of F. Grusch, who later became the owner of the Cold Springs Hotel.

Pen cancel, no date; contents bear the date July 28, 1882

Postmaster: Daniel Page



Op: 1881-1903

S: Ellwood (Schuylkill County)

NEY



**COLD SPRINGS**

**SUMMER RESORT.**

Ney P. O., Lebanon Co., Pa.



*How Jno D Biddis  
Senate  
Harrisburg  
Pa.*

Independence Day, 1883

Open letter rate for  
printed matter: 1 cent

MADE IN ENGLAND; S.G. LEAF No. 3833 (Facing) : No. 3831 (Unfaced)

Postmaster: Daniel Page

Ex. Erwin Herschkowitz Collection



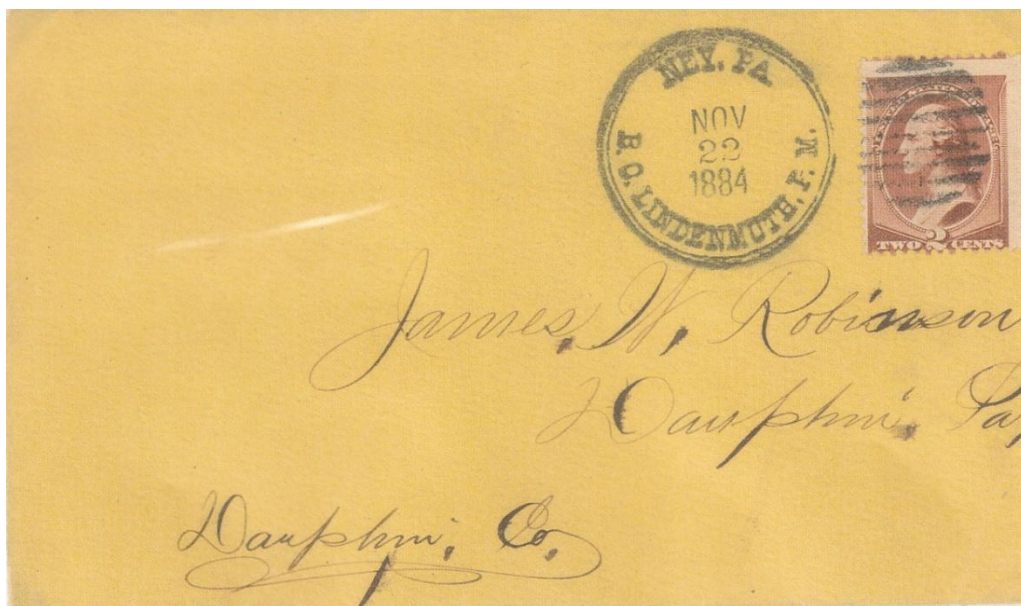
Postmaster's cancel dated October 8, 1884 (Listed in the Doane-Thompson Catalog of U.S. County and Postmaster Postmarks #3750)

Postmaster: Bright C. Lindenmuth



Postmaster's cancel dated November 22, 1884

Postmaster: Bright C. Lindenmuth





Town and bullseye cancel dated March 3, 1897

Postmaster: Henry Moyer



Town cancel with bullseye date March 17, 1897

Postmaster: Henry Moyer



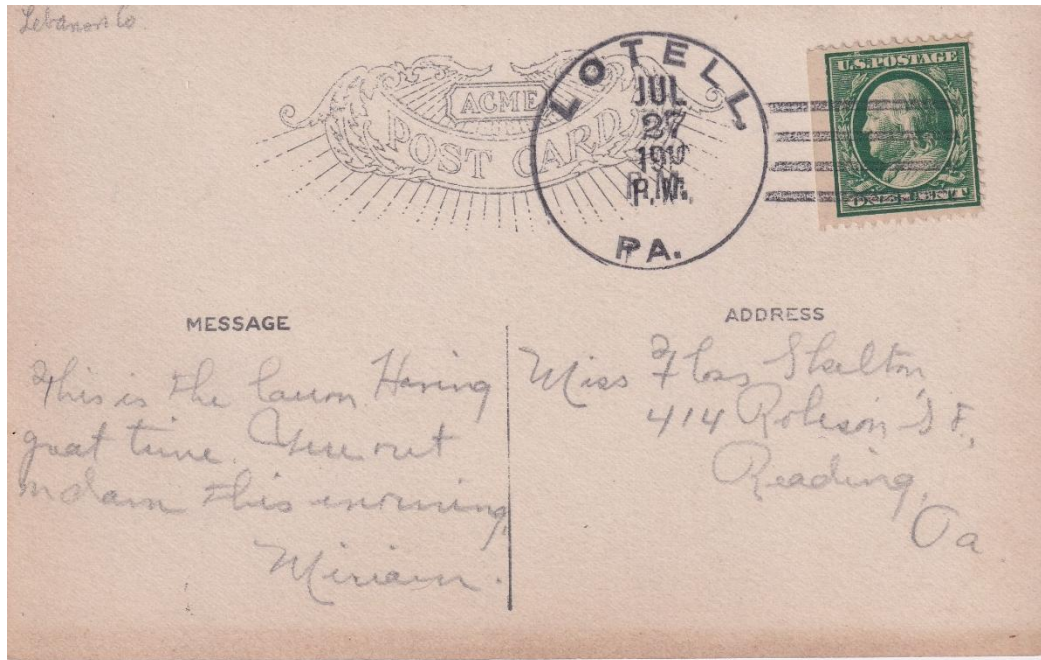
Suedberg backstamp



# Lotell

Lotell: postcard, July 27, 1910

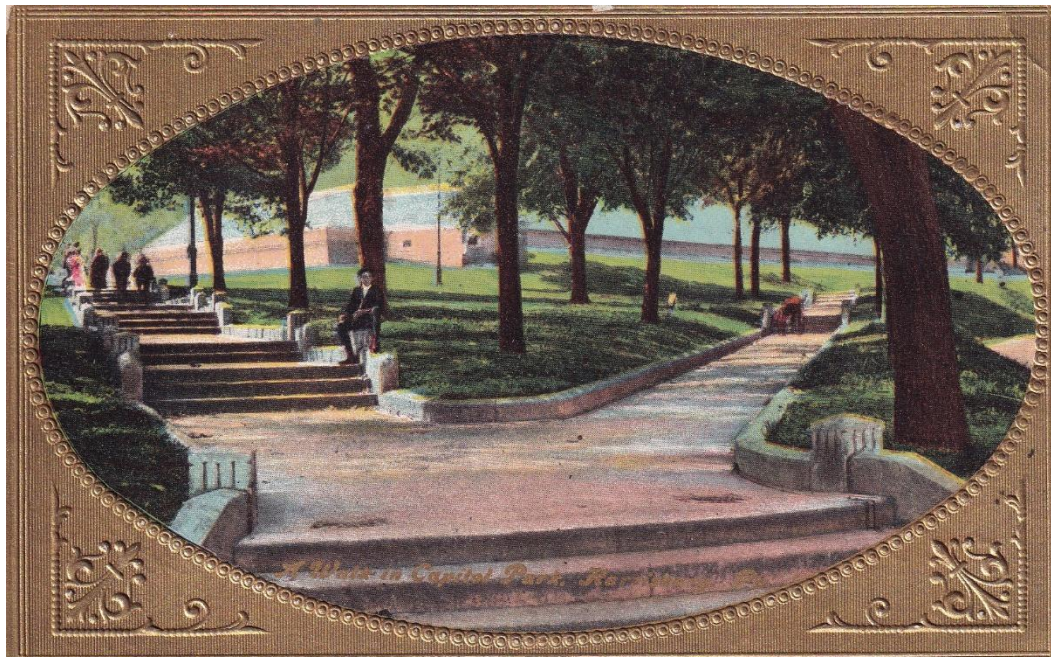
Postmaster: Elmer H. Beard





Lotell: Postcard, July 27, 1910

Postmaster: Elmer Beard





Did you notice anything special about the two postcards?

Here we have two postcards, posted on the same day, from the same obscure post office, found in different places over a century later; quite an example of philatelic serendipity!



**LOTELL, PA. 1903 - 1939**

Lotell Type. C-2  
Rating: 8 (Very Scarce)  
Color Known. Black  
Size/Type. 31mm Duplex C.D.S. w/4-Bar Killer  
Killer. 18mm H x 20mm L x 1mm T  
Earliest Known Use: 1916  
Latest Known Use. 1925



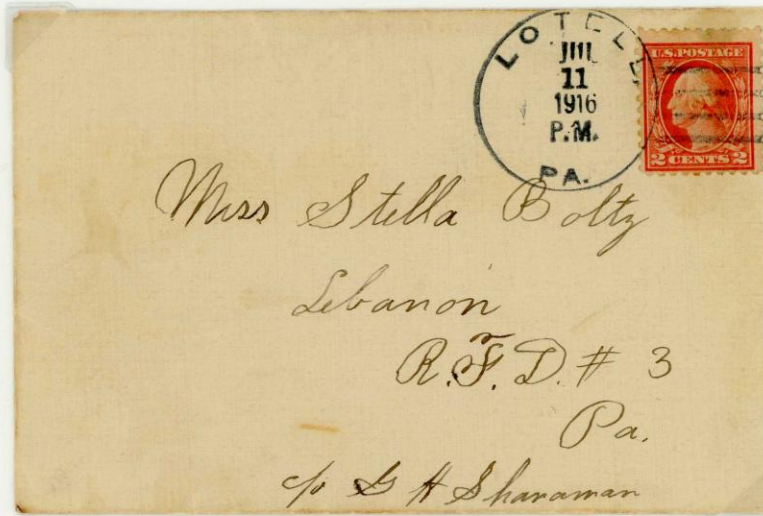
31mm Duplex Circular Datestamp,  
with Four Bar Killer  
"LOTELL, / PA.  
JUL / 11 / 1916 / P.M."

**"2¢ Rate"**

**2¢ (1 oz.) First-Class, Letter, Surface Rate\*, plus**  
\*July 1 1885, thru November 1 1917

**2¢ Washington - 1914 Flat Plate, Type I, 10x10 (Sc# 425)**  
**Solo Usage**

*This personal cover, demonstrates a solo usage paying the single-weight (1 oz.) domestic letter rate to an R.F.D., within the county.*



**LOTELL, PA.  
JUL 11 1916 P.M.  
TO  
LEBANON, PA.**

*The cover is postmarked with a 31mm, circular datestamp at "LOTELL / PA. / JUL 11 1916 P.M.," while the stamp is tied with four black, 18mm H x 20mm L x 1mm T killer bars tying the stamp to the cover.*

This cover and the three following are presented courtesy of Hal Klein. They are a part of his phenomenal collection of Lebanon County postal history and are presented thus so that you can enjoy Hal's creative style of documenting the special items in his collection.

**LOTELL, PA. 1903 - 1939**

Lotell Type: C-6  
Rating: 8 (Very Scarce)  
Color Known: Black  
Size/Type: 33mm Duplex C.D.S. w/4-Bar Killer  
Killer: 13mm H x 25mm L x 1mm T  
Earliest Known Use: 1927  
Latest Known Use: 1930



32mm Duplex Circular Datestamp, with a  
13mm H x 25mm L x 1mm T Four Bar Killer.  
"LOTELL, / PA.  
JUL / 29 / 3 P.M. / 1927 "

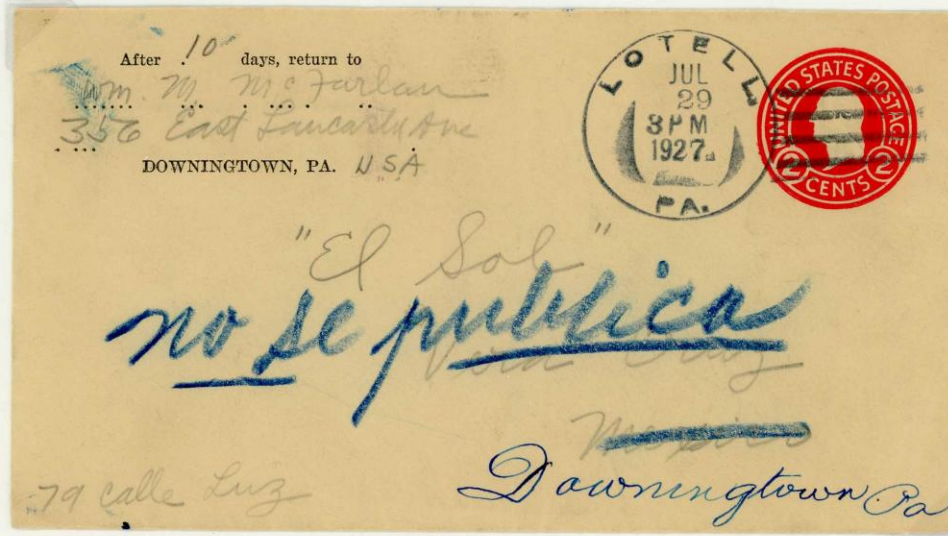
**"2¢ PUAS Rate"**

**2¢ (1 oz.) First-Class, Letter, PUAS<sup>1</sup> Surface Rate,  
plus**

*\*July 1 1919, thru July 5, 1932.*

**2¢ Washington - U.S. Postal Stationary (Sc# U429d)  
Solo Usage**

*This consumer-to-business cover, demonstrates a solo usage paying  
the single-weight (1 oz.) PUAS<sup>1</sup> letter rate to undeliverable publica-*



**LOTELL, PA.  
JUL 29 3 P.M. 1927**

**TO**

**~~VERA CRUZ, MEXICO~~ → Return to Sender**

*("no se publica" = indicates: "NOT PUBLISHED," or...*

*"...NOT PUBLISHED ON THIS BRIDGE.")*

**TO**

**DOWNINGTOWN, PA.**

*The cover is postmarked with a 32mm circular datestamp at "LOTELL / PA. / JUL 27 3 P.M. 1927 " and tied by four, black, 12mm H x 25mm L x 1mm T killer bars. The cover, when reaching Mexico, was marked in Spanish "NO SE PUBLICA" or "NOT PUBLISHED" and returned to sender.*

**PUAS:**<sup>1</sup> The Postal Union of the Americas and Spain began in 1911. The text of the 1946 agreement indicates, "The postage rates of the domestic service of each country will govern in the relations of the countries which constitute the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, except when said domestic rates are higher than those applicable to correspondence destined for countries of the Universal Postal Union, in which case the latter will govern." [PUAS = Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. Included the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Spain (including the Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, Alhucemas Islands, Ceuta, Chaferinas or Zafarani Islands, Mellila, Penon de Velez de la Gomera, Tangier, and Andorra via Spain), Uruguay and Venezuela.]

Reference: 1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal\\_Union\\_of\\_the\\_Americas,\\_Spain\\_and\\_Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Union_of_the_Americas,_Spain_and_Portugal) last accessed 2024

Courtesy of Hal Klein



**"1¢ Rate"**

**1¢ (each) First-Class, Post Card, Surface Rate\***

\*July 1 1928, thru December 31 1951

**1¢ T Jefferson Postal Card, 1925-30 Printing (Sc #UX27(S37ea)**

**Solo Usage**

A business-to-state government post card demonstrates solo card usage paying the single-weight domestic post card rate.

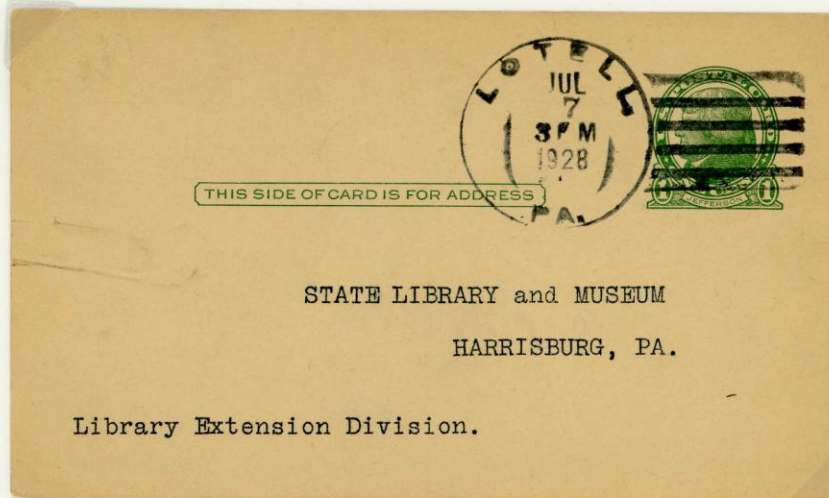
The card acknowledges the correct list of checked-out books from the State Library and Museum, Library Extension Division.

**LOTELL, PA. 1903 - 1939**

Lotell Type: C-7  
Rating: 6 (Scarce)  
Color Known: Black  
Size/Type: 32mm Duplex C.D.S. w/4-Bar Killer  
Killer: 18mm H x 27mm L x 2mm T  
Earliest Known Use: 1916  
Latest Known Use: 1925



32mm Duplex Circular Datestamp, with Four Bar Killer, 18mm H x 27mm L x 2mm T  
"LOTELL, / PA.  
JUL / 7 / 3 P M / 1916."



**OBVERSE**

Librarian:-  
The Traveling Library was received *July 3, 1928*  
When the box was opened it was found that  
(State the condition)  
*The books were all right -  
checking up right with the list.*  
Yours truly, *H. J. Roddy*  
*Librarian Camp Shaud, Lotell, Seb. Co., Pa.*  
Please mail this card promptly, after checking  
the books by the list sent and note any errors.

**LOTELL, PA.  
JUL 7 3 P.M. 1928  
TO  
HARRISBURG, PA.**

The card is postmarked with a 32mm, circular datestamp at "LOTELL / PA. / JUL 7 3 P M 1928," while the stamp is tied with four black, 18mm H x 27mm L x 2mm T killer bars.

**LOTELL, PA. 1903 - 1939**

Lotell Type. C-9  
Rating. 6 (Scarce)  
Color Known. Black  
Size/Type: 33mm Duplex C.D.S. w/4-Bar Killer  
Killer: 20mm H x 25mm L x 2mm T  
Earliest Known Use. ???  
Latest Known Use. 1939, MAR 14 A.M.

**"1½¢ Rate"**

**1½¢ Third-Class, Single-Piece Rate\* (Unsealed Envelope)**

\*April 15, 1925, thru December 31 1948.

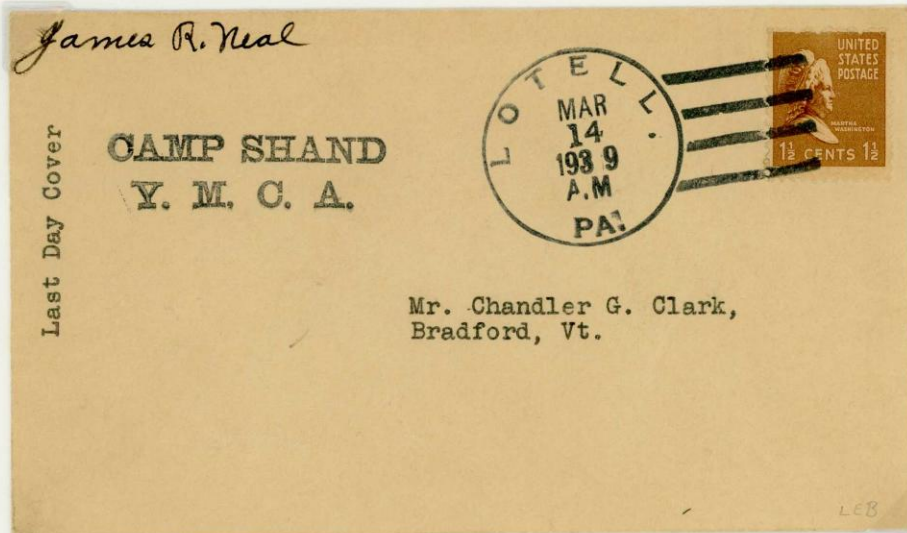
**1½¢ Martha Washington (Sc# 805)**

**Solo Usage**

This cover demonstrates a solo usage on a Last Day cover paying the third class rate for printed circulars and miscellaneous matter as well as unsealed covers without handwritten contents.



33mm Duplex Circular Datestamp, with  
Four Bar Killer, 20mm H x 25mm L x 2mm T  
"LOTELL, / PA.  
MAR / 14 / 1939 / A.M."



James R. Neal, Postmaster,  
Last Day of Lotell, Pa. Post Office Operation

*James R. Neal*

**LOTELL, PA.  
MAR 14 1939 A.M  
TO  
BRADFORD, VT**

This official Last Day cover, commemorating the operation of a post cover, is signed by the postmaster and postmarked with a black 33mm, duplex circular datestamp at "LOTELL / PA. / MAR 14 1939 A.M.," and the stamp is tied by the duplex's four killer bars measuring 20mm H x 25mm L x 2mm T

The post office was closed at the beginning of World War II with the expansion of the adjoining Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (I.G.M.R.). The train sidings, once used by campers at Camp Shand, were secluded and the perfect place to off-load new army military trainees, in this remote corner of Lebanon County.

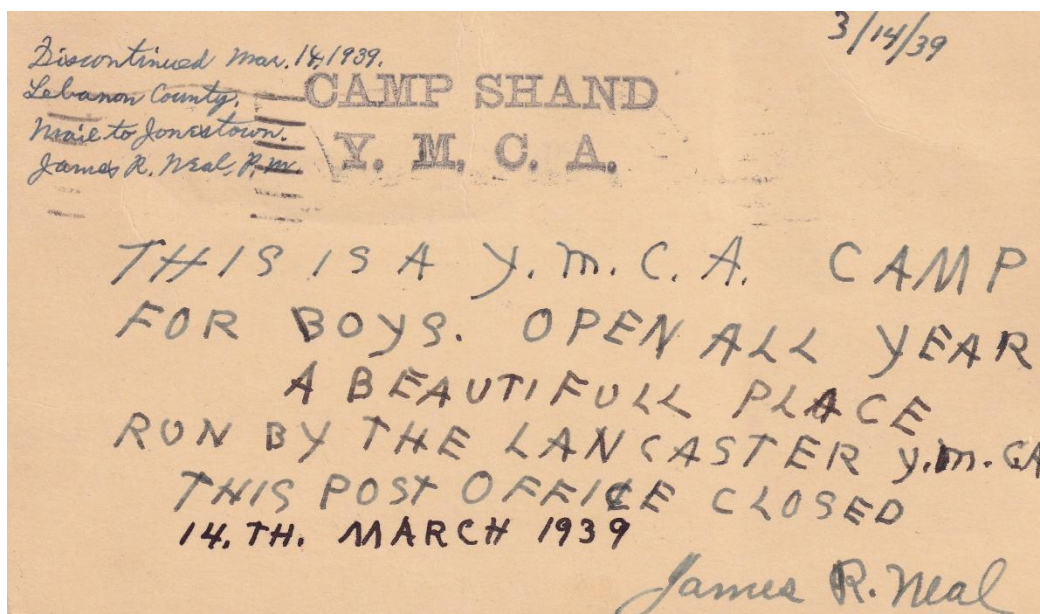
Later, I.G.M.R. would transfer part of the land to the state of Pennsylvania for the creation of Pa. State Game Lands and other recreational use for the public.

Courtesy of Hal Klein



Postcard, last day, March 14, 1939. Signed by the postmaster.

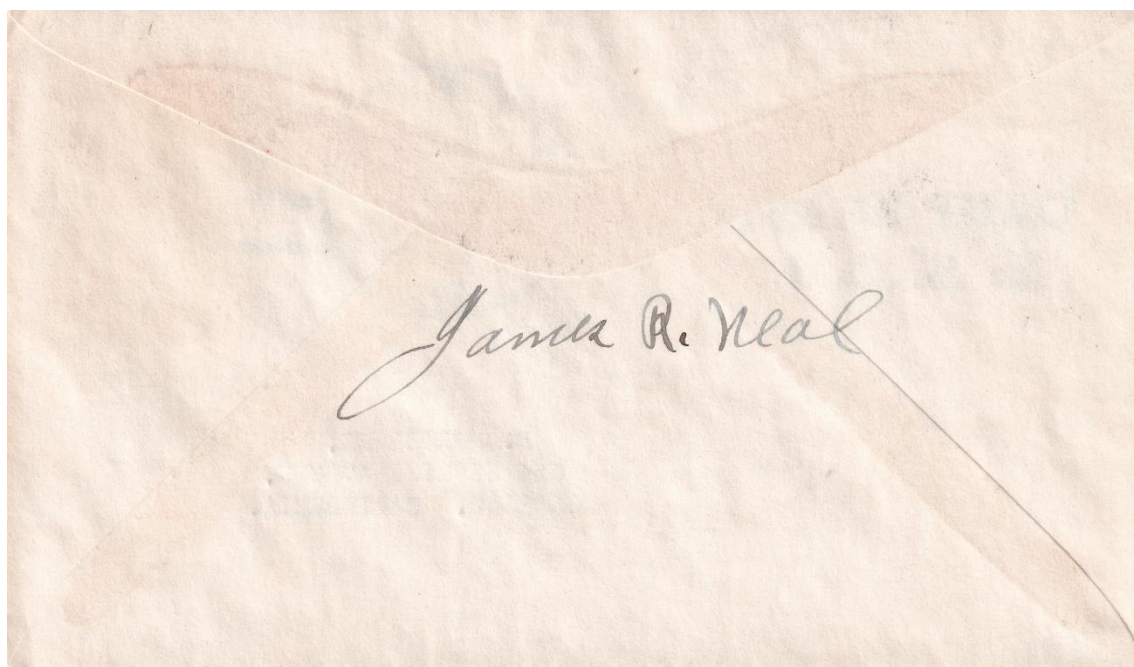
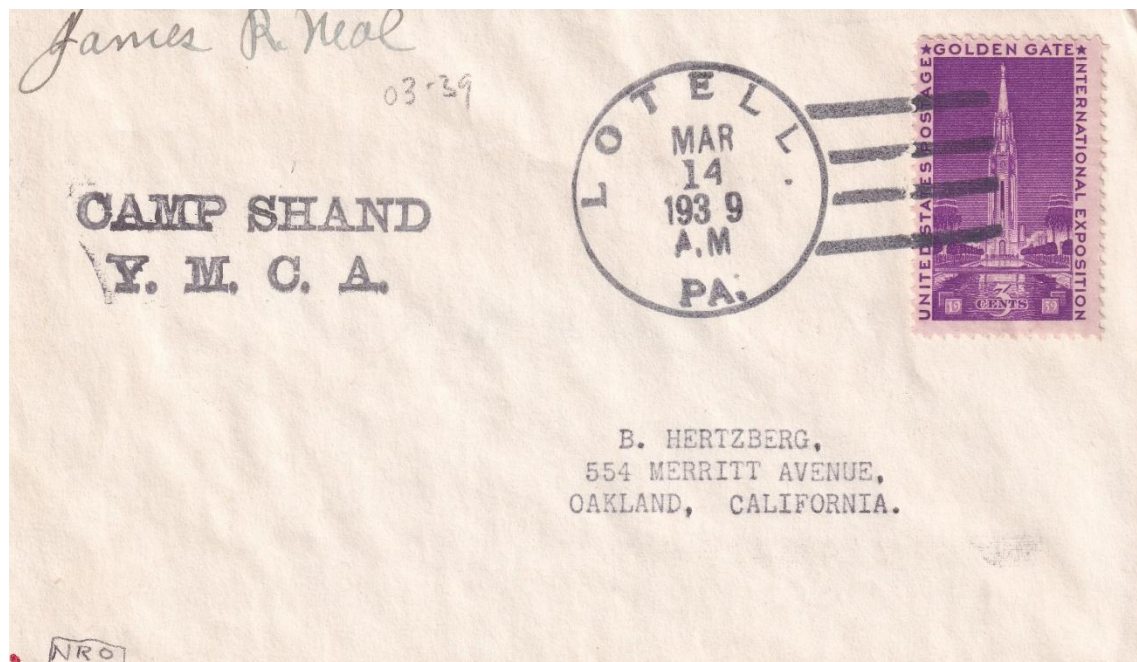
Postmaster: James R. Neal





Cover, last day, March 14, 1939. Signed by

Postmaster: James R. Neal



## Epilogue



**John Adam and Martha (Sealer) Ney**

John Ney was the youngest son of Elias Ney, born on June 11, 1882. His daughter, Darlene, was born in 1931. She remembers that her mother worked in a post office.

I recorded a statement that she made about it on March 1, 2023:

Aunt Darlene, 91, mentioned on a couple of previous occasions that her mother, Martha Ann (Sealer) Ney, worked “at the post office”.

*Today, while we were driving to Reading, I asked her if she knew which post office her mother worked for. She said it was “up in the mountains” and specifically ruled out a couple of names that I presented to her that came to mind (Lickdale and Jonestown).*

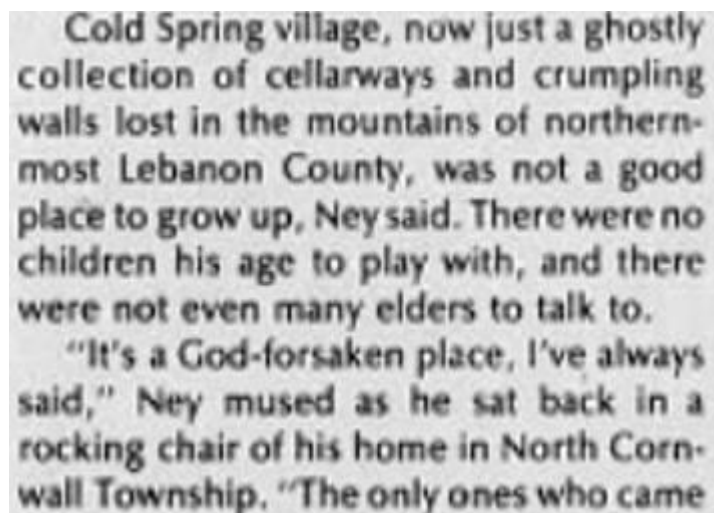
As the Ney family lived in Cold Spring, up where the hotel once stood, I believe Martha worked in the Lotell post office. Her husband, John Adam Ney, was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

### **The strength of the Ney Connection to Cold Spring**

The father and son team of James C. Logan and James M. Logan noted in their book on the Cold Spring Hotel Site (2005) that John and Martha Ney and their family were the last occupants of a farmhouse that was on the site. Indeed, there were only six registered voters in the township in 1923, and the Ney family finally moved away from there and into Lebanon in 1924. Their oldest child, Harry Elias Ney, born April 17, 1908, was my grandpa. He was 23 years old when Aunt Darlene was born in 1931.

My grandpa did not have happy memories of his childhood in Cold Spring; in a newspaper interview in 1983, he called it “a God-forsaken place”. In just a few words, the man who wrote the article for the *Sunday Focus* magazine perfectly captured my grandpa as I remember him: “He trailed off, partly lost in the confusion of old age. His thin, tobacco-stained fingers fumbled a well-worn envelope of old photographs . . .” Grandpa died of Alzheimer’s Disease in 1987, and unfortunately, that envelope of photographs he shared with the author has been lost.

Lebanon Daily News *Sunday Focus Magazine*: July 17, 1983 (p.4)



Cold Spring village, now just a ghostly collection of cellarways and crumpling walls lost in the mountains of northernmost Lebanon County, was not a good place to grow up, Ney said. There were no children his age to play with, and there were not even many elders to talk to.

“It’s a God-forsaken place, I’ve always said,” Ney mused as he sat back in a rocking chair of his home in North Cornwall Township. “The only ones who came





**Ney – Sealer Family Reunion at Colman Memorial Park**

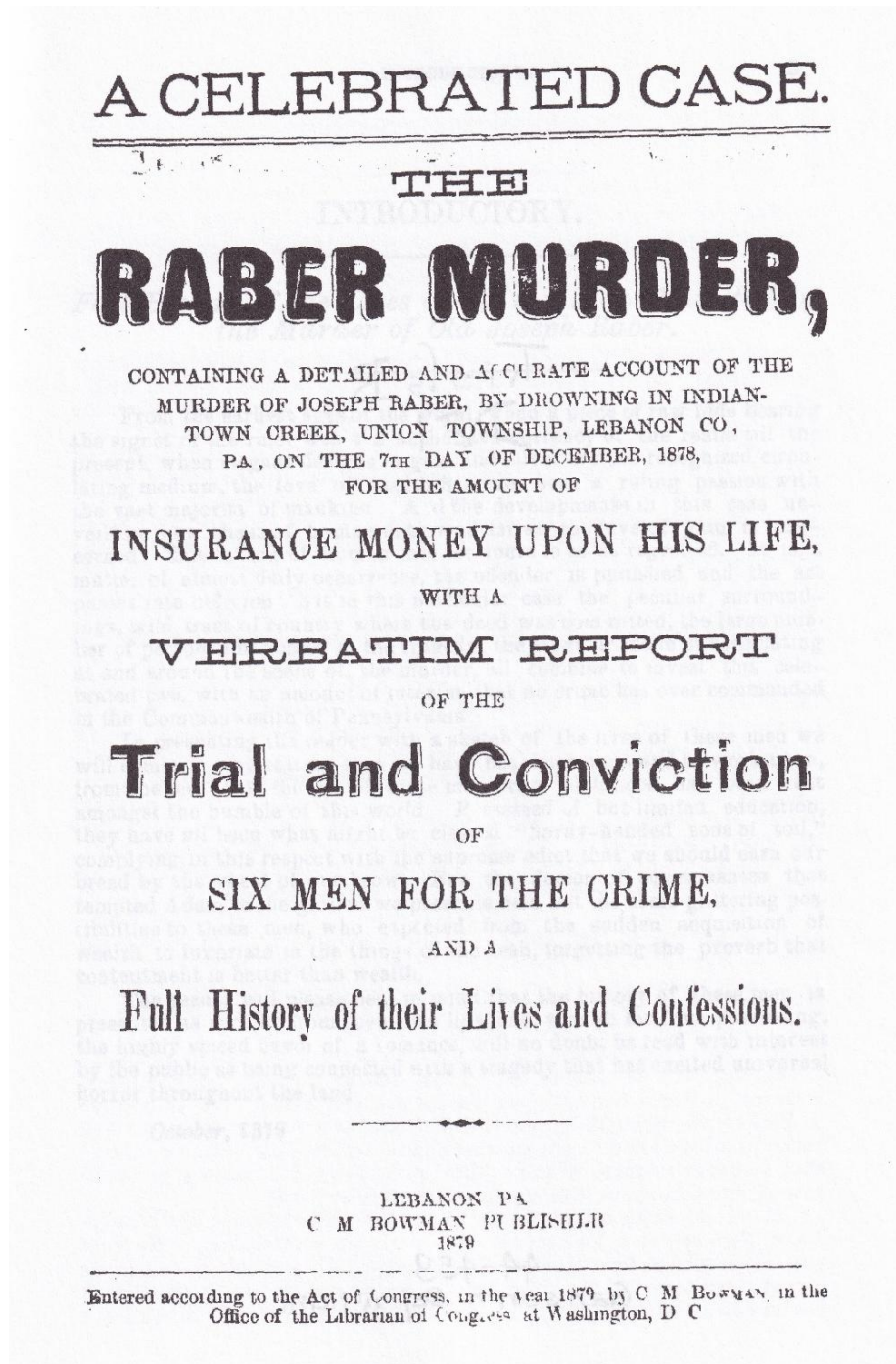
**1962(?) – 2026**

It was decided at this year's reunion on July 26 that this year would be the last for the Ney Family Reunion at Coleman's Park. The oldest living memory of the reunion is from 1962; the Sealer side of the family stopped attending about 1983.

I believe it's likely that 1962 was the first annual reunion, because Martha (Sealer) Ney died the previous year, in 1961.

## The Trial of the Infamous Blue-Eyed Six and an unexpected discovery

Daniel Ney, father of Elias Ney, testified at the Raber Murder trial, also known as the trial of the Blue Eyed Six, in 1879. Five of his neighbors were convicted and hanged for the murder of Joseph Raber (the sixth won an acquittal).

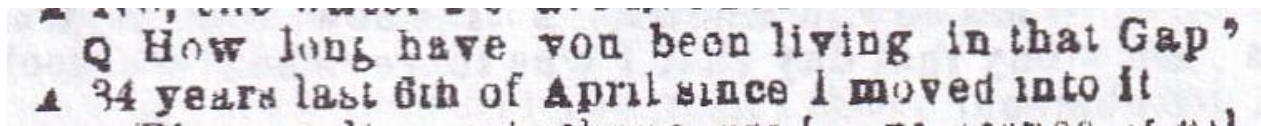


In Daniel Ney's cross-examination, an amazing fact of family history was preserved. Before I read the transcript of his testimony, I expected that one of the things I would never know for sure was when and why he moved his family from Berks County to Lebanon County.

A defense attorney, likely testing Daniel's memory, asked him:

Q: How long have you been living in that Gap?

A: 34 years last 6<sup>th</sup> of April since I moved to it.



I still don't know exactly why the family moved to Lebanon County, and it remains likely I never will. But thanks to a sly defense lawyer, my under-educated but clear-minded Pennsylvania German ancestor, and the transcript of this infamous murder trial, I know that he arrived at his new home in Lebanon County with his wife, a toddler (Levi, born on July 25, 1840), and an infant (Emmanuel, born on January 2, 1845) on April 6, 1845.

The tabloid account of the Raber Murder trial also preserves this tidbit of information regarding Elias Ney in a last confession of Frank Stichler, one of the condemned men implicated in the murder of Joseph Raber:

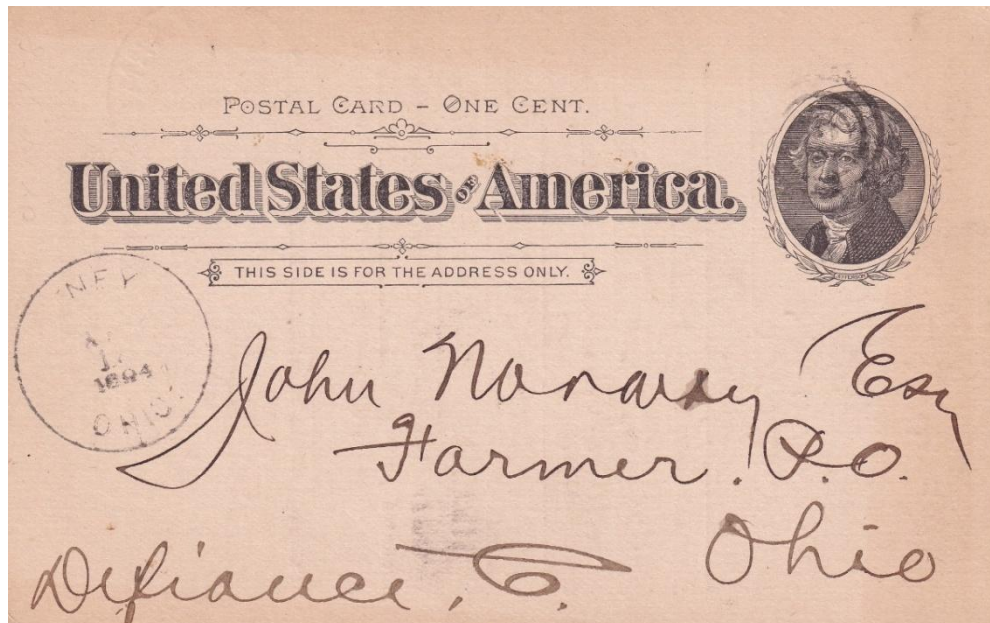
*"Frank and several companions went to Harrison Spang's for chickens, and on their way home incidentally took on Edward Hughes' barn, where they captured about half a bushel of corn. That night Elias Nye's haystack furnished fodder for their horses."*

On another occasion, Stichler confessed, the gang made off with Daniel Ney's steer.



## Ney, Ohio

There is still a “N – E – Y Post Office” in the United States, in Defiance County, Ohio. The [Village of Ney](#) in Defiance County is named after Marshall Michel Ney of Napoleon’s Army, and thus, pronounced differently.



122-A. Sept. 1896.

**AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.**

**NEY** **O** **1894**

We have received to your address, AND  
HOLD AT YOUR RISK, *Pa*

Express Charges, - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total to pay, \_\_\_\_\_  
Collection, - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ *73-*

Please call for same and present this notice, or fill out  
the order below. *W. H. Hyl* Agent.

Agents will record date of giving this notice opposite Entry of  
Shipment in their Record of Way-Bills Received, or O. N. Record.

**STRANGERS MUST BE IDENTIFIED.**

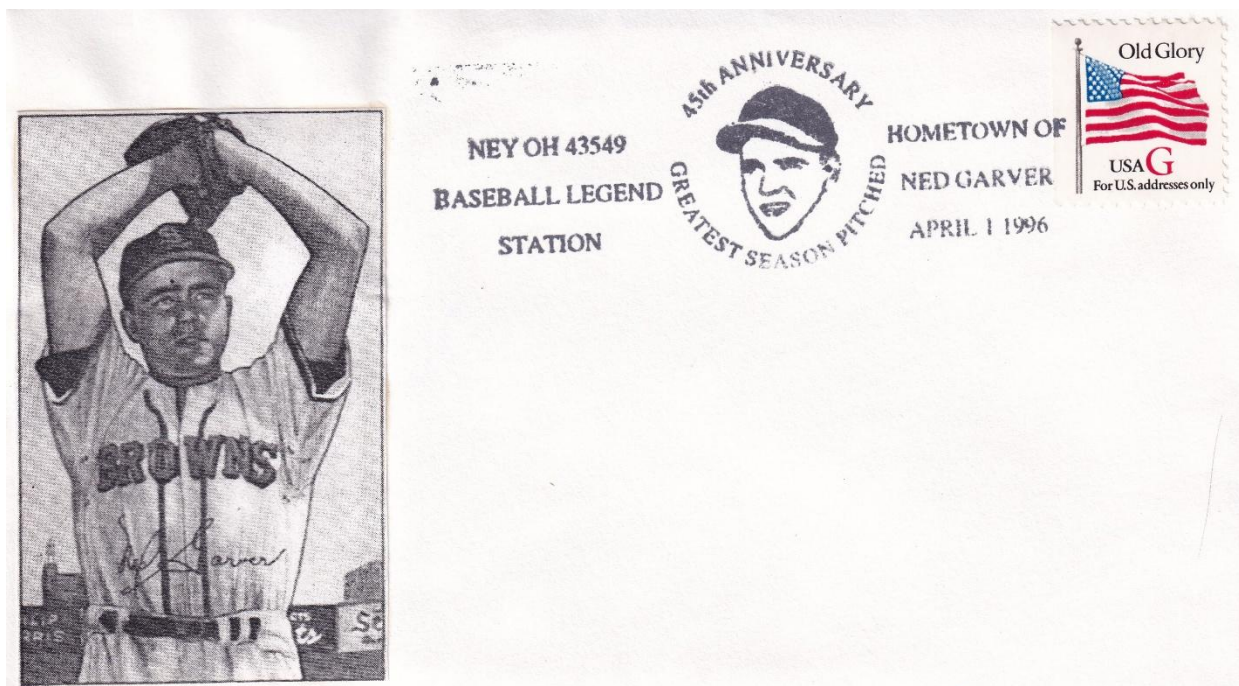
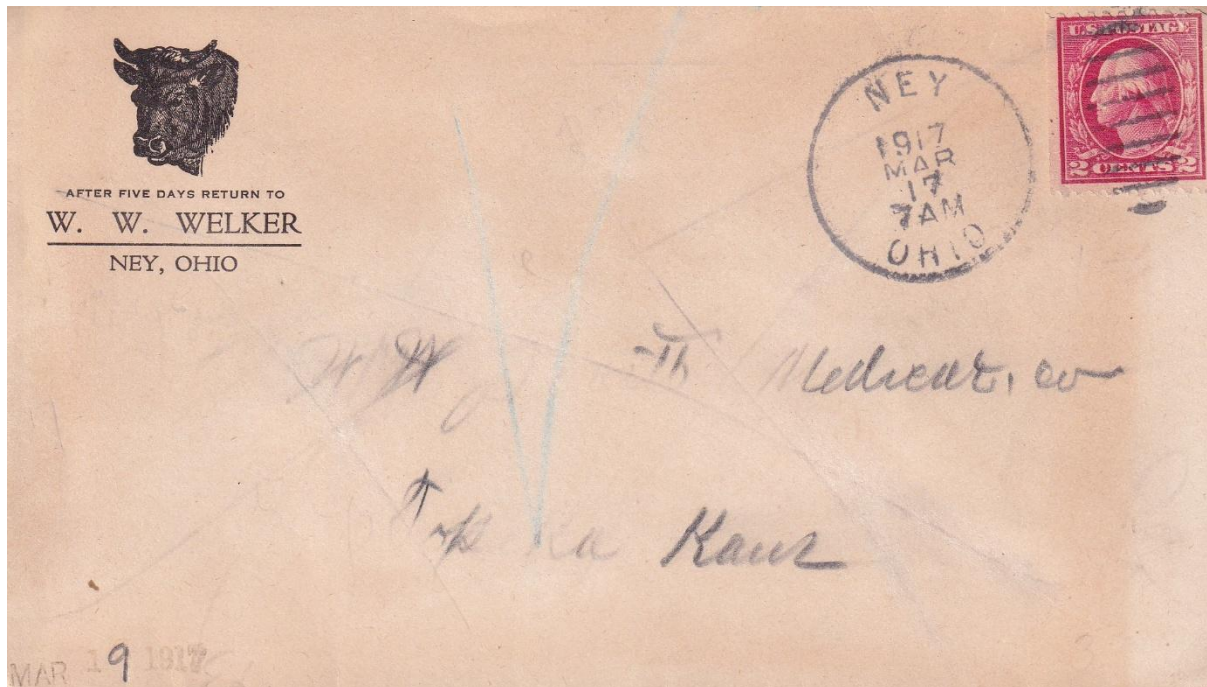
The American Express Company will deliver the above  
mentioned property to \_\_\_\_\_ or  
Bearer, who will pay all charges and is authorized to receipt  
for same.

Consignee.

**NOTE.—Orders to Purchase Goods or Household  
Supplies** of any kind are solicited from any one living at  
points on Company's lines, to be purchased or procured of  
dealers at any place where the Company has an agency, in  
the United States or Canada, or through our European  
agencies, and are taken and forwarded at any of the  
Company's offices without charge.

Purchases are made by employees of experience and  
discretion, and are returned by Express with the utmost  
promptness.

**THE ONLY CHARGE FOR THE ENTIRE SERVICE**  
being the usual low rate for transportation of the goods.



One of Ney Ohio's favorite sons, [Ned Garver](#), pitched in the major leagues from 1948 – 1961.



Recommended reading: *Cold Spring Hotel Site – Uncovering its Layers of History*, by James C. and James M. Logan, available from the Lebanon County Historical Society.





## The End

**Thank you for accompanying me on this  
journey to the Ney Post Office!**



Posing in front of what might have been Elias Ney's home is a woman who might have been Elias Ney's wife, Livina (Kreiser) Ney. The photo is not marked but belonged to grandma and grandpa. I didn't find it until after grandma died.

## Genealogical Postscript



Photo contributed by Kathie Hensch Gifford and posted on Find a Grave dot com.

[Elias Ney](#) and his wife, [Lavina Kreiser Ney](#), and his father [Daniel](#) and mother [Catherine](#), are buried in the Moonshine Church Cemetery by the Ft. Indiantown Gap in northern Lebanon County, PA.