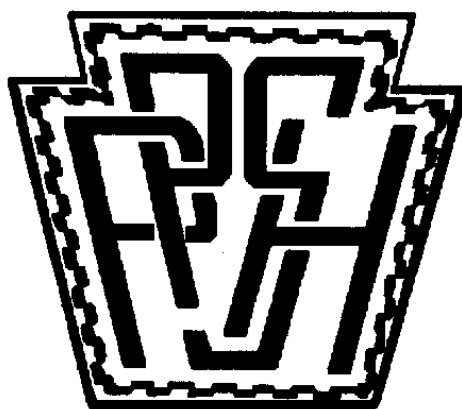


February 2018

Whole No. 214 Vol. 46, No. 1

# **PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORIAN**

THE BULLETIN OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



*Inside this issue:*

**Pennsylvania Wheel of Fortune Cancellation**

**The Mansion House and Its Hotel Handstamp**

**Sewickley, Pa., and Other Post Offices that Surrounded and  
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**3<sup>rd</sup> Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part I**  
(Adams and Allegheny Counties)

**PPHS Treasurers Report 12/31/17**  
(Inside back cover)

# PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Bulletin of the  
Pennsylvania Postal History Society

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PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORIAN  
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The PPHS is a non-profit, educational organization whose purposes are to cultivate and to promote the study of the postal history of Pennsylvania, to encourage the acquisition and preservation of material relevant and necessary to that study, and to publish and to support the publication of such knowledge for the benefit of the public.

The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the PPHS, its Directors, Officers, or Members. Comments and criticisms are invited. Please direct your correspondence to the Editor.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Writing these words a few days before Christmas, visiting in-laws in semi-rural California, Pennsylvania and postal history seem far away, but I want to wish every reader a happy and prosperous 2018, full of new acquisitions at reasonable prices and, if selling, dynamite returns.

As 2018 nears, time for a review of what's new in our Society. Our membership is steady at the century mark; we have sufficient in the treasury that dues need not be raised; and we have a vibrant and active website. This last, **paphs.org**, has been recently updated by Director Steve Kennedy, and the blog section has several new articles, including a definitive study of Philadelphia pre-GPU maritime markings by John Barwis. Library presentations by Dan Telep in Sewickly and Bill Schultz in West Chester (continuing through April) have brought much interest in the Society and its membership.

For myself there was little buying, but substantial selling of non-Pennsylvania material. While one collection went for two thirds of what I expected, another went for double, and several individual items' realizations pleasantly surprised me. I feel the 2017 market as stronger than 2016, and hope the trend continues. Now if some of our more senior members would take advantage of this stronger market there might be more material for me to acquire.

There's one area of our postal history I'm completely unaware of, although it certainly must exist and that's newspapers, which by volume were the major component of the posts well into the nineteenth century. What postal markings do the survivors show? Does anyone study them? I'm guessing major libraries have hordes of them, although probably microfilmed.

Finally make plans to attend our annual meeting in Bellefonte, June 23.

Until next time, Best wishes for happy collecting in 2018.

*Steve*

### **Our Next Annual Meeting Will Be Held**

**at SCOPEX 2018 on Saturday June 23  
at the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA**

Prospectus available from [nshachat@msn.com](mailto:nshachat@msn.com) or [dheller5720@yahoo.com](mailto:dheller5720@yahoo.com)

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**Send any comments or suggestions to our Webmaster:**

**Steve Kennedy**

**[skycopatc@yahoo.com](mailto:skycopatc@yahoo.com)**

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Thanks to our webmaster Steve Kennedy, our website is completely updated with several new inclusions. Our **Historian** section now contains excerpts up through our last issue. It also includes a Chronological Historian Index supplied by Tom Clarke. The full and more useful indexes (by topic and by author, etc.) can be purchased from Tom for \$10. In our **Blog** section you can find an update of the listing of Philadelphia Maritime Markings by John Barwis. The E-mail and member interest listing is now up to date in the **Member Interests** section and the **Links** section has been significantly expanded to make it easy to contact other philatelic organizations. Finally, consideration is being given to publishing entire issues of the *Historian* with password access by members. This will likely be a major topic of discussion at our Annual Meeting on June 23 at Bellefonte.

Our Treasurer's Report for 2017 appears on the inside back cover and indicates that we should remain solvent for some time to come. Membership remains at 101 (see below).

We lost one ad and gained one ad this year. Unfortunately the ad lost was a full page ad and the one gained is a business card ad. Interestingly, the new ad is by a Chinese stamp buyer, paying top dollar for Asian stamps!

Please take note of the lecture schedule on the back cover, organized by Bill Schultz in conjunction with the exhibit "You've Got Mail" at the Chester County Historical Society

(Continued on page 12)

## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

**Total Membership as of 10/15/17 ----- 101**

**New Members ----- + 2**

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**# 606** Larry Rausch (Rochester, NY)  
(Postal History, Hand Cancells, etc.)

**Resignations ----- - 2**

**# 85** William Thoman (Homer, NY)

**# 580** Thomas L. Brady (Bensalem, PA)

**Total Membership as of 1/15/18 ----- 101**  
(includes 4 life members)

.....

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Ronald J. Yeager [cry@atlanticbb.net](mailto:cry@atlanticbb.net) (Elk, Cameron and McKean Counties)

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# Pennsylvania Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

By Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the state of Pennsylvania. In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

*Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com . All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.*

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

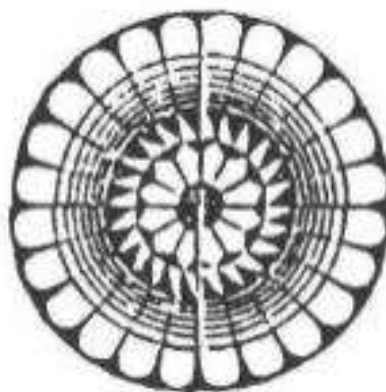


Fig. 1

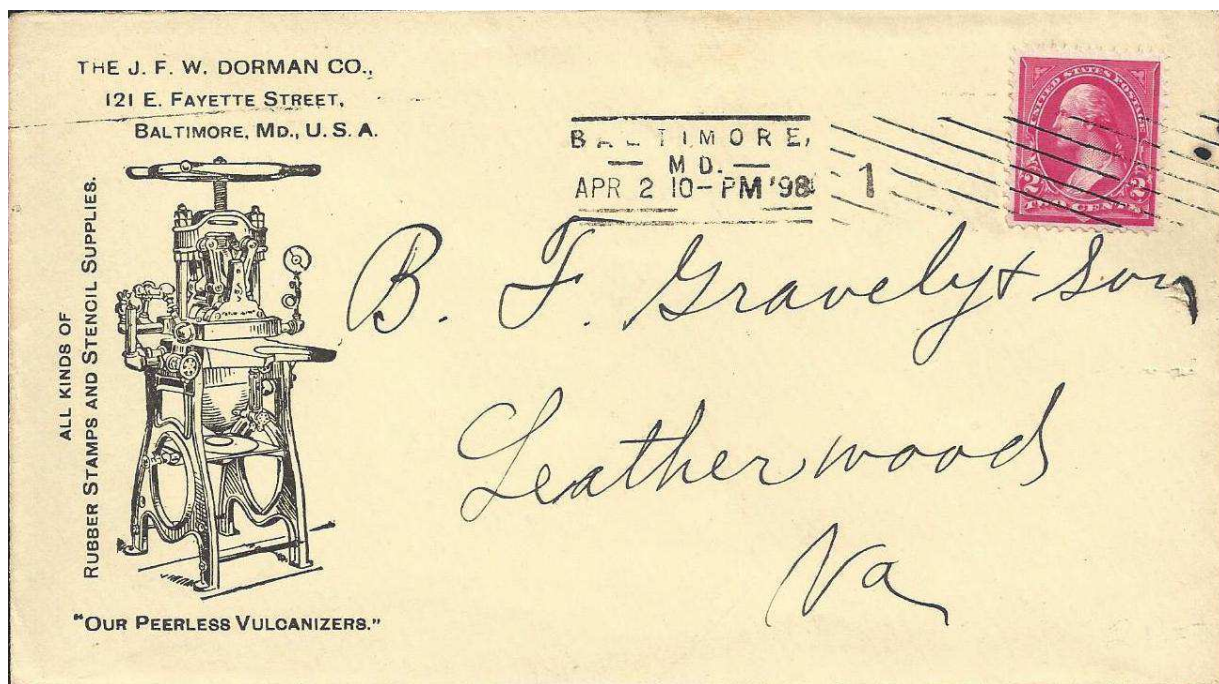


Fig. 2

The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin. The earliest Pennsylvania cover is dated August 22, 1882 from Gap, Pennsylvania (Fig.4) .

(Note: In the advertisement under "Best Offer", this Cancellor and kit cost \$3.00.)

**" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "**  
No. 529.

**POST OFFICE SUPPLIES**

ESTABLISHED 1872.

**WE ARE HEADQUARTERS**  
For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,  
" Note Headings,  
Stamp Ribbons (all colors),  
Money Order Daters,  
Post-Office Daters,  
Registered Letter Daters,  
Received Daters,  
Patent Inking Pads,  
P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),  
P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,  
Twine Cutters,  
Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,  
Coin Detectors,  
Paper Weights,  
Letter and Package Scales,  
Check Protectors,  
Gem Type Case,


**THE BEST OFFER YET.**  
One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**  
By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.

**PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.**  
Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much. — J. S. CECIL, P. M., California, Md.  
The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. — They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. S. HARING, P. M., Orangeburg, N. Y.  
The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and met with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Pictou Rocks, Pa.  
I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.  
I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. — W. J. KING, P. M., Mayville, Mo.  
The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.  
Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.  
The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.


Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address  
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.



No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.




Fig. 3



Fig. 4

I show the seven different cancellations found on WOF covers (Fig. 5)--six duplex and one with only the WOF die, coupled with many different circular date stamps as shown in the Gilfoyle, Pennsylvania cover (Fig. 6).

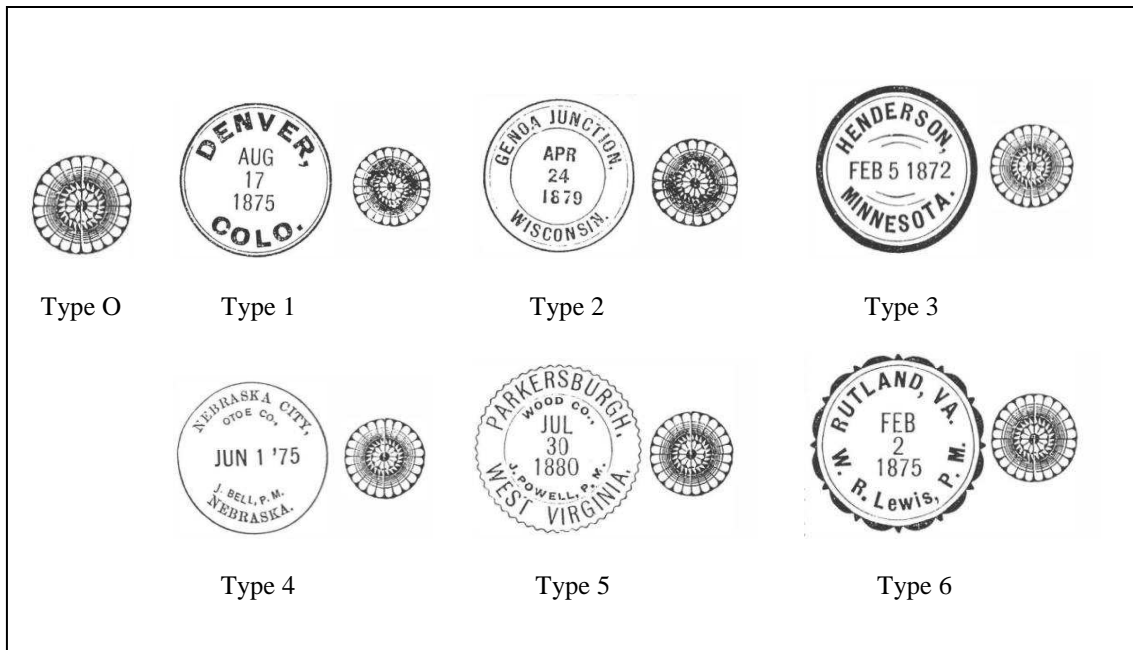


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The 1995 book “Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894” by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Pennsylvania he listed 11 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 29 Pennsylvania WOF covers listed. To date, 42 different Pennsylvania towns have been identified (Fig. 7,8). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.



count	Town	Photo	Usage		Postmark Includes		Cover
			Range	type	County		
1	PA Baxter *		1884-8	2	Jefferson County		84-1-16
	PA Baxter * **	p	1884-8	2	Jefferson County		84-11-12
	PA Baxter	p	1884-8	2	Jefferson County		86-1-29
	PA Baxter		1884-8	2	Jefferson County		86-5-14
	PA Baxter	p	1884-8	2	Jefferson County		86-6-30
	PA Baxter		1884-8	2	Jefferson County		86-12-10
	PA Baxter		1884-8	2	Jefferson County		87-3-7
	PA Baxter		1884-8	2	Jefferson County		88-6-11
2	PA Bayne * **		1890		Allegheny County		90-10-11
3	PA BoyerS		1888		Butler County		88-6-25
4	PA Burnwood **		1886		Susquehanna County		86-4-20
5	PA Cambria		1884		Cambria County		84-4-4
6	PA Cloud **		1886		Chester County		86-7-2
7	PA Coal Creek	p	1886	2	Henry County		86-1-2
8	PA Cross Creek Village**		1889		Tioga County		89-10-16
9	PA Dagus Mines * **		1884		Elk County		84-1-14
10	PA Fernwood **	p	1890	3	Jefferson County		90-7-21
	PA Fernwood		1890	3	Jefferson County		90-10-10
	PA Fernwood		1890	3	Jefferson County		90-10-16
11	PA Gap * **		1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 82-2-12
	PA Gap	p	1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 82-8-22
	PA Gap	p	1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 82-11-13
	PA Gap		1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 83-2-12
	PA Gap		1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 83-7-12
	PA Gap		1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 83-10-18
	PA Gap		1882-3	0	Lancaster County		Co 8x-7-3
12	PA Garrett **	p	1885	1	Somerset County		85-2-13
	PA Garrett		1885	1	Somerset County		85-3-30
13	PA Gilfoyle **	p	1885	0	Forest County		Co 85-7-15
14	PA Glen Riddle **		1884		Delaware County		84-12-29
15	PA Good Springs **		1894	0	Schuylkill County		94-5-22
	PA Good Springs	p	1894	0	Schuylkill County		94-9-24
	Pa Goodyear	p	1884-6	2	Cumberland county		84-9-7
16	PA Goodyear large **		1884-6	2	Cumberland county		85-10-19
	PA Goodyear large	p	1884-6	2	Cumberland county		85-12-18
	PA Goodyear large	p	1884-6	2	Cumberland county		86-6-25
17	PA Hauto		1884		Carbon County		84-9-17
18	PA Highville **		1887		Lancaster County		87-9-24
19	PA Homestead **	p	1884	1	Allegheny County		84-12-10
20	PA Iron Ore *		1887		York County		87-3-21
21	PA Ketner				Elk County		
	* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale						

Fig. 7

count		Town	Photo	Usage Range	type	Postmark Includes County	Cover Date
22	PA	Lander		1893		Warren County	93-6-18
23	PA	Manor Dale **	p	1883	5	Westmoreland County	83-11-5
24	PA	Mapleton Depot	p	1885	1	Huntingdon County	85-9-19
25	PA	Millville Depot **		1883-4	0	Pike County	83-10-2
	PA	Millville Depot	p	1883-4	0	Pike County	84-5-31
26	PA	Nanticoke * **		1883	2	Luzerne County	83-4-3
	PA	Nanticoke	p	1883	2	Luzerne County	83-4-19
	PA	Nanticoke		1883	2	Luzerne County	83-4-24
27	PA	Newtown Square		1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 83-3-14
	PA	Newtown Square * **	p	1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 83-5-18
	PA	Newtown Square		1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 83-12-9
	PA	Newtown Square		1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 84-5-30
	PA	Newtown Square		1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 85-1-8
	PA	Newtown Square		1883-9	2	Delaware County	Co 89-5-14
28	PA	Paxtonville		1887		Snyder County	87-10-19
29	PA	Rice's Landing **		1881-5		Greene County	pm 81-12-31
	PA	Rice's Landing **		1881-5		Greene County	pm 85-6-17
30	PA	Royer * **	p	1888-9	4	Blair County	Co 88-6-25
	PA	Royer	p	1888-9	4	Blair County	Co 89-1-7
31	PA	Schwenkville * **		1886-8		Montgomery County	86-4-1
	PA	Schwenkville		1886-8		Montgomery County	86-4-6
	PA	Schwenkville		1886-8		Montgomery County	88-1-24
32	PA	Smethport		1884-6	1	McKean County	84-4-3
	PA	Smethport		1884-6	1	McKean County	84-5-5
	PA	Smethport	p	1884-6	1	McKean County	84-7-21
	PA	Smethport		1884-6	1	McKean County	85-5-23
	PA	Smethport		1884-6	1	McKean County	86-2-2
	PA	Smethport		1884-6	1	McKean County	86-8-21
33	PA	Stahlstown **		1887		Westmoreland County	87-1-29
34	PA	Sterling Run		1889		Cameron County	
35	PA	Sydney		1884	0	Armstrong County	84-7-12
36	PA	Thomasville		1887		York County	87-2-12
37	PA	Trucksville **		1887		Luzerne County	87-8-5
38	PA	Weidasville **		1892		Lehigh County	92-5-24
39	PA	Welsh Run * **		1888	1	Franklin County	88-2-20
	PA	Welsh Run	p	1888	1	Franklin County	88-2-13
40	PA	White Haven * **		1883	2	Luzerne County	83-8-6
	PA	White Haven		1883	2	Luzerne County	83-8-16
	PA	White Haven	p	1883	2	Luzerne County	83-8-22
41	PA	Williams **		1885		Somerset County	85-6-13
42	PA	Wilmore **		1883-4		Cambria County	83-8-8
	PA	Wilmore		1883-4		Cambria County	84-12-11
		* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale					

Fig. 8

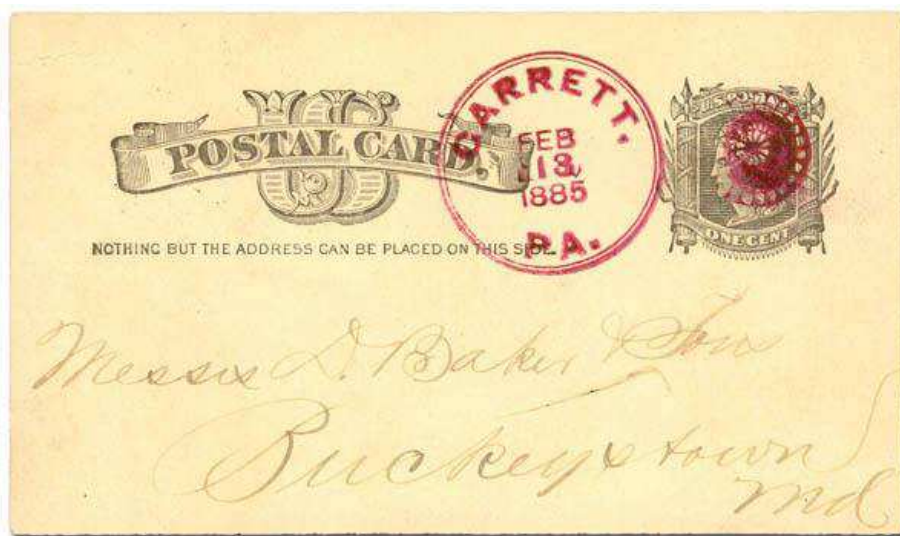
**References:**

Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole

US Cancellation Club News

Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane







**EDITOR'S COMMENTS continued from page 3:**

The first article in this issue, **Pennsylvania Wheel of Fortune Cancellation**, was submitted by Larry Rausch. It is a project started by Arthur Beane and taken up and completed by Larry on behalf of the U. S. Cancellation Club. Apparently other state listings will be published in other state journals. We thanks Larry, who recently joined our Society and is its newest member. If you have any additional input, I'm sure he would appreciate it. His e-mail address is [stonywoods840@gmail.com](mailto:stonywoods840@gmail.com)

Gus Spector continues his series of Philadelphia Hotel Handstamps with **The Mansion House and Its Hotel Handstamp**. It is the penultimate article in the series. As a collector of these handstamps for over 45 years, I especially appreciate Gus's input.

During the past summer, Dan Telep exhibited his home town Sewickley at the Sewickley Library. He handed out many copies of the *Historian* and applications for our Society. In **Sewickley, Pa., and Other Post Offices that Surrounded and Served our Neighborhood: 1803 –1930** he shows a significant portion of that exhibit. Hopefully his effort will have motivated some to consider the joys of collecting postal history and will result in a few new members in the future.

(Continued on page 16)

## The Mansion House and Its Hotel Handstamp

By Gus Spector (#396)

*This is the sixth in a series of articles concerning Philadelphia hotel markings. According to Clarke<sup>1</sup>, there were nine Philadelphia hotels that, at some time during the period between 1840 through 1851, transported mail from their establishments to the Post Office. This was evidently performed as a measure of goodwill and courtesy for their clients, with no legitimate monies being exchanged for the service. However, in doing so, the hotels were somewhat in competition with the United States Post Office, depriving that government agency of its collection fees. Each hotel applied its own distinctive rubber stamp. This is a continuation of the discussion concerning the known hotel markings.*

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia's superb website, *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, lists no less than sixteen hotels saddled with the eponymous moniker "Mansion House", scattered throughout the United States. (This author knows of one, located in Chester County, that was far from bearing the aura of a mansion-like existence!). There were at least four Mansion Houses listed in Philadelphia directories between the 1830's and the time of the Centennial of 1876.

The image in Figure 1 is that of the Mansion House located on the southeast corner of Eleventh and Market Streets, James London being its proprietor. The 1856 cover contains a three-cent 1851 stamp with a partial splotchy circular cancellation, an acid-tied Blood's adhesive (*Scott # 15L14*), and a legible Blood's Despatch postmark. Built in 1812 by Thomas Leiper, it was renovated in the early 1840's, renamed the United States Hotel, and then finally the Bingham House<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 1

Figure 2 depicts the corner card of the Mansion House located at 621 and 622 Arch Street. This is a rather strange address, since it would entail two buildings, being across the street from one another. The proprietors were Elias, Gabel and Koopmann. Although the cover bears a postmark, there is no trace of a stamp having been affixed to it. An enclosed letter, dated September 19, 1876, describes some of the wonders that the writer had experienced upon visiting the Centennial Exposition. This same letterhead did clarify the misprint on the envelope: this Mansion House was actually located at 621 and 623 Arch Street, not 622.



Figure 2

The Mansion House of import to this article was located at 122 ½ South Third Street. This was the hotel's address, prior to the time of the Consolidation of the City of Philadelphia in 1854. McElroy's *Philadelphia Directory for 1844* lists Joseph Head of the Mansion House at the above address, and a separate directory entry for the Mansion House with Joseph Head (as proprietor or owner) at South Third Street near Spruce Street.

The transatlantic folded letter in Figure 3 left Philadelphia on September 1, 1844, and arrived in London on September 15. The truncated Mansion House blue handstamp is 2.8 x 1.8 cm. and bears the name of the hotel proprietor, Joseph Head. Figure 4 is a somewhat clearer black example of the handstamp on the back of a folded letter datelined Phila. Nov.7, 1843 addressed to New York.

Sidney George Fisher (1809-1871), the wealthy Philadelphia diarist, noted:

*March 19, 1839* ... went to Athenaeum etc. till 6, the hour for a dinner at Head's [e.g., Mansion House], given by the Counsellors of the Athenian Institute to the lecturers. There were about 30 present and the dinner was excellent, admirably cooked and served... It was gay, but nothing remarkable happened or worth remembering was said. Of course there were toasts and speeches in abundance ... Strickland was boisterous & vulgar, but with that exception everyone behaved perfectly well.<sup>3</sup>

The Mansion House was obviously a posh, ritzy establishment, capable of hosting such a distinguished wealth group of men.

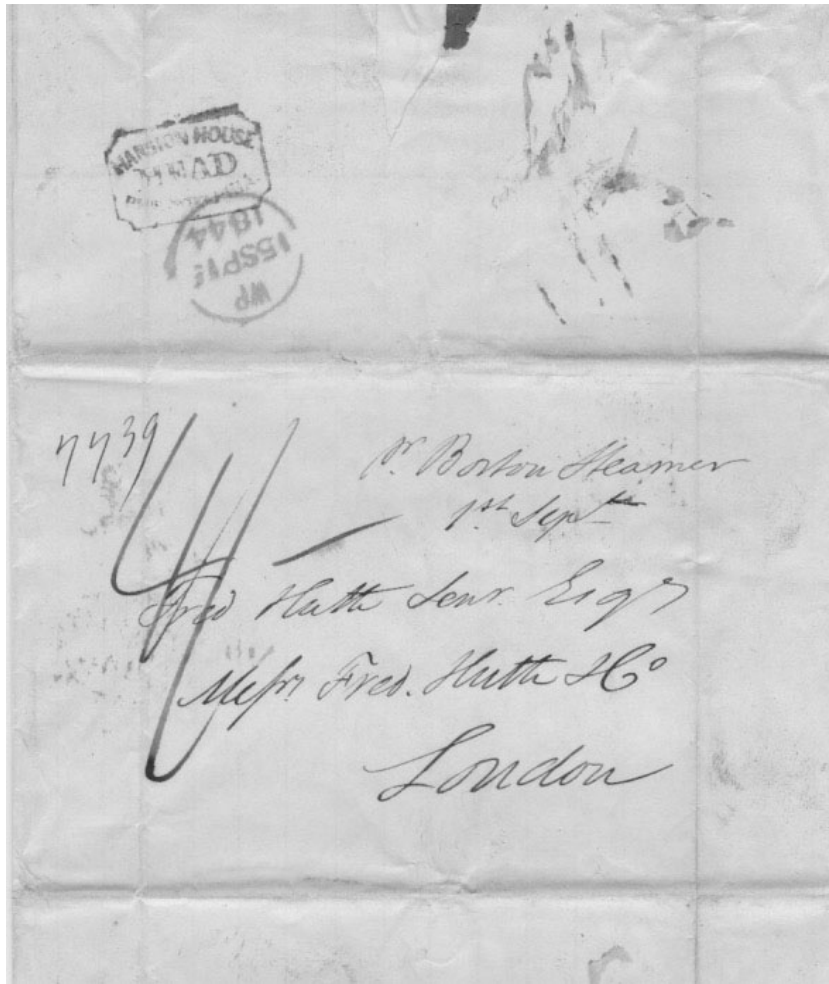


Figure 3



Figure 4 Collection of N. Shachat



**References:**

- (1) Clarke, Tom. *A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks, Part III*, 1992, pages 17-3 and 17-4.
- (2) Jackson, Joseph. *Market Street, The Most Historic Highway in America*. The Public Ledger Company, Philadelphia, 1918, pp. 154-155.

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**EDITOR’S COMMENTS continued from page 12:**

In **Mystery Solved: A Morbid 1938 National Air Mail Week Cachet**, Steve Swain details how input from Johnstown specialist Don Smith helped him solve the mystery. It is another example of the help that members of our Society can provide. If you have an interesting item, but can’t explain it completely, consider writing it up and request help from our membership. It is unlikely that anyone other than Don Smith could have provided Steve with the input contained in the article. Don’t wait until we old timers are looking up at the grass rather than down on it.

The issue concludes with **3<sup>rd</sup> Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part I** by Tom Mazza.

I thank those who contributed to this issue and hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed constructing it. My backlog remains low so please give thought to submitting an article.

Again, I urge you to take a look at our updated website **paphs.org** and consider adding something to our **Blog** or to our **Gallery**. You can do that by contacting our webmaster Steve Kennedy directly at [skycopatc@yahoo.com](mailto:skycopatc@yahoo.com)

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Meeting at the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA on June 23. For a prospectus, you can either contact me ([nshachat@msn.com](mailto:nshachat@msn.com)) or Don Heller ([dheller5720@yahoo.com](mailto:dheller5720@yahoo.com)) It would be nice to have several Pennsylvania exhibits.

As I complete this issue and prepare to send it to our printer during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January, I was hoping that I would be able to hold out the prospect of an all Pennsylvania Super Bowl. Had the Pittsburgh Steelers won during this last weekend, it would have been possible, although not highly probable. By the time this issue arrives in the mail, we will know whether or not the Philadelphia Eagles defied the odds, made the Super Bowl and won the championship. Nice to contemplate, but I am not betting my collection on it.

Hope you all have a pleasant end to winter and start of spring.

*Norm*

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# Sewickley, Pa., and Other Post Offices that Surrounded and Served our Neighborhood: 1803 –1930

By Daniel M. Telep (# 392)

Sewickley means “Sweet Water” in the Indian language of long ago, when the Algonquian and Shawnee tribes first dwelt on the banks of the Ohio River. George Washington came this way in 1770 when he surveyed the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers making the Ohio River, now Pittsburgh. Revolutionary soldiers were offered land grants in this part of the undeveloped fledgling nation, some of whose names still grace the Sewickley landmarks. As Pittsburgh grew up in the Industrial Revolution, wealthy families chose Sewickley for their summer homes, to escape the heat and dirt of the steel mills. The former stage coach route was widened a few times, the wealth of summer mansions and horse estates flowed up the river, schools and churches were founded, and Sewickley became a desirable place to live.

My story unfolds with a letter from David Shields, an early resident, which entered the mail in the Pittsburgh office in 1803, Figure 1, before the neighborhood had its own first post office, Sewickley Bottom, located on the stage coach route west between Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Opening on January 9, 1824, the Sewickley Bottom post office, pictured in Figure 2, operated out of the home of David Shields who was its only postmaster. He signed the folded letter (Figure 3) for a postmaster privilege free frank. That office was discontinued on September 1, 1857 but moved and reopened as Leetsdale on February 4, 1867. Figures 4 and 5 illustrate usages from Leetsdale. That office closed on October 18, 1872, but again moved and reopened on July 30, 1873. Today it operates as zip code 15056, Leetsdale.



Figure 2

Figure 1

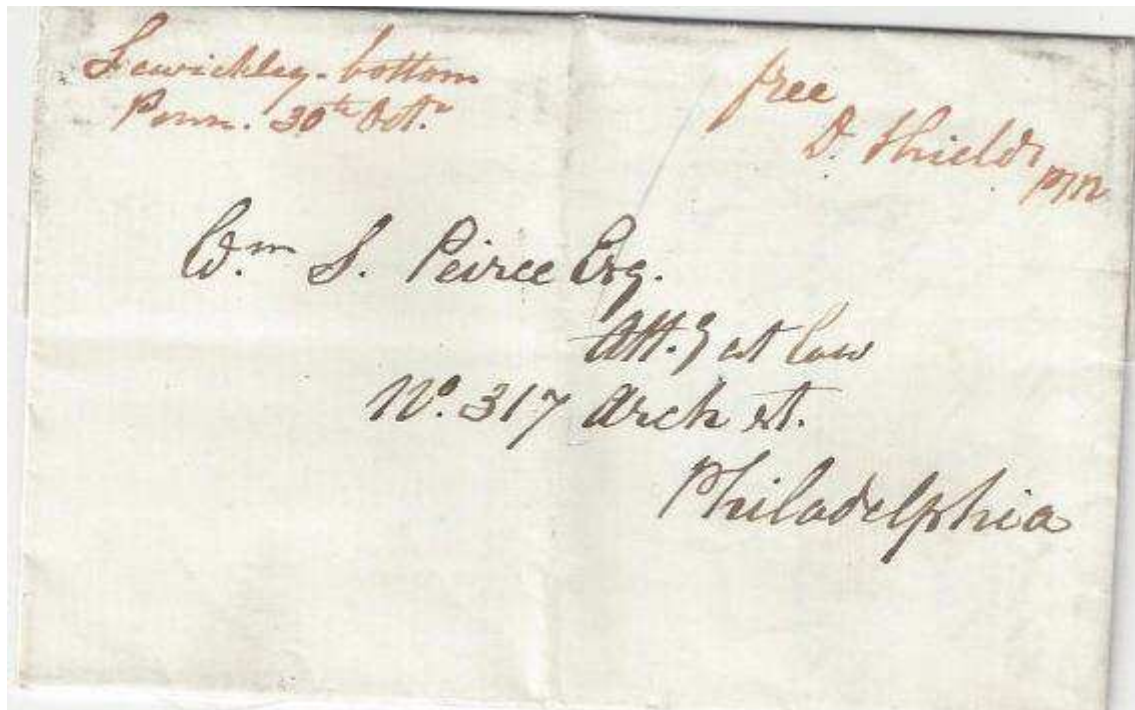


Figure 3 Datelined Sewickley Bottom Oct. 30, 1854



Figure 4



Figure 5

Meanwhile, the first Sewickley post office opened originally as Sewickleyville on August 26, 1851, operating nearly twenty years until April 14, 1871, with John Way the only postmaster. Figure 6 shows a late 1850's or early 1860's cover with the circular **SEWICKLEYVILLE / Pa** handstamp. On that same day (April 14, 1871) it moved and reopened as Sewickley. Its humble beginnings as a dedicated office on Beaver Street is shown in Figure 7. The stately post office building of the 1870's is illustrated in Figure 8. After one last move it remains operating today as zip code 15143, Sewickley.



Figure 6

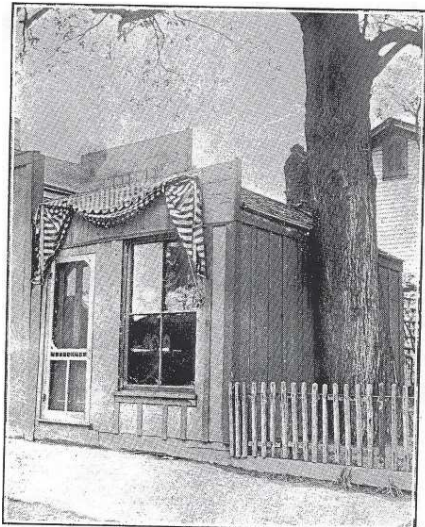


Figure 7



Figure 8

Glenfield, Pa. had a post office (Figure 9) east of Sewickley down the Ohio River which opened on January 28, 1876 and operated continuously until its discontinuance on November 30, 1969 when the new Interstate 79 road project bought up and eliminated most of the town. The Dixmont post office (Figure 10) opened further down the Ohio River on June 30, 1861 in the hospital at the Dixmont Insane Asylum complex of many buildings and didn't close until January 31, 1954. Both the Glenfield and Dixmont offices were absorbed into the Sewickley post office. I toured Dixmont before its demolition in the 1990's and was fortunate to salvage some documents. Program notes from a lecture I attended state that "Dixmont State Hospital, whose cornerstone was laid in 1859, was named for 19<sup>th</sup> century social reformer Dorothy Dix, who selected the site for its good air, beautiful view of the river valley, abundant pure spring water and close proximity to the railroad. It was 'an asylum for the care of those on whom God in His inscrutable wisdom has laid a chastening hand' and served as a refuge where the insane could receive proper care and treatment." The post office by that name was located in the hospital; there never was a town called Dixmont, just a neighborhood.



Figure 9



Figure 10

On July 26, 1889 the Shields post office opened one mile away from the Leetsdale office, operating until August 31, 1938, when it too was absorbed into the Sewickley office. Figure 11 shows the last day of usage in the Shields office. Figure 12 illustrates 'missent' usage from Manchester, Mass. in 1903 to Shields, Pa. and then to the Leetsdale office, attempting to locate the addressee.



Figure 11



Figure 12

Figures 13 and 14 show the 'discovery' copies for the Sewickley Edgeworth Railroad Station cancel. The Edgeworth Station post office opened on January 15, 1899 and closed on November 20, 1904. Figure 13 originated in Britain with the Sewickley Edgeworth Station receiving marking. The last post office absorbed into the Sewickley office is Haysville, Pa. (Figure 15), January 20, 1890 to December 31, 1949. Just west of Leetsdale the post office of Fair Oaks, Pa. (Figure 16), January 14, 1898, to January 31, 1955, was absorbed into Leetsdale, zip code 15056. This last item is of particular interest to me as it is addressed to my mother, circa 1934.



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

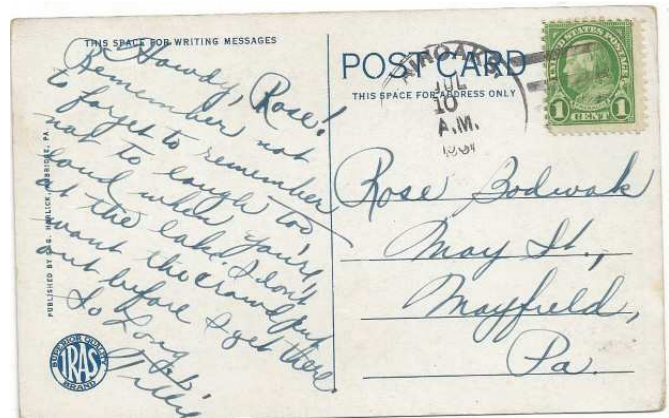


Figure 16

In conclusion, you might ask “Why did so many post offices open in such close proximity?” One can only speculate that these seven offices within the 3 mile radius from present day Sewickley were opened because of their local identities, social ties, neighborhood rivalries and local political influence. Convenience and prestige dictated the openings of the offices, but governmental budgeting pressures and population shifts resulted in their closings.

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## Mystery Solved: A Morbid 1938 National Air Mail Week Cachet

By Steve Swain (# 590)

My article in the August, 2017 issue of the Pennsylvania Postal Historian, *A Morbid 1938 National Air Mail Week Cachet*, prompted a valuable and much appreciated correspondence from Society member Don Smith.

In my article, I presented what I considered to be somewhat of an odd (morbid) cachet used on a Johnstown, PA cover for the celebration surrounding National Air Mail week. Although labeled “NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK, MAY 15-21, 1938”, the cachet seen in Figure 1 used a photograph of the Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, specifically the “Unknown Plot” where 777 unidentified bodies were buried after the catastrophic 1889 flood, as stated at the bottom of the cachet.



**Figure 1** Johnstown, Pa. National Air Mail Week Cover

Granted, National Air Mail Week’s May 15-21, 1938 was the approximate date for the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the May 31, 1899 Johnstown flood which claimed the lives of 2,209 residents. But what an odd choice of a design for a cachet that was supposed to celebrate air mail service.

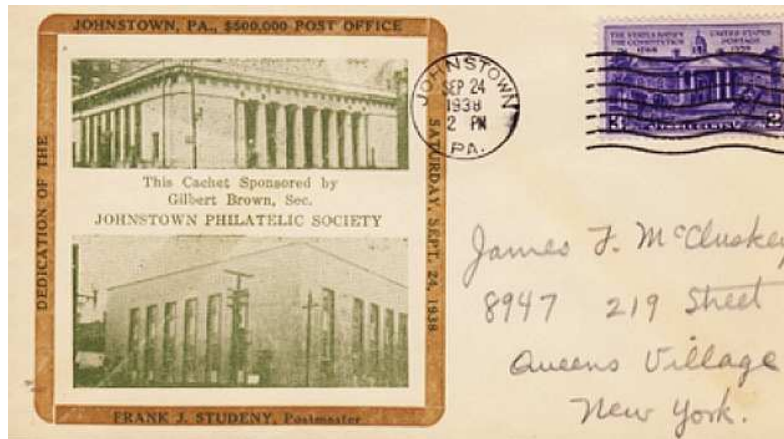
Note in Figure 1 that the cachet’s left and right lettering is “SPONSORED BY THE POSTMASTER JOHNSTOWN PENNSYLVANIA”. Johnstown’s postmaster at that time was Frank J. Studeny. Several years ago, Don Smith, who resides in Johnstown, published a biography of all of the Johnstown postmasters. Don provided me with several pages devoted to postmaster Frank Studeny included in his publication.

A staunch Democrat, Studeny was appointed Acting Postmaster on February 16, 1934 by Postmaster General James A. Farley. He succeeded Carl Steuer, the Republican incumbent, who resigned on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Studeny took the required Civil Service examinations and was appointed Johnstown’s 24<sup>th</sup> Postmaster on June 6, 1934. He held that position for nearly 15 years, retiring from the postal service in February, 1949 at the age of 78.

Don’s research revealed nothing to support the idea that Studeny recommended or approved the photograph of the Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown used for the National Air Mail week cover’s cachet. Don believes that the choice of the cemetery photo was made by

Gilbert Brown, a Johnstown printer who created many cachets. More than likely, “Gib”, as called by his friends, was asked /commissioned to create the Air Mail Week cover and he simply chose a photo from his files that he considered representative of Johnstown. Don says that Brown used the same Grandview Cemetery photo for other cachets.

Brown was the Secretary of the Johnstown Philatelic Society, as the cachet in Figure 2 shows.<sup>1</sup> The cover was created for the dedication of the new Johnstown Post Office building, the design and construction of which was championed by Frank Studeny.



**Figure 2** The 1938 Dedication of the Johnstown Post Office Building

Don notes that there were several stamp clubs in the area at the time and the Johnstown Philatelic Society was considered as the elitist group. No records support whether Studeny was a member of that club, but he did speak several times to the membership and was a friend of Brown’s.

The mystery, at least as I considered it, of the Grandview Cemetery cachet has been solved. Many thanks to member Don Smith for sharing his insight and history of Johnstown Postmaster Frank Studeny and Gilbert Brown.

**Reference:**

- (1) <http://vintagepaperandpostcards.com/topics/post+offices/Envelopes%20.html?11>

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***Column Headings and Explanation for Manuscript Listings:***

<b>Post Office<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>M-Designation<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Postmaster Name</b>	<b>Term<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Cover Dates (EKU-LKU)</b>	<b># Recorded</b>
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- a.) An asterisk indicates handstamp markings have been reported as well during the stampless period.
- b.) Each postmaster is given a single M-designation independent of the number of terms served or the appearance of the manuscript (handwriting, full or abbreviated, with or without “Pa”, etc.)
- c.) If a postmaster served more than one term, his first term is designated “A”, second term, “B”, etc. The term in parenthesis is the date of his appointment to the date of appointment of his successor. An asterisk indicates the date is approximate.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Update on Pennsylvania Manuscript Markings, Part I

By Tom Mazza (# 301)

## Adams County

Abbottstown *				
M-1	Samuel Fahnestock	(4/25/15 – 4/14/28)	9/7/20	1
M-2	William Berlin	(1/5/41 – 3/29/42)	9/22/41	1
M-3	George Ickes	A (9/26/35 – 10/15/39) B (3/29/42 – 5/13/42) C (7/19/43 – 5/16/45) D (6/9/49 – 6/6/53)	9/25/49 – 4/1/51	3
M-4	George Jordy	(6/6/53 – 7/18/55)	10/7/54	1
Bendersville *				
M-1	Abel T. Wright	(5/4/47 – 6/5/53)	1/4/4+ – 5/17/5+	3
M-2	William B. Wilson	(6/6/53 – 10/24/54)	2/14/54	1
M-3	William Overdeer	(10/24/54 – 5/10/61)	5/5/55	1
Bermudian				
M-1	David Newcommer	(3/21/45 – 11/16/52)	7/16/46	2
Cashtown				
M-1	Abraham Scott	(9/8/49 – 6/6/53)	-/--/49 - -/--/51	2
East Berlin				
M-1	William Hildebrand	(5/2/31 – 2/15/41)	8/25/34 - 8/16/37	2
M-2	William Wolf	A (11/28/44 – 3/16/49) B (12/13/52 – 6/6/53)	-/--/45 – 2/17/46	3
M-3	Robert M. Hutchinson	(3/16/49 – 12/13/52)	10/23/49 – 11/21/5+	2
M-4	Joseph Woods	(6/6/53 – 5/30/61)	11/24/53 – 12/27/58	2
Fairfield *				
M-1	Ezra Blythe	(4/30/11 – 11/20/27)	7/18/12 – 11/5/14	3
M-2	William Johnston	(11/20/27 – 6/15/38)	7/16/31	1
M-3	Michael Lawre	(6/15/38 – 4/14/41)	5/11/40	1
M-4	John McCleary	(4/14/41 – 11/19/45)	10/7/42	1
M-5	Hugh D. Heagy	(3/27/49 – 5/11/50)	2/2/50	1
Fountain Dale				
M-1	John C. Martin	(5/4/61 – 2/14/66)	4/4/64	1
Gettysburg * (ch)				
M-1	James Douglass	(*4/1/07 – 6/14/10)	-/--/09	1
M-2	George Welsh	(6/14/10 – 3/11/19)	6/18/12 – 2/25/19	2
M-3	John Hersh, Jr.	(1/18/23 – 6/30/29)	1/25/25	1
Grafensburg				
M-1	David Goodyear	(10/16/49 – 8/16/62)	11/6/49 – 12/10/53	2
Hampton				
M-1	Charles Blish	(4/24/27 – 4/10/45)	4/5/33	1
M-2	Jacob C. Schriver	(10/30/51 – 5/5/59)	3/8/53 – 6/4/53	2
Heidlersburg *				
M-1	Leonard Delap	(5/7/35 – 1/19/61)	8/14/54	1
Hunterstown *				
M-1	William F. Walter	(11/17/46 – 4/26/50)	11/30/47	1
M-2	Jane King	(8/21/50 – 6/6/53)	12/16/51	1
Idaville				
M-1	Jesse Smyers	(12/1/60 – 11/2/61)	10/15/61	1
M-2	Andrew Crist	(3/19/69 – 6/26/82)	4/17/69	1

Littlestown *				
M-1	John McIlvain	(1/25/39 – 6/15/41)	11/14/39	1
M-2	John A. Davis	(6/15/41 – 4/15/45)	-/--/42 – 12/31/43	2
McSherrystown				
M-1	Henry Herring	(3/1/42 – 3/26/49)	-/--/45 – 3/8/47	2
M-2	Elizabeth Will	(3/26/49 – 9/2/96)	3/23/53	1
Menallen				
M-1	William P. Preston	(10/8/30 – 1/30/34)	4/17/31 – 10/5/33	2
M-2	Daniel Minnigh	(1/30/34 – 3/18/42)	4/17/34	1
Mummasburgh				
M-1	Samuel Hart	(4/21/54 – 3/29/61)	7/21/55	1
New Chester				
M-1	N. Taughenbaugh	(4/5/34 – 11/15/47)	3/30/47 – 8/24/47	2
M-2	Joseph Taughenbaugh	(11/15/47 – 5/12/52)	4/11/48	1
New Oxford *				
M-1	Mary Melsheimer	(2/25/35 – 9/14/49)		
	John Blair	(9/14/49 – 5/30/64)	2/10/4+ – 5/22/4+	3
York Sulphur Springs *				
M-1	Harmon Wireman	(5/12/19 – 11/17/43)	8/22/33 – 5/3/43	16
M-2	Anna Godfrey	(11/17/43 – 3/28/48)	3/10/45 – 1/4/48	6
M-3	Jonas Johns	(3/28/48 – 3/29/49)	4/5/48 – 5/8/48	2

### Allegheny County

Antrim				
M-1	Samuel Ross	(4/1/40 – 11/6/43)		
	Robert Ross	(11/6/43 – 7/2/45)	8/1/4-	1
Bakerstown				
M-1	Dwight Thompson	(2/11/37 – 11/29/39)	4/14/38 – 10/26/38	2
M-2	William Duncan	(9/16/41 – 3/2/48)	10/18/44	1
Clinton				
M-1	John Pollock	A (2/7/28 – 8/21/41) B (3/14/45 – 1/19/63)	5/31/4+	1
Dorseyville				
M-1	Edward McCorkle	(10/10/54 – 1/31/65)	11/7/55 – 4/14/59	6
Duquesne				
M-1	William McConnell	(2/27/50 – 2/27/66)	3/22/5+ - 9/27/5+	2
Fayette				
M-1	Samuel Cooper	(1/19/42 – 11/6/43)	7/19/42 – 8/25/42	2
M-2	George McFarland	(10/15/45 – 5/11/49)	3/5/46	1
Gambles				
M-1	James Torrence	(5/14/48 – 10/22/95)	8/2/48 – 3/18/5+	3
Gill Hall				
M-1	William Snee	(2/21/48 – 7/7/56)	12/5/4+	1
Green Tree				
M-1	David Frew	A (9/6/45 – 4/21/49) B (6/9/53 – 3/11/56)	9/22/46 – 12/30/47	3
M-2	Robert Bigham	(4/21/49 – 6/9/53)	-/--/50	1
Herriottsville				
M-1	John McEwen	(5/16/36 – 1/12/63)	12/11/37 – 9/19/5+	6
Hope Church				
M-1	David Calhoon	(7/15/53 – 6/21/70)	3/4/56 – 6/12/58	2

Houston				
	M-1 James Hallstead	A (3/4/36 – 7/31/45) B (5/26/49 – 10/17/65)	2/10/37 – 11/17/41	2
	M-2 Nathan W. Prestley	(7/31/45 – 5/26/49)	5/11/49	1
Library				
	M-1 Archibald Bryant	A (12/8/46 – 6/28/49) B (6/18/53 – 3/7/55)	--/48	1
Logan's Ferry (1)				
	M-1 Hugh Logan	(6/9/44 – 11/11/58)	6/7/58 – 8/27/58	2
McKeesport				
	M-1 Perry Baker	(4/21/46 – 12/22/48)	6/2/46	1
Noblestown				
	M-1 Robert Taylor	(4/16/39 – 2/5/44)	3/24/42	1
	M-2 George S. Head	(2/5/44 – 3/20/50)	6/16/45 – 12/12/49	2
	M-3 James Vincent	(3/20/50 – 10/6/53)		
	William McClean	(10/6/53 – 5/4/61)	1/21/5+	1
Perrysville				
	M-1 Conrad Reel	(5/5/21 – 6/5/34)	3/20/27 – 3/12/34	2
Pittsburgh *	(ch)			
	M-1 William Tilton	(7/7/88 – 7/5/89)	-/89	1
	M-2 John Scull	(7/5/89 – 12/21/96)	11/16/92 – 9/27/93	3
	M-3 George Adams	(12/21/96 – 4/10/01)	5/12/97 - -/98	6
Sewickley Bottom				
	M-1 David Shields	(1/9/24 – 9/1/57)	8/22/31 – 10/30/54	32
Sharpsburgh *				
	M-1 Thomas Gardiner	(9/17/40 – 5/26/49)	5/9/49	1
Shirland				
	M-1 Alexander McFarland	(9/2/50 – 2/17/79)	6/1/54	1
Shousetown *				
	M-1 John Hamilton	(8/8/51 – 4/6/57)	5/12/5+ - 8/30/5+	3
Spring Dale				
	M-1 John Keen	(12/14/26 – 12/19/54)	4/11/40 – 10/12/42	3
Surgeon's Hall				
	M-1 Joseph Curry	(1/22/30 – 9/27/47)	5/26/43 – 12/20/43	2
	M-2 James D. Cochran	(9/25/50 – 10/3/51)		
	Hiram Armstrong	(10/3/51 – 5/7/52)		
	Isaac Lytle	(6/2/52 – 6/10/53)		
	Mrs. Eliza Irwin	(6/10/53 – 5/27/72)	10/21/5+	1
Tally Cavey				
	M-1 Robert McDonald	(5/21/60 – 12/3/61)	5/6/61	1
Temperanceville *				
	M-1 James Richardson	(1/14/50 – 1/17/52)	6/10/50	1
Turtle Creek				
	M-1 Henry Chalfont	(3/1/32 – 6/29/47)	3/2/39 – 3/27/40	7
Wexford				
	M-1 Martin Byrne	(10/28/28 – 6/30/49)	-/45	1
Wilkins *				
	M-1 Louis Fluck	(12/4/33 – 4/20/35)	2/27/35	1
	M-2 William Gore	(4/20/35 – 7/31/45)	5/15/35 - -/40	3
Wilkinsburgh				
	M-1 Edward Thompson	A (12/15/45 – 4/27/49) B (3/12/57 – 3/28/61)	3/26/49	1

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Manuscript Marking Updates for Reference Purposes

Part I	Adams-Armstrong	Aug. 2008	Part XII	Huntington – Indiana	May 2012
Part II	Beaver-Berks	Feb. 2009	Part XIII	Jefferson – Lancaster	Aug. 2012
Part III	Blair-Bradford	May 2009	Part XIV	Lawrence – Lehigh	Nov. 2012
Part IV	Bucks-Butler	Aug. 2009	Part XV	Luzerne County	Nov. 2013
Part V	Cambria-Centre	Feb. 2010	Part XVI	Lycoming – Mifflin	Feb. 2014
Part VI	Chester	May 2010	Part XVII	Monroe – Montgomery	Nov. 2014
Part VII	Clarion-Columbia	Aug. 2010	Part XVIII	Montour – Perry	Feb. 2015
Part VIII	Crawford-Cumberland	Aug. 2010	Part XIX	Philadelphia – Potter	Nov. 2015
Part IX	Dauphin- Delaware	Nov. 2010	Part XX	Schuylkill – Susquehanna	Feb. 2016
Part X	Elk – Fayette	Nov. 2011	Part XXI	Tioga – Venango	Aug. 2016
Part XI	Forest – Greene	Feb. 2012	Part XXII	Warren – Washington	Aug. 2016

Part XXIII Wayne – Westmorland Aug. 2017

Part XXIV Wyoming – York Nov. 2017

An index of the **Initial Manuscript Updates** is given in the Aug. 2008 *Historian*, p. 22

## Chester County Pennsylvania Post Offices

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.....

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**Per Issue:** Full Page \$30, Half Page \$20, Quarter Page \$15, Business Card, \$10



# PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

### **A. Checking Account:**

Opening balance, December 31, 2016		\$ 5524.99	
Credits:			
Dues	\$ 2780.00		
<i>Historian</i> advertising	180.00		
General Fund donations	<u>637.50</u>		
Total credits	\$ 3597.50		+ 3597.50
Debits:			
<i>Historian</i> printing (4 issues)	\$ 2832.39		
Association dues and advertisements	60.00		
Postage	<u>49.00</u>		
Total debits	\$ 2941.39		- 2941.39
Checking account balance as of December 31, 2017			\$ 6181.10

### **B. Publication Fund**

Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 1517.50		
Credits (donations)	<u>357.50</u>		
Total	\$ 1875.00		
Balance as of December 31, 2017			\$ 1875.00

Total Society balance as of December 31, 2017 \$ 8056.10

### **Notes:**

- (1) The actual checking account balance is \$8056.10 because it includes the Publication Fund. (\$6181.10 + \$1875.00 = \$8056.10)
- (2) As of January 4, 2018 the Society has a paid-up membership of 79, which includes 4 life members. As of 1/4/18 there are 22 unpaid members. Renewals are running about the same as last year at this time. There have been two resignations received with the 2018 dues payments.
- (3) For 2017, our income exceeded expenses by \$656.11. Printing cost for the *Historian* is up by \$53.37 over last year. Ad revenue is down by \$60.00 for the same date last year. (As of 1/4/18, one ad bill was outstanding.) Total donations are \$275.00 ahead of this date last year.
- (4) With the Publication Fund at \$1875.00, some thought should be given to a worthwhile project for those funds.

Respectively submitted,

Richard A. Colberg, Treasurer

# Pennsylvania Postal Historian

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## You've Got Mail! Philatelic Lectures

**Saturdays, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Chester County Historical Society**  
**225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380**  
**610-692-4800 ChesterCoHistorical.org**

**February 17** Alan Warren -- Postal Markings Prior to Adhesive Postage

**February 24** Robert Swed -- Delaware Postal History 1790-1865

**March 17** Ron Majors -- Canada/British North America (BNA) – Union and  
Confederate Postal Cross-Border Correspondence  
During the U. S. Civil War

**March 24** Robert Rose -- United State Mail: Its First 80 Years without Stamps

**April 30** John Barwis -- The Rise and Fall of Philadelphia's Pre-eminence as a  
Postal Communication Center

**(Exhibit and program organized by Bill Schultz)**