



View from the Veranda

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the American Philatelic Society
American Topical Assn., Chapter 118
Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs

Doors open at 6:30 pm; Wednesday, 14 February 2018

Bourse at 6:30 pm, Business meeting begins at 7:00 pm; Lucy Eyster, Hostess

The Veranda Chronicles

Happy February - We are coming off a successful Winter Auction last month. Please take a minute or two to thank our crack staff of auctioneers and runners; all those that submitted quality material; and our ambitious members that bid energetically and won some great lots. We were then delighted to support our friends at the White Rose Philatelic Society of York by attending YORCOPEX at the York Expo Center. I trust many of you were able to pick up some new additions to your collection - I know I found

a few stampless folded letters from the 1820-1840's.

We were also treated in January to two lectures, hosted by the Chester County Historical Society's by incomparable postal historians Mark Schwartz on "Colonial Postal History" and Tim O'Connor on "Postal History as a Primary Source: America Begins, 1675-1782". As Tim O'Connor has stated in our conversations, postal history is history. I encourage all of you to try to attend at least one of the

remaining lectures from February through April; the details of which are posted on our website.

This month, the Society is delighted to have Hal Klein presenting the first part of a series on the Overrun Countries entitled "The 1943 Overrun Countries Series, Under a Printer's Loupe". You can find his informative and extraordinary exhibit on the StampSmarter.com website, with a hyperlink from our Society's website as well. Shortly after his lecture, I will upload his presentation to our website. *CDI*

Philately-101: Removing un-soakable stamps from paper. This will be held at the end of the meeting if time allows. Bring in some of your troubling on-paper stamps for removal.

Please sign up for the following if you can:

- Dinner with Speaker Scott English on 14 March at Olive Garden, 4:15 p.m.
- Participation at Lancopex (27-28 April), just a few hours of your time will make all the difference
- Number of pages/frames for your stamp and cover displays at Lancopex
- Become a Lancopex Patron for just \$5.00/person or couple

Program: The 1943 Overrun Countries Series Under a Printer's Loupe as Presented by Hal Klein

Probably the most poorly planned and released series of stamps in U.S. post office history, The Overrun Countries Series, is comprised of 13 stamps, issued in tribute to countries overrun and occupied by the Axis powers, as follows: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Austria, Denmark, and Korea. Hal's presentation (part 1) of the Overrun Countries Series gives you a view from what's seen through a 12x printer's magnifying loupe.



Over the past three years, Hal has been working with Keith Lichtman, discovering new errors and varieties that are now being published in Lichtman's

series of books on these issues. They are currently working together on Book 7, the France stamp and its varieties.

Hal's presentation will show you the newly discovered original U.S. Patent drawings that finally reveal "How" this stamp was produced by The American Bank Note Co., a secret kept from the philatelic media and

philatelic public since 1943! You'll see errors and varieties including: broken type; press-side corrected type; rotary and engraved plate scratches; plate cracks; war paper types and the problems caused; gum varieties; gum discoloration; misprints; color shifts; plate damage; "how to" identify a left- from a right-side plate; "how to" identify the different die varieties that replaced the plate numbers; pole varieties; plate hickies; double impressions, and more. •Most importantly, you will learn "how to" identify a "normal", from a "reverse", from a "partial reverse" printing of these stamps!

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February, 2018

Visitors are Always Welcome

PSLC meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

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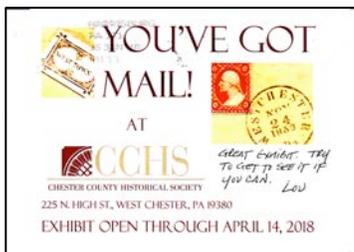
Save the Dates:

Lancopex, F/S 27-28 April Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road

Chester Co. Historical Society

January 2018 Minutes and Treasury

Paul Petersen, Acting Sect'y and Lou DiFelice, Treasurer



PSLC is aware of the postal history symposium through April at the CCHS. Lou DiFelice and Dr. DiComo attended **Mark Schwartz's** presentation on Colonial History on the 13th. Then Charlie returned on 20 Jan. for **Tim O'Connor's** presentation *Postal History as a Primary Source: America Begins 1675-1782*. Below Dr. DiComo is pictured (R) with Dr. O'Connor



There are five (5) sessions remaining including 17 and 24 Feb, 17 and 24 March, and 14 April. And beyond these Saturday presentations, there is a full-time exhibit of some unique postal history items at the Society in West Chester.



Above is guest curator of the exhibit, **Bill Schultz**, who with several of his postal history colleagues conceived and carried out this symposium and exhibit. Ed. will send out notices of these presentations in the PSLC newsletter. Bill will also be the speaker at PSLC in April, and members will have an opportunity for dinner with him. *CCHS postcard submitted by Lou DiFelice and photos are courtesy of Dr. DiComo.*

Opening: At 7:05 **President Charles DiComo** convened the meeting and welcomed members and guests. He thanked the membership for their confidence in electing him president, as he hopes to live up to all expectations and is looking forward to serving.

Membership: **Lucy Eyster** introduced new member, **Doug Keefe** from Willow Street. He collects the U.S. Bicentennial issues (worldwide) and PNCs. About 30 members still need to pay their dues, but five have already paid tonight. Attendance count was 45.

Drawing: **Lucy Eyster** held the January drawing. Souvenir sheets were won by **Thuan Pham** and **Dr. DiComo**. **Dave Silcox** and **Joe Berlin** won Olympic stamp packets.

50-50 Drawing: **Aaron Heckler** conducted the 50-50 Drawing, and **Doug Milliken** won \$33, with the matching amount

going to the PSLC treasury.

Sign-Ups: **Paul Petersen** passed around a sign-up sheet for •2018 Meeting Snacks (Round-2). Next month he will have sign-ups for •Lancopex volunteers, •Frames for the Stamp and Cover displays for the show, and •Dinner with March Speaker, Scott English. He passed around a card for signature for Deb Ehleiter and family for the passing of her husband and PSLC member John Ehleiter.

Philately 101: Paul stated that this will start in February and will be held episodically throughout the year as interest remains. The topic will be a demonstration and discussion on removing un-soakable stamps from paper. Please let him know the topics that you would like to learn about and if you have a topic that you would like to present. These will be short topics limited to about 15 minutes following the meeting.

APS and ATA Packets: The

club received written letters of appreciation from **Vera Felts**, Executive Director of ATA and **Scott English**, Executive Director of APS thanking members of PSLC for the donation of stamp packets for the education programs for their respective societies.

Open Lancopex and Board Meeting: Paul reminded everyone of the open meeting on Wednesday, 17 January in Bluebird. All are welcome.

Treasury: **Lou DiFelice** reviewed the account balance for 1-31 December 2017:

Opening:	\$2,704.47
Income:	\$1,170.00
Expenses:	\$1,470.23
Closing Balance:	\$2,404.24
3-CDs @	\$7,023.20

Regarding additional treasury issues, Lou announced that Dr. DiComo is now the second signature on the club's bank accounts. A motion was made and passed to donate \$300 to Woodcrest Villa for payment in lieu of facility rental fees.

Some Collecting Issues

Movie Mail: The red and dark blue stamps below are facsimile labels, those made to look like USPOD stamps at a distance.



Mail was often used as a prop in the films, sometimes playing an important role in the development of the plot. Contents could range, for example, from a threat of blackmail to a confession of true and uncontested love. Close-ups of the covers might be shown slipping through the mail slot or lying on the side table.

It must be remembered that until the mid-1930s, images of U.S. stamps could not be portrayed graphically as a whole stamp, not even in the *Scott Catalogues*. As such, real stamps on covers were not used on the Hollywood set. This tradition continued into the

1950s-1960s. There were similar statutes related to the showing of U.S. currency.

[Just as an aside, when real stamps were unregulated for use on movie mail, many anachronisms were found. For example, a 1960s stamp was shown in a movie with a 1930s plot!]

Those shown here came from a dealer's Cinderella album at the York show a few years ago.



Computer-generated Album Pages? In a recent acquisition, I came across a product that may be of interest for those of you who make your own album pages. These are loose-leaf pages

that are reinforced with very thin plastic on the left side of the page, that side which contains the punched holes. Shown nearby is one of the sheets in which someone photocopied a page of a classical stamp album. [Unfortunately, the punched holes did not reproduce well in the figure.] Perhaps the album page was too fragile on which to mount stamps, so the photocopy was a good substitute.

Pages are available in a variety of colors, weights, and styles including blank, lined, dot grid, and graph. This product is especially useful when album pages are continually inserted into and removed from a three-ring binder. The plastic reinforcement is sufficiently thin to pass through the printer unremarkably. Vendors are easy to find with an Internet search such as "plastic reinforced loose-leaf pages." Check them carefully; some products have the company name on the plastic strip (front side), very similar to the plastic document holders used for exhibit pages. Preferably, I like mine to be plain, no advertising! Ed. ☑

Club and (More) Collecting Issues

As always, there is lots of activity going on. When you have something of interest to the PSLC membership, please let Ed. know. So, if you write an article, win the lottery, or get married, for example, share it with the club. This does not have to be philatelic related news.

Job Security: Immediate Past PSLC President, **Doug Milliken** is the 2018 president of the Lancaster County Post Card Club, and in 2019 he is slated for the presidency of the Red Rose Coin Club! Now, that's service! Congratulations.

York Stamp Show: Many PSLC members were able to attend the 19-20 January event of the White Rose Club. They moved the show up from the last weekend in January, and the weather cooperated.



Pictured above are stamp & cover dealer Robert Toal of Maryland (L), **Dr. DiComo**, (Center) and **Mike Marino** (R). Dr. DiComo engaged the WRCC members for their possible interest in partnering with

PSLC in some joint club events in the future.

On Nat'l Television: Several club members were pleased to see **Lucy Eyster** on TBS's *Antique Road Show* last month with an antique vase from China. There will be a snap of this antique item in next month's newsletter.

Blue Ribbon Attendance: **Lucy Eyster** and **Sarah Mylin** reviewed the 2017 attendance records sans the picnic and December Dinner. Those who attended 10 of 10 meetings at Bluebird include **Deb & John Ehleiter**, **Truyde Greiner**, **Bill Greiner**, **Dave Hunt**, **Paul Petersen**, and **Fred Sargent**. Those who attended 9/10 included **Lou DiFelice**, **Lucy Eyster**, **Aaron Heckler**, **Chuck Kilgore**, **Bob Kramer**, **Mike Marino**, **Sarah Mylin**, **James Savage**, **Dennis Shumaker**, **Dick Shafer**, and **Jim Ziogas**. Congrats all!

Winter Wonderland: **Lesley Botte** usually spends her holidays with family in Canada. She noted that perhaps the Lancaster area (and much of the Eastern Seaboard) may have been as cold or colder than Canada.

ATA's Latest Books: APA rep,

Lucy Eyster, reports a new book, *Space Weather-A Philatelic Journey*, a new 200 page item just published in DVD/pdf format by the ATA. Another new handbook, *Frogs and Amphibians on Stamps* is also published by the ATA.

Coin Collectors: For all you hybrid coin/stamp collectors or budding coin collectors, PSLC Member **Kerry Wetterstrom**, '18 president of the *Red Rose Coin Club* welcomes us to visit the club for its 15 February meeting at 7:00 at the Farm & Home Center. He also reminds us of their all-day RRCC Coin Show on Saturday, 7 April, also at the Farm & Home Center.

Catching One's Eye: The article on Pg.-4 is about postcards designed to catch our eye. These were popular in the past mid-century, but they are coming back in direct marketing. With newer printing technology, prices are not too bad. Below is the 2018 Lancopex advertising card recently designed by **Dr. Charles DiComo**.



Club Notes

Programs, Hosts & Shows

2018 Programs

14 February: The Overrun Countries Series Under a Printer's Loupe, Hal Klein. Lucy Eyster, Hostess

14 March: • The Direction of the Hobby and the APS, Scott English. •Preparation of Advert cards for Lancopex. Dick Shafer, Host

11 April: How We Now Judge Exhibits with Points in North America, Bill Schultz

9 May: State Symbols of PA on Stamps, Vera Felts

13 June: Spring Auction. Paul Petersen, Host

11 July: History of the Schuylkill Canal in PPCs, Aaron Heckler. Dennis Shumaker, Host

8 August: Summer Picnic, Memorial Park, Millersville, PA

13 September: Fall Auction

10 October: Stampless Mail from U.S. to Europe, Dr. Chas DiComo

14 November: Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper and Paul Petersen

12 December: December Dinner Deb Ehleiter & Co.

2019 Programs

9 January: Club Auction. John Hostetter, Host

2017 Shows/Events

Red Rose Coin Club: Thur., 15 February, Farm & Home Center, 7:00 pm. Topic: "Large Size Currency."

Chester County Postal History presentations: S, 17 February: *Postal Markings Prior to Adhesive Postage*, Alan Warren. 24 February: *Delaware Postal History 1790-1865*, Robert Swed. 1:00-2:30 pm, CCHS, West Chester, PA.

Lancaster County Post Card Club: M, 19 February, *Historic Buildings*. Farm & Home Center. **Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** Sunday, 18 Feb., 24 June, 19 Aug., 14 Oct., & 16 Dec. Farm & Home Center. Free lunch is served.

Delpex: S, 21 April, Nur Shine Center, New Castle, DE

Lancopex: F/S 27-28 April, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster, PA.

The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society: Dr. DiComo

Ed's Note: This is the first of a multi-issue column prepared by PSLC members who also belong to a variety of specialized philatelic Societies. This month, **Dr. DiComo** starts us off by introducing us to the **U.S. Philatelic Classics Society** of which he is a life member. Over the decades he has held numerous positions in the USPCS including but not limited to Secretary, Web Developer & Designer (his revamped and revised website won a Vermeil award in the 2013 APS Website Competition), Stamp & Cover Repository & Analysis Program Administrator, and for the past two years Editor-in-Chief of the 16+ page, quarterly members' Newsletter, *The Chairman's Chatter*. He has also been an editorial proof-reader of the society's publication, *The Chronicle*... for nearly fifteen years. He regularly leaves the Society's publications on the Welcome Table at PSLC meetings. Charlie

has graciously offered to pay the first year's dues and serve as reference for an APS member who is interested in joining USPCS.

•In brief, the USPCS is a non-profit association of people interested in the pre-1894 stamps and postal history of the United States. The goal is to encourage philatelic research and the exchange of information among our members (currently 1200+ strong) and other philatelic organizations. All who are interested in the classic era of United States philately are invited to join.



Furthermore, we publish *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, a full color, over one-hundred page quarterly journal. Michael Laurence is our Editor-in-Chief. For members, the entire text of all issues is downloadable from our website and is fully searchable. For non-members, all but the last 20 issues (rolling five years) are available. CG International recognized *The Chronicle* with their annual award for promoting the presentation of philatelic knowledge in print and digital format.

Finally, the USPCS website (www.uscps.org) supports a wide variety of platforms and includes •society news, •a growing number of censuses of classic postal history, •a collection of award winning exhibits, and •other downloadable research material on classic philately. Applications are available from me and our website. **CDi**

Musings: Catching one's visual attention? Even PSLC Does It...

Everyone out there is trying to grab our attention, usually to sell us something-even PSLC! All you have to do is go to the Internet, and you'll see gazillions of pop-up ads, all to get our attention. Our mail is full of post cards with interesting vignettes, eye-appealing colors, and exotic images for our attention.

The Lundy Island stamp (below) was torn off a picture postcard (PPC). Lundy is a privately held island off the southwest coast of the UK. Its local stamps are denominated in 'Puffins.' This item caught my attention because it was franked (1-Puffin) on the upper left corner instead of the more common upper right placement. Wonder why?



Upon inspection there was a little more to this on-paper stamp, as the salutation was "Dear Doctor." While this was in black script, it was printed using a script font, not handwritten. Hmm... I have seen this kind of item before.

This is a "Dear Doctor" picture postcard, an obvious deduction you

are telling yourself! I have come across these PPCs several times, as most are not expensive and are often found in antique shops, in sales bins, and in auction lots.

These are PPCs to promote medical related items to physicians, and most of them are from pharmaceutical companies. They consist of a PPC from an exotic location that is franked with an attractive stamp. The promotional message is printed in a handwriting font to give it a personal touch. The ones I have come across have advertised sodium pentothal, a drug typically used in surgical anesthesia. This agent is produced by Abbott Labs just north of Chicago and marketed worldwide.

As always, the Internet provided a wealth of information, and there is even a dedicated website (deardoctorpostcards.com).

One of the major players is Thomas Fortunato of the Rochester Philatelic Association, and he has an introductory PowerPoint presentation entitled "Introduction to 'Dear Doctor' Postcards: Junk Mail from Exotic Lands" which is accessible on the website.

While the Dear Doctor PPCs peaked in the 1960s, Tom found one as early as 1898. These are a worldwide phenomenon involving multiple countries and languages.

Pharmaceutical companies from a number of countries go into other countries, typically exotic ones such as the French colonial islands, for example. They have their preprinted mailing labels and send them to physicians in a number of countries. They used targeted mailing lists so that an ad for a given medication or piece of equipment would be sent to the appropriate physician specialist.



While I am not sure what kind of product was promoted on my torn Lundy corner, my thesis is that this local stamp and cancel would give additional eye appeal. Once franked with Lundy stamps, the cards would be conveyed to the UK where they would be franked again, this time in the right corner then sent to designated MDs.

There is a short 1996 article by Roger Cichorz on the Lundy Island website. It contains a correction on a previously published article regarding the 1962 Lundy Pentothal Dear Doctor Cards. There was not a great deal of information, but I learned that there was a worldwide Abbott Labs

promotion of sodium pentothal in 1962. Cards were sent in several languages, and the illustrations in the article showed a dual franking with the Lundy 1-Puffin stamp in the left and a Dorothy Weilder QEII franking on the right. Britain's iconic Arnold Machin stamp did not appear until 1967.

In 1962 there was a massive multi-national Lundy pentothal mailing that almost used up the supply of Lundy's local stamps. Along with a scarcity of stamps, there were limited postal personnel available to cancel all the franked covers on Lundy. As a result, approval was given for the entire operation to be relocated to Bristol in England. This included the franking and cancelling of both the Lundy and QEII stamps prior to the worldwide mailing. Most covers were dated on or around 9 April 1962.

On the Internet are many printing companies producing advertising postcards dedicated to getting our attention. We get them in our mail every day. Though most are junk mail, they are attention-grabbing items nevertheless.

This was exactly the intention of PSLC's Lancopex committee when upgrading the annual stamp show mailing cards from plain stock to a multi-colored one. This was designed by Dr. DiComo and is displayed on page-3. In the meantime, keep your eyes open. Ed. ☒



We are pleased to bring you this Postal History article from PSLC Member Hal Klein.

A Piece of Postal History: A Lesson in Planning Ahead!

By Hal Klein (# 191)

It had been some forty years since the colony, one of the oldest in Kentucky,¹ had been founded by John and his brother William “Big Bill” Hardin, who laid out plots using nothing more than an 18th-century ax and local vines. It was located below the “Falls of the Ohio,” along Sinking Creek, some 12 miles from where the mighty Ohio River meanders on a southwest trek to where a split forms the Tennessee. After defeating the Shawnee Indians, the brothers and their friends built a crude frontier log fort and log house colony from the vast reserves of surrounding trees.¹

Growth was extremely slow around the newly constructed Hardin’s Fort and Hardinsburg in Breckenridge County, Kentucky. Here, the County Court House was built in 1801 and the first Post Office was established on January 1, 1803, as Hardinsburg, Ky.¹ In December 1822, Hardinsburg had a population of far less than 300.² The volume of mail was very small and carried over land by contract mail carriers to Louisville, Ky., Cincinnati, Ohio and beyond.

It is not surprising that an early mail contract carrier would confuse Lebanon, Ohio, for Lebanon, Pa., as the latter is less than 199 miles away. Probably few knew there was a Lebanon, Pa., or the notable name of the addressee. And fewer still knew the purpose of the letter enclosed in the covering wrapper (Figure 1).



Figure 1

The cover above is truly striking 195 years later. The “Hardinsburg, Ky” manuscript cancellation scribed by postmaster H. Hardin on, “DEC. 9” (1821) is scarce on its own. The 32mm, black, circular date stamp of “LEBANON, / O.”, with a “7 Jan” (1822) date from this town of less than 1,100,³ is equally scarce. The 29mm x 22mm blue oval handstamp (Type O-1)⁴ from “LEBANNON / PENN” is dated “Jan 25” (1822). At that time Lebanon, Pa. was a small farming and iron ore producing town along the Union Canal which had a growing population of under 1,400.⁵ The cover was “forwardet” (misspelled by Jacob Karch, Jr., the son of the original postmaster Jacob Karch, Sr.⁴) to Boston, Mass. (*The Lebanon, Penn. oval handstamp is equally desired by collectors of Stampless Postal History and Pennsylvania Canal ephemera.*) The letter was responded to and the wrapper docketed Nov. 16, 1822 in Baldwin’s handwriting on his return from France, after reviewing the Paris France Municipal Works.

We are pleased to bring you this Postal History article from PSLC Member Hal Klein.

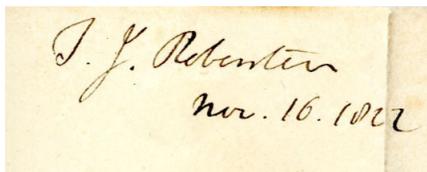


Figure 2

The country was still suffering from the effects of the “Panic of 1819” and the cost of mailing this piece was unaffordable to most working Americans. Take the combination of markings, misrouting, forwarding, an overall combined rate totaling 43½¢ to Boston, and you have a ‘five-star’ piece of postal history. The cost was equal to two-thirds of a day’s pay for an American laborer and 3½¢ more than the average daily wage of an American farm worker in 1822⁶. (44¢ = \$9.20 in 2017.) However, there’s more history to this piece than the markings, and here’s why.

The addressee, Loammi Baldwin, Jr. (Figure 3), had been Chief Engineer on the Union Canal, with its offices in Lebanon, Pa. Baldwin, a graduate of Harvard in 1800, was a re-known U.S. civil engineer with construction credits that included: Fort Strong, Boston (that withstood British attack); the Boston Naval Yard; the Naval Dry Docks in Portsmouth; buildings at Harvard and many others. He was hired to re-start and complete construction of the Union Canal that had begun under George Washington’s administration.⁷

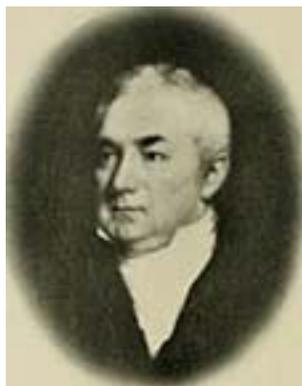


Figure 3

Baldwin’s time in Lebanon, Pa., had been tumultuous for a person of his character. Baldwin endured almost a year of bickering, micro-engineering and heated exchanges with the directors and of the canal company. One main problem driving costs in digging the canal from Reading, Pa. to just below Harrisburg, at Middletown (*Three-Mile Island fame*), was digging through solid rock. Things finally came to a head in October of 1821.

It was all about money and compromise. The directors wanted to cut corners and not spend money, but Baldwin refused to compromise his standards and build something he knew wouldn’t work. So, after less than a year, Baldwin agreed to terminate his two-year contract as of December 31, 1821. After more fights in early November, he left Lebanon and returned to his home in the Charlestown section of Boston, sometime after Christmas 1821, confirmed by correspondence to Loammi in Lebanon from his brother.⁸ Canvass White, of Erie Canal fame, would be his replacement by January 15, 1822.⁷ Unfortunately he made the canal and locks too narrow and shallow to handle the freight boats and passenger packet boats. Specially made boats had to be built to navigate the canal section from Reading to Middletown, Pa.⁷

So what was in this cover from Hardinsburg, Ky., that traveled from Lebanon, Ohio to Lebanon, Penn. and on to Boston, Mass.? This nearly 200-year old wrapper likely contained the initial contact for another canal... this one in Ohio.

We are pleased to bring you this Postal History article from PSLC Member Hal Klein.

The “Louisville and Portland Canal” was a two-mile canal to bypass the “Falls of the Ohio River” just above (remember) Hardinsburg, Ky.! The “Falls” formed the only barrier to navigation between the origins of the Ohio River at Pittsburgh and the Gulf of Mexico. Circumventing these falls had been the goal of merchants in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis since the mid-1700s. The person hired to engineer the two-mile Louisville and Portland Canal was from Boston, Loammi Baldwin, Jr.⁹

For Baldwin, it must have been de-ja-vu. Bickering over this canal had begun in 1781, but this time the problem was not with a board of directors – it was Republicans versus Democrats; state groups versus local groups; Ohio, Missouri, and Indiana versus Cincinnati wanting a northern route to blunt the southern businessmen of St. Louis. One would not agree to co-operate with the other. State governments were approached and politics prevailed. Bills were brought before the U.S. Congress only to die in opposition from the other party (sounds like 2018.) Finally, a group in “downstream” Kentucky formed a private company. Chartered in 1825 to build the canal, the group included Robert Breckenridge, Jr.,⁹ son of the founder of Breckenridge County, Kentucky. Guess where? Hardinsburg!

The main problem Baldwin encountered in this the two-mile stretch of the Ohio River was digging a canal through solid rock! (Sound familiar?) The canal opened in 1830 and was gradually bought-out by the US federal government, which had invested heavily in its construction, maintenance, enlargements and improvements from the outset.⁹

The Canal Board failed to listen to Baldwin, who foresaw the larger size of transportation vehicles in the second half of the 19th Century, from the experience he gained in engineering the Boston Naval Yard (closed in 1974).¹⁰ In 1880, the Union Canal formally closed.¹¹ As Baldwin predicted, it was unable to handle the large capacity coal-hauling river vessels and passenger packets or the competition from the railroads. The Louisville and Portland Canal is still in use today, 188 years later.⁹ There is much to be said for the term “planning ahead”.

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