



APS Director  
visits PSLC

# 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 March 2018**

Bourse at 6:30 pm, Business meeting begins at 7:00 pm; Dick Shaefer, Host

## The Veranda Chronicles

Happy March - We are coming off a fantastic February meeting, with 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 Hal's informative and extraordinary exhibit on the StampSmarter.com<sup>1</sup> website, a hyperlink from our Society's website<sup>2</sup>, and his presentation<sup>3</sup> as a PDF for you to revisit.

Those members staying after the lecture received a tutorial on removing un-soakable stamps from paper by our resident expert Paul Petersen in our recurring Philately-101 Series. A number of you brought in some of your troubling on-paper stamps and were delighted to have them removed. I wonder what Paul has in store for us next time? Submit the topics which you wish to learn about.

I saw a number of you with smiles on your faces and new acquisitions in hand as we supported our dealer associates at the "Some Sunday Stamp Show" hosted by Kevin Kellman at the Farm & Home Center on February 18th. I too was fortunate to find a pretty Patriotic cover sent from Paradise, PA to Lewisburg, PA (circa March 1861). Paying the 3¢ rate was a vertical strip of three 1¢ 1857 perforated stamps. After some research, it turns out that the strip of three are Scott #22 Type IIIa stamps from Plate 11, one with a triple transfer. This is an extremely rare strip of three from this less than six-month run plate prior to the Civil War. Fellow Members, be on the lookout, there are gems out there!

We were also treated in February to two lectures hosted by the Chester County Historical Society by postal historians Alan Warren on "Postal Markings Prior to Adhesive Postage" and Robert Swed on "Delaware Postal History 1790-1865". As before, I encourage each of you to attend at least one of the three remaining lectures in March and April, the details of which are posted on our website.

This month, the Society is elated to have Scott English, the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, to our club for a dinner with members and a presentation entitled "The State of APS and the Hobby." Scott has been APS Executive Director since 2015 and started collecting, like many of us, at an early age. Bring your questions and enjoy.

*CDi*

<sup>1</sup>[lcpss-stampsorg/presentations/exhibits/](http://lcpss-stampsorg/presentations/exhibits/) <sup>2</sup>[stampsmarter.com/learning/album\\_Overrun\\_home.html](http://stampsmarter.com/learning/album_Overrun_home.html)

<sup>3</sup><http://www.lcps-stamps.org/presentations/>

## Scott English on the State of APS and the Hobby

**Scott English** has served as Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society since August 2015. Prior to joining the APS staff, he served in a variety of positions in Washington, DC and South Carolina. In Washington, Scott worked for the non-profit taxpayers group, Citizens Against Government Waste from 1994-1996. He went to Capitol Hill to serve on the staff of U.S. Representative Mark Sanford (SC-1) and U.S. Rep. Bob Barr (GA-7). Following his tenure in Washington, Scott joined the administration of incoming South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and held a variety of positions, most notably Chief of Staff from 2008 to 2011.

From 2011 to 2015, Scott joined newly-elected State Superintendent Mick Zais at the South Carolina Department of Education. At the Department, Scott served as Chief Operating Officer managing the day-to-day operations of a staff of nearly 950 people and a \$4 billion budget.

As Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, Scott manages a 30-person team dedicated to serving collectors around the world, with an annual budget of more than \$5 million. As Executive Director, Scott oversaw the construction of the new library located at the Amer-

ican Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, which opened in October 2016. In June 2016, Scott led the efforts to recover Position 76 of the McCoy Block of the Inverted Jenny at the World Stamp Show - NY 2016. In 2017, he completed a \$150,000 fundraising campaign to help the APS increase their profile, recruitment, and services through technology.

Scott currently lives in Bellefonte, with his wife, Kendra, both the proud parents of three grown children, Seth, Colin, and Tess. Scott and Kendra will be guests of the club for dinner at the Olive Garden prior to the meeting.

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**March, 2018**

**Visitors are Always  
Welcome**

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

*Website: LCPS-Stamps.org*

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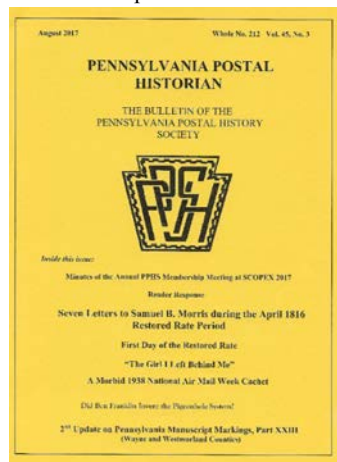
## Save the Dates:

17 March: Chester Co. Symposium  
21 April: Delpex  
27-28 April: Lancopex

## The Pennsylvania Postal History Society

Dick Colberg

**Mission Statement:** "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."



To this end, the Society publishes a quarterly journal, *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*. This features published scholarship written by society members. These articles are generally about some aspect of Pa. postal history or, hopefully, about a new "find".

In the past, the Society has published monographs on the stampless markings of Erie, Warren, Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties. There are exhibition medals available from the Society for stamp shows where Pa. postal history exhibits are shown. The society gathers for an annual meeting, usually at the APS headquarters in Bellefonte, PA in conjunction with SCOPEX each June. Annual dues are \$25. Visit the society's website at: [www.PaPHS.org](http://www.PaPHS.org).

## PSLC Philatelic Reference Library

Information will be forthcoming regarding the formation of a philatelic reference library. Interested PSLC members may enter the bibliographic information of their reference materials into a database to share with others. Dick Colberg will coordinate this undertaking.

## March '18 Minutes & Treasury

Diane Meek, Sect'y & Lou DiFelice, \$\$\$

**Opening:** President **Charles DiComo** called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed everyone.

**Membership:** **Lucy Eyster** introduced guests. Dues are due. Attendance was 42. **Paul Petersen** shared that club member **Robert Rothen** passed away in late January after a long illness. He sent a card on behalf of the club.

**Lancopex:** Paul passed around the sign-up sheets for the •Volunteer roster, •Patron list (\$5), and •The Stamp & Cover Display page/frame request. See him with questions. Sign-ups will be available again in March.

**Dick Shaefer & Lou DiFelice** added that 11 dealers have signed up, but there are always the stragglers that want in at the last minute. They are estimating 20 dealers. Paul and **Diane Meek** said that the show cover and cancel is well in progress and that the **USPOD** will be in attendance again this year. **Len Kasper** added that he and his family would be running the concession stand with lunch, snacks, and drinks.

**Members Philately 101:** Paul reminded that following the meeting he will be demonstrating means to remove permanent-stick postage stamps from paper.

**Dinner with the Speaker:** APS Executive Director, **Scott English** will be speaking in March. As such, there will be an opportunity for club members to meet him at dinner prior to the event. Paul passed around the sign-up sheet.

**Website Orientation:** Dr. DiComo gave a live demonstration of the revised website including archives of many club documents and photos (current and historical), philatelic links, calendar of events, and much more.

**Feature Presentation:** Hal Klein gave a spirited PowerPoint presentation entitled "*The Over-run Countries Series, 1943-1944, Under the Printer's Loupe.*"

### Treasury as of 31 Jan. 2018

Opening Bal:.....\$2404.24  
Income: .....\$1040.00  
Expenses: .....\$669.45  
Closing:.....\$2774.79  
3 CDs:.....\$7023.20

## Lucy Eyster on Antiques Road Show in H'burg

Several club members viewed Lucy Eyster on the PBS Antiques Road Show in January. Lucy shared that she attended the event in Harrisburg last summer in a desire to find out more about a family heirloom, a large Chinese cinnabar vase. To her delight, the producer chose her to be taped for later broadcast. She added that she was very pleased with the appraised value of her vase.



## SOME CLUB MATTERS

**The founder of The American Topical Association**, Jerome Husak died at 86 on 22 February. Jerry formed the ATA in 1949 at the age of 17 hoping to attract at least 200 other like-minded topical collectors. Since inception, the ATA has had nearly 60,000 members from over 100 countries. The ATA is the largest topical association in the world and the second largest philatelic society in the US, second to the American Philatelic Society. PSLC has been an active ATA Chapter (#118) for nearly ten years.

**April Dinner with the speaker:** There will be sign-ups this month for a pre-meeting dinner with March Speaker, Bill Schultz at Olive Garden at 4:15 pm. Please join us for club fellowship. If you will not be available to sign-up at this meeting but would like to attend, call Paul Petersen to do so. Deadline to sign up is Monday, 9 April.

**Meeting Host needed for April.** Please contact Paul to volunteer.

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts & Shows

#### 2018 Programs

**14 March:** • The State of APS and the Hobby, **Scott English**. •Preparation of remaining advertising cards for Lancopex. **Dick Shaefer**, 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

#### 2018 Shows/Events

**Red Rose Coin Club:** Thur., 15 March, Farm & Home Center, 7:00 pm. Topic: "*Contemporary Coinage of Julius Caesar*" **Scott Van Horn**. Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

**Chester County Postal History presentations:** 17 March: Canada British North America (BNA)-Union and Confederate Postal Cross Border Correspondence During the U.S. Civil War, **Ron Majors**. 24 February: *United States Mail: Its First 80 Years without Stamps*, **Robert Rose**. 1:00-2:30 pm, CCHS, West Chester, PA.

**Lancaster County Post Card Club:** M, 19 March. Topic: "Dolls on Postcards." Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

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

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

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***AN AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY 1844 FOLDED LETTER  
FROM NYC TO ALBANY – A SCARCE NEW FIND***

**By: Charles J. DiComo, PhD**

I am pleased to report a new addition to the American Letter Mail Company (ALM) census and story. I recently acquired the folded letter illustrated in **Figure 1** amongst an accumulation of New York State stampless letters. Initially, the handstamp did not strike me as familiar. But after an email to Scott Trepel and John D. Bowman, as well as a search of my philatelic library, it was evident what I had found. Interestingly, a bit more research demonstrated that it is a scarcer transit and use than first reflection.



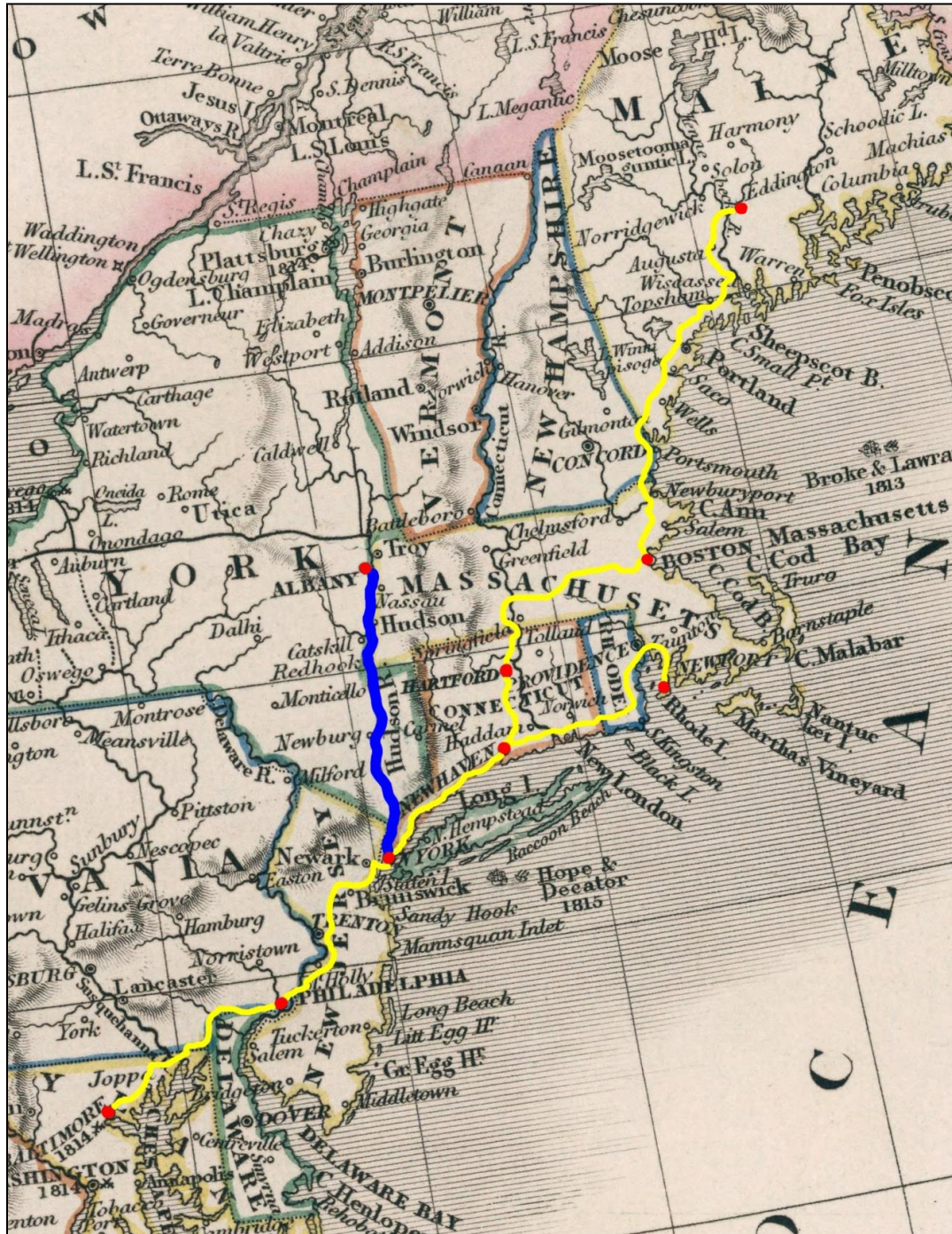
**Figure 1.** Folded letter dated 12 July 1844, from New York City to Albany with red "Collect 6¼ cts NEW YORK OFFICE" handstamp, type ALM-NYC-C05.

Before we dissect the folded letter, let us briefly detail the history of the American Letter Mail Company<sup>1</sup>. The ALM was an Independent Mail Company from the 1840's, organized by Lysander Spooner<sup>2</sup> in 1844 to carry letter mail at reduced rates between various cities in direct competition to the U.S. Post Office Department (USPOD).

At this time, the government held the sole right to establish post offices and post roads under the Constitution. Spooner and other Independent Mail companies challenged this monopolistic position. A few succeeded, despite the government fining guilty parties, such as railroad carriers who permitted these private mails on their routes. Spooner aggressively defied the government, tried to bring his case to the Supreme Court, and established the ALM in defiance of the USPOD.



ALM initially began mail service from New York City (NYC) to Boston and Philadelphia on 23 January 1844, followed by Boston to NYC on 24 January, and Baltimore to Philadelphia on 25 January. Later on they established offices and/or agents in a number of other Northeastern cities, such as Hartford CT, New Haven CT, Gardiner ME, and Newport, RI (**Figure 2**).



**Figure 2.** ALM mail service routes (yellow lines) established in the Northeastern U.S. to and from their primary cities (red dots), with the route our folded letter traveled from NYC to Albany (blue line).<sup>3</sup>



The American Letter Mail Company established postage fees at 6¼¢ per half ounce or 5¢ if paid by stamps that were sold at 20 for a dollar (**Figure 3**).



**Figure 3.** ALM Scott #5L1 5¢ black, thin paper; Sheet of 20 (for a Dollar).<sup>4</sup>

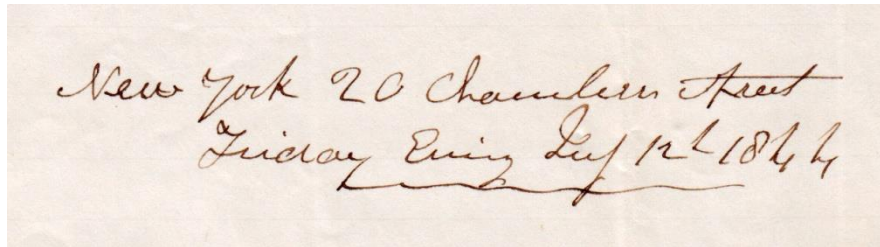
There was no question that the postal rates imposed by the government at this time were lofty. For example, it cost 18¾¢ to send a letter from NYC to Boston, and 25¢ from Boston to Washington, DC. Spooner took care in planning his business, challenged the USPOD rates, and showed that his firm could carry the post more economically and with superior service. This was short-lived however, as the government's Act of 3 March 1845 effectively halted all private inter-city mail carrying operations, and by 1 July 1847 when the Act became effective, almost no letter mail was delivered privately by any company between cities.

Let us now examine the newly discovered artifact in question in **Figure 1**. This single-sheet, folded letter has a very clear strike of American Letter Mail's boxed "Collect 6¼ cts NEW YORK OFFICE" 18 x 12 mm handstamp in red, type ALM-NYC-C05.<sup>5</sup> This handstamp was utilized from 15 June 1844 to 15 June 1845. This is an early use of this handstamp from the first month and an enlarged scan showing its design detail is illustrated in **Figure 4**. John D. Bowman accounts for approximately 100 known examples of this NYC-originating cancel in his 2014 census.

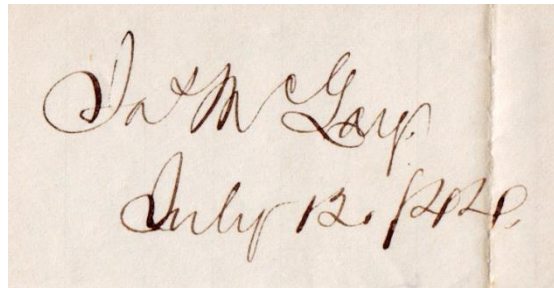


**Figure 4.** Type ALM-NYC-C05 boxed "Collect 6¼ cts NEW YORK OFFICE" 18 x 12 mm red handstamp.

The letter is dated 12 July 1844 and was mailed from an attorney, James McGay, Esq. residing at 20 Chambers Street in New York City (**Figure 5**). The letter, addressed to "*Mess. Gausewort and Hill, Counselors at Law, 3 Douw's Buildings, Albany, NY*", is also docketed on the back flap in the recipient's hand, confirming arrival at their law practice office in Albany (**Figure 6**).



**Figure 5.** Dateline in header of letter, "New York 20 Chambers Street Friday evening July 12th 1844".



**Figure 6.** Docketing on reverse flap of letter "Jas McGay July 12/44", confirming receipt in Albany.

The contents of the folded letter mention a legal matter involving the case *Mack vs. Phelan* (**Figure 7**). In brief, James McGay, the attorney for M. Phelan mentions a \$16.00 debt of Mr. Mack's which Mack's attorney offered to pay, with McGay relaying that he was heading to Albany by boat with the necessary papers including an order to compromise and a general release to Mack from Phelan so the affair can be closed. As was typical of the period, he ends the letter with the formal and respectful closing "*I have the pleasure to remain, your obedient servant.*" One can only presume that this case was settled by both men.



New York 20 Chambers Street  
Friday Evng July 12<sup>th</sup> 1844

Gentlemen,

In the matter of "Phelan assignee of Joel Mack  
vs. Mack", I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your  
two letters, in one of which you state that you are  
willing to pay \$16.00 in discharge of Mack's Debt —

I propose to arrive in Albany myself  
on Tuesday Morning next, and will probably leave there  
again in the evening boat — I will take that  
opportunity of bringing with me the necessary papers  
in the above case, including an order to compromise  
and a general release to Mack from Phelan when  
the whole affair can be closed

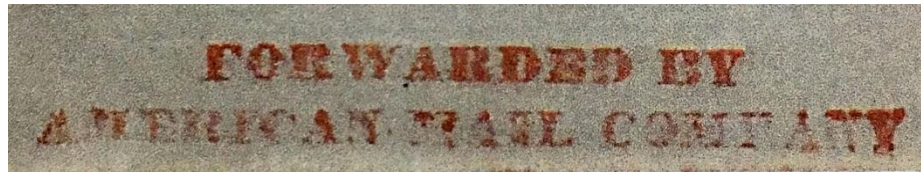
I have the pleasure to remain  
your Most Obedient Servant

James Mc Gay  
Att'y to Mr Phelan

To  
Messrs Gansswoort & Hill }  
Albany }

**Figure 7.** Contents of the folded letter discussing a legal matter involving the case *Mack vs. Phelan*.

There are two features of this folded letter that make it noteworthy. The first is that it does not contain the typical **"Forwarded By American Mail Company"** handstamp used in conjunction with the boxed **"Collect 6¼ cts NEW YORK OFFICE"** on letters leaving NYC (**Figure 8**). This is denoted as type ALM-NYC-F14, two-line, 42 x 8 mm, found in red, used from 01 June 1844 to 18 July 1844. We would have expected this handstamp be struck on the letter being that it is dated 12 July 1844.



**Figure 8.** "Forwarded By American Mail Company" 42 x 8 mm red handstamp, type ALM-NYC-F14.

The second, more prominent attribute of this letter is that it traveled north up the Hudson River (by water or land) with its final destination being Albany. Out of the approximately 100 letters in the Bowman census, this is believed to be only the second or third known example to have made this trip via an American Letter Mail Company's agent. Most ALM letters went to Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

Why so few made the trip to the Empire State's Capitol during this period of increasingly more business-related communication or why so few examples have survived may never be known. However, we are fortunate that we can add this appealing folded letter with its crisp "Collect" handstamp and legal content to the archives.

### Acknowledgements

The author specifically wishes to thank John D. Bowman for sharing his vast knowledge with this ever-learning postal historian and his contributions to the analysis of this folded letter. However, any errors or an omission is the author's responsibility. The author can be contacted at [charlesdico@gmail.com](mailto:charlesdico@gmail.com)

### References

1. John D. Bowman and Gordon Stimmell. American Letter Mail Company - Part III: Lysander Spooner, Proprietor. *The Penny Post*, 15(3):30-34, July 2007.
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lysander\\_Spooner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lysander_Spooner) (Lysander Spooner Biography, as of 17 November 2017).
3. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, United States, Teesdale & Co. London, Reference of P772, 1835.
4. <https://stampauctionnetwork.com/v/V70685.cfm> (Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC Sale 706, Lot 2688).
5. "Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845", by The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group, Mike S. Gutman, Editor/Author, 2016, pp. 24-69.