

Happy Thanksgiving to  
All from 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

**2019 Dues are Due  
Renewal on Pg.-4**

**Bourse opens at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, 14 November 2018**  
Short Business meeting at 7:00 pm; Open House with Presentation and 1-Page Exhibits will follow. Tonight's hosts are Len Kasper and Paul Petersen

**Volume 81, No. 11  
November 2018**

## The Veranda Chronicles

**Visitors are Always  
Welcome**

The cooler weather is upon us, the leaves are unhurriedly changing their hue, and the aroma of baked confections fills the air. I often reminisce during this time of year, and on October 10<sup>th</sup> we were taken back nearly 80 years by Thomas Nichols. He shared his presentation with us entitled "The 1940's: A Decade of Stamps." Tom wanted to accomplish an all-inclusive collection of the different types of postal material published over this varied decade of turmoil and new beginnings in order to better understand how U.S. philately was affected by those world events.

He identified 15 different categories of postal material that can be collected and over 175 postal items issued. His exhibit high-

lights many of those different collecting categories and focuses on the great series of stamps and postal events that occurred during the 1940's, from the post-great depression era thru World War II and into the post-world War II era. I have posted his presentation on our website<sup>1</sup>, and you can also view it on the StampSmarter<sup>2</sup> website.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> the Society will hold its Annual Open House & Exhibition. It is open to all ages and refreshments will be served – so bring a friend or two. Many stamps and covers will be on display and there will be stamps, covers and postal history of all varieties for sale. Stamp dealers will also be on hand to give value evaluations and answer any questions.

We will also have two guest speakers; David Hunt and yours truly. David will speak on "Czeslaw Slania – Master Engraver" and I will discuss "The Development of Perforations on United States Postage Stamps, 1855-1857." The program begins at 7:00 pm, and there will be a Q&A period devoted to stamp and postal history collecting, and an introduction to the club and hobby, in general, for all those interested. This is one of my favorite events of the year – it is so satisfying to see everyone, welcome guests, and hear from many of our over 100 active members on the myriad of collecting areas they specialize in. I know I always walk away with new appreciation for our hobby. Hope to see you all there! Cheers, CDi

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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**Happy  
Thanksgiving**

<sup>1</sup><http://www.lcps-stamps.org/presentations/exhibits/>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.smart.com/Learning/album\\_1940shome.html](http://www.smart.com/Learning/album_1940shome.html)



**On 19 December:** How many of you enjoy Chicken Florentine, Seafood Newburgh, and Baked Ham in Cranberry Sauce or some of each? And how about topping it off with Tiramisu and Apple Crumb Pie? (See Pg.-3)

## Open House and 1-Page Exhibits

The time has come for one of our most fun events of the year, the Open House and Exhibits Night. There will be special snacks, lots of people, a bourse, presentations, and exhibits. There is something for everyone.

This will start with two short presentations: Czeslaw Slania-Master Engraver by **David Hunt**, and The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps, 1855-1857 by **Dr. C.J. DiComo**. Master of Ceremonies, **Len Kasper**

has sent out much publicity, so we are hoping that each of you will bring a friend. Supporting this, **Dennis Shumaker** is planning on bringing two friends!

The list of exhibitors is taking shape with the following: **Mike Bach**, Penny Post Jubilee 1890-Envelopes and Inserts; **Joy Bouchard** (TBA); **Dennis Bouchard** (Still thinking about it) **Paul Petersen**, Spanish Civil War and possibly another; **RD Noble**, History-Good & Bad Covers;

**David Hunt**, Bunker Hill Monuments, Pitcarin's Island; **Jay Eberly**, D.D. Eisenhower; **Diane Meek** (TBA); **Tom Nichols**, 1936-37 Military Academies set and FDC and second day covers out of D.C. **Scott Ney**, Baseball. Did I miss anyone? Not to worry. Just come. It's not too late to sign up; send Paul an email or give him a call with the approximate number of pages you have. This data will be used for planning purposes.

## In the Club's Interest

Ed. ☒ received some suggestions from club members with interesting bits of philately and postal history that are shared below.

While exploring the website of the National Postal Museum in D.C., **Dennis Shumaker** came across the boyhood stamp album of the late John Lennon of the Beatles.



While Dennis admits that he was too young to remember the Beatles personally, he enjoyed the childhood simplicity of Lennon's album. This reminded him of his first collection and that of many of his stamp collecting friends.



The album is detailed on the website with all hundred pages and front and back covers. Images used here are from this site: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/lennon/stamp-album1.html>.

**Hal Klein** came across a very interesting story on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation website (cbc.ca). In the British archives are 4000 boxes with 160,000 undelivered postal items.



These items were seized by the Royal Navy during the naval wars from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and they were kept, many unopened, for court martial records whenever needed.

At first they were retained in the Tower, then the Public Records office in London, and eventually in the National Archives Office where they surfaced.

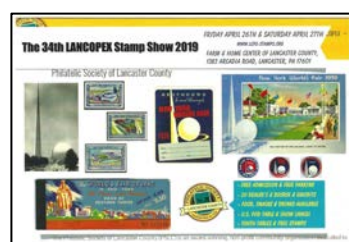
Written in over 19 Languages, items include personal correspondence (across the social stratum), songbooks, packages, diaries, maps, and much more.

Topics vary to include log data, cartography, and news, to name a few. Of special interest is the news and correspondence regarding the American and French Revolutions. One series of letters from 1702-03 contains information about the health threats from the flu and chicken pox in Quebec.



So where is this all going? The plan is to sort and digitize the correspondence, as it will shed some important light on world history. The undertaking is named the **Prized Paper Project**, and it will be conducted in Germany with an estimated duration of 20 years at a cost of 9.3M euros. This exemplifies that favorite quote "Postal history is history."

## Lancopex-2019 is Coming



26-27 April '19 will be here before you know it, and the advertising cards are ready and will be available to the dealers to hand out at the early stamp shows in 2019. In March we'll frank and address them to send to our customers far and wide. Theme: **The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1939 NY Worlds Fair.**

## Opportunities: PSLC & the North Museum

How often have we said that we would welcome the chance to introduce young people and their parents to the hobby of philately? Perhaps the source of that opportunity is at hand.



PSLC may have some far reaching opportunities with The North Museum of Nature and Science of Lancaster. This is a science museum for young people and those young at heart. It is one of the few accredited museums of its kind in the U.S. Dr. DiComo (the museum's board chairman) and Paul Petersen met with their leadership on 12 October and discussed some potential ways in which our club could be of service to the museum.



The TNM meeting participants showed great interest in the stamps and other items we brought, especially the topicals, which might augment some of their upcoming exhibits. Interim Executive Director, Andrea Rush noted that it is important that young people have collections, though what they collect matters less than the skills and concepts they gain from having one or more interests.

How can interested PSLC members get involved in the TNM partnership while in the planning stages? •Identify creative ways to use stamps (*et al*) to engage youngsters and to augment the museum exhibits; •Save topical stamps with science and nature themes; and •Consider some time to compile an exhibit or speak to the youngsters.

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts, Shows, and Events

#### 2018 Programs

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

**19 December:** December Dinner Deb Ehleiter & Co.

#### 2019 Programs

**9 January:** Club Auction. Tony Coccio, Host

**13 February:** An Overview of Bosnian Philately: 1879-1918, Robert Witkosky. Host: TBA

**13 March:** The NY Postmaster Provisional Stamp of 1845. Mark Schwartz

**10 April:** The Joys of Philately. Bill Schultz

**8 May:** The History of Printing on Stamps. Joseph Sullivan

**12 June:** Club Auction

**10 July:** Making Philatelic Donations. Richard Nakles

**14 August:** Club Picnic: Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville, PA

**11 September:** Club Auction

**9 October:** The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps, 1855-1857 Dr. Charles DiComo

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

**11 December:** December Dinner, Deb Ehleiter & Co.

#### 2020 Programs

**8 January:** Club Auction

**13 May:** Canada's Role in Union & Confederate Postal Cross-Border Mail during the U.S. Civil War, Ron Majors

#### 2018-19 Shows/Events

**Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** Sunday, 16 Dec. Farm & Home Center. Lunch is free.

**York Stamp Show:** 25-26 January, '19. York Fair Grounds. Ride Sharing? Call P. Petersen.

**Lancaster Post Card Club:** M, 12 Nov. Christmas Traditions on Postcards, Aaron Heckler.





## Club Biography:

*Mark Jardele*

Mark has been a PSLC member for several years, but we are seeing more of him now since his recent retirement from Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant. There he was a nuclear operator in the control room, among other duties. Since retirement he has helped the PSLC with the auctions and 50-50 raffles and is looking forward to additional opportunities to help out.

Mark enjoyed the study of history as a youngster. With exposure to other students' collections and the gift of stamps and covers from his grandfather, he became a lifelong collector. He added that when he received a sizable Navy reenlistment bonus in the '80s, he spent at least half for his collection! In the service his title was Nuclear Machinist Mate, and he served on submarines (He was also on the USN soccer team as his duty schedule would allow).

And speaking of the Navy, many collectors send requests to U.S.N. ships for special cachets and/or cancellations. On Mark's ship, he was the sailor who prepared these for collectors, and he loved every minute of it.

After years of country collecting, Mark now seeks postal history for covers with stories of historical interest including exotic places, famous (or infamous) people, geography, and topics among others.

It was PSLC past president **Doug Milliken** who pointed Mark to our club. Mark is now remodeling a house in Marietta that Doug once owned, and this cemented their friendship. This large house was built in 1814 with an interesting history of its own.

So what does Mark do in his free time besides his stamps and remodeling? He is in the Post Card and Coin Clubs, and he and his wife participate in Scottish Folk Dancing three nights a week. But is this enough? Not for Mark. He is a Civil War re-enactor, and he added that the annual Civil War re-encampments at the Lancaster Historical Association on Marietta Avenue would be resuming after a hiatus of several years.

## 2019 Officers

The Following Slate was elected by voice vote on 10 October 2018.

President: **Dr. Charles J. DiComo**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **John Hostetter**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Bill Greiner, III**

Secretary: **Diane Meek**

Treasurer: **Lou DiFelice**

Past President: **Doug Milliken**

## October Minutes and Treasury

**Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice**

**Opening:** At 7:00 **Dr. DiComo** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He reported that the website is doing well.

**Membership:** Tonight's visitors included **Don Martin** and his young son, **John**. Don is from Lancaster County and is a 45-year collector with a renewed interest since recently inheriting his grandfather's and father's collections. John, too, is starting a collection himself looking now at a U.S. collection and a topical or two. Tonight's meeting attendance was 45.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Paul Petersen** filled in for Treasurer, **Lou DiFelice** and reviewed the income, expenses, and balances of Lou's monthly report.

**Approval of the September Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** These were approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Drawing for Door Prizes:** **Diane Meek, Chuck Kilgore, Robert Kramer, and Hal Klein** won door prizes of a philatelic nature.

**50-50 Drawing:** \$84 was collected. Doug Keefer's name was drawn, and he will split this with the club. Congrats.

**2019 PSLC Officer Elections:** **Deb Ehleiter** moved that the current slate of 2018 officers be returned for 2019 "as is" if all are in agreement. **Diane Meek** seconded this motion. It was approved by voice vote. The slate of officers for 2019 is reproduced below.

**Greeters and Hosts for 2019:** Paul passed around a sign-up sheet for these important tasks for next year. The list will be available again in November and then again monthly until filled.

**Open House and 1-Page Exhibits:** Paul reviewed the process for the exhibits next month and re-circulated the sign-up sheet. Also taking place are brief presentations by David Hunt and Dr. Charles DiComo. All club members are encouraged to bring their family and friends. Contact Paul or **Len Kasper** if you have questions.

**19 December Dinner:** Deb and Paul passed out the sign-up sheet and led the discussion with dates, times, costs, and all. Additional information will be forthcoming. Following a discussion and member input, entertainment this year will be as follows: 1. Members may read the contents from some of their interesting covers, stampless letters, and/or other

postal history items. 2. Instead of a gift exchange, there will be **door prizes**...of a sort. Those wishing to participate will bring an unwrapped philatelic item valued at \$5.00-8.00 for display during the evening. It should contain a gift tag with the donor's name on it, so that the recipient will know whom it is from. Each person who participates by donating a door prize will be given a ticket for the drawing later in the evening. This event is open to members and their guests, but it is limited to only philatelic items.

**Reading Stamp Show:** Paul reminded membership of this show on Saturday, 3 November, Leesport, PA. Those seeking rides or willing to drive should contact him, and he will coordinate the ride sharing.

**Some Sunday Stamp Show:** Paul reminded membership of this show on Sunday at the Farm and Home Center. Lunch is free!

**Program:** Following the business meeting, **Tom Nichols** gave a great PowerPoint presentation on the U.S. Postal Material of the 1940s.

### Treasury: 1-30 September 2018

Opening:	\$3,505.64
Income:	\$217.00
Expenses:	\$249.10
Closing:	\$3,473.54
3 CDs:	@\$7,052.08



## A Postal Prayer for the Season

God, Our Father,  
 May everything we do be **first class**.  
 Imprint your own loving **Zip Code** upon our hearts  
 So we never go astray.  
 Provide, in your gracious providence,  
**Special handling** for those of us who are **fragile**,  
 and keep us in one piece.  
 We have been **signed, sealed, stamped, and delivered**  
 in Your image and likeness.  
 For our sakes, we beg You to **Handle With Care**  
 As we go about our **appointed rounds**.  
 When our days draw to a close and we are marked  
**Return to Sender**, be there to greet us so nobody can say  
**Unknown at this Address**  
 AMEN

*Submitted by Fred Sargent*

## Plenty of Volunteers

The June 1895 edition (Vol. 8, No. 1, Pgs.-13, 14) of *The Pennsylvania Philatelist* contained the pre-election campaigning for the officers of the Philatelic Sons of America. The PSA calls itself the "Largest in the World." There were over 15 offices with >45 nominees! Lots of adds with a U.S. #1 for 50¢ & 65¢ on cover. Time machine anyone?

## December Dinner

**When:** Wednesday, 19 December

**Time:** 5:30 Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 Buffet Dinner

**Where:** Viva Center, Woodcrest

**Cost:** \$30.00/person at the door

**Reservations:** You must sign up.

### Menu:

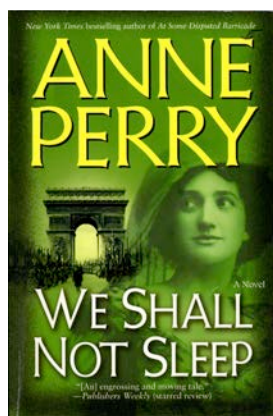
**Appetizers**  
**Fruit Punch**  
**Seafood Newburgh**  
**Chicken Florentine**  
**Baked Ham with Cranberry Sauce**  
**Coleslaw & Mixed Greens**  
**Fruit Slaw**  
**Lemon Rice**  
**Scalloped Potatoes**  
**Green Beans Almandine**  
**Maple Glazed Carrots**  
**Tiramisu**  
**Apple Crumb Pie**  
**Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea, and Water**

# Musings: Some Random Thoughts on the End of the Great War

Since the Centenary of the Great War came our way in 2014, I have written some snatches of the stamp issues, postal history, picture post-cards, and Cinderellas. It was just 100 years ago on 11 November when the war came to a screeching halt. Some had joy in their hearts, but others were more realistic. Finding it hard to compose a cohesive essay tonight, I simply chose the Freudian approach of free association by just writing what first comes to mind. These are some random thoughts that stand out to me on this bitter-sweet anniversary.



As a student of WWI, I've read a gamut of history and historical fiction on many aspects of the conflict. In the latter, Anne Perry is one author of choice with her five historical novels ranging from 1914 through the day of Armistice. The final book (*We Shall Not Sleep*, 2007, NY: Ballantine) takes place during the last month of the war, mid October to 11 November 1918. After four years and a few months of total war, there was a generalized weariness at home and the front, on both sides. It was believed that the war might soon be over, perhaps any day. But what may happen until it ended?



"(Pg.-96) News of the fighting came every day. The British were advancing on Lille; the Belgians had occupied Zeebrugge and stormed Bruges. Someone said that British forces in Syria had entered Homs and were headed for Aleppo. Every-

thing was closing for a German surrender, but it hadn't happened yet. The hope itself was a kind of strange, exciting, and disturbing thought, so very close and yet so many men were still dying every day, sometimes several hundred of them."

Most participants realized that they would never revisit the world they knew before the war, wondering what they would be going home to, if anything. There would be many widows and many other women would remain unmarried due to the shortage of men. Some towns were decimated, and the walking wounded and hospitalized casualties abounded. Finances were upside down, as was the known social order before the war. Their own personal changes were influenced by the tension of years in the trenches, hygienic and other deprivations, combat horror, injuries, disabilities and shell shock, and just about everything else unimaginable.

Perry goes on: "(Pg.-158) 'Some friendships will always last.' Mason did not waver from her gaze when he said it. 'The good ones. Sometimes we'll want to forget all this, but at other times we'll need to remember, because we've seen things other people can't even imagine. Who else would we share it with? We'll need somebody who understands why we laugh and cry when we do. Why we look at a tree in bloom and can't take our eyes off it. Why cruelty to a horse makes us want to beat the person who did it until they can't stand. And why we sometimes feel guilty to be alive and whole when so many of the best men we knew are here under the mud, and will never come home.'"

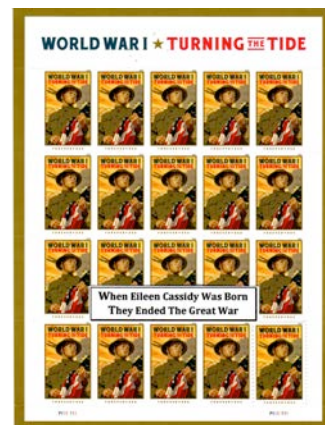
The 11<sup>th</sup> November Armistice was just the beginning, as it was followed by the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, a document peppered with flawed politics and ideology along with excessive retribution that would only bring an even greater catastrophe in 1939. Following Versailles, the map of Europe, the Mediterranean, Middle East, and parts of Africa were greatly altered. Many of the redrawn national boundaries remain problematic to this day. Now that the U.S.P.O.D. finally issued its WWI stamp, I've stopped my belly aching, but since 2014 there has been a lot of foreign material to collect for any Great War enthusiast. Each year of the war had a theme, and for 2018 it is on the 11 November armistice and its aftermath. My thoughts drew me to Portugal, often known as "The forgotten Ally." In fact, I didn't even realize that Portugal was in the war until I stumbled across a Portuguese section of a WWI cemetery in France!



This was a country that should not have been in the war. A poor country, it had great limitations financially and militarily for such a serious undertaking. There was a coup (including the assassination of King Carlos and his son) prior to the war, and by wartime, the new government was experiencing some periodic adjustment. The leaders thought participation on the allied side would help unite the country, and then at the end, they might be entitled to

some financial and territorial reparations (a.k.a., The Spoils of War).

Other precipitating circumstances included skirmishes with Germany in Colonial Africa and British persuasion among others for this neutral country to become a belligerent by 3/16. Portugal is but a footnote in this worldwide catastrophe, a little known involvement that occurred for all the wrong reasons and changed the structure of the national picture until the 1970s.



Recently I attended my aunt's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. My gift was a framed pane of the U.S. WWI stamps, and I added a small inscription stating "When Eileen Cassidy Was Born, They Ended the Great War." An infant through the last few weeks of WWI, she saw her husband in RF and Germany during WWII, her son in Vietnam, and her son-in-law in Desert Storm, all in harm's way.

One hundred years later we remember a war ignited by poorly motivated alliances, insecurity and distrust, and dreams of empire by some players. Have we learned anything at all? Ed. ☐

✂.....

Please clip this dues notice, complete it, and turn in to Barb Buchanan at the next meeting with \$10.00. You may also send it to her at PO Box 116, Conestoga, PA 17516-0116

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ATA Member ☐

APS Member ☐

Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member.

☒ Make checks payable to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.



***A PATRON'S VIEW OF THE BAD MANAGEMENT  
AT THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN 1840***

**By: Charles J. DiComo, Ph.D.**

This is the second in a series of articles<sup>1</sup> on folded letters from the stampless era that passed through New York City (NYC) headed for Europe, where the postal clerk utilized a circular date stamp (CDS) whereby the month of April is abbreviated with an “APL” as opposed to the more common “APR”.<sup>2,3</sup> The obverse of the single-sheet, folded letter written in 1840 and mailed from Illinois to Scotland is shown in **Figure 1**.



**Figure 1.** 1840 Folded Letter, Oquawka, IL via New York to Kings College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Andrew W. Jack at Henderson Mills, Illinois wrote this letter on 15 March 1840 and applied an appealing burgundy red wax rectangular seal with framed Arabic characters (**Figure 2**). His letter entered the mails the next day on 16 March 1840, where the clerk added a manuscript “*Oquawka, Ill., Mar 16*” at upper left and matching manuscript “*Paid 25*” at upper right, indicating U.S. inland postage paid to New York of over 400 miles.



**Figure 2.** Burgundy red 30x25 mm rectangular wax seal with framed Arabic lettering on reverse.

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Oquawka is a small village in Henderson County located 85 miles west of Peoria on the Mississippi River. Its population in 1840 was less than 500 persons. As directed by the sender's black manuscript "*Via N. York*" at lower left, the letter was sent to and received in New York City, where the postal clerk added a red "**NEW-YORK APL 2**" CDS; placed it in the mail which was carried by the Black Ball Line sailing packet *Europe* under Captain Marshall. This packet sailed from NYC eleven days later, on April 13, headed for Liverpool, England.



**Figure 3.** Top: 35x11 mm two-line black "LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER" handstamp.  
Bottom: 25 mm red circular "MAY S 12 A 1840" Edinburgh receiver, both struck on reverse.

After a 26-day transatlantic voyage, the *Europe* arrived in Liverpool on 9 May 1840, where the clerk added a 35x11 mm two-line black "**LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER**" on the reverse (**Figure 3**) and the black "**8**" pence postage due on the obverse (**Figure 1**). From Liverpool, the letter went via overland coach some 350 miles to Edinburgh, where the 25 mm red circle "**MAY S 12 A 1840**" postmark was added (**Figure 3**). The final leg of the journey was approximately 125 miles to Kings College in Aberdeen, Scotland, where Andrew's brother, Robert Jack, Esq. paid the 8 pence due. It is more likely that his father, the Reverend William Jack, covered the payment since at the time he was Principal at Kings College, a position he held from 1815-1854.

While this folded letter is a nice addition to my research on the use of the NYC "APL" CDS, as well as ancillary postmarks and the rates that existed during the Stampless Era on mail headed to Europe, the most interesting attribute is the content. Andrew W. Jack penned a four page letter, in surprisingly discernable cursive, where he discusses in great detail the Jack family U.S. land investments, the expanding continental railroad, the navigability (or lack thereof) on the Mississippi River for trade, and the Panic of 1837; the U.S. financial crisis that touched a major recession that lasted until the 1840's, where profits, prices and wages went down and unemployment went up.



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country from two to three hundred miles above this.

In regard to the slow and uncertain conveyance of letters from this it is owing to the bad management of the P.O. department I could carry my own letters to N.York in much less time than the mail would carry them. By a walk of about two miles from this place I could get on board of a steam boat and land at N Orleans in five or six days or by going in steam boat up the Ohio to Pittsburgh thence by railways to N.York in twelve days, or by stage from this two hundred miles to Chicago thence in steam ships by the lakes in 5 days to Buffalo then by Canal or railway and the Hudson river to N.York in three days, <sup>10 days from this place</sup> While the mail takes ten days between this and Louisville Kentucky where it is about as far from N.York as we are besides having the length of the Allegany ridge between it and N.York. this may be considered one of many instances of the insufficiency of a popular government. I suppose you are a very a reformer

**Figure 4.** Contents on pages 2 (top) and 3 (bottom) mentioning the bad management of the USPOD and detailing the many routes available to the sender to mail a letter to NYC for passage to Europe.

The section that caught my eye is Andrew's opinion on the operations of the "P.O. Department" as he put it. **Figure 4** illustrates the original contents, which I have transcribed below for your reading pleasure. Andrew was well versed in the options available to him for sending a letter to his family in Scotland via New York City (NYC). As we shall read, he details several routes that would have been quicker, even one including him carrying his own letters to New York.

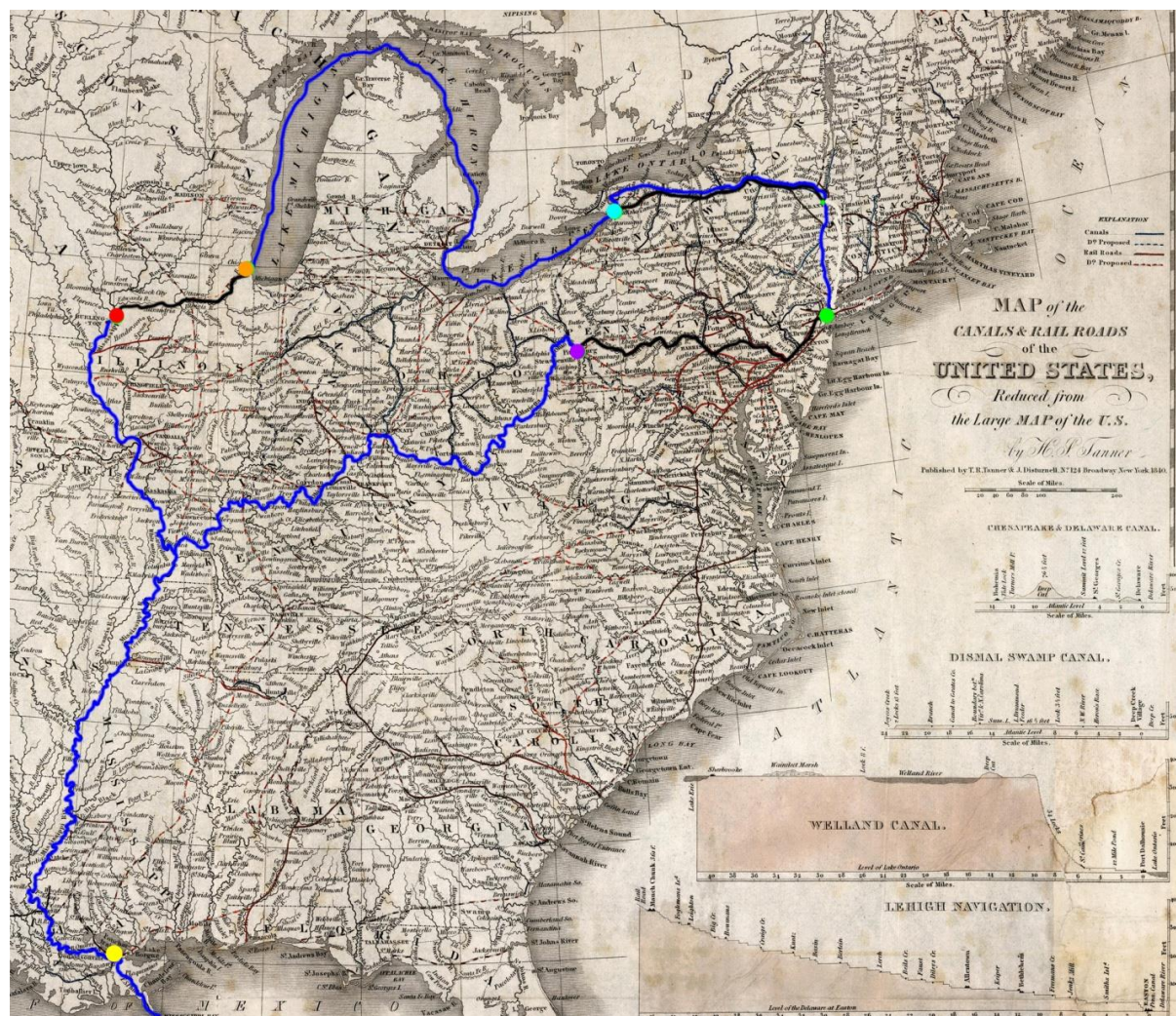
"In regard to the slow and uncertain conveyance of letters from this it is owing to the bad management of the P.O. department. I could carry my own letters to N. York in much less time than the mail would carry them. By a walk of about two miles from this place I could get on board of a steam boat and land at N. Orleans in five or six days or by going in steam boat up the Ohio to Pittsburgh thence by railways to N. York in twelve days from this place or by stage from this two hundred miles to Chicago thence in steam ships by the Lakes in 5 days to Buffalo then by Canal or railway and the Hudson river to N. York in three days (10 days from this place). While the mail takes ten days between this and Louisville Kentucky where it is about as far from N. York as we are besides having the length of the Allegany ridge between it and N. York. This may be considered one of many instances of the insufficiency of a popular government."



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There were numerous routes to mail a letter in 1840 from the Midwest to the East Coast as described in Mr. Jack's letter. The 1840 Map of the Canals and Railroads of the United States illustrated in **Figure 5** depict the various routes from Oquawka, IL (red dot) to New York City (green dot). On this map, blue lines depict lakes, rivers and canals, whereas black lines depict transportation via overland stage and/or railroad.

One could send a letter overland by stage to Chicago (orange dot), then by sailing vessel across the Great Lakes to Buffalo (ultramarine dot), then by railroad or Erie Canal to the Hudson River, and finally by river vessel to NYC. Another less direct route would be south down the Mississippi River to New Orleans (yellow dot), then by sailing vessel along the southern coast, around the tip of Florida, and north past the Mid-Atlantic States to NYC harbor. A third route would have also headed south down the Mississippi River, but at the convergence of the Ohio River head northeast following the river towards Pittsburgh (purple dot), then via railroad across Pennsylvania and New Jersey to NYC.



**Figure 5.** 1840 Map of Canals and Railroads of the U.S. depicting the numerous routes to mail a letter from Oquawka, IL (red dot) to New York City (green dot) as described in Mr. Jack's letter.

We will never discern the actual postal route this folded letter took from Oquawka to New York City. However, we are fortunate to have a well-documented account of the abundant postal routes available from the Midwest to the East Coast, as well as to Mr. Jack's colorful opinion of the shortcomings of the U.S. Post Office Department in a "popular government" in 1840.



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In the end, he didn't have to carry his own letter to New York City. The good news for his family is that for 25¢ the USPOD delivered his letter to NYC, where it made the 26-day transatlantic voyage on the *Europe* and arrived at Kings College, wax seal and contents intact, nearly 2 months after being written.

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Congratulations to Charles DiComo, ESPHS web site developer and designer for his outstanding work on our organization's website. Charles received the great news from Judy Johnson, of the APS via an August 21, 2018 email. Here is an image of the certificate received from the APS.

