



Tonight: History and  
Stories of the 1902 Series

# 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, 10 July 2019  
Bourse at 6:30 pm, Business meeting at 7:00 pm; Vin Kneizys, Host

## National Identity: The Stamp Series of 1902 Roger Brody

The 1902 series, known as the Second Bureau issue, was the first set of stamps both designed and printed for the USPOD by the BEP.

This series followed the Spanish American War with an increase in U.S. territory. This, along with a growing number of American postal customers, including a large number of immigrants, necessitated an issue to expose many foreigners and citizens to some of the greatest historical figures of this country's history.

This series was the first to include the names of those depicted on the stamps along with their dates of birth and death. This helped place names and faces to the chronological timeline and assimilate the new postal patrons into U.S. culture. There were other firsts in this series.

The set contains 16 stamp designs which includes a special delivery stamp and replacement for the original 2¢ stamp.

Speaker **Roger Brody** is the foremost expert in the U.S. 1902 Series as seen in his exhibition awards, publications, research, presentations, and consultation. This is in addition to other areas of expertise such as the 1907 Jamestown Tercentennial 3¢ commemorative stamp, 20<sup>th</sup> Century postal history, and both the Prominent and Great Americans series, among many others. He has countless interests to share.

A member of many philatelic societies including APS, APRL, Collector's Club of NY, U.S. Stamp Society and U.S. Philatelic

Classics Society, the Smithsonian Nat'l Postal Museum Council of Philatelists, RPSL, ATA, his hometown club, The Westfield Stamp Club, and others, Roger has held top leadership positions in many of these.

Roger has published dozens of philatelic research articles in numerous journals, and he has received a variety of notable honors including the CCNY Lichtenstein Award, the APS Luft Award, and as a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he has signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. However in sharing his credentials with Ed., he said that the best introduction is "Roger Brody, Stamp Collector."

Ed.'s Note: This is your two-month issue. Next newsletter will be in September.

Volume 82, Nos. 7-8  
July-August 2019

Visitors are Always  
Welcome

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

Website: [LCPS-Stamp.org](http://LCPS-Stamp.org)

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## 14 August PSLC Picnic (Note early starting time)

**When:** Wednesday, 14 August, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Millersville Memorial Park (See map↓ and directions→)

**Remember:** Please bring your appetizer, side dish, or dessert for which you signed up.

Burgers, hotdogs, drinks, and condiments will be provided.

**Officiating:** John Hostetter, Bill Greiner, Sup.  
Mike Shirley & Paul Petersen-Chefs

Post-picnic cleanup help is always appreciated.



**Directions to the Park:** Driving west into Millersville from Lancaster on 999, the Park is on the north side of 999 (Manor Ave.) just west of the intersection of George Street with 999. (See map at left) A landmark is John Herr's Market. The park is just behind this supermarket. Also, across the street from the park is the Barn Door Restaurant. We'll be meeting in Pavilion-A, the big one just down the hill and on the left. Park right behind the pavilion in the large adjacent lot. Immediate Past President Doug Milliken has been very successful ordering perfect picnic weather over the years, and we are fortunate that he has agreed to an encore again this year. For those technically savvy, conduct a MapQuest or other map search for 9 Blue Rock Road, Millersville, and the park is right behind this location.



## The Veranda Chronicles

Happy Summer! – We are coming off a successful **Spring Auction**. Please take a minute to thank our staff of auctioneers, trackers, and runners; all those that submitted quality material; and our ambitious members that bid energetically and won some great lots. We are always looking for more volunteers to join the Auction Committee to assist in set-up, protecting all lots, tracking, running, and security. Please see Lou DiFelice, Dick Shaefer, or myself if interested. From June 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>, beginner, intermediate, and advanced collectors were fortunate to have many opportunities to learn during **APS Summer Session** at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA. On Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Society members and guests were in high spirits while listening to an interactive presentation by **Paul Petersen** and yours truly on “Utilizing Your Stamp Club’s

*Newsletter and Website for Productive Communication and Growth.*” Paul and I met many folks from around the country who are looking for ways to spread the great work of their Societies and Clubs. Lou DiFelice (below left) joined us for the day. ↓



The presentation and handout are available on the PSLC website for

those that could not make the trip.<sup>1</sup> And what better way to cool off during the summer months but to attend the **Some Sunday Stamp Show**. Many of us did just that on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Farm and Home Center of Lancaster. Our dear friend Kevin Kellman hosted and a fine time was had by all participants. Why not share what you picked up by writing a short article for our award-winning *PSLC Newsletter*?

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Society will be fortunate to have **Roger S. Brody**, distinguished specialist in early twentieth century U.S. stamp production and postal history, pay us a visit to present on the “*National Identity: The Stamps of the Series 1902*.” His lecture will discuss the development of the first definitive stamp series designed and produced by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP). You will find his (See Veranda Page-3)

## What Belongs in a Philatelic Journal: Scott Ney

*Ed’s Note: Last month I called for opinions from the readership regarding the disparate opinions from Michael Laurence and Ken Lawrence on what belongs in a philatelic journal. Should it strictly be the postal history of the stamp or cover or should information about the people, activities, and places be included?*

“Journals” are generally outlets where researchers and academicians publish their work. They have a certain air of importance, because in some professions, having your work published has a direct impact on the direction of your career, and reading the work of others is a vital source of knowledge. I’m not particularly interested in seeing “philatelic journalism” rigidly defined in a manner similar to professional academic journalism. I read philatelic literature for sheer enjoyment, because stamp collecting is my pastime, not my vocation. Looking to spend a few moments in my hobby is not necessarily more edifying if I gain some kind of technical knowledge in the endeavor. I am, more often than not, amused, entertained, and inspired by what others are working on, and encouraged by the fact that my own personal pursuits, however unimportant they

are universally, are part of the larger world of philately.

I agree with Ken Lawrence that “The future prosperity of the stamp hobby will increasingly rely on broader appreciation of context and nuance, which include personality, cultural appeal, political economy, and social history as the most promising aspects to attract new recruits.” Of course, there are practically as many answers to the question of why people collect as there are collectors. Several years before I became a stamp collector, I dabbled in a few inexpensive “Civil War covers”, one of which was addressed to a Private Jacob Wink. I did some basic research and found out that he was in a Pennsylvania regiment with some of his brothers, and he died of disease while in service. Knowing this turned a \$5 cover into something very special.

I think it’s unfortunate that Michael Laurence’s usage of the term “philatelic genealogy” implies a derogatory connotation. The success of Ancestry.com demonstrates that genealogy is a billion-dollar business, and a few crossovers into stamp collecting could add greatly to our philatelic community. Not everyone has an ancestor who had a post office named for him (as do I, but that is perhaps a story for another time), but just about every potential philat-

elist has some family history in the form of correspondence laying around their house. While the stamps affixed to the covers might be common and the stories contained in the old letters and other postal items might not rise to Michael Laurence’s standards of philatelic journalism, many do deserve to be preserved somewhere. And like many human-interest stories, they might be stories that others enjoy reading, even if they don’t make their reader a more knowledgeable philatelist.

Material objects are inevitably destroyed, and memories are lost; this is the nature of human existence. The trend in recent decades has been to preserve as many of our national “memories” as possible, especially the stories of ordinary individuals that will never be included in popular history books. The advancements of information technology have provided us with the ability to preserve more things. Among the primary sources of our national memory are the written ephemera. These were once carried from its origin to its destination by the mails. Why can’t a philatelic journal be a vehicle to record and disseminate a choice selection of these records for posterity?

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts & Shows

#### 2019 Shows/Events

**10 July:** National Identity: The Stamps of the Series 1902. Roger Brody. Vince Kneizys, Host

**14 August:** Picnic: 6 p.m. Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville, PA

**11 September:** Club Auction. Host TBA

**9 October:** Czeslaw Slania, Master Engraver-II. Dave Hunt. Lou DiFelice, Host

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

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

#### 2020 Programs

**8 January:** Club Auction.

**12 February:** From the U.S. to Farther India & Back Again: A Five Month Journey in 1856-1857. Dr. Charles J. DiComo

**11 March:** The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Day & Other Uses. Alan Warren

**9 April:** Exploring Postal History. Bill Schultz

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

**13 October:** 1) GB Stamped to Order Stationary and 2) Royal Household Official Mail. Dave Hunt

#### Of Local Interest

**BALPEX:** Fri-Sun, 30 Aug to 1 September, Shawan Road, Hunt Valley Inn, MD. Exit 20-E.

**Some Sunday Stamp Show:** 27 August, 27 October, 15 December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. Lunch is free.

**Harrisburg:** CCPS Fall Stamp Show, Saturday, 7 September, Lower Swatara Firehouse, Middletown, 9:30-3:30, Free.

**Red Rose Coin Show:** 8 Sept. 9-3, Farm & Home Center, Free.

#### Club Notes:

**Barnstormers Baseball:** Thursday, 5 September. Dinnertime at Five-Guys 4:45; Game time 7:00. Ticket price: \$9:50 per person.



## PSLC in Action

Scott Ney delivered the July program for the Lebanon Stamp Club. It is entitled: *The Germania and its many uses*. This will include its role in WWI, the overprinted varieties, and a variety of town cancels.



During APS Summer Session, Dick Colberg gave two presentations. On 27 June, he delivered a General Session entitled *What is my Collection Worth?* On 26 June Dick presented an elective session entitled *Building a Postal History Exhibit from the Ground Up*.

Also at APS Summer Session, Paul Petersen and Dr. DiComo gave an elective presentation on 24 June entitled *Using Your Club's Newsletter and Website for Productive Communication and Growth*.

(Veranda from Page-1) informative exhibit on the PSLC website.<sup>2</sup> Maybe his lecture will ignite your collecting interests to include this fascinating field.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the Society will hold our **Annual Picnic** at Memorial Park in Millersville, PA. As in years past, we are looking forward to clear skies, good food & drink, great conversation & camaraderie. As we enter the month of September and cooler weather, we have our **Autumn Auction** on September 11<sup>th</sup>. I hope each of you is looking through your "extras", both the good ones and the not-so-good ones, **legibly** filling in your official Auction Lot forms (available on our website and emailed), and are prepared to bid. Let us make this auction even more of a success than our Spring one. **CDI**

<sup>1,2</sup> <http://www.lcps-stamps.org/presentations/>

## June Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice

**Opening: President DiComo** opened the meeting at 7:05 after encouraging all to review the auction lots. He pointed out the large club banner (included below) that he designed, one that will be unfurled at each meeting and Lancopex. He read a thank-you note from Rick & Christine Barrett for the hospitality we showed them last month.

**Membership: Barb Buchanan** announced that the number of paid-up members is 115. She explained the new name badges. Members will be responsible to bring them to each meeting. Attendance was 51. Club members gave a round of applause to **Barbara and Lee Buchanan** for their work in producing these items.

**Drawing:** A variety of philatelic related door prizes were awarded including souvenir sheets, pins, playing cards, note pads, Lighthouse Stamp tongs, and more. Winners were **Stephanie Harper, Mark Hollister, Hal Klein, Diane Meek, Scott Ney, Johnny Martin, Thawn Pham, and Michel Shirley**.

**50-50 Drawing:** This was deferred until July.

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

**New Business: Paul Petersen** announced that the group price for Thursday, 4 September **Barnstormer Game** is \$9.50.



He passed a sympathy card for a friend of PSLC.

There will be **dinner with speaker Roger Brody** on 10 July, and Paul circulated a sign-up sheet

**Club Picnic:** Appetizers, side dishes, and desserts are needed for 14 August. Sign-ups were passed around and will be re-circulated in July. The club will supply burgers, dogs, and drinks.

**SCOPEX** will be on 23 June at APS, and this will be followed by **APS Summer Session**. If interested, sign up quickly, as it is almost sold out.

**Volunteer Week at APC** is 15-

19 July. Consider volunteering. Carpooling for **Balpex** will be arranged at the July meeting. If you will not be in attendance, let Paul know.

**Lancopex: Lou DiFelice** provided the final accounting for the show. The last profit report of \$1446.76 was reduced by \$606.00 (storage facility) leaving \$846.76 profit for Lancopex-'19.

**Program:** June's program was the Spring Auction (See below)

### Treasury: 1-31 May '18

<b>Opening:</b>	\$5,707.70
<b>Income:</b>	\$283.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$668.52
<b>Sum:</b>	\$5,322.18
<b>3-CDs @</b>	\$5,806.99
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**June After-Auction Report:** Club Treasurer, **Lou DiFelice** submitted the auction data as seen below.

**Lots on Sale:** 173 from 25 members, and this includes donated items.

**Number of Registered Bidders:** 36 of which 23 won items

**Lots Sold:** 102 (59%) as bought by 23 members

**Total Sales:** \$623 of which \$65 was from donated items (14 lots)

**Misc:** Eight members entered 10 lots, and one member sold 11 lots.

Club Banner designed by Dr. DiComo ↓

## July and August Gallery



**The 1969 Moon Landing:** 20 July marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first men on the moon. While world events like Pearl Harbor, 9-11, and the Kennedy assassination bring disquieting memories, the 1969 moon landing recalls a sense of national pride and accomplishment. **Where were you on 20 July 1969?**

**Transcontinental Railroad at 150 Years:** On 10 May the USPS released an 18 stamp sheet (with three different stamps-two shown above right) marking the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike at a ceremony on 10 May 1869 where the east and west coasts connected by rail. There was also a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration by Union Pacific in 1944 seen in the Cinderella above.

## Musings: Childhood Memories, a Cinderella, Hunger, and the USPS

This article has been rattling around my brain due to childhood memories, junk mail, a philatelic magazine, and a few Cinderellas that recently came my way. The latter are stamp-like labels with no postal value or usage. In their own right, they are quite collectible, especially for topical and thematic collectors, and they can add zest to any philatelic exhibit when allowed.

Starting at the beginning, one would never know to look at me that I was a very picky eater as a young child. Rumor had it that my grandmother would dip just the tip of my spoon into pudding to get me to eat. My Godmother shared that I went through about a year period where I would eat nothing but hot-dogs.

Not much changed as I got older when the guilt trips were dropped at the family dinner table where I was a lonely only child.

"Paul, you could feed an entire family in China with what you've left on your plate. It's just a sin." Heaping more coals upon this, I was then told of the starving Armenians who would love to have the food I wasted.



To be honest, as a little kid, I would not know a starving Armenian from a Whirling Dervish...It was just harassment in my book. If only I had a dog by my feet beneath the table, one who liked broccoli, Brussel sprouts, and colcannon, the latter being a deadly mix of turnips and mashed potatoes, my dad's favorite. Fido would take care of the scraps. But as I grew up, I realized the enormity of hunger. While in junior high, my mom's Women's Republican Club (a very diverse organization who could identify needs) collected food which we delivered to the local housing estates in the evenings. These were very young families with

many children. "Where are all the fathers?" I asked. "They're at work," I was told. For me this was time to grow up and get serious.

At Lancopex, club member and dealer, Mike Marino showed me a label (seen at left) he thought I might be interested in. And yes, I was. Here is evidence of the starving Armenians as seen on the label pictured nearby.

Coincidentally, last month's issue of *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* (June, 2019, pp. 36-39) contained Kevin Lowther's article entitled "The Paris Peace Conference in 1919 was far away from any real world." He presented and discussed several covers from/to Americans overseas serving from military thru missionary capacities during WWI through the fall-out of the Versailles Treaty of 1919. Here the victors of WWI redrew many of the national boundaries in Europe and beyond, most with dire consequences.

One of Lowther's covers is addressed to Mary Hubbard, one of 250 missionaries in 1919 who served with the Armenia and Syria Relief Expedition in the Turkish town of Sivas to care for those surviving the Armenian Genocide. Most endearing for Lowther is that his wife, as a member of the Peace Corps in 1964 worked with orphans in Sivas, the same town as Mary Hubbard. But what is behind this label and those Armenians?

Online research results in a host of additional documentation of the ravages of the Christian Armenian presence in Turkey, an unarmed religious and cultural minority within the Ottoman Empire. In addition to numerous websites (i.e., Armenian-genocide.org), there are annotated bibliographies, photo galleries, diary excerpts, fact sheets, maps, and more. Information leaked out from Turkey on a continual basis. It could not be kept hidden. Armenian genocide was real.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a group of dispirited residents, known as the Young Turks facilitated and fomented political reform from a monarchy to a constitutional government in Turkey. This quasi-stable arrangement lasted from about 1913 to 1918, as it was fraught with divisions and corruption.

There had been previous efforts to thwart the Armenians already occurring late in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. By 1910, the three leading Young Turks

began in earnest with a well-documented and systematic plan to massacre a whole people and achieve a pure Turkish element in Asia Minor and bring about a more dominating world position for their country.

The genocide peaked during and after WWI. One means of this extermination was through deportation, or better, the guise of deportation, to places such as northern Mesopotamia and Syria.

A lot of activity occurred during these deportations including the shelling and burning of towns and villages, massacres, starvation, dehydration, and exhaustion. Barge loads of women and children were taken out to sea and dumped overboard. Neither teachers nor priests were spared.

In some cases physicians participated in the Holocaust. Well beyond medical experimentation, they murdered the Armenians with poisons, morphine overdosing, typhoid injections, and toxic gases. In almost all cases, the Armenians' land and worldly goods were confiscated by the state.

News of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's first genocide surfaced. Reports and photographs from reporters, German soldiers stationed in Turkey during the war, and other missionaries and NGOs made headlines in many parts of the world including the U.S.

Because the U.S. was still neutral in 1915, it boldly led efforts to supply humanitarian aid via the American Committee for Armenian Relief in Syria. This had the support of Woodrow Wilson, the churches, and the American public to "Save the Starving Armenians" through their embassy in Constantinople. American historian, Howard Sachse observed that "\$117M of administered assistance quite literally kept an entire nation alive." The most quoted estimate of Armenian fatalities varies around 1.5M.

American efforts subdued considerably during their active participation in the war from April 1917 through November 1918. Then they re-connected to the Armenian commitment as the "American Committee for Relief in the Near East." Then this shortened to the "Near East Relief", and this was active into the

early 1930s.

The story behind my Cinderella at left is a real one, probably one my parents knew very well. I imagine that they were also familiar with the Ukrainian Holodomor, the purposeful starving of the around 3.5M Ukrainians by Stalin in the 1930s and the Nazi scourge from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s resulting in the extermination of over 6M people, largely those of Jewish heritage in addition to some others.

The story does not end with my Cinderella. While I could not locate any information on this particular item, I did find other Armenian Cinderellas for sale on eBay. Many of these were in sheet format, and from what I could see, they were issued until the mid-1980s. These were prepared for remembrance of the genocide and the continuation of fundraising for those in need.

Among a variety of stamp themes, many of the UN issues are related to third world concerns including, for example, hunger & nutrition (see below), gun control, man-made global warming, overpopulation, LGBTQ matters, human trafficking, peace, and a host of other issues over the years.



In 1985 USPS released a stamp (#2164) to raise the hunger issue. ↓



Periodically, the Post Office conducts food drives when carriers collect the donations on specific dates with notices mailed in advance to postal customers. ↓ Ed. ☒





# The Life of Hiram Vail and the Obsolete Notes produced for his Banking & Collection Office in Amenia, New York

by Charles J. DiComo, PhD

In this issue of *Paper Money*, I will explore the life of Hiram Vail, the proprietor of the Banking and Collection Office of Amenia, New York, as denoted on the obsolete currency being highlighted in this article (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 5 Cents Note (98 x 54 mm design), Hiram Vail's Banking and Collection Office, Amenia, N.Y., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862, No. "3207" in black ink, signed "H Vail".

Hiram Vail (1797-1869) was an influential resident of Amenia, New York - located ~90 miles north of New York City along the Connecticut border in the northeastern corner of Dutchess County. He was born on 10 March 1797 in Beekman, Dutchess Co., NY to Israel Vail (1774-1823) and Charity Hall (1775-1850), one of nine children. On 22 November 1821, he married Matilda Doughty (~1802-1886), and they had three children: Caroline M. Vail (1822-unk.); Elizabeth Ann Vail (1826-1852); and Albert Doughty Vail (1835-1898).

The first mention of Hiram's involvement in the local community was his appointment as Postmaster of Verbank in Dutchess Co., NY on 23 April 1835 (Figure 2). In 1837, he was appointed as an Agent of the Dutchess County Mutual Insurance Company for Union Vale, which meant he could receive applications for insurance. He subsequently took on the role of a Surveyor for Union Vale from 1838 to 1842 and then for Amenia in 1843 (*Poughkeepsie Eagle*, Dec. 15, 1838, pg. 3; Aug. 05, 1843, pg. 4).

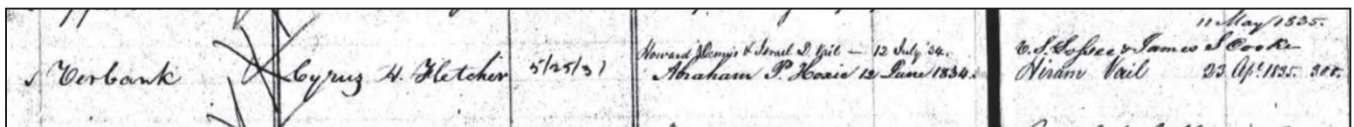
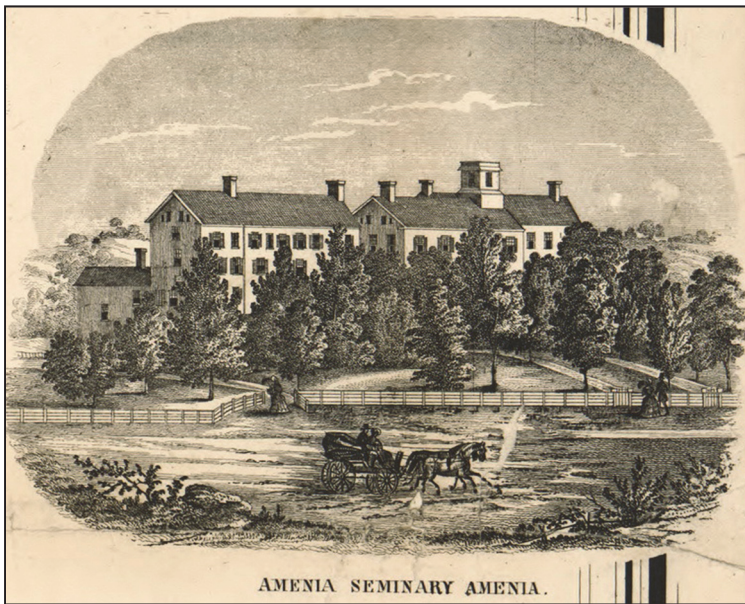


Figure 2. U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters: Hiram Vail, Verbank, Dutchess Co., N.Y. 1835.

Hiram's most noteworthy appointment came in 1840 when he took the role the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steward of the Amenia (Methodist) Seminary (Figure 3). He succeeded 1<sup>st</sup> Steward David Clark and held the title for 18 years until 1858. Interestingly, he was an original trustee of the Seminary when it opened its doors in the autumn of 1835 on Cook's Hill under the direction of a 23 Trustee Board. It was here at the Seminary that he was affectionately referred to as good old "Uncle Hiram" (if students were orderly and respectful, but mischievous and idle were likely to learn his honest estimate of them). According to many, he held the school together. His wife Matilda was also a friend of the students. In 1888, the Seminary closed its remarkable history after fifty-three years, having enrolled students from every State in the Union, and at one time students from the Island of Cuba and South America.



**Figure 3. The Amenia Seminary, Amenia, NY. Built in 1835; it was directed by the Methodist Church and had a high reputation and many noted graduates.**

During his tenure at the Seminary, Hiram managed to keep himself quite active across the region. He served as Postmaster (PM) in Amenia from 8 June 1841 to 19 October 1844. My research shows that he replaced Elijah D. Freeman, who had been removed from office (*Poughkeepsie Eagle*, 09 Jul. 1841, pg. 2). Postal records show that Hiram was well compensated in his first two years as PM, earning \$254.69. Following his postal duties, Hiram was ready to enter the world of politics and became the Amenia Town Supervisor, with neighbors George Conklin ('44) and Luke Stanton ('45) as his town clerks.

He then attended the Dutchess County Whig Convention in the spring of 1846 (*New York Tribune*, Apr. 08, 1846, pg. 4), and for the next two years was a Member of the Whig Central Committee of Dutchess County. He must have missed his time as Amenia Postmaster, when for a second time on 2 May 1849 he was granted the position and held it for nearly four years until 5 April 1853 (**Figure 4**).

*Dutchess Co. N.Y.*

✓ Adirance	✓ Abrahm & Elizabeth 17 July 1873	William M. Norton 18 June 73	Eliza A. Batewin 19 July 73
✓ America	✓ Hiram Vail 14 June 1873	Elizabeth D. Freeman 22 Oct 73	Lucas M. Harting 22 Feb 73
✓ America Union	✓ Amariah & Elizabeth 20 May 73		Hiram Vail 2 May 1873
			George Goodlin 6 Apr 73

**Figure 4. U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters: Hiram Vail, Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y., 1841 – 1845.**

It was during this stint as PM that we see Hiram enter the banking world. In 1850 he is listed as “Cashier, Dutchess County Bank, Amenia, Capital \$50,000.” in *Bankers’ Magazine and Statistical Register* (Vol. 5, Jul. 1850–Jun. 1851, pg. 1033). Hiram moved up the ranks quickly, whereby 1851 he is listed as “President of Dutchess County Bank, Amenia” in *The New York City Directory for 1851-1852* (10<sup>th</sup> Publication, NY Doggett & Rose, 59 Liberty, pg. 68).

Hiram was now a pillar in the Town of Amenia. In 1852 with 10 other local men, he formed the Amenia Times Association Company and began publishing the “*Amenia Times*” (**Figure 5**), a weekly paper which ran for many years with famous Biographer, Editor, Essayist, Journalist, Lecturer, and Poet Joel Benton (1832-1911) as Editor. In 1912, the *Amenia Times* was renamed the *Harlem Valley Times* and only a few years ago ceased being published.





Figure 5. Masthead of the *Amenia Times*, Vol. V, No. 30, October 22, 1856.

It is worth noting that Hiram maintained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Steward position at the Amenia Seminary until 1858 (an 18 year stint). His role as President of the Dutchess County Bank of Amenia ended after a 12 year stint when the bank closed in November of 1863, with Capital of \$50,000; Circulation of \$72,696; and Security in N.Y. stock.

In the *Annual Report of Banking* in the NYS Section, Table 7 on page 63 is a list of Banks which closed business, withdrawn their securities, given bond for the redemption of notes presented within six years, name of owner or principal in bond, and of the sureties, and the time when obligation to redeem outstanding circulation will expire. Table 7 is reproduced below:

Name of Banks	Location	Principal in Bond	Residence	Securities in Bond	When Time to Redeem Expires
Dutchess County Bank	Amenia	Hiram Vail	Amenia	John K. Mead, Henry W. Peters, A.P. Mygatt	Nov. 6, 1863

Prior to the close of the Dutchess County Bank, Hiram established a “Banking and Collection Office” in Amenia as evidenced by the issuance of notes. The earliest note I am aware of, and which I recently acquired in late-2017, is shown in **Figure 6**.

It is a 25 Cents note on thin grey, unwatermarked paper, with a printed design measuring 85 x 48 mm and was most likely locally printed. There is a central agricultural-themed design showing a plow, pitchfork, rake, wheat shafts and a barn in the distance flanked by two hollow “25”s. This note is dated October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862 and payable to “the bearer TWENTY-FIVE CENTS, in current funds, when like checks are presented to amount of ONE DOLLAR” at the Bank of Pawling.

Pawling, ~22 miles south of Amenia along Route 22, which served as a drover’s road since before the American Revolution, has a rich history from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century when Quaker settlers purchased the land known as “The Oblong” to the Army Air Corp Convalescent hospital created from the Pawling School and Green Mountain Lakes Camp during World War II. From an online search of the Heritage Auctions archive ([www.ha.com](http://www.ha.com)), I have located 5¢ and 10¢ notes from this series with the analogous central design.



Figure 6. 25 Cents Note (85 x 48 mm design), Hiram Vail’s Banking and Collection Office, Amenia, N.Y., OCT. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862, No. “157” in magenta ink, signed “Hiram Vail”.

This October 1862-dated note is not listed in the 1894 illustrated 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Standard Paper Money Catalog* (Scott Stamp & Coin Co, New York, NY), suggesting it might not yet have been discovered. What are listed in the 1894 4<sup>th</sup> edition are the 10¢ note in **Figure 7** and the impressive uncut sheet in **Figure 8**.



Figure 7. 10 Cents Note (98 x 54 mm design), Hiram Vail's Banking and Collection Office, Amenia, N.Y., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862, No. "1452" in magenta ink, signed "H Vail".

The listing in the 1894 4<sup>th</sup> edition *Standard Paper Money Catalog* is reproduced here:

*Amenia. Hiram Vail's Bkg and Collection Office (on Bank of Pawling). 1862. Nov. 1.: 5¢ Train r.; 5¢ Female and shield. (wrong, see 50¢); 10¢ Horses r.; 25¢ Cattle l.; 50¢ Train r. (wrong listing, it is Female & Shield l.)*



Figure 8. Uncut Sheet of Hiram Vail's Banking and Collection Office Notes, Amenia, N.Y. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862 (shown with permission of Robert Gill).



Hiram Vail had sheets of 12 printed for his November 1862-dated Banking and Collection Office notes in four denominations (5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢), with four different scenes (a Train, Horses, Cattle, and a Female with Shield, respectively); where the 5¢ and 10¢ were in quadruple per sheet and the 25¢ and 50¢ were in duplicate. He utilized the well-known lithographers and publishing firm of Snyder, Black and Sturn, located at 92 William Street in NYC (**Figure 9**). These notes are an evolution in quality and design from his earlier 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢ notes.



**Figure 9. Lithographer and Publishing Firm “Snyder, Black and Sturn, 92 William St. N.Y.” notation on Hiram Vail's Banking and Collection Office Note, Amenia, N.Y. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862.**

My research has revealed that Hiram Vail was a prominent figure in the Town of Amenia who had a rich life filled with accomplishments, charitable work and service; as a husband and father; with careers as a Surveyor, Steward, Town Supervisor, Publisher, Postmaster and Banking President. He passed on 23 October 1869 at age 72 in Amenia and was interred at the Amenia Island Cemetery. His wife Matilda passed on 4 January 1886 nearly 17 years later and is buried alongside him (**Figure 10**).

**Figure 10: Headstone of Hiram Vail (1797-1869) and Matilda Doughty (~1802-1886). Amenia Island Cemetery, Amenia, Dutchess Co., NY.**



In closing, Hiram left for us these beautiful artifacts to research and study. In my collection I have ~12 “H. Vail” signed and magenta-numbered 5¢ and 10¢ notes from November of 1862. At the time of publication, I have not seen a 50¢-signed note from the November 1862 series, nor been able to locate a 50¢ note from the October 1862 series, presuming it exists. I would be most interested in hearing from those wishing to share examples from their collection.

### Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Robert Gill for encouraging me to join the SPMC and for sharing his uncut sheet of Hiram Vail's Banking and Collection Office obsolete notes. Additionally, the author credits the Amenia Historical Society (<http://ameniahs.org/>), in particular Betsy Strauss, for kindly providing detailed census and demographic information on the Vail family. Any errors or an omission is the author's responsibility. He can be contacted at [charlesdicomo@gmail.com](mailto:charlesdicomo@gmail.com).