

Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News:

Who's He?

by William H. Waggoner (From USSN, September-October 1998)

Perusal of the letters-to-the-editor section of almost any philatelic publication reveals considerable concern about the individuals whose images adorn recent postage stamps. Generally critical, writers have opposed nearly all the selections, even questioning the sanity of those in charge of the selection process. Not quite so numerous, but equally vocal and enthusiastic, are writers seeking official recognition of certain persons so far neglected.

On behalf of those of us who collect revenue stamps rather than postal issues, I venture to point out that although we no longer have this problem (newly-designed revenue stamps have not appeared in this country for years), we often do have a recognition problem with some of those featured on past issues. We can easily demonstrate the difficulty with a few examples.

Before doing that, however, we should note that the persons who have appeared on revenues commonly were officials of the federal government. Although this same source has been used with postage stamps, a greater number and variety of fiscal issues have been involved. Consequently, the designers of these stamps have sometimes reached deeper into the bureaucratic hierarchy as the following examination will show.

Presidents & Vice-Presidents

Many United States presidents have been honored repeatedly on both postage and revenue stamps. Thirteen have appeared on various fiscal issues. As with postage stamps, George Washington has been most popular, appearing on more different revenue issues than any other chief executive. (See Table I, page 11.) Washington has been pictured most often as a figure modeled after the 1796 portrait by Gilbert Stuart, most other models have also been used (Figure 1).



Figure 1, left to right: First Issue 10¢ Certificate Sc. R33a; 1898 I.R. Overprint, Sc. R155; 1871 5¢ Proprietary, Sc. RB5

For reasons unknown to me, Washington's successor, President John Adams, never was pictured on a revenue stamp. However, the portrait of his son, sixth President John Quincy Adams, was used on all Tobacco Strip stamps issued by this country beginning in 1877.

Among the more recent presidents to be pictured was the 20th, James A. Garfield, who appeared on Tobacco Strip stamps in 1875. At the time, Garfield was in his twelfth year as a U.S. representative from Ohio, and had not yet been elected to the presidency.

Let me digress at this point to say something about Garfield's eligibility to be pictured on a U.S. stamp. Present criteria regarding suitable subjects do exclude all living persons. Additionally, a ten-year rule concerning deceased individuals generally applies, the only exception being U.S. presidents who may be honored on the first birth anniversary following their death. These criteria were not formalized until 1957, however, and it remains unclear whether they even apply to revenue stamps.



Figure 2. John Quincy Adams on a 2 ounce Tobacco Strip Stamp

A possible precedent is contained in the Congressional Act of April 7, 1866, which states (in part): "That no portrait or likeness of any living person hereafter engraved, shall be placed upon any of the bonds, securities, notes, Fractional or Postal Currency of the United States." This prohibition came after Spencer M. Clark (1810-90), Superintendent of the National Currency Bureau, had his own likeness put on the 5¢ note of the Third Fractional Currency issue (1864-69) without authority from his superiors. Note, however, that "revenue stamps" were not included among the fiscal instruments listed in this legislation, so the prohibition may be moot here also.

Only two of the men who followed President Garfield into that office also followed him onto revenue stamps. Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th president, appeared posthumously on the \$50 Future Delivery Stamp, Series of 1918-34 (Scott RC17) and on the \$50 Stock Transfer Stamp, Series (Scott RD20). Both of these stamps are surcharged and are of interest because the basic set of Documentary stamps from which these supposedly were derived did not include a \$50 value.

Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president, was pictured on the Series of 1875 Customs Cigars stamps, fourteen years before he attained the presidency.

Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901), Ohio-born, grandson of president William Henry Harrison, practiced law in Indiana before the Civil War. When war came, he recruited and commanded the 70th Indiana Volunteer Regiment and rose to the rank of brigadier general. Returning to private law practice when the fighting ended, his war record and political contacts led to his nomination in 1876 as the Republican gubernatorial candidate. Harrison lost that election but four years later was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1881 to 1887. He narrowly defeated incumbent President Cleveland in the 1888 election but lost decisively to him in 1892.

Vice-Presidents fared even more poorly than presidents. Only two, Jefferson and Fillmore, ever had their portraits on revenue issues. In both cases, the men acceded to the presidency, and their inclusion on these stamps may be considered to derive from that office. In any case, both appeared on tobacco issues: Jefferson on Class A Cigarettes stamps, Series of 1872, Fillmore on Tobacco Strip



Figure 3. Garfield, on Sc. RC17

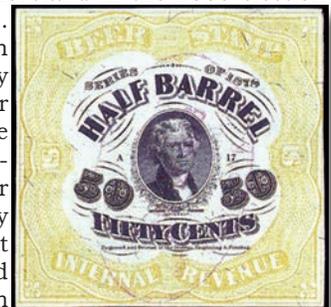


Figure 4. Jefferson, on Sc. REA41b



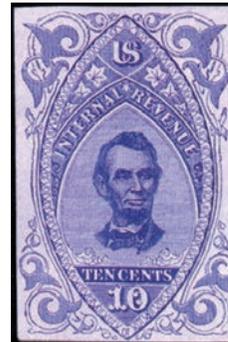
Madison, on 1899 \$1,000, Sc. R181



Monroe, on a half-ounce Snuff stamp



Jackson, on 1/8th Barrel Beer stamp, REA20c



Lincoln, on a Revenue Stamped Paper proof



Grant, on 1917 \$30 Documentary, Sc. R246

stamps, Series of 1875. This was the only issue that pictured Fillmore, but Jefferson's portrait was also used on other revenue stamps (Figure 4, page 16).

The Secretaries of State

Half of the first ten men who served as Secretary of State later became president. Of the five who did, only two—Marshall and Clay—ever graced revenue stamps. The neglected three were Edmond Randolph (second Secretary of State, served 1794-95), Timothy Pickering (third in that office, served 1795-1800), and Robert Smith (sixth to head the State Department, served 1809-11). So far as I know, none of these three men has ever been pictured on a postage stamp either.

John Marshall (1755-1835), Virginia legislator, U.S. congressman, and Supreme Court justice, served as President John Adams' Secretary of State from June 6, 1800, to March 4, 1801. Before his secretariat expired, however, Marshall was appointed Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court, effective January 31, 1801. He then presided at that court while still head of the State Department. The \$100 Documentary stamp issued in 1899 (Scott R179) bears Marshall's portrait (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Marshall, on Sc. R179

Henry Clay (1771-1852), U.S. Senator and Speaker of the House of Representatives, known as "The Great Compromiser," was appointed Secretary of State in 1825 by President John Quincy Adams following a contested presidential election in which Clay was one of the four candidates. His tenure in the State Department ended with Adams' presidency. Clay's portrait appeared on the Cigars and small Cigars stamps commencing in 1878. With only minor variations, it was used for 80 years.



Figure 6. Henry Clay, on a Cigar stamp

Following Clay, the next Secretary of State to be portrayed on a revenue stamp was Louis McLane who served as one of President Jackson's Treasury Secretaries, and his appearance on a revenue issue is better considered to have been based upon this earlier cabinet service. The same may be said of Walter O. Gresham (Postmaster General, 1883-84; Secretary of the Treasury, 1884; Secretary of State, 1893-95) and John Sherman (Secretary of the Treasury, 1877-81; Secretary of State, 1897-98). McLane, Gresham, and Sherman will be considered in later sections.

One additional State Department head may be cited here,

however. William H. Seward (1801-1872), Governor of New York and U.S. Senator, was appointed Secretary of State in 1861 by newly-elected President Lincoln.

President Andrew Johnson reappointed him and Seward remained in the cabinet until 1869. Seward's profile portrait appeared on the large Class A Cigarettes stamps, Series of 1875, and was also used on the ounce-values of the Snuff stamps, beginning in 1878. (Figure 7.)

In Part I of this report I looked at those presidents of the United States whose portraits have appeared on revenue stamps. I also began a similar examination of members of the president's cabinet by considering those few men who had served as Secretary of State and been portrayed on fiscal issues. (Table I, Page 18)

The decision to consider the position of Secretary of State first among the cabinet officers is in agreement with the order of precedence believed by many to exist within the federal hierarchy when that ranking is arranged according to the ages of the various executive departments. The "cabinet" has no legal existence or power, and is not required by the U.S. Constitution. As the term generally applied to the group of presidential advisers consisting of the heads of executive departments, it has been used since the late 18th century. The cabinet's size has grown as the number of federal departments increased, but membership in this executive council remains a presidential prerogative. Until President Cleveland's first administration, the cabinet contained only seven members.

From President Lincoln's Civil War cabinet, three of these men (Chase, Seward, and Stanton) have been pictured on revenue stamps. Postmaster General Blair appeared on a 1963 airmail stamp (Scott C66).

Continuing the scheme explained above, we will examine other cabinet members in the chronological order of the foundings of the departments they represent.

The Secretaries of War

The Secretary of War was the titular head of a governmental unit dating from August 7, 1789, the second federal department organized that year. Originally, the War Department included all branches of the military, but on April 30, 1798, Congress created a separate Navy Department.

Much later, when the Department of Defense was legislated into existence on September 18, 1947, the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force became units within the Defense Department and their cabinet status ceased.

From 1789 to 1947, 55 different men headed the War Department. Three of them (James Monroe, Ulysses S. Grant, and William H. Taft) subsequently became president, an office



Figure 7. Seward, on a 2 ounce Snuff stamp

Table I: Presidents & Secretaries of State Portrayed on Revenue Stamps

Table I: Individuals Portrayed on Revenue Stamps

A. U.S. Presidents

George Washington

1st, 2nd, 3rd Documentary issues (1862-74)
1st, 2nd Proprietary issues (1871-81)
Provisional overprint (1898)
1/8th barrel Beer stamps (1878-1902)
Revenue Stamped Paper, Types C, J, K, L, M, S, W (1865-75)
Private Die Proprietary (Match) stamps:
V. R. Powell (1864-75), Washington Match Co. (1875);
(Medicine) stamps: Fleming Brothers (1863-80),
Fred Brown Co. (1869-83), Dr. Kilmer & Co.
provisional (1898)
Cigar stamps (1866-71)
Snuff stamps (1872)
Tobacco stamps (1871-1872)
Tobacco strip stamps (1869-70)
Customs Cigars stamp (1868)

Thomas Jefferson

1/2 Barrel Beer stamps (1878-1902)
Snuff stamps (1872)
Tobacco Strip stamps (1875)
Class A Cigarette stamps (1872)
James Madison
Revenue Stamped Paper, Type Q (1865-75)
Snuff stamps (1875)
\$1000 Documentary stamp (1899, 1917)
\$1000 Future Delivery stamp (1918-34)
\$1000 Stock Transfer stamp (1918)

James Monroe

John Quincy Adams

Tobacco Strip Stamps (1877 ff)
Andrew Jackson
1/8th Barrel Beer stamps (1871)
Snuff stamps (1875)
Tobacco Strip stamps (1872)
General Bonded Warehouse stamps (1894)
Zachary Taylor
Snuff stamps (1872)
Tobacco Strip stamps (1875)

Millard Fillmore

Tobacco Strip stamps (1875)

Abraham Lincoln

1/6th Barrel Beer stamps (1871)

Revenue Stamped Paper, Types P, R, V (1865-75)

Snuff stamps (1870-72)

Tobacco stamps (1870-72)

Tobacco Strip stamps (1870-75)

\$60 Documentary stamp (1917)

\$60 Future delivery stamp (1918)

Ulysses S. Grant

Cigar stamps (1869-71)

Tobacco stamps (1869-72)

Customs Cigars stamps (1871-73)

\$30 Documentary stamp (1917)

\$30 Future Delivery stamp (1918)

James A. Garfield

Tobacco Strip stamps (1875)

Grover Cleveland

\$50 Future Delivery stamps (1918-34)

\$50 Stock Transfer stamp (1918)

Benjamin Harrison

Customs Cigar stamp (1875)

U. S. Vice-Presidents

Thomas Jefferson (2nd Vice-President)

Millard Fillmore (12th Vice-President)

These two were the only ones pictured and both acceded to the presidency. See above.

B. Cabinet Officers

Secretary of State:

John Marshall

\$100 Documentary stamp (1899)

Henry Clay

Cigars & Small Cigars stamps (1878 ff)

Louis McLane

See Secretaries of Treasury section

William H. Seward

Large Class A Cigarettes stamps (1875)

Ounce values Snuff stamps (1878)

Walter Q. Gresham

See Secretaries of Treasury section (To come in Part 2)

John Sherman

See Secretaries of Treasury section (Part 2)

we have already considered. A fourth, John C. Calhoun, we have previously cited for his vice-presidential tenure (he served under two presidents), but he also served as Secretary of War and Secretary of State. Five other men also served in both of these positions (Timothy Pickering, James Monroe, Lewis Cass, William L. Marcy, and Elihu Root) but all of these double secretaries failed to be pictured on a revenue issue except Monroe.

Seven other Secretary of War appointees (Samuel Dexter, William H. Crawford, John C. Spencer, Edwin M. Stanton, John A. Rawlins, William T. Sherman, and William W. Belknap) were portrayed on fiscal stamps. The first three of these also served as Secretary of the Treasury, however, and their appearance on revenue stamps will be considered in this article, with the other Treasury officials so honored.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War (1862-68) under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, earlier served (1860-61) as President Buchanan's Attorney General. President Grant later nominated him to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court; the Senate confirmed his appointment but he died before taking office.

Stanton was pictured in the 1870 issue of Tobacco Strip stamps. What appears to be the same bust portrait was used on the 50¢ note in the Fourth General Issue of Fractional



Figure 8

Currency, 1869-75, (Figure 8) printed from a plate made by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing. That portrait may well have served both uses.

John A. Rawlins was the first (and youngest) of three ex-Union Army generals appointed by President Grant to be Secretary of War. Rawlins had contracted tuberculosis while in the Army and attempted unsuccessfully to restore his health by accompanying military engineer Grenville Dodge (Dodge City was named for him) on a survey of the proposed route of the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha to Salt Lake City. After only five months in office, however, Rawlins died in Washington of TB on September 6, 1869. He was pictured posthumously on stamps of the First Series of 1875 Snuff stamp issue. [I could

not find an image of this stamp. JFD.]

William T. Sherman was raised as the foster son of U.S. Senator Thomas Ewing who arranged his admission to West Point. Sherman later married Ewing's daughter. During the Civil War, Sherman served as a division commander in Grant's Army of the Tennessee, and reluctantly accepted appointment by his former commander-in-chief to succeed Rawlins as Secretary of War. He served in that office less than six weeks, however, before returning to the Army as Commanding General.

He retired in 1884 as General of the Army, the last soldier to hold that title until the rank was revived in 1944 for Dwight D. Eisenhower. Sherman was portrayed on the 1869 issues of both Cigar and Manufactured Tobacco stamps and the 1871 Beer Stamp (Figure 9). General Sherman also had an unintentional revenue connection: the violet-brown 8¢ value in the BEP-produced regular postage stamp series of 1895 (Scott 272) is known printed accidentally on the USIR watermarked paper meant to be used only with revenue stamps.



Figure 9, REA25

The Secretaries of the Treasury (Photos, page 20)

The Treasury Department was created by an act of Congress approved September 2, 1789 making it the third-oldest executive unit in our government. Established originally to

manage the nation's finances, the department's responsibilities increased and broadened considerably over the years. Treasury does control the coinage and printing of money, but through its Bureau of Engraving & Printing, it also produces most other official paper, including bonds, certificates, commissions, and stamps. The Internal Revenue Service, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, and the Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco Bureau, among others, are also under Treasury's jurisdiction.

Beginning with President Washington's selection of Alexander Hamilton as the First Secretary of the Treasury, through the end of the 19th century and President McKinley's appointment of Lyman J. Gage to head the Treasury Department, 40 different individuals held that position. Nearly half had Congressional experience; many served in both the House and the Senate.

Nearly a dozen Secretaries of the Treasury served also as cabinet officers representing other executive departments. As we noted earlier, four Treasury heads also served as Secretary of War, and four others directed the State Department. Even more versatile, Richard Rush was President Madison's Attorney General (1814-17) and served briefly as President Monroe's Secretary of State (1817) before he accepted President John Quincy Adams' appointment to be his Secretary of the Treasury (1825-29).

In 1914, BEP introduced new Documentary and Proprietary revenue stamp series, both printed by offset. Three years later (1917), another newly-designed Documentary series, printed by offset to shorten production time, was issued. This series became the work horse of revenue stamps when it was overprinted to create six additional revenue titles. Some of these overprinted issues remained in use until World War II, and this prolonged usage led, first, to dated overprints, and then to a totally different set of stamps. This new issue of red Documentary stamps—the Secretaries of the Treasury series—is the most extensive issue picturing government officials this country has ever produced. Interestingly, the basic design of this new series (the "reds") was itself soon adapted to several other titles and the "greens" (Stock Transfer) and the "grays" (Silver Tax) made their appearance.

The red dated Documentary series features the bust portraits of former Secretaries of the Treasury, beginning with Alexander Hamilton (first Secretary, 1789-95) and ending with Lyman J. Gage (42nd Secretary, 1897-1902). Eleven former Treasury heads who served in the interim were not included, presumably because all but one of them had previously been pictured on some revenue stamp. The lone exception was Benjamin H. Bristow, the 30th Secretary (1874-76), appointed by President Grant. So far as I can determine, Bristow has yet to appear on any stamp, revenue or postage. Even without these men the series is impressive, however, especially if we include all of the red dated docs issued from 1940 through 1958. Totaling nearly 450 different stamps, the extended series includes 34 different face designs picturing 29 different men, each a former Secretary of the Treasury. More could be counted if we were to include the two related series of greens and grays.

Table II correlates the men and the stamps of these three series, and the display on page 20 illustrates the relevant stamps.

TABLE II
SECRETARIES OF THE TREASURY SERIES

Secretary	Face Value	Scott Numbers		
		Documentary	Stock Transfer	Silver Tax
Alexander Hamilton	1¢	R288	RD67	RG58
Oliver Wolcott Jr.	2¢	R289	RD68	RG59
Samuel Dexter	3¢	R290		RG60
Albert Gallatin	4¢	R291	RD70	RG61
George W. Campbell	5¢	R292	RD71	RG62
Alexander J. Dallas	8¢	R293		RG63
William H. Crawford	10¢	R294	RD73	RG64
Richard Rush	20¢	R295	RD74	RG65
Samuel D. Ingham	25¢	R296	RD75	RG66
Louis McLane	40¢	R297	RD76	RG67
William J. Duane	50¢	R298	RD77	RG68
Roger B. Taney	80¢	R299	RD78	RG69
Levi Woodbury	\$1	R300	RD79	RG70
Thomas Ewing	\$2	R301	RD80	RG71
Walter Forward	\$3	R302	RD81	RG72
John C. Spencer	\$4	R303	RD82	RG73
George M. Bibb	\$5	R304	RD83	RG74
Robert J. Walker	\$10	R305	RD84	RG75
William M. Meredith	\$20	R305A	RD85	RG76
Thomas Corwin	\$30	R306	RD86	RG77
James Guthrie	\$50	R306A	RD87	RG78
Howell Cobb	\$60	R307	RD88	RG79
Phillip F. Thomas	\$100	R308	RD89	RG80
John A. Dix	\$500	R309	RD90	RG81
Salmon P. Chase	\$1000	R310	RD91	RG82
William Windom	\$2500	R617	RD185A	
Charles J. Folger	\$5000	R618	RD185B	
Walter Q. Gresham	\$10000	R619	RD185C	
Lyman J. Gage	55¢	R603		

Scott catalogue numbers shown are those of the first stamps having that design that appeared in each series; later-dated overprints permitted subsequent issue of the same design.

The Secretaries of the Treasury Series



R654a, Hamilton, Series 1954
missing overprint, imperf vert.



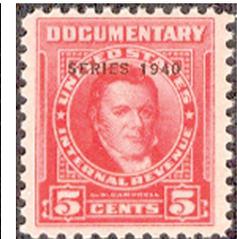
R289, Wolcott,
Series 1940



R290, Dexter,
Series 1940



R464, Gallatin,
Series 1947



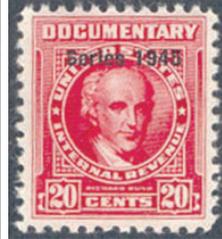
R292, Campbell,
Series 1940



R293, Dallas,
Series 1940



R294, Crawford,
Series 1940



R418, Rush,
Series 1945



RD368, Ingham,
Stock Transfer



RD347, McLane,
Stock Transfer



R299, Taney,
1940 Imperf



RD79, Woodbury,
Stock Transfer



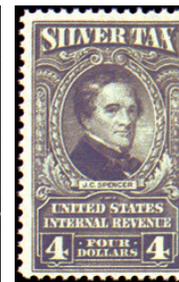
RG96a, Ewing,
Series '5942' error



R603, Gage,
Series 1952



R302, Forward,
Series 1940



RG123, Spencer,
1944 Silver Tax



RG124, Bibb,
1944 Silver Tax



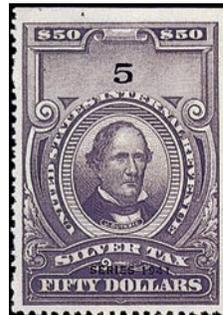
RD371, Walker,
Stock Transfer



RD372, Meredith,
Stock Transfer



RD86, Corwin,
Stock Transfer



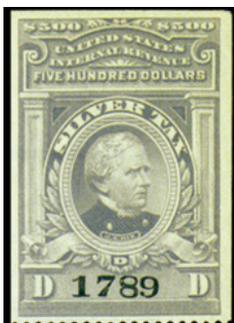
RG78, Guthrie, 1941
\$50 Silver Tax



R647, Cobb,
Series 1953



R458, Thomas,
Series 1946



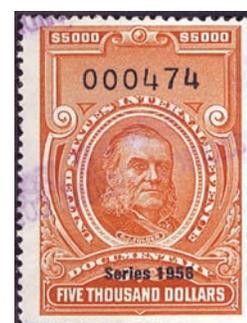
RG131, Dix, 1944
\$500 Silver Tax



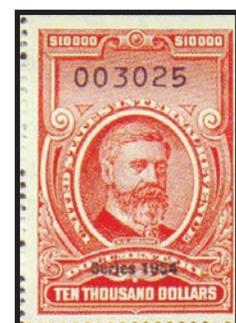
RG132, Chase, 1944
\$1,000 Silver Tax



RD232, Windom,
1946 Stock Transfer



R704, Folger,
Series 1956



R687, Gresham,
Series 1954

The Treasury Secretaries series—reds, greens, and grays—include stamps of three different sizes. The smallest, approximately 19 x 22 mm in design size, are those denominated in cents, 1¢ through 80¢. Stamps having face values of \$1 to \$20 are larger, approximately 21-1/2 x 36-1/4 mm, printed in a tall vertical format. Those of the highest values with denominations of \$30 to \$10,000 are approximately 28-1/2 x 42 mm in size, and were issued without gum. All stamps in the three series were printed from engraved plates and issued either perf 11 (1¢ to \$20) or perf 12 (\$30 to \$10,000) on watermarked paper. All overprinting was done in black.

In connection with the Secretaries of the Treasury series of 1940, although that series extended from the first through the forty-second Secretary, it failed to include nearly a dozen men who had held the position during that period. The presumed reason for these omissions was that each (except Bristow) had been pictured on some other revenue stamp.

In this report, we'll look at those "neglected" individuals. Before we do that, however, I would like to examine briefly several of the men who were included in the lengthy Treasury Secretaries series, but also were pictured elsewhere.

Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the British West Indies but educated at King's College (now Columbia University). During the Revolution, he served as Washington's secretary before leaving that position to join an infantry regiment which he later led at Yorktown. Following a term in the Continental Congress, Hamilton wrote and published many of the "Federalist Papers" promoting the new U.S. government. In 1795, he resigned his post as Secretary of the Treasury and returned to the private practice of law. He was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr in 1804.

Hamilton's portrait was used on a number of different fiscal issues including:

\$500 Documentary stamp, 1899 (Scott R180) and its later series and overprinted derivatives: Silver Tax, 1934 (Scott RG22), Stock Transfer, 1918 (Scott RD23), Future Delivery, 1918-34 (Scott RC20).

\$2 Beer stamp, 1871 (Scott REA29).

1/2 lb, 10 lbs, and 20 lbs Snuff stamps, 1872 and 1879 (Springer TE19, TE108, TE121, TE126, TE141)

1/2 lb Tobacco stamps, 1871, 1872, and 1875 (Springer TF48, TF79A, TF98D).

\$500 1914-15 Series of 1914, Scott R226 (Figure 11).

Although I have not cited any examples here, it may also be noted that portraits of Hamilton (and many other Treasury Secretaries can be found on various paper currency issues.

Those who travel by automobile in this country are aware that the idea for an interstate highway system commonly is attributed to President Eisenhower. While not belittling his role in promoting its construction, I would suggest that we look back to the early years of the 19th century and proposals advanced by a cabinet officer for the origin of the concept.

Abraham Alfonse Albert Gallatin, fourth Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, was



Figure 12

born in Switzerland in 1761 but emigrated to this country at the age of 19, and eventually settled in Pennsylvania. Following service in both the U.S. Senate (1793-94) and House (1795-1801), Gallatin became head of Treasury in 1801 and stayed until 1814. In response to a Senate resolution, Secretary Gallatin issued his *Report on Roads and Canals* in 1808, which called for a ten-year plan of federal government construction involving canals, rivers, and turnpikes. Unfortunately, political bickering and the War of 1812 postponed the implementation of any national internal improvement program. After he left Treasury, Gallatin served his adopted country as a diplomat. His only appearance on a revenue stamp is that cited in the Secretaries of the Treasury series, but he also is pictured on the \$500 United States note issued in 1862 (Figure 12).

Levi Woodbury, thirteenth Secretary of the Treasury, was born in New Hampshire in 1789. A practicing lawyer and experienced judge, he was Governor of New Hampshire in 1823-24 before being elected to the U.S. Senate where he served from 1825-31, and again from 1841-45. In the interim, Woodbury was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Andrew Jackson and served from 1831-34. The same president then appointed him Secretary of the Treasury, a post he held for seven years, 1834-41. Besides his appearance on the \$1 red Documentary stamp and the \$1 green Stock Transfer stamp (page 20), Woodbury's portrait also appeared on the 40 gallons Rectified Spirits tax stamp.

Thomas Corwin, twentieth Secretary of the Treasury, appointed by President Fillmore in 1850, was largely self-educated. Admitted to the Ohio bar in 1817 when he was but 23 years old, he soon gave up a successful legal practice to enter politics. He subsequently was twice a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1831-40, and again, 1859-61; Governor of Ohio, 1840-42; served in the U.S. Senate, 1845-50. Corwin appeared on the one-sixth barrel Beer stamp (Scott REA38) printed on green paper and issued in 1878, and surcharged stamps derived from it. Figure 13 shows a Plate Proof on India of the 1898 of the one-sixth barrel, 33-1/3¢ stamp, Sc. REA59.

Salmon Portland Chase, twenty-fifth Secretary of the Treasury, resigned from his second term in the U.S. Senate (his first was in 1849-53) to accept President Lincoln's appointment to the Treasury post. A lawyer and former Governor of Ohio, Chase was an active abolitionist. Although Chase resigned from the cabinet in 1864 over disagreements with the President about slavery issues, Lincoln later appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court where he rendered impartial service (1864-73), including presiding over the



Figure 10. Alexander Hamilton, on One Hogshead (\$2) Beer Stamp, Sc. REA29



Figure 11



Figure 13

impeachment trial of President Johnson.

In addition to being portrayed on the \$1,000 stamp in the red Documentary series of 1940 (Scott R310) and its surcharged varieties, Chase appeared on an 1872 Cigars stamp (500 cigars, Springer TC72A) and on an 1875 Tobacco Strip stamp (4 ozs, Springer TG76A). Chase can be seen on the 1944 \$1,000 Gray Silver Tax stamp, page 20.

William Pitt Fessenden, twenty-sixth Secretary of the Treasury, was the first of that line to be omitted from the red Documentary stamp series. Fessenden was a New Englander, born in New Hampshire, reared and educated in Maine, and repeatedly elected to that state's legislature. In addition, he served in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. In 1864, following Secretary Chase's resignation to accept appointment to the Supreme Court, President Lincoln nominated Fessenden to replace him. He served but briefly, however, before resigning in March 1865 to return to the Senate for a third term.

Beginning in 1878, Fessenden's portrait appeared on all Tobacco stamps valued 10 lbs to 60lbs (Springer TF135-140 and following). The same basic design remained unchanged through all issues until, the Series of 1909. In Figure 14 he is seen on a 3rd Issue 25¢ Fractional Currency;



Figure 14



Figure 15, Tobacco Taxpaid stamp, Springer TF259C light blue, 1 ounce

in Figure 15 on a 50 Cigars Tobacco Strip stamp, Springer TC69A.

Hugh McCulloch, twenty-seventh and thirty-sixth Secretary of the Treasury, was also born, reared, and educated in Maine but moved to Indiana in 1833 where he began to practice law and learn banking. In 1863, he assumed the new office of Federal Comptroller of the currency from which position President Lincoln appointed him Secretary of the Treasury when Fessenden resigned early in 1865. McCulloch served Treasury until 1869. In 1884, he was reappointed Secretary of the Treasury by President Arthur; he held that post until incoming President Cleveland named a successor in 1885. McCulloch appeared on two different issues of revenue stamps: the 60 lbs Tobacco stamps, beginning with the Series of 1871 (Springer TF60) and continuing through the Series of 1875, and the 1 barrel Beer stamp, Series of 1871 (Scott REA27), Figure 16.



Figure 16

George Sewel Boutwell, twenty-eighth Treasury Secretary, was yet another eastern Yankee, born in Massachusetts. Following several terms in that state's House and unsuccessful campaigns for the U.S. Senate, Boutwell became Governor of Massachusetts in 1851. Revenue stamp collectors remember

him as the First Commissioner of Internal Revenue, appointed by President Lincoln in 1862. The following March, he resigned that position to take a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, a post he held for the next six years before resigning to become President Grant's Secretary of the Treasury. From 1873 to 1877, he served as U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. Boutwell was a political chameleon; an active Democrat in state politics, a Republican in Washington, and later, president of the Anti-Imperialistic League in protest of the annexation of the Philippines following the Spanish-American War.

His portrait appeared on the 6 oz Tobacco Strip stamp of 1870 (Springer TG23A), the 20 lbs Snuff stamp, Series of 1872 (Springer TE40), the 4 oz Snuff stamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TE51), and on all values of the Series of 1942, Puerto Rico Rectified Spirits stamps (Scott RE33-51). Figure 17 shows the 3¢ value from this series.

William Adams Richardson, twenty-ninth Secretary of the Treasury, also was born in Massachusetts. A graduate of the Harvard Law School, he later served that state as a county Probate Judge and Justice and Chief Justice of the State Court of Appeals. In March, 1869, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury on the recommendation of Secretary Boutwell. Four years later, he accepted the full cabinet appointment by President Grant to be Secretary of the Treasury. Richardson appeared on the 21 lbs Tobacco stamps, Series of 1871 and later (Springer TF57, TF75A, TF89A and B).

Before closing this installment, I'd like to comment briefly on the career of one cabinet officer whose likeness never appeared on any stamp so far as I can determine.

Benjamin Helm Bristow (Figure 18), thirtieth Secretary of the Treasury, was born in Kentucky, the son of a lawyer under whom he studied law. Admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1853, he opened his own law office in Hopkinsville five years later. During the Civil War, he helped recruit men into the Kentucky 25th Infantry and 8th Cavalry Regiments; fought with them in several major battles; was wounded at Shiloh; and rose to the rank of brevet major general. Following the war, Bristow was successively state senator, assistant U.S. District Attorney, District Attorney for Kentucky, and the first appointed Solicitor General of the United States.



Figure 18

In 1874, President Grant appointed him Secretary of the Treasury. In this office he dismissed subordinates for inefficiency and vigorously prosecuted the "Whiskey Ring" for defrauding the federal government out of millions of dollars of tax revenue from the distillation of whiskey. Investigations implicated distillers and revenue agents in various cities, including President Grant's private secretary, Orville E. Babcock, who was acquitted of fraud charges largely as a result of the president's intercession.

Bristow apparently was too honest for the Washington political scene. Forced from office in 1876, he resigned to resume the practice of law; three years later, he was elected President of the American Bar Association.

To Be Continued

Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News:

Who's He?

by William H. Waggoner (From USSN, September-October 1998)

Miscellaneous Portraits on Revenue Stamps

Lest readers get the idea that only cabinet officers got their portraits on revenue stamps, we will now consider a miscellany of other individuals who have appeared there. If one remembers that we are dealing here with federally-issued stamps, it should come as no surprise to learn that even those in this miscellaneous group had government connections of one sort or another.

Morrison Remiek Waite was born in Lyme, Connecticut, graduated from Yale in 1837, and moved shortly thereafter to Ohio where he finally settled in Toledo. There he practiced corporate and railroad law, and served on the Ohio Supreme Court from 1863 to 1871. When Chief Justice Chase died in



Fig. 19. Morrison Remiek Waite on Springer TC74

office in 1873 in Washington, it became the president's duty to replace him. Waite eventually became that replacement, although he was President Grant's third choice for the position; Congress refused to confirm the two prior nominees. Waite served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1874 to 1888 and died in office. His portrait appeared on the 50 unit Cigars stamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TC74, TC92C and D; Figure 19)



Thomas Hart Benton was born in North Carolina and grew up near Franklin, Tennessee, where at various times he worked as a school teacher, farmer, lawyer, and politician. In 1809, he served a term as a State Senator. He saw action in the War of 1812 during which he brawled with Andrew Jackson, but after the election of 1824, Benton became a Jacksonian Democrat and Jackson's close friend. In 1815, he moved to St. Louis; five years later he was elected U.S. Senator from Missouri.



Fig. 20. Thomas Hart Benton on 1878, 25¢ black, 1/4 bbl. vignette die essay on India (Sc. REA39-E, Turner B-39)

Repeatedly reelected, he served continuously in the U.S. Senate until 1851. Defeated in the senatorial election of 1850, Benton later won election to the U.S. House where he served a single term, 1853-55. His opposition to slavery cost him reelection to that body. Always a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, he refused to vote for his own son-in-law, John C. Fremont, when Fremont was the Republican presidential candidate in 1856.

Benton's portrait appeared on the 8 oz. Tobacco Strip stamp, Series of 1872 (Springer TG48A, B) and on the 1/4 barrel Beer stamp, Series of 1878 (Scott REA39, Figure 20).

Henry Laurens Dawes was born in Massachusetts. He graduated from Yale in 1839, taught school for a short time, edited a newspaper, and became a lawyer in 1842, practicing in North Adams. Following service in both the State House (1848-49, 1852) and State Senate (1850), he won election to the U.S. House in 1857 where he remained until 1875 when he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served there until 1893 and then declined to be a candidate for reelection. He died in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1903. He is credited with founding the system of daily weather reports, and with establishing reservation schools for the Indians. Dawes is pictured on the 1 oz. Snuff/stamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TE49, Figure 21).



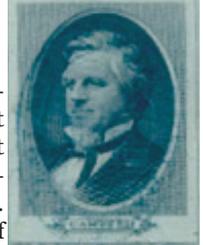
Figure 21

David Kellogg Cartter was born and educated in New York. After studying law in Rochester, he was admitted to the bar in 1832 and commenced practice there. Four years later, he moved to Ohio and settled in Massillon. From 1849 until 1853, he served as a Democratic Representative in the U.S. House. In 1856, Cartter moved his law practice to Cleveland.



Fig. 22. David Kellogg Cartter on 16 oz. Snuff stamp, Springer TE54.

Sometime thereafter, he switched to the Republican Party and became a delegate to that party's 1860 National Convention. President Lincoln appointed him U.S. Minister to Bolivia and he served in that post in 1861-62. The following year, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia where he served until his death in 1887. Cartter's portrait appeared on the 16 oz. Snuffstamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TE54, Figure 19).



Thaddeus Stevens (stamp image unavailable) was born in Vermont and received his early education there before entering Dartmouth, from which college he graduated in 1815. Soon employed as a teacher in York, Pennsylvania, he began the study of law but was refused permission to sit for the Pennsylvania bar examination because he had not devoted all his time preparing to become a lawyer. Young Stevens accordingly moved to Maryland, took and passed the law examination there, before opening his law office in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In 1833-41, he served in the Pennsylvania House. Elected as a Whig candidate to the U.S. House in 1849, he left in 1853 after quarreling with his party's stand on slavery. As a Republican, he was reelected to the U.S. House where he served from 1859 to 1868, becoming Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee. Stevens favored a harsh reconstruction policy and led the move to impeach President Johnson. He died in Washington soon after the president's acquittal. He was pictured on the 6 oz. Snuff stamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TE65).

Many of this country's early political leaders established their reputations through military service during the American Revolution. Several generations later, distinguished service

during the Civil War also often led to careers devoted to public service and election, and/or appointment, to a variety of political offices. As might be expected, however, some individuals chose to build on their wartime experiences and remained in federal military service. We'll consider several of these veterans first.

Winfield Scott was born in Virginia only four years after the British surrender at Yorktown ended the American Revolution. He briefly attended the College of William & Mary and began the private study of law before enlisting in 1807 in a local cavalry troop. Subsequently, Scott saw action in the War of 1812 during which he was thrice wounded, captured and exchanged, and emerged as a brevet major general. As a career Army officer, he later fought in several Indian Wars (Black Hawk, 1832, Seminole, 1835-41) and supervised the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia along the "Trail of Tears" to western Indian Territories (1838). In 1841, Scott was appointed General in Chief of the Army, was in command during the Mexican War (1846-48), and personally led U.S. troops in the capture of Veracruz and the occupation of Mexico City. His widespread popularity made him the Whig candidate for the presidency in the 1852 election won by Franklin Pierce. Nicknamed "Old Fuss and Feathers," he remained in the Army where, for a brief period preceding his retirement, he commanded all Union forces in the Civil War, although many believed he was too old and too conservative. He died at West Point, N.Y., in 1866. Scott's portrait appeared on the Wholesale Liquor Dealers stamps, Series of 1878. Figure 23 shows the 5 gallons value of this series.

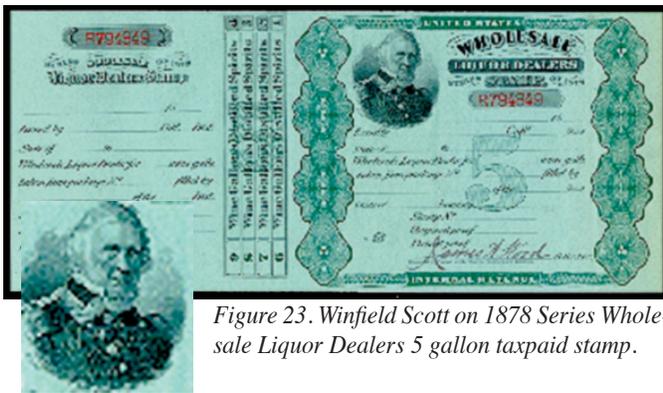


Figure 23. Winfield Scott on 1878 Series Wholesale Liquor Dealers 5 gallon taxpaid stamp.

Philip Henry Sheridan was born to Irish immigrant parents in Albany, N.Y., but reared in Perry County, Ohio, where he worked as a store clerk before obtaining an appointment to West Point. An indifferent and fractious student, Cadet Sheridan accumulated so many demerits that he did not graduate until 1853, a year behind his class. He took his commission in the infantry, served capably in that Army branch in Texas and in Oregon fighting Indians, and was an obscure infantry lieutenant at the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1862, Sheridan found his true calling, however, when he was given a cavalry regiment. He rose rapidly to command a division and distinguished himself in subsequent engagements in Mississippi and at Chattanooga. In 1864 Grant put him in charge of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, the role in which he never lost a battle while proving to be the most able cavalry leader the Union had. Later, as commander of the Army of the Shenandoah, he laid waste to the countryside, and took part in the final battles leading to Appomattox and Lee's surrender in 1865.



Fig. 24, Sheridan on 6 oz. Snuff stamp, Springer TE52

Sheridan remained in the peacetime Army, served as commander of several military districts in the west, and directed the campaign against the Plains Indians. In 1883, "Little Phil" (he was short and stout in stature) succeeded Sherman as General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, the position he held until his death in 1888. Sheridan's portrait appeared on the 6 ounce Snuff stamp, Series of 1875 (Springer TE52, Figure 24).

I invite readers' help in confirming the identity of this last of the Army personages cited here. The problem arises from the practice by early portrait engravers of identifying their subjects by surname only. Cataloguers subsequently repeated only the surname. Thus the *Scott Specialized* identifies the one-third barrel (33-1/3 cent) 1878 Beer stamp (REA40, Figure 25) and its successor equivalents (REA47, 54, 61, 68, 73, and 78) as picturing "Thomas" in their common design which features the bust portrait of a bearded man in military uniform. But which Thomas? My own choice is the General Thomas discussed below, but there were two other general officers named Thomas who also rendered gallant service during the Civil War.

George Henry Thomas was born in Virginia, educated in local schools, and had begun legal studies before entering West Point from which academy he graduated in 1840, commissioned in the artillery. Sent to Florida, he took part in the

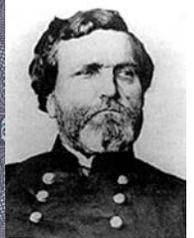
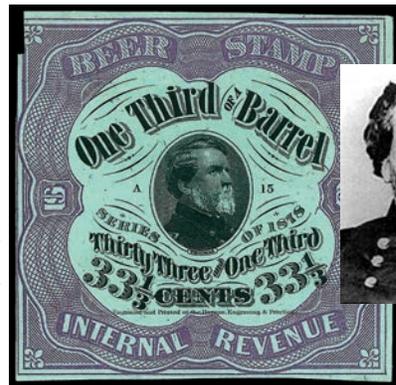


Figure 25. 1878, 33-1/3¢ violet on green, 1/3 barrel, Beer (REA40), and a portrait of George Henry Thomas

took part in the Second Seminole War prior to being transferred to Texas where he won promotion to 1st Lieutenant of artillery under Zachary Taylor (1845). Thomas fought in the Mexican War (1846-48), was twice promoted, and returned to duty in Florida (1849-51) before he was reassigned to West Point as an artillery and cavalry instructor. From 1855 to 1860, he again served in Texas with the 2nd Cavalry, a celebrated regiment which later supplied 12 generals to the Confederacy and five to the Union.

When war broke out, Thomas chose to remain in the Federal Army where he distinguished himself as a brilliant and popular officer. As commander of the 1st Division, Army of the Ohio, he won the first major Union victory in the west at Mill Springs, Ky., and fought at Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, and in the Tullahoma campaign. For his decisive rear guard action there, Thomas won for himself the nickname, "Rock of Chickamauga," promotion to brigadier general, and command of the Army of the Cumberland. As Sherman's second-in command, he participated in the Atlanta campaign and later at Nashville where he crushed Hood's army. He remained in the Regular Army after the war, and commanded several military districts in the west. Thomas died in San Francisco, March 1870. An equestrian statue of him was unveiled in Washington in 1879. His appearance on beer stamps was noted above.



Fig. 26. Supporting the author's choice of George Henry Thomas as being the subject of the Revenue stamp, he also was selected for the 1890 and 1891 \$5 Treasury Notes.

It is my impression—completely unscientific and lacking a census—that more Army than Navy officers have been pictured on revenue stamps. If true, it perhaps is due to the fact that because armies have always utilized more numbers than navies, the pool of Army veterans from which the honorees were selected is larger. Or perhaps it was more political and related to the fact that a greater number of presidents had obtained their military experience in the Army and thus had more friends in that branch. In any case, several distinguished U.S. Naval officers have been portrayed, including the following.

William Bainbridge was born in New Jersey, the son of a man who remained a British Loyalist during the American Revolution. Young William went to sea on a merchant ship when he was 15, and captained his own vessel within five years. First commissioned into the U.S. Navy in 1798, he participated actively in all important naval actions for the next twenty years. During the Quasi War with France (1798-1800), he commanded the U.S.S. *Retaliation*, was captured and briefly held prisoner, and was promoted upon his release to command of the frigate U.S.S. *George Washington*. During the Tripolitan War (1801-05), his ship, the U.S.S. *Philadelphia*, ran aground off Tripoli, he was again captured, and spent 20 months in prison there.

In and out of active duty thereafter, Bainbridge was twice recalled by the Navy, first to command the U.S.S. *President* (1808-10) and then, during the War of 1812, the U.S.S. *Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) with which vessel he won a notable victory over H.M.S. *Java* (1812) but suffered “severe wounds. Following the end of hostilities, he was assigned to various shore posts (1815-20), set up the first school to train U.S. Naval officers (1817, at Charleston), and commanded the U.S.S. *Columbus* on its Mediterranean tour (1820-21) before returning to extended shore duty (1821-33) that included serving as president of the Board of Naval Commissioners. He died in Philadelphia in 1833. William Bainbridge was pictured on Snuff/stamps, 1/2 to 5 pounds values, Series of 1878 and later (Springer TE77-81 ff, Figure 27).



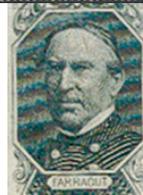
Fig. 27. William Bainbridge on 1 pound Snuff stamp, Springer TE168

David Glasgow Farragut was born in Tennessee, the second son of a naval officer, and named James by his parents. In 1810, he was adopted by Commander David Porter when his mother died. At age nine, and now called David, young Farragut was appointed a midshipman in the U.S. Navy. During the War of 1812, he served aboard the U.S.S. *Essex* commanded by his foster father. Thereafter, until the outbreak of the Civil War, Farragut’s service as a peacetime career naval officer was varied but unspectacular with assignments in the West Indies and the Mediterranean, during which he learned Arabic, French and Italian. Promoted to commander in 1841, he was given his first command the following year, and served in California (1854-58) where he established the Mare Island Navy Yard. In January 1862, Farragut was put in command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron with orders to seize New Orleans and open the lower Mississippi River. In the months following, he defeated a Confederate river flotilla, took New Orleans without bloodshed, and steamed upriver past Vicksburg before withdrawing south to the safety of the Gulf of Mexico.



Figure 28. David Glasgow Farragut on 1872 Issue 2 oz. Tobacco Strip stamp, Springer TG46

He is better remembered, however, for telling his flag captain during the 1864 battle of Mobile Bay: “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead, Drayton.” His last three promotions—to rear admiral (1862), to vice admiral (1864), and to admiral (1866)—were U.S. Navy firsts. He died at Portsmouth, N.H., in August 1870. David Farragut was pictured on the 8 ounce 1870 and 2 ounce 1872 Tobacco Strip stamps (Springer TG24A, B; TG46A, B) and the rare 1/3 barrel Beer stamp of 1871 (Scott REA23, 24). Figure 28 shows one of the 2 ounce stamps.



For some men, the New York State governorship has been the stepping stone to the presidency (e.g., Franklin D. Roosevelt) while for others (e.g., Thomas E. Dewey) the step up proved to be too great. In yet other instances, some former governors of the Empire State are better remembered for other offices they held. Such is the case with at least one of the men we will now consider.

De Witt Clinton was the consummate New Yorker, born into a politically-prominent family six years before the American Revolution. After graduating from Columbia, he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice (1790) in New York City. Service (1790-95) as the private secretary to his uncle, Governor George Clinton, led to his repeated election to the state Assembly (Representative, 1797-98; Senator, 1798-1802) and then to the U.S. Senate (1802-03) from which he resigned to begin his lengthy service as Mayor of New York City (1803-07, 1808-09, 1811-15). While mayor, he organized the city’s first public school, the Historical Society of New York and the Academy of Fine Arts, and helped found City Hospital. In 1812, Clinton was the unsuccessful candidate of the Peace Party for U.S. President, losing that election to incumbent President Madison.



Figure 29. De Witt Clinton on 50 Cigarettes, 1883, proof single on card, Turner C205

More successful in gubernatorial races, Clinton served as Governor of New York for nearly a decade (1817-23, 1825-28). History books have long emphasized his affiliation with the Erie Canal, a connection which began with his appointment in 1809 to the commission that explored the route for a canal between Lake Erie and the Hudson River. Later, as the ranking canal commissioner (1810-24), he took the lead in promoting its construction, and presided at the dedication when the Erie Canal was completed in 1825. He died in Albany in 1828.

De Witt Clinton’s portrait appeared on all Cigarette stamp issues, beginning with the Series of 1878 (Springer TA8). It has been noted that more than half-a-trillion of these stamps were used before they were discontinued in 1959. Figure 29 shows one of these stamps (Springer C205), once so familiar to smokers.

Silas Wright was born in Massachusetts, raised on a Vermont farm, studied law after graduating from Middlebury College (1815), was admitted to the bar and began practice in Canton, N.Y. He entered the political arena when he accepted appointment (1820) as county surrogate. This led to his election as senator in the state Assembly where he served two terms (1823-27), followed by one term in the U.S. House of Representatives (1827-29). Appointed State Comptroller in 1829, he



remained in that position until 1833 when he returned to Congress, this time in the Senate where he served until 1844 before resigning to run for Governor of New York. Running as a Democrat (Wright was always a staunch party man) he defeated the Whig candidate, Millard Fillmore, but lost his bid for reelection in 1846 and

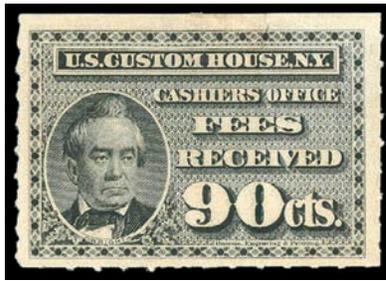


Figure 30. Silas Wright on the 90¢ Customs Fee stamp (Sc. RL8).

retired to his farm where he died in 1847. Better known for his negative actions while he lived—he refused appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court and declined to be Secretary of the Treasury, and was nominated to be James Polk’s vice-presidential running mate but refused to run—Wright was posthumously remembered in a poem by Whittier and an historical novel by Bacheller. His portrait appeared on the 1 hoghead Beer stamps of 1878 (Scott REA43), 1898 (Scott REA64), 1901 (Scott REA71), and 1902 (Scott REA74, 81), and on all of the Customs Fee stamps, Series of 1887 (Scott RL1-8). Figure 30 shows the 90 cents stamp from that series.

The selection of individuals to be memorialized by having their portraits appear on revenue stamps should have been a thoughtful process. And yet when we review the results (remembering that the decisions were made in image-conscious Washington) we are not surprised to find many examples of political patronage. Regardless, we still might hope to see, for instance, stamps bearing the likeness of persons chosen to represent the office charged with keeping track of those stamps. Happily that can happen, although to a lesser extent than might be hoped.

An office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue within the Treasury Department was created by the same Civil War-time act that levied so many stamp duties and authorized production of the First Revenue Issue. In charge of that office was a commissioner to be appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate. That office still exists as the “Internal Revenue Service,” now a bureau of the Treasury Department. Today, few of us know the name of the director of the IRS, nor can we look to find his portrait on a stamp. But there was a time when we could, although the appearance may have been based upon other public service.

From 1862 when the office was created, until the end of the 19th century, 17 different men served as Commissioner. Three held “Acting Commissioner” appointments, and two of them served twice. Two of the Commissioners were considered earlier in this series in connection with their service in cabinet posts: George S. Boutwell (Treasury) and Columbus Delano (Interior). Except for the men whose careers we will review here, I know of no other IRS commissioner who was ever pictured on any revenue stamp.

William Orton, third Commissioner, served July 1, 1865, to October 31, 1865. Born and schooled in rural western New York, he later attended the Normal School in Albany to complete his education. He graduated with honors, taught school in Geneva, N.Y., clerked in a book store there, and became a partner in the business that later was liquidated (1851) when it was moved to New York City.

Orton secured a job with a publishing company, became active in Republican politics, and was elected to the City Council. In 1862, he was appointed a Collector of Internal Revenue for the city, a position in which he showed such great executive ability that he was made Commissioner of Internal Revenue in Washington, but ill health prompted his resignation after brief service. He soon became president of the United States Telegraph Company, then moved (1866) to the vice-presiden-



Left, Figure 31. Tobacco Strips Taxpaid imperforate pair, Springer #TG51C, 2 oz. black, imperforate, Series of 1875; Right, Figure 32. 1871 Telegraph stamp, Sc. 16T1



cy and presidency of the Western Union Telegraph Company where he introduced the money order system, lowered night rates, and established the Journal of Telegraphy. At the time of his death in 1878 in New York City, he also was president of several other telegraph companies. William Orton’s signature is found on the 1871-78 telegraph frank stamps of Western Union (Scott 16T1-8); his portrait is on the 2 ounce Tobacco Strip stamps, Series of 1875 (Springer TG51 and following, Figure 31). Figure 32 shows Orton’s signature on a Telegraph stamp.

John Watkinson Douglass was Acting Commissioner, November 1, 1870, to January 2, 1871 and Commissioner, August 9, 1871, to May 14, 1875. Born in Philadelphia, he grew up in Erie, Pa. He attended public schools there, studied law as an apprentice to an Erie lawyer, and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He served as Collector of Internal Revenue for the 19th Pennsylvania District, 1862-69, was promoted to 1st Deputy Commissioner, Washington, in 1869, prior to becoming Acting Commissioner in Commissioner Delano’s absence.

When Delano was replaced by Alfred Pleasonton in January, 1871, Douglass reverted to the 1st Deputy position where he remained until he replaced Commissioner Pleasonton in August, 1871. Following his government service, Douglass practiced law in Washington, and became a member and president of the Board of Commissioners in that city.

He died there in 1909. Douglass is pictured on the 4 ounce Tobacco Strip stamps, Series of 1875 (Springer TG52 and following, Figure 33).



Figure 33. Tobacco Strips Taxpaid stamp, Springer #TG52B, 4 oz. black, Series of 1875 (First)

It is a safe bet that I have omitted someone from this series. I can, in fact, add at least one deserving person, and readers will no doubt think of others. My late addition would be Benjamin Franklin for his appearance on the types D, E, F, and U Revenue Stamped Paper issues of 1862-82 (Scott RN, Figure 34). His omission was intentional, however, because I felt that he was too familiar a figure to need a discussion of his life. The same could not be said of some we considered who labored in relative obscurity and deserve recognition.

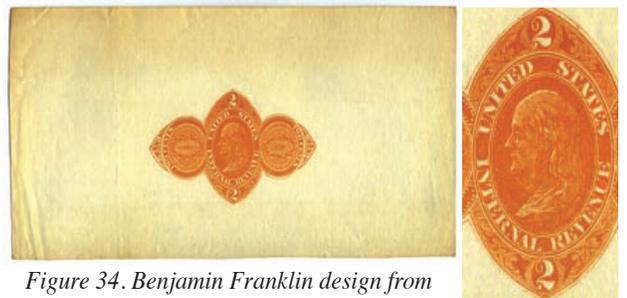


Figure 34. Benjamin Franklin design from Revenue Stamped Paper, Sc. RN-D1