



# Thames Stamp Club Newsletter

May 2021

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The Thames Stamp Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, Sept. through June, at 7:30 P.M. at the Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford, CT. All area philatelists are invited. Annual dues are \$10.00. The club's email is [tbbee@aol.com](mailto:tbbee@aol.com). The club's address is PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333 and on the web at <http://www.ThamesStampClub.org>.

## April Recap

**Apr 14** - Regular Zoom meeting with nine members attending. Brian mentioned he was looking at the USS Cheyenne SSN-773, the last of the Los Angeles Class of 688 attack submarines, 25 years in commission. We continued our discussion on dates and locations for Thamespex. Waterford Parks and Rec has informed us that the Clark Lane School will be open for events. Social philatelic discussions concluded the meeting.

**Apr 28** - Regular Zoom meeting with eight members attending. Agnes sent me an email indicating that she and Steve would be back visiting CT next month. We continued our discussion of Thamespex including the problem of conflicting dates and dealer availability. Welcome to new member Susan Frechette who recently joined the club. Susan volunteered to take over as Club webmaster. Social philatelic discussions concluded the meeting.

## May Meetings

**May 12** - Zoom meeting. All are invited. Meeting ID: 880 5193 5537 Passcode: 511866

**May 26** - Zoom meeting. All are invited. Meeting ID: 880 5193 5537 Passcode: 511866

## May Stamp Shows

**9 May 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Show** @ Comfort Inn, East Main St., in Meriden

**23 May 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Show** @ The Annex Y.M.A. in East Haven

## Here and There

There are just a few members who have not paid their dues. Please mail \$10 to TSC, PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333. We will be holding Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. You can participate in our meetings if you have a smart phone, a laptop, or an iPad. If you have a desk top computer, you can participate if you have a video camera hook-up. Note the change to next meetings ID and passcode. These will be the TSCs ID and Passcode to avoid conflicts with New Haven. You can still get your USS Barb Thamespex'20 show cover as well as the Thamespex'91 cover cancelled on the USS Arizona Memorial on Dec 7 1991, the 50 year Anniversary. Send a SASE to Obie Hill, 1500 Rt. 12 Lot 11, Gales Ferry, CT 06335 along with your request. Covers are \$3 each. I continue our new feature, Cover-of-the-Month, with a 1823 stampless letter I recently found in an APS circuit for \$3. See below for this month's featured cover. If you have a candidate for Cover-of-the-Month, please send me a scan plus a short write-up. To be eligible you must actually own the cover. I am circulating the stamp-circuit boxes to members who want to look at them. If you want to check out the box in your home for a few days, let me know. Everyone, please stay healthy and safe. The following link will take you to the APS May 10, 2021 Newsletter. You may have to cut and paste the link into your browser.

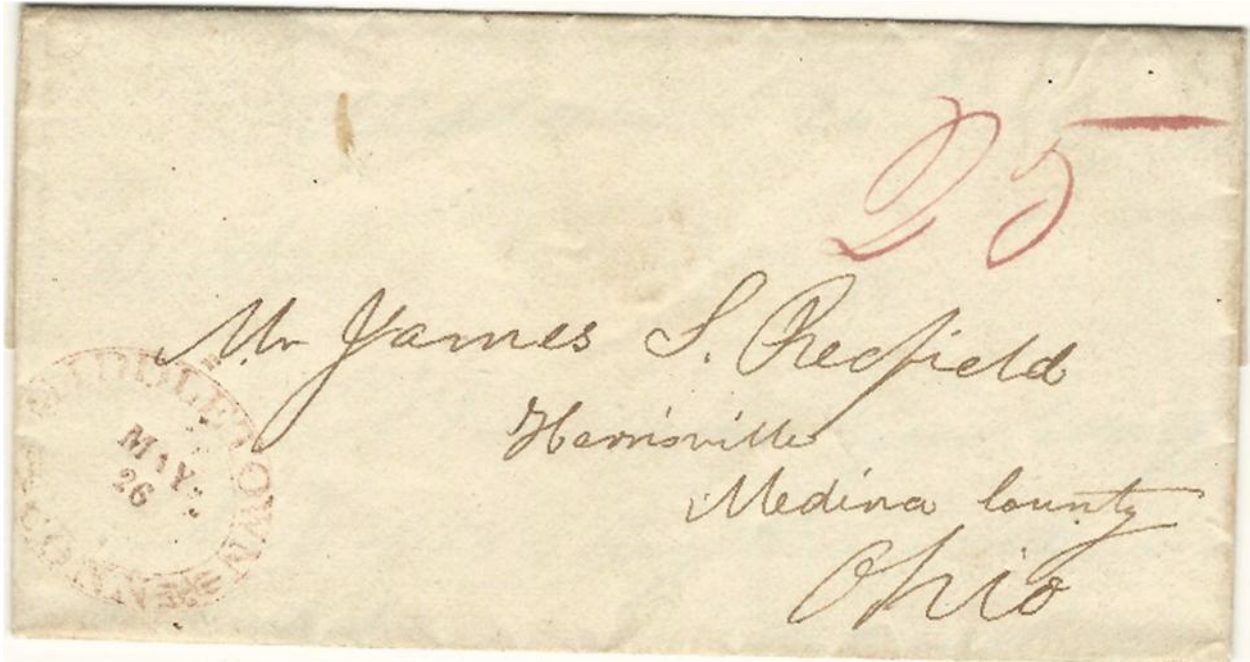
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Philatelically yours,

*Tony*

Tony Bruno

## Cover of the Month



Cover from Middletown to Harrisville, Medina County, OH. Mailed on May 26 1823. Falls under the Postal Act of Apr 9 1816, effective May 1 1816. 25 ¢ over 400 mi. As typical of the time red pencil manuscript 25 indicating postage paid. Struck with a lovely oval Middletown, CONN with fleuron on either side of CONN. Used from 1822-1842. James S. Redfield and his brother William C. Redfield of Middletown, CT were the sons of Peleg and Elizabeth Pratt Redfield of Middletown. James and his wife Mary relocated to Harrisville a part of Lodi in Medina, OH in 1811. They were one of the first families to settle in the region. James opened the first dry goods store in Harrisville in 1820 and was the first mail carrier in Medina County. His brother William remained in Middletown and was a noted meteorologist and discoverer of the dinosaur tracks in the region. In the letter the brothers are anticipating a visit home to Middletown in the summer and the price of hogs on the market in 1823. At the time, a top hog brought 3.5 ¢/lb. and was worth about \$7.70 which is worth \$194.25 in today's currency. The contents of these letters and researching the sender and recipient provided new insights into CT postal History. The town cancels are noteworthy as they were made from wood blocks and have a collecting following on their own. Many CT fancy cancels, straight line town cancels and town ovals are highly collectable. The American Stampless Cover Catalogue Vol. 1, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 1985 lists the Middletown oval at \$30.