

SECTION FIVE

PEOPLE PECULIARITIES

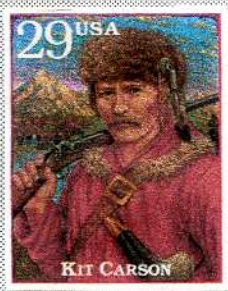
ALL IN A DAY FOR SIR JOHN A.



Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald (1815-1891), was an acknowledged "drinker." It seems, however, that no matter how intoxicated he became, he never lost his clever wit. On one occasion,

he had to use the arm of a member of the opposing political party to help himself up at a banquet. On doing so he quipped, "You've never given me a vote yet, but you've got to support me now." Then at another function he became physically sick on stage. He pointed to one of his opponents and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must forgive me but that man just makes me sick." When George Brown, the leader of the opposition, criticized Macdonald for his drinking, Macdonald retorted that the honorable members would rather have John A. drunk than George Brown sober. (CDN 141, ISSUED 1927)

ALL THAT IS READ IS NOT WRITTEN



This stamp honors Christopher (Kit) Carson (1809-1868), the western hero and superintendent of Indian affairs for Colorado Territory. Carson was totally illiterate when he held this government position. At the age of forty-seven, he *dictated* his memoirs, thus providing posterity with a record of his life of exciting adventures and achievements in the Old West. He finally learned to read and write some time in his fifties, but had little time to use his new skills before he died at age 59. Although an expert horseman, Carson died as the result of an accident in which his horse fell on him.

The mishap resulted in Carson developing a tumor which pressed on his trachea. He died as a result of

hemorrhaging into his lungs, yet smoking his clay pipe right up to the end. (USA #2869n, ISSUED 1994)

AMERICA'S KING



John James Audubon (1785-1851), the great artist and naturalist honored on this stamp, was unable to find a publisher for his work in the United States. Consequently, he went to Great Britain where his genius was immediately recognized. His book, *The Birds of America*, had 435 hand-colored folio plates. After Audubon's death, some unusual information came to light in his private letters and diary -- Audubon indicates that he was Louis XVII of France! As the story goes, Louis XVII was born in 1785, the same year as Audubon. After Louis XVI was deposed (guillotined) in 1793, his son, then 8 years old, was imprisoned. The young king reportedly died of tuberculosis in 1795 at the age of ten. However, Madame Simon, the wife of the boy's jailer, asserted in 1814 that the boy had been replaced with a dumb child who had rickets. She stated that Louis was smuggled out of the prison in 1794. She did not know what became of him. Over the next fifty years, 70 other men claimed to be the elusive king.

A younger, more attractive, Audubon is seen on a stamp (USA #1863), as follows, issued in 1985.



One of Audubon's works of art is seen on a 1963 stamp issue (USA #1241). The same design was used for a 1967 air mail stamp (USA #C71). Both stamps appear as follows.



While Audubon identified the bird shown on these stamps as the *Columbia jay*, the bird is actually a *Col-lie's magpie jay* which is native to only western Mexico. Audubon had been given a specimen of the bird as a present and told that it was collected along the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. Audubon accepted the gift and wavered on his resolution never to draw a bird which he had not personally collected. As a result, the misidentified jay is the only bird out of place in the massive Audubon collection. In selecting this particular bird for a postage stamp, we are told that the stamp designer knew the birds shown were misidentified Mexican birds. However, as the color and arrangement were what he required, he went ahead anyway. (USA #874, ISSUED 1940)

ASTONISHING ANDREW



The life of Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), who is honored on this stamp, is beset with unusual and amusing facts. To begin, there is convincing evidence that he was born aboard a ship bound for America from Ireland. If this is true, then he should never have been made president as he was not "born on American soil." Next, his marriage to Rachel Robards in 1791 was illegal because Rachel's divorce from her first husband had not yet been finalized. Although Jackson remarried Rachel legally in 1794, he was still given the unflattering sobriquet, "the first bigamist president," (despite the fact she was the bigamist, not him). Further, Jackson had a violent temper and as a result had a duel (then legal) in defense of his wife's honor. While he won the duel, he lived most of his life with a bullet lodged in one of his lungs. His wife, Rachel, was so tormented by the scandal over her relationship that she had a nervous breakdown and died shortly before her husband reached the White House. Moreover, Jackson served two terms as president. During his first term, an assassination attempt was made on his life by an insane house painter who believed himself to be the rightful heir to the British throne. Also, to add to Jackson's miseries, the regular draining of the bullet in his lung became very painful; so painful that he consented to have the slug cut out. This was performed in the White House without an anesthetic. The wound never did heal and in his final years, his lung hemorrhaged. Finally, when Jackson died, he willed his estate to his

nephew, Andrew Jr., whom he had adopted. The young man's extravagant ways had cost Jackson a fortune during his lifetime, and within a decade after the elder Jackson's death, Andrew Jr. had spent his entire inheritance. A final clue to Jackson's unusual character may be gathered from the fact that his tombstone does not mention he served as president. (USA #812, ISSUED 1938)

To give the reader a little more insight into Jackson's life, the following account from Compton's Encyclopedia is provided:

Through his long stormy life Jackson acted in many opposite ways. He grew up in the rough life of the Tennessee frontier, yet he charmed Washington society with his fine manners. He hanged two men as spies, ordered six soldiers shot for mutiny, killed one man in a duel and wounded others, yet spoiled his little adopted son. He swore, gambled, owned fighting cocks and race horses, yet built a church for his wife and he deeply revered God. He was not a great soldier but he won every battle he led. He insisted that others obey, yet broke the law whenever he pleased. He flew into rages when anger suited his purpose, yet showed the greatest patience with his slaves, his family, and his friends. This was the man who led a new era in American life -- the 'Jackson era.' In war, in politics, and in his own daily life he always lived according to the rugged straightforward code of the American frontier.

BARTON BRIDGE



During the American Civil War, Clara Barton (1821-1912), worked tirelessly to aid wounded Union soldiers. She risked her own life many times in that pursuit and her benevolence reached legendary proportions. On one of her many trips to the battlefields, her company of relief wagons and other volunteer workers came to a shallow creek. Clara was on foot. She directed the company across the creek and then found herself stranded on the other side. As she pondered her predicament, a group of Union soldiers

came by. The lieutenant in charge loudly addressed his men, "Are we going to let her get her feet we boys?" A resounding "NO" echoed across the countryside. The lieutenant then commanded his men to go into the creek and each man kneel down on his left knee, with his right knee up, shoulder to shoulder. Clara walked across the creek on the soldiers' knees. Barton went on to form the American Association of the Red Cross. Through her tireless dedication, this organization became the American Red Cross in 1881. A postage stamp (USA #967) issued in 1948, as follows, honors her as the American Red Cross founder.



Barton served as president of the Red Cross until 1904. At that time she was 83 years old. Although her spirit was still strong, that which she had created had slowly passed her by. Mounting criticism on her management

style, ability and age forced her to resign her presidency. As to the second stamp illustrated above, close examination will reveal that Clara is wearing a brooch with a tiny red cross in the center. When the photograph used for the stamp design was taken, the brooch had just a white stone. Clara had the photographer add the little cross to the photograph. An enlargement of the stamp portrait is shown below. (USA #2975c, ISSUED 1995)

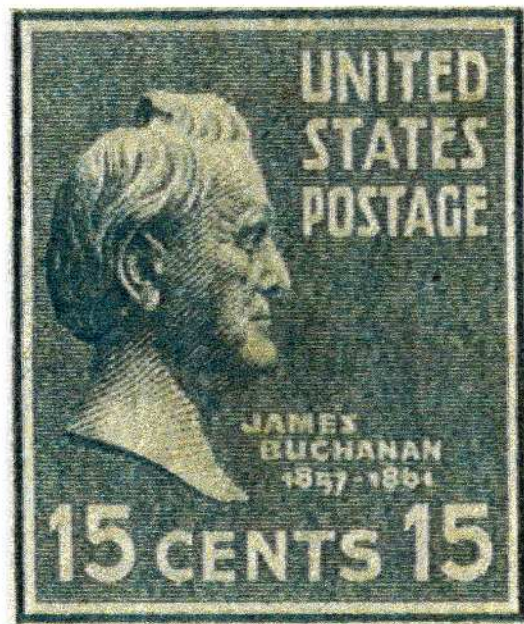


BETTER LATE THAN NEVER



Before James Buchanan (1791-1868) became president, he was minister to Great Britain under President Franklin Pierce. In 1854, Pierce ordered Buchanan and other American ministers to sign the Ostend Manifesto, a document aimed at politically detaching Cuba from Spain. The document concluded with an inference that, notwithstanding the manifesto conditions, the United States might seize Cuba. Buchanan and the other delegates signed under protest. When news of the document's conditions reached the United States, there was an uproar of public disapproval and the manifesto was condemned. To draw blame away from himself, Pierce let the public believe that the American delegation had framed the manifesto independently. Buchanan and the other ministers said nothing and they carried the unjustified blame for the rest of their lives. In 1954, one hundred years after the

manifesto signing, historians discovered the presidential instructions to the foreign ministers. As a result, Buchanan's name together with the names of the other ministers were finally cleared. (USA #820, ISSUED 1938)



BLUNDERING BILL



James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok (1837-1876) was both a legendary lawman and a boasting blunderer. While he could justify his boasting, his blunders were another story. When he was marshal of Abilene, Kansas, his card game in a saloon was disturbed by some rowdy drunks out on the darkened street. He left the game and told the rowdies to tone it down. Upon returning to his game, a gun shot was heard coming from the street. Wild Bill ran out to investigate. In this process, he shot and killed an innocent bystander by the name of Phil Coe. Further, upon hearing some running behind him, the trigger-happy marshal turned around and shot and killed his own deputy, Mike Williams. For these indiscretions, Marshall Hickok was relieved

of his duties. Wild Bill's inglorious end occurred while he was playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota. As he sat pondering his hand, a young cowboy named Jack McCall wandered in and shot the legend in the back of the head. Hickok's poker hand, which he continued to hold as he died, consisted of the two black aces, the two black eights and the Queen of Hearts. This card combination consequently became known as "the dead man's hand." (USA #28690, ISSUED 1994)



BRIDGE ANYONE?



Sir Casimir Gzowski (1813-1898), a civil engineer, honored on this stamp, is particularly noted for his bridge building accomplishments. One of his bridges,

the iron Blackfriars Bridge in London, Ontario, left many Londoners very "uncomfortable." They had some grim memories of iron bridges that had collapsed in England, so did not have overwhelming confidence in Gzowski's work. To allay their fears, Gzowski asked the local army regiment to cross the bridge first on the day of the opening ceremony. The regiment agreed, provided Gzowski would stand underneath the bridge as they thundered across. Gzowski agreed and, fortunately for all, the bridge withstood the test. (CDN #410, ISSUED 1963)

BRÛLÉ ENTRÉE



Etienne Brûlé (c.1591-1633), the shadowy figure seen on this stamp, was probably the first European to see three of the five great lakes (Ontario, Huron and Superior). While he performed important services for the French in the new world, his "native ways" infuriated Samuel de Champlain and the Jesuits. Brûlé lived with the Huron Indians and in 1633 he also infuriated

his hosts. Accused of being a traitor, Brûlé was tortured, slain and *eaten* by the Hurons at the encampment of Toanché, west of Penetanguishene. When Brûlé realized that he was about to be slain, he fell to his

knees to pray. Ironically, we are told the only prayer he knew was *Grace Before Meals*, so he mumbled these words during his last moments. (CDN #1126 ISSUED 1987)

CANADA'S PIRATE AND KIDNAPPER



Kidnapping is considered by many people as the most detestable of all crimes. Also, piracy is high on the list of detestables, although its form has changed in modern times. Sir Martin Frobisher (c.1535-1594) dabbled in both. This great English navigator and explorer, for whom Canada's Frobisher Bay is named, had a run-in with the law in Guinea in 1554 and was imprisoned there for a time by the Portuguese. Six years later, he was a privateer in Barbary and had another brush with the law for piracy. During this time, he apparently became interested in finding a northwest passage to Cathay and India. With the help of the Earl of Warwick, Frobisher was placed in command of an expedition to find the elusive passage and he set sail for the new world in 1576. On this voyage, Frobisher made important discoveries and claims, but of course

failed in his quest for the northwest passage. He took back to England what he believed to be a lump of gold ore (it was actually iron pyrite or "fool's gold"). The "gold" apparently excited Queen Elizabeth I, so Frobisher was sent on a second voyage to search for gold only. When he arrived in North America, he went out immediately to collect ore. When ready to return to England, he kidnapped three Inuit natives and took them with him. They arrived in England on September 17, 1577. All three natives died within a month after that date. On his third and final North American voyage in 1578, Frobisher took possession of Greenland in the name of Elizabeth I and renamed it West England. Also, it was on this voyage that his chaplain, Reverend Wolfal, conducted what is believed to be the first Thanksgiving Service in North America. This service was occasioned by safe deliverance of two of Frobisher's ships which were lost on the Atlantic crossing. To sum up the life of this unusual man who graced 27 million Canadian postage stamps, one historian states: *Though he appears to have been somewhat rough in his bearing, and too strict a disciplinarian to be much loved, Frobisher was undoubtedly one of the most able seamen of his time.* (CDN #412, ISSUED 1963)

CANADIAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE?



One of the prerequisites for the U.S. presidency is, "candidate must be born on American soil." This requirement is closely watched. It is possible, however, that Chester Arthur (1829-1886), honored on this stamp, may have slipped under the fence. Some evidence supports that he was born in Canada, rather than Vermont as the president alleged. A charge of this nature was levied against Arthur by his opponents during the president's own lifetime and recent claims favor the charge. American or Canadian, it is very clear that Arthur did not stand much on tradition. During his presidential term, Arthur replaced all the old furniture in the White House. It is said that twenty-four cart loads of furnishings, dating back to George Washington, were sold for three thousand dollars. It appears the president had a flair for Victorian "clutter" and he filled the Executive Mansion accordingly. Could this have been a latent desire of Chester to return to his homeland? (USA #826, ISSUED 1938)

CARNEGIE'S CARNAGE



Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), who acquired a vast fortune, gave the world his philosophy that the life story of a rich man should fall into two periods; the first, that of acquiring wealth; the second, that of distributing it in such a way that the surplus would be used for the general welfare. Unfortunately, the words "morally" or "honestly" are missing in the first part of

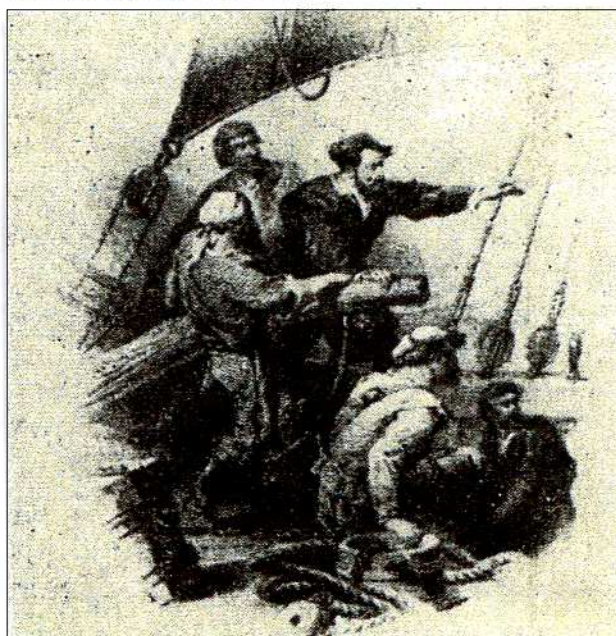
the statement. During the first part of his life, Carnegie used "the system" with little or no regard for the "general welfare." In the name of competition, he manipulated and coerced his competitors to choose between total ruin or selling their businesses to him. This practice virtually ruined thousands of smaller American businessmen who had no protection against the "sprawling giant." As Carnegie's power increased, he even manipulated the United States Congress to enact protective legislation for his empire and took full advantage of inadequate policing by state and federal governments in business matters. To his credit, Carnegie did give most of his money away to the "general good" when he retired. But then again, it had been made by robbing the "general good" in the first place. (USA #1171, ISSUED 1960)

CARTIER'S BIGGEST BLUNDER



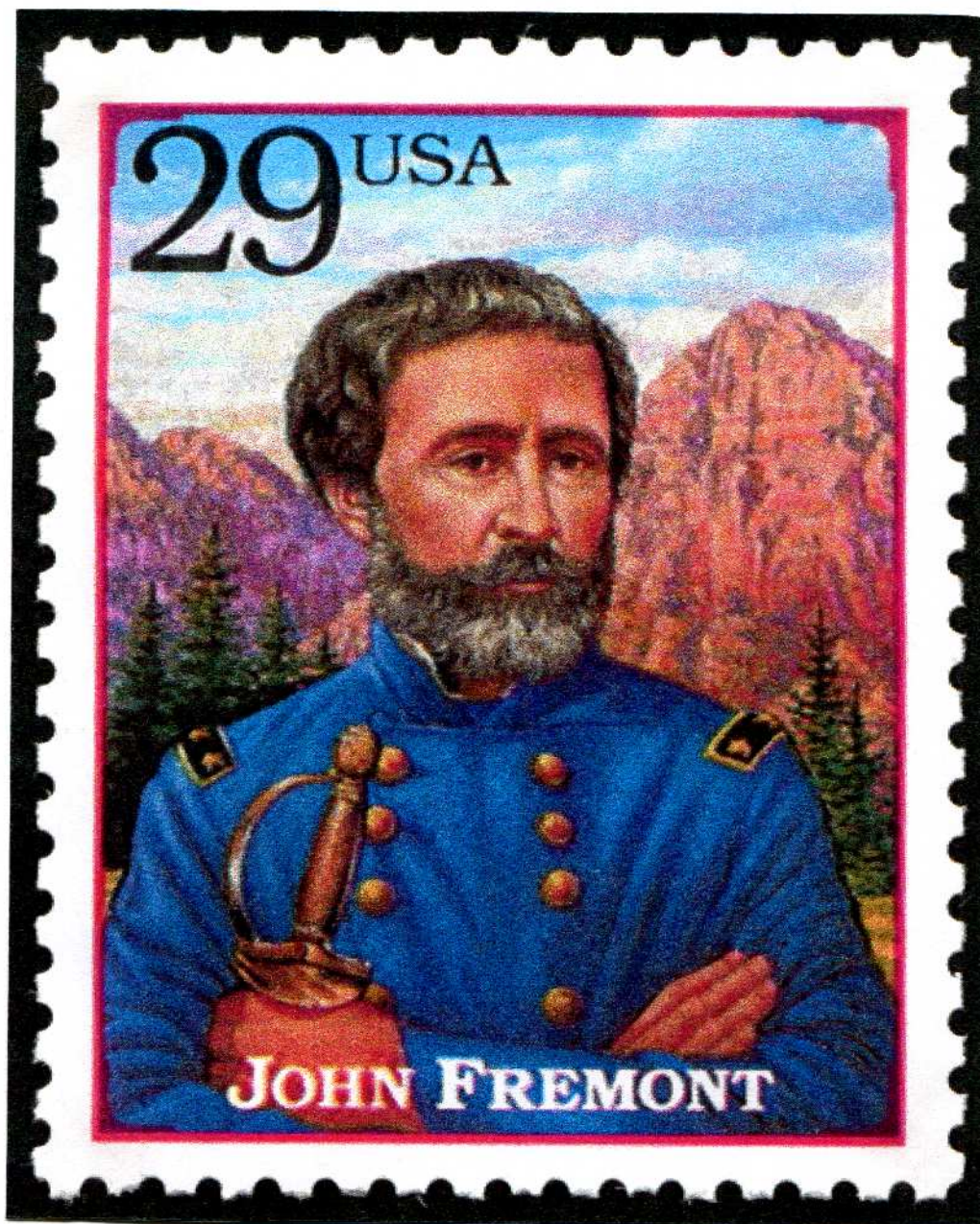
During the second expedition of Jacques Cartier to North America (1534), his men were ravaged by a dreaded disease. Cartier called it "a pestilence wholly unknown to us," and recorded the grim symptoms of his helpless men. What the men had was scurvy, which is brought about by a lack of vitamin C. The Indians told Cartier of a cure for this disease. They showed him a certain type of tree and how to make a medicine by boiling the bark and leaves. The dregs were to be used directly on affected arms and legs. Cartier followed the directions and all who took the remedy were cured. He called the tree the *annedda* which was, in fact, the eastern white cedar. Unfortunately, Cartier failed to consider the welfare of others who would come after him, for he omitted to record how to identify the *annedda*. When Samuel Champlain experienced the same problem with scurvy one hundred years later, he knew of the *annedda* tree, but did not know how to

identify it. Attempts to have the Indians provide the key failed. The Indians Champlain encountered just did not know. As to the design of the stamp illustrated, it was adapted from a vignette, made about 1870. It was long used by the British American Bank Note Company on bank notes, certificates and similar documents. The identity of the original artist is unknown. Few collectors would disagree that the stamp is one of the most impressive stamps issued in North America. The following illustration shows the original artwork. (CDN #208, ISSUED 1934)





This unique stamp shows Jacques Cartier sighting land on his voyage to North America in 1534. On his next expedition in 1541, he learned a little secret from the natives for curing scurvy. Unfortunately, he failed to properly document what he had been told so the disease continued to ravage explorers who followed in his footsteps. (See story on adjacent page 106.)



John Charles Frémont led a charmed life. He was one of those fortunate individuals who stumble through life but never fall. The story is on adjacent page 107. While the design of this stamp honoring Frémont is indeed remarkable, we might reason that John would not be happy with the missing accent in his last name.

CHUCK-A-LUCK CHARLIE



There is a saying that, "it is better to be born lucky than rich," and the life of John Charles Frémont (1813-1890) certainly bears out the wisdom of these words. In college, his degree was withheld because of irregular attendance. Nevertheless, somehow the decision was reversed and the degree conferred. Joel R. Poinsett, a prominent politician, then secured excellent appointments for the young Frémont, first as a mathematics teacher and then as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Topographical Engineers. Frémont then married the daughter of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. While on a survey expedition, Frémont met up with Christopher (Kit) Carson, who became his guide -- a better guide he could not hope to find. In later years, Frémont was tried by court-martial and found guilty of mutiny, disobedience and conduct prejudicial to military discipline. He was sentenced to be dismissed from the army. The verdict, except the charge of mutiny, was approved by President James K. Polk. Nevertheless, for some reason Polk remitted the penalty. During one of Frémont's excursions, he acquired some land in California. When gold was dis-

covered in that territory, Frémont examined his holdings and found rich ore veins which made him a multimillionaire. Elected a senator from California, Frémont received the Republican Party's first nomination for the presidency. Fortunately for the nation, his luck did not carry him to the White House. During the American Civil War, he was a major general in charge of the Department of the West. He made a bad decision so President Lincoln removed him from command. Then Republicans in Congress stepped in and forced Lincoln to give Frémont a new command in western Virginia. Through a number of misadventures, Frémont was found guilty of swindling. He lost all of his money and declared bankruptcy. Lady Luck then stepped in and obtained for him an appointment as governor of Arizona Territory. When his term expired, he was again without a livelihood, so Luck again came to his rescue. The army, feeling sorry for its old comrade, restored him to the rank of major general giving him a pension. But time and tide wait for no man -- Frémont died before he could enjoy the fruits of his final "lucky turn." Another stamp (USA #288) issued in 1898, as follows, also shows Frémont. This stamp is from an old engraving entitled *Frémont on Rocky Mountains*. (USA #2869i, ISSUED 1994)



CROCKETT CRAVINGS



Although Davy Crockett (1786-1836) could neither read nor write, two books (1834) are attributed to him. The books were apparently dictated. Crockett died defending the Alamo, however, it does not appear

he planned to get involved in the fight with Mexico. Cockett has about 200 descendants who gathered together in June 1985 to sort out legends attributed to the frontiersman. The oldest member of the clan, Mildred Hope, who was 87 at that time, stated that Crockett was looking for wide-open spaces rather than military fame when he went to Texas. Crockett's fabled musket, which is shown on the stamp, is still being sought by Crockett enthusiasts. It is curious that Crockett is shown carrying his musket in his left hand, butt first. Was this carrying method common or just peculiar to Crockett? (USA #1330, ISSUED 1967)

DEVOTION WITHOUT EMOTION



Bishop Laval (1623-1708), Quebec's first bishop, certainly practiced what he preached. It is said he slept in a hard, flea-filled bed, ate old and moldy food and tried very hard not to enjoy himself in any way. He frowned on entertainment of any type and railed against drunkenness, carnal pleasures and pretty clothes. He frowned frequently and quarreled and raged with the most powerful people in Quebec. Most people, however, admired Laval's generosity to the poor and few doubted his devotion to his way of life. The stamp design is highly unusual because one-third is used for the bishop's full name -- Francois-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval de Montigny. (CDN #611, ISSUED 1973)

DOLLARD THE DISCOURAGER



Adam Dollard des Ormeaux (1635-1660), was certainly the greatest "discourager" in Canadian history. As the story goes, upon receiving word of a planned Iroquois Indian attack on the settlement of Ville Marie in 1660, Dollard and his troop hastened to intercept the invaders. Dollard's force consisted of sixteen Frenchmen, forty friendly Huron Indians and

four Algonkin Indians. The band was surprise-attacked by a massive force of about three hundred Onondagas Indians. During the struggle (Battle of Long Sault), an Iroquois force joined the Onondagas force and Dollard's "friendly" Hurons deserted to the enemy. Dollard and his remaining force managed to hold-out for a full week before being overcome by the enemy and killed. Nevertheless, the invaders were so impressed with the courageous Frenchmen that a planned wholesale attack on New France by the Five Nations was abandoned. While there is certainly no argument in this regard, Dollard's original expedition *intent* was not as honorable as we are led to believe. What was his original intent? The *Encyclopedia Canadiana* states. *He set out with a party of volunteers intending to ambush Iroquois hunters returning home with their furs.* (CDN #390, ISSUED 1960)

DOUBLE DEFEAT



After enduring the perils of the American Revolution, Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817) returned to his native Poland. He subsequently became dictator and commander in chief of that country. He suffered his first great defeat when his army of 7,000 Poles was defeated by 16,000 Russians at Maciejowice. His second and last great defeat was not at the hands of his enemy. Kosciuszko died accidentally when his horse lost its footing and fell off a cliff. (USA #734, ISSUED 1933)

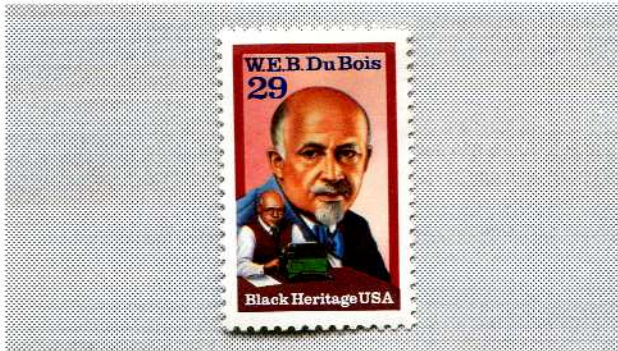
DOUBLE GEORGE



This stamp shows Prince George, the Duke of Kent (1902-1942), when he was about nine years old. This "George" did not become King George VI. So, who was King George VI? When Edward VIII abdi-

cated the throne of England in 1937, the next heir in line was Albert. However, Queen Victoria had stipulated that no future King of England be named Albert in respect for her husband whose early death had caused her so much grief. Therefore, the Royal Family changed Albert's name to George. This change, however, was odd and very confusing because there was already another brother by the name of George, (the Duke of Kent). Therefore, after Albert ascended the throne as George VI, there were two brothers with the same first name -- the king and one of his younger brothers. Prince George died in an airplane accident in 1942. (NFD #110, ISSUED 1911)

DUBOIS CHOICE



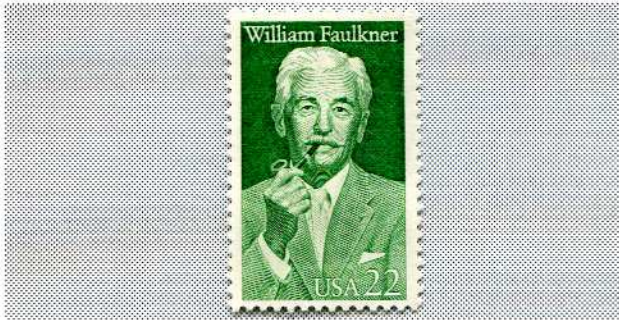
There can be no doubt that Dr. W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963) was a great man. It is, however, a little amazing that this leading 20th century mind became a devout communist. In 1961, he joined the Communist Party, moved to Ghana, and renounced his U.S. citizenship. DuBois, therefore, becomes the only recognized Communist to be depicted on a U.S. Stamp. Remarkably, DuBois has a parallel on a Canadian stamp -- Dr. Henry Norman Bethune. The story of Bethune is found on page 138. (USA #2617, ISSUED 1992)

EMILY'S FAMILY



A painting entitled, *Big Raven*, by the noted artist Emily Carr (1871-1945) is shown on this stamp. A native of Victoria, British Columbia, Emily studied art in San Francisco, London, and Paris. Her art style was far ahead of her time and was not originally well received by the public. For a considerable time, Emily was greatly attracted to Indian life and art. The Indians called her *Klee Wyck* which means, *Laughing One*. Emily herself was a turn-of-the-century "hippie." She was often seen going to market in Victoria pushing a dilapidated baby carriage containing her pet monkey, Woo. The rest of her family consisted of six or eight English shepherd dogs which also accompanied her on city trips. The dogs, which she bred to eke out a living, were her main source of income. (CDN #532, ISSUED 1971)

FAULKNER'S TWO CENTS WORTH



William Faulkner (1897-1962) once worked as a postmaster in a third class post office. The job, however, was far from his liking. To the detriment of

customers, Faulkner spent his time reading and writing. Complaints involved failure to distribute mail, discarding mail he thought unimportant, keeping irregular hours, ignoring patrons, allowing unauthorized people to enter the office and keeping poor records. After a postal inspector found Faulkner playing bridge on company time, the postmaster knew his days were numbered. He quietly left the building and later remarked: *I reckon I'll be at the beck and call of folks with money all my life, but thank God I won't ever again have to be at the beck and call of every son-of-a-bitch who's got two cents to buy a stamp.* We can only wonder if Faulkner would have bought one of his own stamps. (USA #2350, ISSUED 1987)

FALLEN FATHER



Irishman, Thomas D'Arcy McGee (1825-1868), one of Canada's *Fathers of Confederation*, is honored on this stamp. During his earlier years in Ireland, McGee joined the Young Irelanders, a radical Irish political group. An accomplished journalist, he became editor of this group's publication, *The Nation*. He was impli-

cated in the abortive Irish Rebellion of 1848. Fearing for his life, he disguised himself as a priest and fled to New York. At the invitation of some leading Irish-Catholic Canadians, McGee moved to Montreal, Quebec. He entered Canadian politics in 1858 and estranged many Irish Catholics by aligning himself with the Reform Party. McGee then became increasingly critical of Irish extremists, advocating peaceful reform for Ireland. In 1866, he incurred the enmity of the Fenian Brotherhood. In the early morning of April 7, 1868, McGee was shot and killed as he entered the door of his boarding house in downtown Ottawa. Patrick James Whelan, a young Fenian, was arrested for the murder, convicted and executed. (CDN #146, ISSUED 1927)

FAT FREE FRANKLIN



In addition to all his wonderful inventions, ideas and political expertise, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), had some very sage advice relative to health. Certainly, if we are to believe the images seen in many old paintings, overeating was as much a problem in Franklin's

time as it is in our time. To caution people on the dangers of overeating, Franklin composed and published little sayings of which the following are examples:

Eat few suppers and you'll need few medicines.

*Dine with little, sup with less:
do better still, sleep supperless.*

To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.

To show just how serious Franklin was, he proposed the institution of a public fast day, beginning January 7, 1748. (USA #1030, ISSUED 1955)

FIELDS' FIELD ACCOUNTS



The great comedian W.C. Fields (1879-1946) knew what it was like to be poor and hungry. He ran away from home at the age of eleven and survived any way he could. With much sacrifice, courage and persistence, he became a popular theater personality, first on the live stage and then in motion pictures. Fields loved the bizarre and reverse of conventional virtues and sentiments. For some reason, he switched his first two initials, being born Claude William (C.W.). By this switch his first two initials (W.C.) were perhaps a

humorous reference to the British abbreviation for "water closet." Although Fields became quite wealthy as his popularity increased, he had a nagging fear of returning to the poverty he once knew so well. He apparently had a recurring nightmare of being penniless and alone in a strange city, while at the same time being pursued by the police. This dilemma brought about an odd reaction. In order to feel secure, Fields opened up bank accounts in about 700 different cities throughout the world. He used whimsical pseudonyms for the accounts, such as Cholomley Frampton-Blythe, Ludovic Fishpond, Sneed Hearn and Figley E. Whitesides. In time, he influenced his nightmares to the extent that he probably had a bank account in or near any strange city in which he might find himself. Unfortunately, Fields did not keep accurate records on his bank accounts. When he died on Christmas Day, 1946, only twenty-three accounts were shown in his list. His mistress, Carlotta Monti, estimated that some \$1,300,000 was still out there somewhere, evidently saddled to a nightmare that will never return. (USA #1803, ISSUED 1980)

FOSTER'S GLAD NOTES, SAD NOTES AND NO NOTES



Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864) gave the world the memorable "Songs of the South," such as *Oh*

Susanna and *My Old Kentucky Home*. Yet during his life time, Foster visited the South only once and this was after he had composed his most famous piece, *Old Folks at Home*, or as it later became known, *Swanee River*. Despite his popularity and the large royalties he received from his compositions, Foster drifted into despair. His short but brilliant career came to an end in a charity ward of a New York City hospital. He was 38 years old, and in his pockets were found his life savings -- exactly 38 cents. (USA #879, ISSUED 1940)

GATES' GAMBLE



On this stamp we see General Horatio Gates (c.1727-1806) accepting the sword of surrender from General Burgoyne at Saratoga. Although Gates received the credit for repulsing Burgoyne's army from the north, Philip Schuyler and Benedict Arnold were actually responsible for the defense. In fact, Gates was charged with cowardice at this battle. This charge resulted in Gates' friends forming the noted Conway Cabal which sought to place Gates in command of the

Continental Army instead of George Washington. The cabal failed but Gates carried on in his command. However, after his disastrous loss at Camden, South Carolina, he was relieved of his command and he returned to his plantation. He was later acquitted of any

charges arising from his actions at Camden and served loyally under George Washington for the remainder of the War. Gates' wife, who was independently wealthy, spent most of her fortune in the cause of the colonies. (USA #1728, ISSUED 1977)

GENTLEMAN DAN



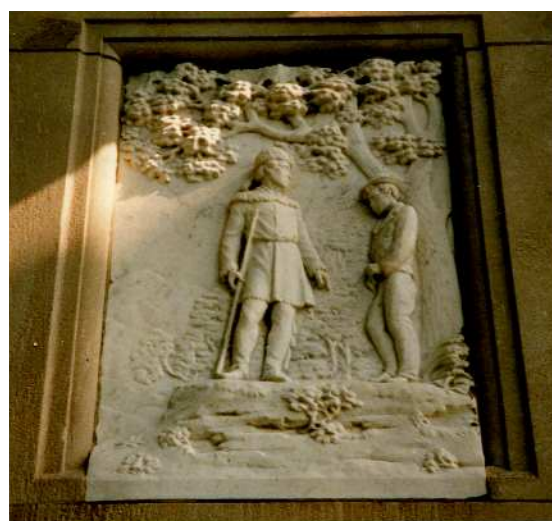
Daniel Boone (1734-1820) never really wore a coonskin cap with a tail hanging down the back as we are led to believe with this stamp. It is even unlikely that any of his companions seen on the stamp wore such caps. We know Boone himself favored a type of bowler hat, quite fashionable for his time. Figuratively speaking, Boone wore a lot of different hats. Aside from being an Indian fighter and pioneer, he filled various public posts as a legislative delegate, sheriff and deputy surveyor. After moving to West Virginia, he was named lieutenant colonel of Kanawha County and was again chosen as a legislative delegate. When he moved on to Missouri, he was appointed district magistrate. The stamp design is after a mural by Thomas Gilbert White entitled, *Boone and Companions Taking Their First View of the Beautiful Level of Kentucky*. The following enlargement of the stamp detail includes an inset showing Boone in his customary headgear.



A painting by William Ranney entitled, *Daniel Boone's First View of Kentucky*, as follows, is very interesting with regard to hats. It appears the early pioneers wore anything they could get their hands on. However, one might note that there are no coonskin hats to be found.



Nevertheless, even Boone's tombstone has sculptures showing him wearing a coonskin as seen in the following photograph.



Somewhere down the line we decided that old Dan would look best in a coonskin cap and like it or not, he wears one on millions of stamps. (USA #904, ISSUED 1942)

GERRYMANDER GANDER



Governor Elbridge Gerry (1744-1814), who sparked the birth of the “gerrymander,” is depicted on this stamp. He is the fourth person from the left as indicated in the following stamp detail illustration.



The dictionary definition of a “gerrymander” is as follows: *To divide (a territorial unit) into election districts to give one political party an electoral majority in a large number of districts while concentrating the vote strength of the opposition in as few districts as possible.* In 1812, Elbridge Gerry and the Republican legislature of Massachusetts carved the state into new voting districts as the dictionary defines. The resulting configuration, when seen on an actual map, looked like a squatting salamander. The unusual image was enhanced by Elkanah Tisdale. He added claws, wings and a defined reptile-like head as seen in the following illustration.



Tisdale’s drawing was published in the *Boston Weekly Messenger* and headlined **THE GERRY-MANDER**. As a result, the word “gerrymander” became a new word in the English language. Governor Gerry lost his bid for re-election as a result of his political tactic, but the gerrymander worked. In 1812, only 11 Federalist state senators were elected in Massachusetts to the Republicans total of 29 senators. However, most voters considered the gerrymander tactic cheating. This fact was very evident because the Federalists received 51,766 popular votes to the Republican’s 50,164. Consequently, in 1813 the gerrymander created by Gerry and the Republican legislature was repealed. Nevertheless, ex-governor Gerry went on to bigger and better things. In the same year (1812) that he was defeated for governor, he was elected vice-president on James Madison’s ticket. (USA #1692, ISSUED 1976)

GETTING THE EDGE WITH WHISKERS



This stamp shows a clean-shaven Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) which is certainly not the image we envision when we think of this great man. Lincoln's decision to grow a beard and change his image was due to a letter he received from eleven-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, New York. Lincoln received the letter while campaigning against his handsome opponent, Stephen Arnold Douglas. The letter, dated October 15, 1860, reads: *I am a little girl 11 years old, but want you should be President of the United States very much so I hope you won't think me very bold to write to such a great man as you are. Have you any little girls about*

as large as I am if so give them my love and tell her to write me if you cannot answer this letter. I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you anyway and if you will let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you. You would look a great deal better for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be president. Lincoln replied to the letter as follows: *Your very agreeable letter of the 15th is received. I regret the necessity of saying I have no daughters. I have three sons, one seventeen, one nine and one seven years of age. They, with their mother, constitute my whole family. As to the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a piece of silly affectation if I were to begin now?* After Lincoln had won the election and was traveling to the White House, he stopped in Westfield where a crowd had gathered to greet him. In addressing the people, he mentioned his correspondence with Grace Bedell and asked if she was present. When she came forward, Lincoln picked her up, showed her his beard, kissed her and told the crowd, "She wrote me that she thought I'd look better if I wore whiskers." (USA #1113, ISSUED 1959)

GILBERT'S TRAVELS



Sir Humphrey Gilbert (c.1539-1583) led his first expedition to the New World in 1578. Unfortunately, good help was hard to find. Many of his crewmen, therefore, were ex-prisoners and men awaiting trial, or actually condemned for piracy. No sooner was Gilbert's fleet on the high seas when three of his ships, followed by another later, abandoned the expedition to become pirate ships. Other ships turned back one by one as problems arose and the great expedition was fi-

nally canceled. Another trip in 1583 was more successful, but as Gilbert approached Newfoundland, the fishermen from various countries would not let him enter the harbor. Apparently Gilbert's ship was a former privateer that had attacked some of the fishermen the previous year. When Gilbert managed to straighten things out, he took possession of Newfoundland in the name of the Queen of England and proclaimed a number of laws. One law was that anyone who showed disrespect for the Queen would lose his ship and goods and also have his ears cut off. On a subsequent voyage to establish a colony in the Rhode Island area, Gilbert overruled his captains on a course decision and his fleet ended up in shallow water off Sable Island. One of the ships ran ashore and broke up, drowning some of her crew. The rest of the men on the other ships became so disillusioned and discouraged over this event that it was decided to return to England immediately. For some reason, Gilbert was sailing in the *Squirrel*, a very small ship of only ten tons. He was urged by his captains to come aboard one of the larger ships but Gilbert refused.

The fleet ran into very heavy weather. The *Squirrel* was visible for a few moments during a lull. We are told Gilbert was seen seated on the deck with a book in his hands calling out repeatedly, *We are as near to Heaven by sea as by land*. As night ap proached, the

Squirrel's lights disappeared in the waves and Sir Humphrey was never seen again. Years later, King Charles' royal summary of Gilbert's life of romantic endeavors was, *Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it*. (NFD #222, ISSUED 1933)

GRANITE GENERAL



Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863), the third figure on this stamp, gave his all to the Civil War effort in the South. He gained the sobriquet "Stonewall" for his determined stand at the Battle of

Bull Run. General Barnard E. Bee is credited with giving Jackson his nickname. At the first battle of Bull Run, Jackson's troops held firm when others wavered. Bee rallied his disorganized men with, *There is Jackson standing like a stone wall*, and the nickname caught on. Although Jackson died of a bullet wound, the shot was fired by one of his own men! Returning from a reconnaissance mission, the unfortunate general was mistaken for the enemy and was shot by accident. It is amusing that old "Stonewall" is now carved in stone in the Stone Mountain Memorial. (USA #1408, ISSUED 1970)

GREAT COMPROMISER



Henry Clay (1777-1852) was a remarkable politician. His skill in providing compromises and solutions to tensions between the U.S. North and South delayed the American Civil War for ten years. It has been reasoned that if the war had broken out ten years earlier, the South would have had a much greater chance of winning because the strength of the North was far less at that time. (USA #1846, ISSUED 1983)

HELEN'S OTHER STRUGGLE



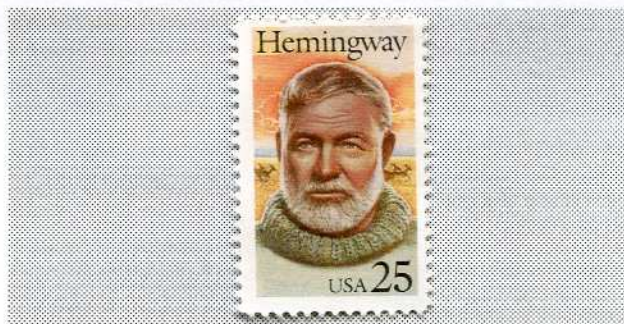
Helen Keller (1880-1968) was not the passive little lady we might envision. Helen had a mind of her own and was, in fact, an active socialist and political radical. She joined the Socialist Party in Massachusetts in 1909. This party had as its objective, a system of

collective ownership by the entire people, of the means of production and distribution. Helen later became a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). This organization spread the ideas of violent labor struggle, sabotage and the general strike for revolution-

ary purposes. It was the only U.S. labor organization to vigorously oppose World War I. Helen supported this stand, stating that only the rich would gain from the war. In 1949, the IWW was the only U.S. labor organization to be placed on the government's "subversive list." A real radical in her time, Helen wrote articles supporting birth control, women's suffrage and the creation of a Women's Party. She continued to be active on the political front until her death in 1968. The following photograph shows Helen in her senior years. (USA #1824, ISSUED 1980)



HEMINGWAY TRAGEDY



Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was undoubtedly one of the world's most famous authors. He had a great fascination for the way humans handle extreme situations. His remarkable ability to express his thoughts and perceptions in writing earned him international acclaim. One would think that Hemingway's vast knowledge of (and experience with) the plight of others would have held him in good stead to handle his own personal problems. Ironically, such was not the case. In the spring of 1961 he found himself in a lull or "dead spot" and was unable to write. Not being able to bear the thought that he had outlived his own talent, he killed himself with a shotgun. (USA #2418, ISSUED 1989)

HENRY'S HARMONY HOPES



Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was greatly respected for his wisdom and he was very persuasive in getting things to go his way. Vitally concerned with the hostilities between the colonists and the native Indians, Henry applied a little home-spun wisdom and recommended government-sponsored love! He introduced a bill in the Virginia Assembly that stipulated a ten-dollar bonus be given for mixed marriages between whites and Indians. In addition, the bill provided for a five-dollar bonus for each child born to the couple. The bill passed first and second readings, mainly due to Henry's power of persuasion. On the third reading, however, he was not present to support the cause and the bill failed. Many government people, including John Marshall, who became chief justice of the United States, were confident Henry was on the right track. Indeed, had there been more cupid arrows than Indian arrows in later times, untold grief and pain might have been averted. (USA #1052, ISSUED 1958)

HOT LIPS HENSON



The northern polar experiences of Matthew Henson (1867-1955) were not as cold and lonely as we might be led to believe. It is known that he left a number of off-springs in the frozen north as a result of "relationships" with Eskimo ladies. In the mid 1980's, *Ebony* magazine brought Henson's descendants from the polar region to the United States for a visit. (USA #2223, ISSUED 1986)

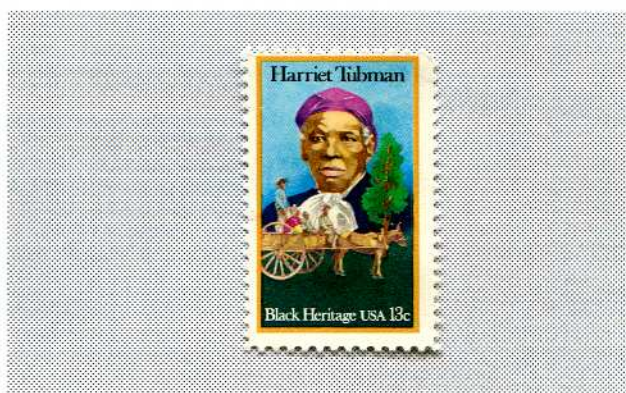
INDIAN TAKER



According to some historians, the personal ethics of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) left a lot to be desired. In his capacity as governor, it is said Harrison used bribes and whiskey to encourage Native Indians to sign treaties. In this way, he coerced the

Indians to release for white settlement most of what is now Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. When the Indians finally realized what was happening, they began hostilities. A major battle against the white invaders took place near the Tippecanoe River, Indiana. Harrison, leading a force of regular troops and militia, put down the rebellion and he emerged as a national hero. Elected U.S. president, Harrison served only one month, dying in office from pneumonia. He was the oldest man to become president (age 68). He had ten children and 48 grandchildren. One of his grandchildren, Benjamin Harrison, also became a U.S. president. (USA #996, ISSUED 1950)

INSISTENT "CONDUCTOR"



Prior to the American Civil War, thousands of blacks were secretly transported to freedom via the *Underground Railroad*. To avoid detection, those who operated the system had their own terms to identify various aspects of the operation. For example, the people who supervised travelers were called "conductors" and the travelers themselves were "packages" or "freight." Harriet Tubman (c.1820-1913), who set up the underground system, was the most famous "conductor." Her actual Christian name was Araminta. She assumed the name "Harriet" later in life. During her work on the "railroad" she became known as "General Tubman" and "Moses" by her fellow blacks. She made about nineteen trips to the South, leading out some 300 blacks to freedom. In some cases, it is said she "encouraged" them to go with a loaded pistol. (USA #1744, ISSUED 1978)

ISLANDS IN THE SNOW



Joseph Elzéar Bernier (1852-1934) took on a personal challenge to maintain Canada's sovereignty over the islands of the Arctic. He spent \$21,000 of his own money on explorations and a campaign to ward off U.S. encroachments into Canadian territory. In his ship *Arctic*, a Canadian government steamer, Bernier visited most of the northern islands. On each island he erected a cairn that contained a sealed bottle with a written claim to the land. (CDN #738, ISSUED 1977)

JEFFERSON TRIVIA



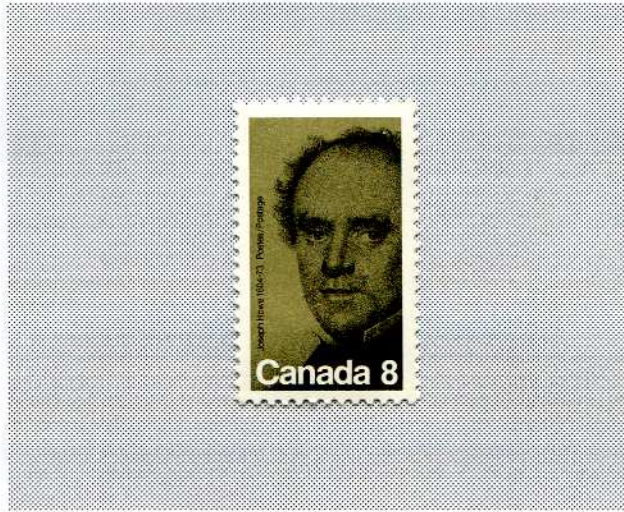
The life of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) is a study unto itself. The following somewhat light-hearted and thought-provoking facts will hopefully give the reader a little different slant on the personality of this great man. Jefferson, who had impeccable table manners himself, often deliberately down-played their use when he was president. His reason for this action was that he felt table manners imposed artificial distinctions among people created equal. Also, Jefferson condemned a national recognition of Thanksgiving during two of his terms as president. Discord among the colonist on the appropriateness of the celebration forced him to take this action. Further, Jefferson introduced French fries to America. While he was ambassador to France, he tried the dish and brought the recipe back to the United States. He served French fries to guests at Monticello and the dish found immediate popularity. We can be certain Jefferson would be highly pleased with one of Canada's year 2000 stamps, as follows, honoring this "food."



In addition, Jefferson is credited with exonerating the bad reputation of the tomato. Up to his time, the fruit was considered poisonous. Jefferson was one of the first people in the United States to cultivate tomatoes for human consumption. Moreover, Jefferson is credited with officially adopting the handshake in American society as an accepted mode of men greeting or departing. Up to his time, bows were commonly used for these purposes. Jefferson had a peace medal struck (illustrated below) which shows two clasped hands. Finally, after his wife's death, Jefferson had five offsprings by one of his slaves, Sally Hemmings. Modern DNA testing on descendants has confirmed the relationship and appropriate recognition is being accorded. (USA #1033, ISSUED 1954, CDN #1833d, ISSUED 2000)



JOE HOWE KNOW HOW



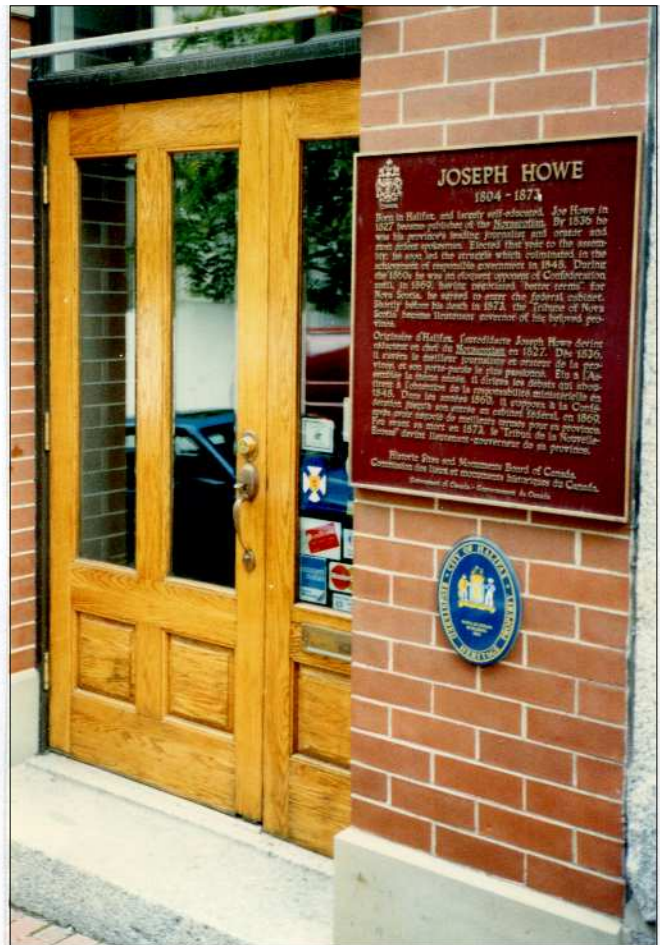
Joseph Howe (1804-1873) took on the formidable task of making the government in Canada responsible to the people rather than to itself. He succeeded in 1848 without, "a blow struck or a pane of glass broken." To achieve his goal, however, he had to overcome many obstacles. He even fought a duel with the son of a chief justice whose honesty Howe had questioned. The challenger shot first and missed. Howe fired his pistol into the air and calmly walked away. Howe's office building in Halifax, Nova Scotia is now a heritage building. A plaque at the front door reads:

JOSEPH HOWE

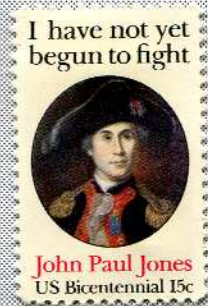
1804-1873

Born in Halifax and largely self-educated, Joe Howe in 1827 became publisher of the *Novascotian*. By 1836 he was his province's leading journalist and orator and most ardent spokesman. Elected that year to the assembly, he soon led the struggle which culminated in the achievement of responsible government in 1848. During the 1860's he was an eloquent opponent of Confederation until, in 1869, having negotiated "better terms" for Nova Scotia, he agreed to enter the federal cabinet. Shortly before his death in 1873, the Tribune of Nova Scotia became lieutenant governor of his beloved province.

The following photograph shows the plaque and the entrance to the modest building. (CDN #616, ISSUED 1973)



KEEPING UP WITH JOHN PAUL



While John Paul Jones (1747-1792) will always be identified with this surname "Jones," this was not his official name. His name was simply John Paul. He added the surname "Jones" in 1773 to conceal his

real identity as he fled indictment on a trumped-up murder charge. Jones died in France in 1792. His passing was overlooked by America, Jones' adopted country -- the country he so valiantly helped in its struggle for independence. The French, however, anticipating the day America would claim her son, buried Jones in a lead coffin filled with alcohol and packed for shipping. One hundred and seven years later, the American ambassador to France, Horace Porter, took upon himself the challenge of finding Jones' grave and returning his remains to America. After about six years of research Porter found the grave, within which rested the well-preserved remains of the neglected naval hero. A short time later, Jones was finally interred in America -- 113 years and four days after his first burial. (USA #1789, ISSUED 1979)

KNOX KNOWLEDGE KAPER



Henry Knox (1750-1806) gained his military knowledge from text books he supplied to British

officers prior to the American Revolution. Fort Knox, Kentucky is named in his honor. Boston born and bred, Knox's brilliant feat in dragging a captured cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights over primitive roads and under wintry conditions is one of the great epics in American history. Knox and his cannon forced the British to leave Boston on March 17, 1776. This day is observed in Boston as Evacuation Day. (USA #1851, ISSUED 1985)

LAUGHING AT LAFAYETTE



Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was christened Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch Gilbert du Motier. He was married at age sixteen into one of the greatest families in France. A shy, awkward and very poor drinker, it is said that his dancing once provoked Marie Antoinette to laughter. Marie is lucky Lafayette was not one to hold a grudge. During the French Revolution, the ungainly little soldier rescued her from the mob that stormed the Palace of Versailles. (USA #1716, ISSUED 1977)

LEE'S LOST ALLEGIANCE



The great Civil War Confederate General, Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), was initially offered command of the Union field forces. President Lincoln himself asked Lee to take command in 1861. Lee, however, resigned his commission to command the forces of Virginia. After the Civil War, Lee lost his American citi-

zenship and did not regain it during his lifetime. Unlike Jefferson Davis, who did not seek to regain citizenship, Lee wished to help rebuild the defeated South. He sent President Johnson the necessary *Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution* which was required for a special pardon. Somehow, his oath was misplaced or virtually ignored. When Lee died in 1870, he died a non-citizen. Over one hundred years later, Lee's oath was uncovered in a cardboard box at the National Archives. He was subsequently granted citizenship on July 22, 1975. Technically speaking, this U.S. stamp depicting Lee is honoring a man without a country! (USA #1049, ISSUED 1957)

LEGALIZING LADIES



Ontario-born Emily Murphy (1868-1933) never backed away from a fight. When a male magis-

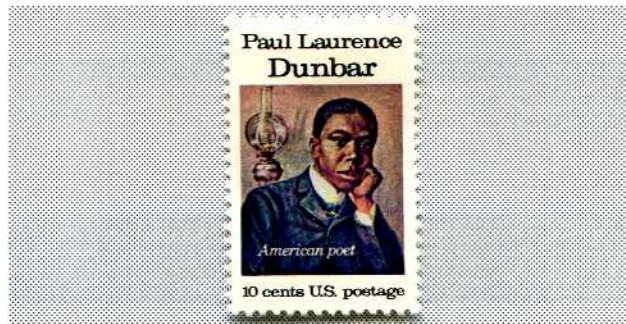
trate declared that women were excluded as observers in a trial involving a woman charged with prostitution (1916), Emily got mad. She crusaded for female magistrates to hear cases involving females. So effective was her crusade that she found herself appointed as the first Canadian female judge! This appointment was then opposed with the claim that legally, women were not even persons! With the help of Nelly McClung, Emily finally got this debate before the Privy Council in London, England (1929). She won -- the Empire's highest court declared that women were in fact "persons." (CDN #1048, ISSUED 1985)

LITTLE FLOWER



Fiorello Henry La Guardia (1882-1947) was affectionately known as the "Little Flower." The term is derived from the actual meaning of his first name, *Fiorello*. A highly sensitive and greatly loved leader, he became even more popular when, during a newspaper strike, he read the Sunday comics to children over the radio. In World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Service, achieving the rank of major. He commanded the 8th Center Aviation School and was attached to night and day bombing squadrons on the Italian front. Technically, the spelling of La Guardia's name on this stamp is incorrect -- there should be a space after "La." (USA #1397, ISSUED 1972)

LOANED LIFE



Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1872-1906) wrote poetry about life in the deep South. However, he was not from the South. He relied on his mother, an ex-slave, for information. (USA #1554, ISSUED 1975)

LONG WAIT PORTRAIT



Gilbert Charles Stuart (1755-1828) created the famous painting of George Washington that appears on the following stamp (USA #707) issued in 1932. The painting was also used for the image of Washington on the U.S. one dollar bill. The portrait was the last of three Washington portraits for which Stuart was commissioned to paint.



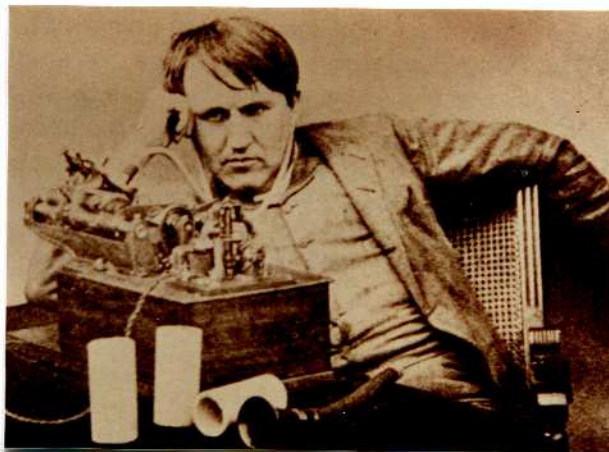
This particular Washington portrait, Stuart purposely left *unfinished*. He did this so that he would always have the painting available to make copies. In all, he made seventy copies that he sold for \$100 each. Even when Washington himself demanded his portrait, Stuart told him it was not finished. The painting remained in Stuart's possession until his death in 1828. In all probability, Washington never paid for the work, and it certainly never graced a wall in the president's home while he was still with us. The painting shows Washington at age 64, so Stuart started on the work in 1796 and kept it in his possession for the following thirty-two years. The painting presently resides in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. (USA #884, ISSUED 1940)

MAKING LIGHT OF EDISON



Despite his intelligence, Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) was considered "addled" by his school teachers. In fact, he was expelled from school for being retarded. The truth, however, is that he was partially deaf and could not properly hear his teachers. It is likely this impairment brought about his enjoyment of solitude, an environment in which his creativity

flourished. One of Edison's greatest inventions was the phonograph. Considering his hearing problem, this invention was truly remarkable. At one time, he is noted as saying he was going to invent a machine to talk to the dead. Although it is certain the inventor was joking, the magazine *Scientific America* took him at his word. As a result, Edison's little reference to the supernatural may have played a part in many people believing he actually saw the "other side." On his death bed at age 84, Edison awoke from a coma and gazing straight out of his bedroom window muttered, "It is very beautiful over there." It is believed he was referring to the view, yet there are many people who believed otherwise. The following photograph shows Edison with his phonograph machine. (USA #945, ISSUED 1947)



MARTHA'S MARGINS



Despite the fact that she had two children, Martha Dandridge Custis (1732-1802), later Martha Washington, was certainly one of the best (if not the best) marriage prospects in Virginia. Martha, a widow, owned 7,700 acres of cultivated land together with an equal amount of woodland. She also owned 300 slaves and had gold assets that amounted to \$100,000. When all of these assets were added to those of George Washington, the couple were among the richest landowners in Virginia. (USA #306, ISSUED 1902)

MEDALS OF MEMORY



In the 1912 Summer Olympics, Jim Thorpe (1888-1953), did the impossible. He won both the pentathlon (a five event series) and the decathlon (a ten event series) for the United States. Trophies and medals were presented to him and for a while he was a world sports hero. It was later discovered, however, that Thorpe had played professional baseball in 1909 and 1910 which made him ineligible to participate in amateur sports. He was therefore made to return his trophies and medals, and his Olympic record was erased from the books. Thorpe died on March 28, 1953, still in the shadow of his great Olympic shame. As a result of decades of entreaty to the Olympic Committee, the original decision was reversed in 1973, restoring Thorpe's place in Olympic history. Ten years later, replicas of his 1912 medals were presented to his family. (USA #2089, ISSUED 1984)

MISS IS AS GOOD AS A MILE



Andrew Johnson (1807-1875) is among the *least* popular U.S. presidents. His presidency was

marred by his strong disagreement with congress on the Reconstruction Acts after the civil war. The poor relationship came to a head when Johnson sought to remove from office Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, which violated the Tenure of Office Act. Impeachment charges were brought against Johnson and he survived the ordeal by one (1) vote. Thirty-six (36) votes were needed for a conviction (a two-thirds majority) and the count came out at thirty-five (35) for impeachment, nineteen (19) against. (USA #822, ISSUED 1938)

MIXED RELATIONS



David Farragut (1801-1870) was christened James Glasgow Farragut. He changed his first name to

David in about 1814 in honor of his foster father, Captain David Porter. The David D. Porter shown beside Farragut on the illustrated stamp is Farragut's foster brother, David Dixon Porter. Three family members therefore had the same first name. Farragut was the originator of the famous expression, *Damn the torpedoes*. In Farragut's time, a mine was called a torpedo. In one of his battles, Farragut had to take his ship into a minefield. It was at that time that he made the famous statement. (USA #792, ISSUED 1937)

MONARCH MUSING



This stamp portrays Hawaii's King David Kalakaua (1836-1891). At one point in his life, Kalakaua

was Hawaii's postmaster general. He was probably the only postmaster to become king of a nation. Further, he was probably the first monarch to circle the globe, and the first king to visit the United States. He built the lavish European style Iolani Palace which today is the only real palace in the United States. Moreover, Kalakaua revived the traditional Hawaiian hula, long banned by early missionaries. In addition, he wrote the words to his country's national anthem, *Hawaii Pono'i*, which is still a popular Hawaiian song. Finally, he was the first living Hawaiian monarch to appear on a postage stamp. (HAWAII #35, ISSUED 1875)

MOTHER'S BOY



William Lyon Mackenzie King (1874-1950) was the grandson of the leader of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie. By nature, King was a "loner" who throughout his life was greatly influenced by his mother. A believer in spiritualism, he tried to communicate with his mother after her death. (CDN #304, ISSUED 1951)

NECESSARY EVIL



During the American Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was given the unflattering appellation, *Grant the Butcher*. He earned this title as a result of his lack of emotion in sending tens of thousands of young men to their death. However, Grant could not bear to kill an animal and became enraged if he saw a man beating a horse. After the marriage ceremony of Nellie, his daughter, Grant went to his room and sobbed like a child. The following photograph shows Grant without his familiar full beard. The image gives us a little different slant on his character.



Grant summed-up his feelings on the Civil War as follows: *It is probably well that we had the war when we did. We are better off now than we would have been*

without it. In looking at Grant's life, it is obvious that the Civil War was the best thing that could have happened to him. Prior to the war, he failed in everything he did to make a living -- farming, business, peacetime army officer. In this last endeavor, he was discharged from the army for drunkenness. He certainly knew poverty and at one point tried to sell his wife's slaves so that he would have money for food and other necessities. As to the burning slavery issue that resulted in the war, it appears Grant took a *devil may care* attitude and was really not that concerned. The war afforded him an opportunity to serve his country and at the same time alleviate his personal problems. He had no ill feelings towards the Confederates at that time or any future time. During the war, Grant was a notorious drinker. When this fact was reported to President Abraham Lincoln, he replied: *Find out what he drinks. I'd like to send a barrel of it to my other generals.* The following stamp (USA #787) issued in 1937, shows Grant with two of his subordinates, Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and Philip Henry Sheridan.



After Grant became president in 1869, he had no problem accepting gifts from those who did business with the government. He named a notorious war profiteer to his Cabinet and associated with people whose business ethics were highly questionable. Nevertheless, while these and many other *negatives* are associated with Grant, they did not outweigh the *positives*. Grant was, it appears, in his time and place, a *necessary evil*. (USA #255, ISSUED 1894)

NO MONKEY BUSINESS



William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), who was known as the *Boy Orator*, had very distinct and "home spun" convictions when it came to good and evil. An assessment made of him by John Hay, one of President Abraham Lincoln's secretaries, was that, *Bryan thinks every man who has a clean shirt is a thief and should be hanged.* Also, it appears Bryan did not

put up with any monkey business. He was chief prosecutor at the Scopes trial in which John T. Scopes was

charged and convicted for the crime of teaching evolution. (USA #2195, ISSUED 1986)

NOBLE DROP-OUT



The actual name of Cavelier de La Salle (1643-1687) was Rene-Robert Cavelier. Prior to arriving in Canada from France in 1666, he had spent nine years as a priest in the Jesuit Order. His lack of discretion, bad judgment and instability in the Order apparently caused no objections to be raised when he asked to be released from his vows. In Canada, he tried to settle on the land he had been given but also failed in this pursuit. He then tried his luck at exploring, virtually lying about his ability to speak the Iroquois language and his knowledge of astronomy. Cavelier's first expedition more or less went nowhere. At a point near what is now Hamilton, Ontario, Cavelier left his companions and disappeared for two years. Reports that he discovered both the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during this time have never been substantiated. By a twist of fate, Cavelier, deeply in debt in Montreal, won favor with the recently arrived governor of New France, Comte de Frontenac. Apparently Cavelier helped the new governor in his difficulties with his subordinates and with the Jesuits. In addition to political favors, Cavelier was given the title *de La Salle*, which raised him to the rank of a nobleman. La Salle (as he was now known) again pursued explorations. He built a

ship, the *Griffon*, which somehow vanished on Lake Michigan six weeks after it was launched. This incident left the nobleman every more in debt. Nevertheless, in his subsequent explorations he made some notable contributions to his country, the most important being possession of Louisiana in the name of the King of France. After obtaining backing from Louis XIV, La Salle now set out to find the mouth of the Mississippi River and there establish a colony. He started out from France with a healthy company of about four hundred men on four ships. Unfortunately, the main supply ship was lost to the Spanish during the outward journey. Also, upon reaching the West Indies, La Salle suffered a lengthy illness. Without direct leadership, the expedition became completely disorganized. When La Salle finally recovered, his following had dwindled to 180 men. Nevertheless, he pushed forward, but his lack of leadership abilities, knowledge of astronomy and navigation proved disastrous. Months of searching for the Mississippi River mouth were to no avail. Conditions on board the ships became desperate, and the men were disillusioned and angry. Finally, La Salle disembarked at what is now Matagorda Bay, Texas. Two of the remaining ships were subsequently wrecked and the last ship returned to France, leaving La Salle and about 45 followers to fend for themselves on land. La Salle and a small party made an attempt to reach Canada and report the situation but failed and returned to the main group. A second attempt was made, this time by La Salle and about half of the men. For some reason La Salle's nephew, who was part of the group, was murdered. When La Salle hurried to the scene, he himself was assassinated by one of his own men. As one historian has summed up the nobleman: *His feverish and disorganized pursuit of fame and fortune ended in the tangled undergrowth and mud of the Mississippi Delta.* (CDN #446, ISSUED 1966)

NOOSE ENDS



At one point in his life, President Grover Cleveland (1837-1908) was a hangman! As a sheriff in Erie County, Buffalo, New York in the early 1870's, Cleveland personally carried out the duties for hangings. Records indicate that he hanged two men in less than a six month period. These men were: Patrick Morrissey, convicted of stabbing his mother; and Jack Gaffney,

PEOPLE PECULIARITIES

convicted of murdering a man during a card game. While Cleveland's "hanging" days were well in the past by the time he became president, they did happen and are an unusual part of the history of this most unusual president. After Cleveland received the Democratic nomination for president in 1884, the newspapers had a field day with a scandal involving Cleveland's alleged illegitimate son, Oscar Folsom Cleveland. The papers stated that Grover had acknowledged paternity and offered financial support for the boy. It was further stated that the boy had gone to an orphanage and the mother to an asylum, "by foul and forcible means." Delighted with the scandal, the Republicans made up a little song:

*Ma! Ma! Where's my pa?
Gone to the White House,
Ha! Ha! Ha!*

The following political cartoon is captioned, "Another Voice for Cleveland."



Cleveland admitted that he did have an affair with the boy's mother, Maria Halpin. He directed his campaign managers not to hide or distort anything. His own words to them were, "Whatever you say, tell the truth." This was a very wise move. A leading clergyman and other Cleveland supporters managed to turn the whole thing around by telling the truth. They stated that there was no proof Cleveland was the father -- other men had been involved with Maria Halpin. Cleveland had done the "singularly honorable" thing by *assuming* responsibility and finding a respectable home for the boy. With regard to Maria, Cleveland had never proposed marriage to her and it was not true that she had been sent to an asylum. Although at the time her whereabouts were unknown, it was later disclosed that she married and settled down in New Rochelle, New

York. On election night, Cleveland emerged the victor. Now the Democrats made up a little song:

*Hurrah for Maria,
Hurrah for the kid;
We voted for Grover,
And we're damned glad we did!*

At age 49, while he was president, Cleveland wed Frances Folsom, age 22. Prior to the marriage a rumor was spread that Cleveland was courting Frances' widowed mother! A very annoyed president stated, *I don't see why the papers keep marrying me to old ladies all the while.* The following is a photograph of Cleveland's young bride.



Further, in addition to these issues and the problems of a nation deeply entrenched in a depression, President Cleveland found himself with a pressing personal health problem. He had a malignant cancerous growth in his upper jawbone that required an immediate operation. With the people in a state of panic and his presence urgently needed to support reform legislation, he could not possibly show any weaknesses nor take time off. In complete secrecy, Grover borrowed a friend's

yacht and arranged for a team of doctors and surgeons to perform the operation away from all eyes and ears. Cleveland's upper jaw bone was removed and replaced with a vulcanized rubber jaw. This replacement enabled him to speak without any impediments. The operation was performed on the inside of the President's mouth using a special technique, so there were no external scars. Although one newspaper somehow ob-

tained the story, it was strenuously denied by White House officials. Nine years after Cleveland's death, Dr. W.W. Keen, one of the surgeons who attended at the operation, came forward and confirmed the foregoing account. The story is further confirmed by the existence of Cleveland's personal cheque made out to Dr. Keen in the amount of fifty dollars. (USA #564, ISSUED 1923)

OUTWARD FOR EDWARD



As a young man, King Edward VII (1841-1910), was apparently a real handful for his mother, Queen Victoria. Edward's wild behavior in the Grenadier Guards of Ireland in 1861 was never forgiven by the Queen. When Edward's father, Prince Albert, died that same year, Victoria felt that her son's actions clouded the closing weeks of her husband's life. Father and son, as a youth, are seen on the following stamps.



Prince Albert (NFD #27, Issued 1865/70) and his son Albert Edward (NFD #44, Issued 1887).

As a result of her son's behavior, Victoria never relied on Edward and did not allow him any say in the business of the nation or in the affairs of her court or the royal family. (NFD #81, ISSUED 1901)

PADDLER PUZZLER



Edward (Ned) Hanlan (1855-1908) *unofficially* exchanged the spelling of his surname. His legal name was spelled with an "o," (i.e., Hanlon). He was the son of John Hanlon and Mary Gibbs. Why the sculler chose to change the spelling of his name is unknown. Even a statue of the renowned oarsman on the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in Toronto shows Edward's unofficial last name. (CDN #862, ISSUED 1980)

PAPER GENERAL



Friedrich von Steuben (1730-1794), lived with a white lie in joining Washington's forces. When von Steuben left the Prussian Army, he had attained the rank of captain. His letter of introduction and recommendation to George Washington, however, showed him as a lieutenant general. This little deception was cooked up by Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and the

French war minister. Reasoning that Congress would not be impressed with a mere captain, the trio "pro-

moted" von Steuben in the glowing letter to Washington. (USA #689, ISSUED 1930)

PAPERLESS PALACES



The great American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959), designed more than 1,000 magnificent buildings. His structures, which are designed around the human form and "human doings," place him among the most famous of American architects. One of his buildings, the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan withstood a severe earthquake in 1923. Although Wright attended the University of Wisconsin, he never received a degree in architecture. (USA #1280, ISSUED 1966)

PERRY POINTS



Upon the defeat of the British in the Battle of Lake Erie, Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819) sent his famous message, *We have met the enemy and he is ours*, to his superiors. While this statement is all that is usually quoted, there was more to the message: *two*

ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop. Although Perry was commonly called "commodore," this rank was given him by the public and was not his official rank. He was a captain, which is a rank just below that of a commodore. When Perry was put in command of a new fleet, he unfurled a command flag that bore the stirring statement, "DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP." While this statement was used by Perry, and has been historically attributed to him, he was not the statement originator. Captain James Lawrence spoke these famous words as he lay mortally wounded in the battle between the *Chesapeake* and the *Shannon* on June 1, 1813. (USA #229, ISSUED 1890)

PILFERING PAUL THE PRINT PIRATE



Paul Revere (1735-1818) is credited with an artistic rendering of the *Boston Massacre*, shown below. This engraving, considered Revere's most famous artwork, did much to kindle the fires of revolution in early America. The rendering shows heartless British soldiers firing into a crowd of orderly and respectable citizens. While the truth of the matter was rather a different story, the revolutionary cause had been well served. There is convincing evidence, however, that Revere was not the original artist of the *Boston Massacre* engraving. It seems he copied it from an engraving entitled, *An Original Print....Taken on the Spot*, by Henry Pelham, another local artist. Revere created and sold prints before Pelham managed to get his copies to the public. Pelham accused Revere of, *one of the most dishonorable actions you (Revere) could well be guilty of*. This account is given more credibility by the fact that Revere did not actually sign the work. The printing at the bottom of the engraving reads, "Engrav'd

Printed & Sold by Paul Revere, Boston.” There is also evidence that Revere copied other works, claiming them as his own. Even copyright protected British political cartoons were pirated and sold under his name. In this regard, it is certain Paul lost no sleep. (USA #1048, ISSUED 1958)



PLANNING PLUNDER WONDER



This stamp honors Chief Planner Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806) who effected the plans for the city of Washington, D.C. The original chief planner for this job, however, was Pierre Charles L'Enfant with whom Banneker initially work on the project. After work got underway, L'Enfant was dismissed for insubordination. In spite, L'Enfant gathered-up all the plans and detailed maps to date and disappeared. Banneker, however, had memorized all the details and was able to accurately reproduce the stolen documents. Using his own initiative, he completed the project. (USA #1804, ISSUED 1980)

POETRY IN MOTION



Walter McRaye. It appears Pauline and Evelyn were not on very good terms. As a result, Canada lost out on an insight into the personal life of one of its greatest artists. Pauline's ashes were scattered near the ocean shore in Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia. A monument (shown below) was erected in the park area. (CDN #392, ISSUED 1961)

This stamp portrays the noted Canadian poetess Emily Pauline Johnson (1861-1913) and her two personalities -- Indian princess and Victorian lady. The idea that Johnson was a princess is fiction. It was created by a Toronto newspaper reporter in writing about one of her stage performances. Johnson's father, however, was an Indian chief. Pauline's Indian name was *Tekahionwake*. While poetry and prose became Johnson's claim to fame, it was her stage career that provided her livelihood. In real life, Johnson was far from the pristine image shown on chocolate boxes. In some performances, she would leap onto the stage dressed in buckskin. She would have with a necklace of bear claws and two human scalps hanging from her waist. After acting out some of her dramatic poems, she would exit and reappear dressed in the height of London fashion to recite a delicate poem. After Pauline's death, her notes and letters were burned by her sister, Evelyn, and Pauline's agent (probable ex-lover),



RELATIVE CAUSE



Nathan Hale (1755-1776) is probably the only spy to be intentionally honored on a postage stamp. Hale undertook an espionage mission behind British lines for George Washington in 1776. Unfortunately, Hale was recognized by one of his own relatives who supported the British, and was reported to the authorities. Ordered by General William Howe to be hanged the next day, Hale requested a Bible and the services of a minister. These requests were refused by the hard-hearted British general. Moments before the sentence was carried out (at what is now the corner of Market Street and East Broadway in New York City), Hale's last words were: *I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.* (USA #551, ISSUED 1925)

SALVATION SALES



The noted German theologian Martin Luther (1483-1546), did not agree that heaven was for sale. During his time, it was common practice for the Roman Catholic Church to sell indulgences which granted the forgiveness of sin. Luther disagreed with this practice because there was no penance involved (other than an empty pocket which apparently did not count). His harsh attack on the lucrative Roman Catholic business eventually caused a split in the church giving birth to Protestantism. (USA #2065, ISSUED 1983)

SEVIER'S SEVERAL HATS



In late 1770, North Carolina apparently "bit off a little more than it could chew." Acting upon the petition of John Sevier (1745-1815), the government annexed the area which is presently the State of Tennessee and made it a county of North Carolina. The move enabled those people in the new territory to help out in the American Revolution with official state authority. After the Revolution, however, North Carolina found that their new county so increased their portion of the Federal debt, that they could not afford to keep it. Consequently, they ceded the territory to the Federal Government. It took about one month for this news to filter down to the 25,000 inhabitants of the ceded region. The decision did not sit well with the settlers. They were not about to be "traded off," so they revolted against their parent state and formed their own govern-

ment. At a convention held on August 24, 1784, they drew up a constitution, and elected John Sevier as governor. They called their new state "Franklin," after Benjamin Franklin. The people themselves became known as "Franklanders," (at their own request). The State of Franklin existed for some four years, amid the cries of "foul" by North Carolina. Nevertheless, North Carolina immediately reversed its decision to cede the territory to the Federal Government. It also set up a militia in the Franklin territory with John Sevier as its commanding general. The Franklin populace, however, was still determined to have its own state. Against his better judgment, Sevier went along with his people. In 1786, North Carolina sent in troops. Sevier was arrested, taken to North Carolina, imprisoned and later tried and convicted for high treason. He was subsequently pardoned (some sources say rescued) and he returned to Franklin. In 1788, the rigors of the struggle for independence caught up with the beleaguered state and the territory was peacefully taken over again by North Carolina. Eight years later (1796), former Franklin became the state of Tennessee, of which Sevier served as the first governor. (USA #941, ISSUED 1946)

SHADES OF YOUTH



Juan Ponce de León (c.1460-1521) who discovered Florida in 1513, was actually on a quest for the Fountain of Youth when he stumbled onto the new territory. The name "Florida" is derived from the Spanish word "flor" meaning flower. Ponce de León selected this name because of the abundance of flowers in the region. He had sailed with Christopher Colum-

bus in 1493 (second voyage) so was somewhat familiar with the area. As he approached Florida, the aging explorer stopped off at several islands to sample the

water, hoping his striking white hair and beard would return to the shades of his youth. (USA #2024, ISSUED 1982)

SONG THAT SAVED THE UNION

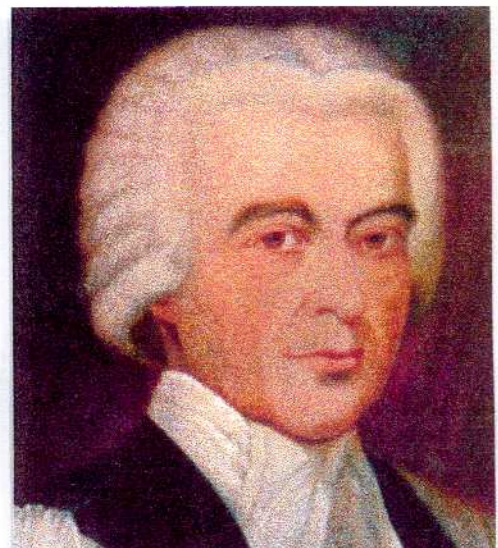


Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910), who wrote the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, composed the verses to this song in the dead of night with scarcely enough light to see what she was writing. According to her own story, Julia awoke from sleep, wrote the words to the song and then went back to bed. When she arose the next morning she could only vaguely remember composing the work. The words were put to music by Charles MacCabe, a chaplain. Abraham Lincoln heralded the work as, *The song that saved the Union*. (USA #2176, ISSUED 1987)

SPIRITUAL DEFIANCE



Charles Inglis (1734 - 1816), Canada's first Anglican Bishop, is honored on this stamp. The image of Inglis was designed using the following painting. The stamp design was given a church stained-glass window effect, which is highly appropriate for the subject. Prior to his assignment in Canada, Inglis was acting rector of Trinity Church in New York. He was a staunch loyalist and conducted open prayers for King George III directly after America's Declaration of Independence -- with George Washington in a front pew. In his memoirs, Inglis recalls a later incident: *A rebel general left word that General George Washington would be at Church, and would be glad if the violent Prayers for the King and Royal Family were omitted. The message was brought to me, and as You may suppose I paid no Regard to it.* (CDN #1226, ISSUED 1988)



TAPPING THE LINE



It is common knowledge, of course, that Samuel Morse (1791-1872) is credited with the invention of the telegraph and that he developed the Morse Code. The words, *What hath God wrought*, shown on the following stamp (USA #924) issued in 1944, were Morse's first transmitted words.



What is not so well known, however, is that Morse was very prominent in the field of art and some other fields. He was awarded a gold medal for one of his art works and went on to become a professor of painting and sculpture at the University of the City of New York. Also, he was the leading founder and first president of the New York National Academy of Design. He was involved in politics and ran for the Mayor of New York in 1836 and 1841. Finally, he was one of the first practitioners in daguerreotype in America. (USA #890, ISSUED 1940)

TEDDY'S LAST ROUND



Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) had a certain passion for boxing and often used the White House gym to do a little sparring. Sparring partners were recruited to give the president a workout. He even went a few rounds with John L. Sullivan, the heavy-weight champion of the world. One day, the hardy President received a hard blow to his left eye and he permanently lost sight in this eye. Nothing was said to anyone and, true to his character, Roosevelt just carried on. (USA #1039, ISSUED 1955)

TIME-OUT PRESIDENT



President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) did not let work interfere with his vacations. During his terms

in office, he would take two or three months off each summer and head out to some very remote vacation spots. On one vacation, he would not allow a telephone to be installed in his residence. His day-to-day routine at the office was also somewhat "laid back" for a president. He would generally settle down to work at 9:00 a.m., break for a two and one-half hour lunch/nap at 12:30 p.m., and leave the office before 6:00 p.m. At 10:00 p.m., it was bedtime and Calvin was seldom late for that appointment. (USA #834, ISSUED 1938)

TREASON WITH REASON



Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871), now honored as a Canadian patriot, was at one point in his fiery

career charged with the crime of high treason. A proclamation was issued offering a reward of \$4,000 for his capture. Papineau inspired a document known as the *Ninety-Two Resolutions*, which was a resounding statement of French-Canadian grievances. Although it is doubtful Papineau sanctioned actual physical force, his inflammatory speeches led to the Rebellion of 1837. Several hundred insurgents were wounded or killed by Canadian government forces before the rebellion was crushed. Papineau fled to the United States. He returned to Canada in 1845 after being granted amnesty. He is now honored for his contribution in paving the way for greater recognition of the rights of French Canadians. (CDN #539, ISSUED 1971)

WAYNE WONDERS



The movie star shown on this stamp is John Wayne (1907-1979). Wayne's actual name was Marion Michael Morrison. Considering the roles he played in films, changing his Christian name was certainly a wise decision. We are, however, better acquainted with his nickname, "Duke." This name came from the name of a dog he once owned. (USA #2448, ISSUED 1990)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



While the surname of the great composer John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) does not appear very

unusual, how it was derived is another story. In his early life, Sousa decided to change his last name, which at that time was "Ochs." He took the initials of his father, Samuel Ochs, (S.O.) and added the initials of the United States of America (U.S.A.). The resulting name SOUSA, when taken as "So U.S.A.," calls to mind his greatly patriotic compositions such as the *Stars and Stripes Forever* and *Semper Fidelis*. A musical instrument, the *sousaphone*, was named after Sousa. (USA #880, ISSUED 1940)

WHAT WASHINGTON WASN'T



So much has been written about George Washington (1732-1799) that he has become virtually enshrined in history. It was, however, his lack of pretension that enabled him to achieve the greatness he so rightfully deserves. While he came from a family with some means, he had only eight years of formal primary schooling and he did not attend college. He was an avid outdoorsman and learned the way of the land by direct experience. At one point, he considered

joining the British Navy, but his mother managed to dissuade him from that pursuit. Like Daniel Boone, Washington fought savage Indians on the frontier. He became known to the natives as *Caunotaucarious* (The Towntaker). For certain, his hard life experiences were his greatest asset in the American Revolution. These experiences could not have been learned at college. Washington had an estate, and was what might be termed an American "aristocrat." It was not, therefore, personal hardships that prompted him to revolt against British injustices. Although he was comfortable, he certainly was not pampered and he never gave way to an easy life style. It was a horseback ride through a storm that led to ill health and his subsequent death at the age of 67. In 1991, the following article was published about one of Washington's descendants. (USA #720, ISSUED 1932)

I'm the last twig on George Washington's family tree

By JACK ALEXANDER

George Washington's family tree is down to its last living male — a spry oldster named Bill Washington who is still going strong at 85.

"Other folks make more out of it than I do," said Bill, a retired tool and die maker from Bradley, Ill.

Bill is the last great-great-great-great-great grandson of Augustine Washington, who was the father of the father of our country. And he has the papers to prove it.

Though he has never thrown a rock, a silver dollar or anything else across a river like his famous ancestor, Bill has George's nose.

"He has never chopped down a cherry tree, but he loves anything with cherries in it — pies, tarts, cobbler, you name it," said Bill's wife, Hazel.

"He's as honest as George. He doesn't lie. Even his mother-in-law says, 'I always know Bill will tell me the truth,'" said Hazel.

Bill is descended from the line of one of George's half brothers, Lawrence. There are

thousands of Washington descendants in the U.S., but none can trace their heritage back to Augustine Washington.

Bill came to the attention of genealogists in the mid-1970s as the last surviving descendant in the Augustine Washington male line.

"I never paid any attention to it until the genealogists began calling," said Bill. "I really didn't have much to do with it."

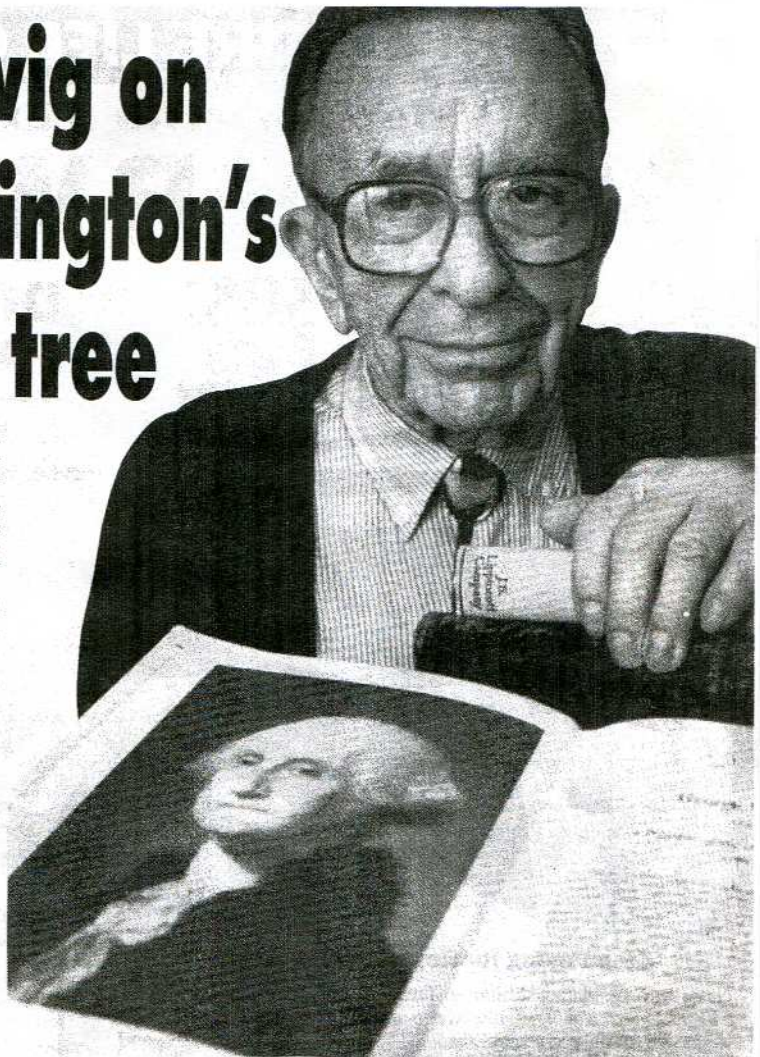
Bill has two daughters but no sons. He has no brothers and his only sister died a few years ago.

Being related to America's first president hasn't spilled into Bill's personal life. He has been asked to ride in a few parades and attend special parties on his birthday.

"Mostly he worked 41 years in anonymity, fished a lot and dabbled in photography," Hazel said.

"He never made a fuss about it."

Bill's health isn't what it used to be. He's hard of hearing and has a heart problem. "But it hasn't slowed him down," said Hazel. "We still go to church dinners and he goes out once a week with his men friends."



THE NOSE SHOWS more than anything that Bill Washington looks a lot like his ancestor.

WHERE EINSTEIN DREW THE LINE



Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was born to Jewish parents in Ulm, Germany. He moved to the United States in 1933. His brilliance, particularly in physics, was world renown and evidently brought about

much pride in the hearts of his Jewish countrymen. In 1952, he was offered the presidency of Israel! The prime minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, told him that his election to the largely symbolic office was assured, and Israel would support his scientific work while he was in office. At that time, Einstein was seventy-three years old and he cited age as a definite factor in his refusal to take the position. However, Einstein also confessed that, although he knew a few things about the world, he lacked both the natural aptitude and experience to deal properly with people. (USA #1285, ISSUED 1966)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?



Doctor George Washington Carver (1864-1943) was one of the most famous and influential scientists of his time. An agricultural chemist, Carver reached

world prominence for his research and innovative ideas. His work on crops such as cotton, peanuts and sweet potatoes helped inspire a virtual agricultural revolution in the Southern United States. During his life, Carver received many awards and commendations from grateful countries, including a fellowship in London's Royal Society of Arts. However, while alive, he never received any recognition from his own country! As a black American, Carver had to fight hard for his education (he was illiterate until almost 20 years old), and during his travels was not allowed in white hotels or restaurants. (USA #953, ISSUED 1948)

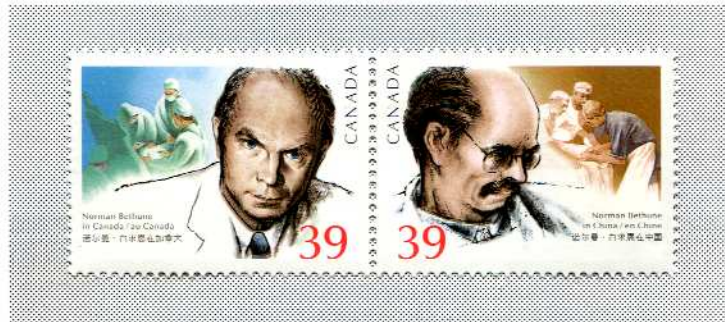
WILSON'S WHITE HOUSE WOOLLIES



For a brief period during 1917, White House prestige was humbled. A flock of sheep was intentionally placed on the property. Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), the president at the time, reasoned that valuable fighting men should not be used to cut grass. As part of the war effort, he used sheep to take care of the White House lawns. (USA #1040, ISSUED 1956)



WITHOUT THOUGHT OF SELF



Dr. Henry Norman Bethune (1890-1939) was an amazing individual who dedicated his life in the service of others. He established the Canadian Blood Transfusion Service and formed a plan for socialized medicine in Canada. During the Spanish Civil War he established a mobile blood service for Republican forces. He then trained thousands of Chinese to become medics and doctors during their struggle against the Japanese and Chinese Nationalists. He was highly venerated by the Communist Chinese government which issued four postage stamps in his honor. Two of the Chinese stamps have the same design as the Canadian stamps shown above. It is no secret that Bethune was a communist. He was a member of the Canadian

Communist Party and he joined the Chinese Communist Party. He is the only known Chinese Communist Party member to be honored on a U.S. or Canadian stamp. While certainly a great humanitarian, Bethune is above all a paradox. He hated fascism and used his energies and talents in the fight against fascism. By doing so, however, he assisted those who are against democracy and therefore his own country. This fact might be hard to reconcile in light of struggles involving the Republic of China, Korea and Vietnam. Bethune died in China. To add perhaps a little insult to injury, we are told that a Canadian flag could not be found to honor him. As a result, a U.S. flag was substituted. (CDN #1264 and 1265, ISSUED 1990)

WRONG TIMES RHYMES



Robert William Service (1874-1958) immortalized the romance of the Klondike gold rush in his many brilliant poems. One of his most famous works, *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, was inspired after a bullet narrowly missed his head. At that time, the poet was working as a teller for the Bank of Commerce in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. One night he desired to be alone to write, so he went to his cage at the closed bank. A guard mistook him for an intruder and fired at him. Another of Service's popular works is *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, which is the theme of the illustrated postage stamp. All of Service's work indicates intimate first-hand knowledge of life during the great Klondike gold rush. However, the poet did not arrive in Whitehorse until 1904, long after the gold rush had ended. Service virtually went on and immortalized a time and a way of life he had never actually experienced! (CDN #695, ISSUED 1976)