

# FREEMASONS DEPICTED ON UNITED STATES "GOVERNMENT DIE" REVENUE STAMPS



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In 1961 Bro. Walter R. Harbeson provided our Club with his research on Revenue Stamps. The stamps on this page are the Freemasons he found depicted on such stamps. The additional stamps on the next page were added. There are numerous men shown on Revenue Stamps with many varieties of the same general stamp design.

The stamps shown here are the Government Die stamps, as opposed to Private Die stamps. Further discussion is provided on the next page.



R292

**George W. Campbell**  
1768-1848

U.S. Representative from Tennessee 1803-09.  
U.S. Senator 1811-14.  
Secretary of Treasury 1814.  
Minister to Russia 1818-20.  
Past Master Greenville Lodge No. 43.  
Reported to have held offices in Knoxville Lodge No. 2, Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 59 and Tennessee Lodge No. 41, all of Knoxville, Tennessee.  
Shown on #R292; RD71.



RD368

**Samuel D. Ingham**  
1779-1860

Secretary of Treasury under Jackson. U.S. Congressman from Pennsylvania 1813-18 and 1822-29.  
Was a Mason (affiliation not reported).  
Shown on #R296; RD75; RD368



RG124

**George M. Bibb**  
1776-1859

Secretary of Treasury under Tyler 1844-45.  
Senator from Kentucky 1811-14 and 1829-35.  
Adjunct Professor of ancient languages in primary department of Masonic College of Kentucky.  
First Master of Russellville Lodge No. 17, Russellville, Kentucky.  
Past Master Lexington Lodge No. 1, Lexington, Kentucky.  
Grand Master of Kentucky 1804.  
Past High Priest Frankfort Chapter No. 3, R.A.M.  
Shown on #R304; RD83; RG124



RD77

**William J. Duane**  
1780-1865

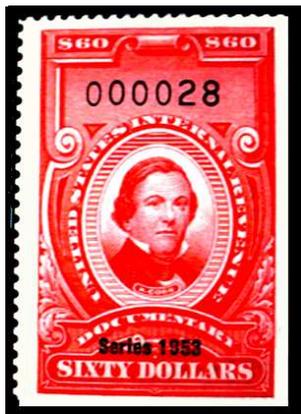
Secretary of Treasury 1833. Removed by Jackson when he refused to withdraw Government deposits from United States Bank.  
On staff of the "Aurora" newspaper, Philadelphia; and a prominent attorney.  
Initiated in St. John's Lodge No. 115, Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 1811; withdrew Dec. 7, 1814.  
Shown on #R298; RD77.



RV2

**Daniel Manning**  
1831-1887

Secretary of Treasury 1885-1887.  
President of the "Argus" newspaper, Albany, New York.  
President National Commercial Bank, Albany, New York.  
Resigned as Secretary of Treasury to become President of The Bank of New York.  
Member of Temple Lodge No. 14, Albany, New York.  
Shown on Vehicle Tax Stamps of 1945-46, #RV2



R647

**Howell Cobb**  
1815-1868

Secretary of Treasury under Buchanan 1857-60.  
Governor of Georgia 1851.  
Confederate General.  
Member of Congress 1843-51.  
Presided over sessions of Provincial Congress that adopted Constitution of the Confederacy.  
Past Master Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 22, Athens, Georgia.  
Member A.A.S.R.-S.J.  
Shown on #R307; RD88; R647



R678

**James Guthrie**  
1792-1869

Secretary of Treasury 1853-57.  
Senator from Kentucky 1865-69.  
President of L. & N. Railroad 1860-68.  
Served in both houses of Kentucky Legislature 1827-40.  
Member of Clark Lodge No. 51, Louisville, Kentucky.  
Member Louisville Chapter No. 5, R.A.M.  
Shown on #R306A; RD87; R678



R289

**Oliver Wolcott, Jr.**  
1760-1833

Secretary of Treasury 1795-1800 under Washington.  
Governor of Connecticut 1817-27 (elected 10 times).  
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Connecticut 1818-20.  
President John Adams appointed him judge for the 2nd District, embracing Connecticut, Vermont and New York; served until 1802.  
Was an aide to his father who became major general of militia.  
Was in mercantile business in New York and founded The Bank of North America of which he was President from 1812-14.  
He was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 4, Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 28, 1784.  
Shown on #R289; RD68.



R1

**George Washington**  
1732-1799

First President of the United States of America. Alexandria Lodged No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia.



**Dewitt Clinton**  
1769-1828

Governor of New York. Holland Lodge No. 16 (now No. 8), New York City, New York. Served as master of the stated lodge. He was active in the Royal Arch and Knight Templars. No listing in the Scott Catalog for this stamp.

Wikipedia states the following: Beginning in 1862 the first revenue stamps were issued, and would continue to be used for another hundred years and more. For the first twelve years George Washington was the only subject featured on U.S. revenue stamps, when in 1874 an allegorical figure of Liberty finally appeared. Revenue stamps were printed in many varieties and denominations and are widely sought after by collectors and historians. Revenue stamps were finally discontinued on December 31, 1967.



R17

**John Marshall**  
1755-1835

Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court. Richmond Lodge No. 13 (now No. 10), Richmond Virginia.

**Revenue Stamps Discussion**

Revenue stamps were simply a way of placing a tax on various selected commodities and legal transactions, and ensuring that the tax was paid.

In order to sell a product, the manufacturer had to purchase the stamps from the government and affix one to each unit sold. If the government found that product was being sold without a stamp, there were heavy fines and penalties.

The manufacturers had a choice. They could either buy the stamps the government produced, or pay for a private die of their own design. In this case, the stamps produced were called Private Die Proprietary Stamps. The only advantages here were a slight stamp price reduction and the satisfaction of having a stamp that specifically represented one's company—a form of advertising.



Design of the 1874 Liberty revenue stamp.

Usually, a revenue stamp was placed on a product in such a way that it had to be torn in half to open the package. As a result far fewer "survived" compared with regular postage stamps. Nevertheless, some collectors removed them intact and these stamps, together with "stamp left overs" are what we have today.

From a Masonic standpoint, the "revenues" are fascinating, and to my knowledge are a new frontier as to identifying Freemasons. With current on-line listings of noted Masons, I am sure many more Brethren could be found who are depicted on such stamps.



REA  
20

**Andrew Jackson**  
1767-1845

Seventh President of the United States of America. Probably received his Masonic degrees in Greenville Lodge, No. 3, Greenville, Tennessee.