



Postmark Atlanta  
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583  
June 2021 Newsletter

We are holding "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting the first and third Tuesday hosted by member Lloyd Nutter. Lloyd sends out a Zoom invitation a couple days before the meeting. If you do not get an invitation for the meetings, please contact Lloyd to make sure he adds you to his list. Emailing him: [trains56@charter.net](mailto:trains56@charter.net). Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

We are researching meeting locations but our prior location Java Vino is not yet open evenings.

Thanks to Fred Danes for his presentation on the George VI issues of Fiji. The detailed scans he was able to share on Zoom made it easy to see the beautiful stamps.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- June 1                      7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. Member show and tell.
- June 7 – 25                American Philatelic Society Summer Seminar. This year's Summer Seminar Online will offer eight 3-session courses exclusively for APS members. Six different "Free Friday" sessions will be open to both members and non-members. For more details about registration and activities check out *Your Complete Guide to Summer Seminar Online*. Registration is open until June 1st.  
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/embed/view/Ya9JHAVTCx2h56mQ>
- June 15                    7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. Presentation on "Great White Fleet visits New Zealand in August 1908" by Scott Holmberg.
- July 6                      7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. Member show and tell.
- July 20                    7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom with presentation.

July 24 – 25 CHARPEX 2021 Charlotte Philatelic Society. Worrell Bldg, Central Piedmont Community College, 1228 Elizabeth Ave. Charlotte NC. Email: [signup@charpex.info.com](mailto:signup@charpex.info.com). [www.charpex.info](http://www.charpex.info)

August 12 – 15 Great American Stamp Show. Combined show ATA, APS and AFDCS. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center – Hall G, 5555 N River Rd. Rosemont, IL (Chicago area). Details are subject to COVID in Illinois so we will keep checking on this. Dealers, Exhibits, Seminars. You can check at <https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show> for the latest updates.

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I missed including the anniversary of the Penny Black in the May newsletter. See the article below from All About Stamps for some basics of the stamp first sold on May 6, 1840.

[https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/victorian-stamps/10-facts-about-the-1840-penny-black-stamp/?utm\\_source=Communicator&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=buttonLink59&utm\\_campaign=Do+you+own+a+Penny+Black%3f&ccCt=zfm2vw1uGwgVSHUUnu6dZvxC8vm2GeEVzUu0%7enFMIP9pfJNpFHw8Od%7egqpRqXqVn](https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/victorian-stamps/10-facts-about-the-1840-penny-black-stamp/?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=buttonLink59&utm_campaign=Do+you+own+a+Penny+Black%3f&ccCt=zfm2vw1uGwgVSHUUnu6dZvxC8vm2GeEVzUu0%7enFMIP9pfJNpFHw8Od%7egqpRqXqVn)

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**ANNOUNCING** an **ATA virtual** one-page exhibition, in conjunction with the **APS Great American Stamp Show: GASS** (August 12 – 15 2021):

The **ATA** is hosting “**My One-Page Exhibit!**”, and all the details can be found at the link below. The closing date to email your one-page exhibit to the **ATA** is **July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

<https://americantopical.org/My-One-Page-Exhibit>

**NOTE:** This will **not** be a judged exhibition, or one where viewers can vote on a most favorite. It’s simply an opportunity to get your philatelic gems and research out into the public view, and participate at GASS.

Exhibit for **FREE**. Create a one-page exhibit and join the **FUN**.

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Allen Johnson with the Button Gwinnett Stamp Club has created a Facebook Group for their club. Contact him to get invited to the group to see their process of buying and selling stamps. [Ajrj1957@yahoo.com](mailto:Ajrj1957@yahoo.com) is his email.

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First Saturday of every month there is in person Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

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## **Star Route Service – St. Simons Island, Georgia**

**By Steve Swain**

Recent research related to the postal history of Saint Simons Island, Georgia (a long-time vacation venue for me and my wife) revealed an intriguing item known as Star Route service, a term used in connection with the US postal service and the contracting of mail delivery services. Prior to 1845, transportation inland mail, other than by railroad, was given to bidders who offered stage or coach service. This was abolished by act of Congress on March 3, 1845, which provided that the postmaster-general “should lease all such contracts to the lowest bidder who tendered sufficient guarantee of faithful performance, without any conditions, except to provide for due celerity, certainty and security of transportation.” These bids became known as "celerity, certainty and security bids" and were designated on the route registers by three stars (\*\*\*) , thus becoming known as "star routes."

The term “star route” is obsolete as of 1970, but still is occasionally used to refer to Highway Contract Routes which replaced the Star routes. Since 2000, the US Postal Service has added the term "Contract Delivery Service" (CDS) as their newest version of the Star Route. These routes are established to serve newly created urban communities.

As early as 1887, star routes were operational on Saint Simons Island and other Georgia barrier islands. As reported in the October 1, 1887 *US Postal Bulletin*, seen below on the left, Route 15100 was the Brunswick to Saint Simons Mills star route. (Saint Simons Mills was a lumber town on the island.) A Star Route delivery truck was the subject the 1986 5.5-cent stamp (Scott #2125) as part of the Transportation Series. Seen below on the right is a first day of issue cover for the Star Route Truck stamp.

**CHANGES IN STAR SCHEDULES.**

**ALABAMA.**

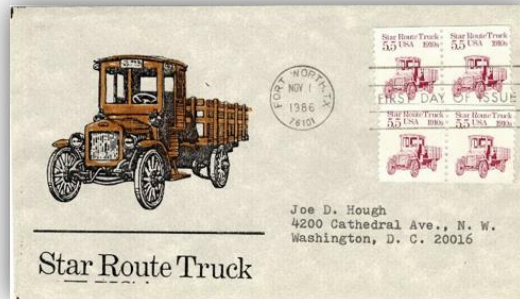
Route 17562. Earnest to Wetona.  
 Leave Earnest Fridays at 2 p m.  
 Arrive at Wetona by 10 p m.  
 Leave Wetona Fridays at 6 a m.  
 Arrive at Earnest by 2 p m. [24 sept 87.

Route 17563. Cansler to Barttatchie, Miss.  
 Leave Cansler Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a m.  
 Arrive at Barttatchie by 12 m.  
 Leave Barttatchie Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 p m.  
 Arrive at Cansler by 7 p m. [23 sept 87.

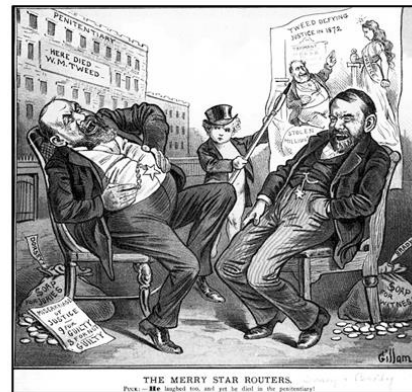
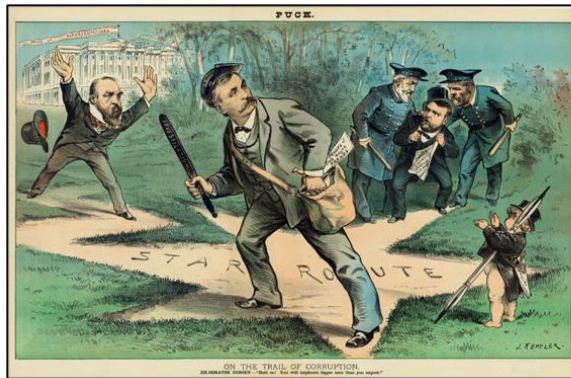
**GEORGIA.**

Route 15100. Brunswick to Saint Simon's Mills  
 Leave Brunswick daily except Sundays at 7.30 a m and 2.30 p m.  
 Arrive at Saint Simon's Mills by 9 a m and 4 p m.  
 Leave Saint Simon's Mills daily except Sundays at 9.30 a m and 4.30 p m.  
 Arrive at Brunswick by 11 a m. and 6 p m. [24 sept 87.

Route 15342. Oglethorpe to Buena Vista  
 Leave Oglethorpe Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1 p m.  
 Arrive at Murray's Cross Roads by 6 p m.  
 Leave Murray's Cross Roads Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 a m.  
 Arrive at Oglethorpe by 12 m.  
 Leave Murray's Cross Roads Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 a m.  
 Arrive at Buena Vista by 12 m.  
 Leave Buena Vista Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 p m.  
 Arrive at Murray's Cross Roads by 6



Star Route service has another interesting element. The Star Route Frauds scandal involved a lucrative 19th century scheme whereby postal officials received bribes in exchange for awarding postal delivery contracts in southern and western areas. Below are cartoons from Puck magazine lampooning the participants in the Star Route scandal.



Although the fraudulent scheme was widespread, there were few convictions. Public disgust over the Star Routes graft served as an impetus for civil service reform and the passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act in 1883.

## Arago change

If you have used the National Postal Museum site Arago to research stamps you will want to know that it has been replaced by "Search the Collection" at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/search-the-collection>. This was necessary because the 14 year-old software was no longer supported.

**If you have not visited the National Postal Museum, you should check out their YouTube site. There are links to lectures and videos of museum exhibits.**

The National Postal Museum continues to engage with the public during the COVID closure online at their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNPM>

The museum is interested in what needs to be collected to document life under COVID much like they have items from the 1918 Flu Pandemic era. If you have ideas or items contact the Chief Curator, Daniel Piazza at [piazza@si.edu](mailto:piazza@si.edu).

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**ANNOUNCING Sotheby's (New York)** live auction of the **British Guiana One-Cent Black on Magenta** (*"the world's most valuable stamp"*), on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (10 AM EST) . The auction estimate is **\$10 – 15 MILLION**.

The link below shows the details of the auction and will hopefully soon provide a **"live"** link closer to the date, so that you can follow the auction **FUN** yourself for **FREE**:

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/digital-catalogues/three-treasures-collected-by-stuart-weitzman>

This auction also includes a plate block of four (4) invert Jenny's (C3a), estimated at **\$5 – 7 MILLION**.

**Description (opposite):** The Unique British Guiana **1856** One-Cent Black on Magenta Surface-Colored Paper (Scott no.13).

**Postmark:** **April 4 1856**  
**DEMERARA** circular datestamp.  
Initialed **EDW**.

**Dimensions:** 29 x 26 mm.

**Question:** Are you ready to bid?



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To encourage members and collectors to learn more about the APS, American Philatelic Society has lifted the members-only restrictions on accessing *The American Philatelist* online. Please feel free to share with your fellow collectors and encourage them to connect and learn more about all the great benefits. [Please access The American Philatelist here](#). If you are getting a print version of this newsletter, the full web address is: [www.stamps.org/the-american-philatelist](http://www.stamps.org/the-american-philatelist)

Also there will be online Stamp Chat events using Zoom that you can access information on at this link: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/aps-to-host-live-stamp-chats-on-zoom-beginning-monday-march-23>

There are Stamp Chats scheduled all through the end of 2021. There are replays of these chats available on YouTube. The variety of subjects now available is amazing. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericasStampClub> is the link to check out all the stored Chats.

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This year our club missed voting in the Linn's US Stamp Poll for favorite and least favorite stamp issued by USPS in 2020. The results were in the May 17, Linn's Stamp News and the Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor received the most votes for overall favorite stamp. The article lists the participating groups which includes many stamp clubs, but also some students.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at [sdholmberg1@gmail.com](mailto:sdholmberg1@gmail.com) with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

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