

The Maverick Family Engravers

I read with great interest John Ferreri's article "My Favorite Banknote Story!" in the 4th quarter NENA News. It involved a counterfeit Catskill Bank \$5 note of 1829 he had purchased along with 4 other Catskill related notes. His image of the group shows a \$5 Maverick Bank advertising note which I have attributed in my catalog "North American Printers Promotional Sheets & Test Notes".

Samuel Maverick, Peter Maverick and his son Peter Maverick Jr. were involved in at least four engraving firms which produced advertising notes.

Leney & Rollinson sc

William Rollinson joined William Satchwell Leney sometime after 1806 to produce banknotes. The firm was in existence until 1820 when Leney moved to Canada. Rollinson invented a ruling machine which he used to produce straight parallel ruled lines he touted as unable to be counterfeited. After sending a circular to many banks, he garnered work from several banks. These include banks in Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New Brunswick, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Canada. Some of these were produced by Maverick, Leney, & Rollinson sc. When the circulars were sent, they included an advertising note show below. This test note is the oldest known printers test note! Notice, this 50 Fish note is advertising Leney & Rollinson, but was printed by Peter Maverick. At first glance years ago I thought this was an advertisement for a fish market and didn't include the note in my printers test note catalogs. It pays to look at the details! It's certainly an interesting way to advertise your firm, signed by A Shad and A Halibut. There is a light blue version of the note I have yet to track down.



Figure 1 LR-101a 50 Fish, 1811

Maverick, Engraver & Printer

Samuel Maverick was a copperplate engraver, active in the 1820 to 1840's. It produced bank notes for Colombia and US obsoletes. I have attributed three advertising notes for the firm. The one shown here also has a variety with yellow-tan paper.



Figure 2 MAV-101a \$5, circa 1820-1830.

Peter Maverick

Son of Peter Rushton Maverick, he published his first work at the age of nine. He established his own business in NYC in 1802. Asher B. Durand became his apprentice and, from 1817 to 1820, his partner. Maverick returned to NYC in 1820 and took up lithography. During his lifetime he engraved or lithographed about 1500 bookplates, bank notes, maps, and books and magazine illustrations. He also engraved portraits. Maverick remained in NYC until his death. Among his many pupils were Robert C. Bruen and John W. Casilear. Engravers Samuel and Andrew Maverick were his brothers. Here's the only advertising note I have found for Peter, which shows him at an address on Broadway in New York touting his copper plate printing.

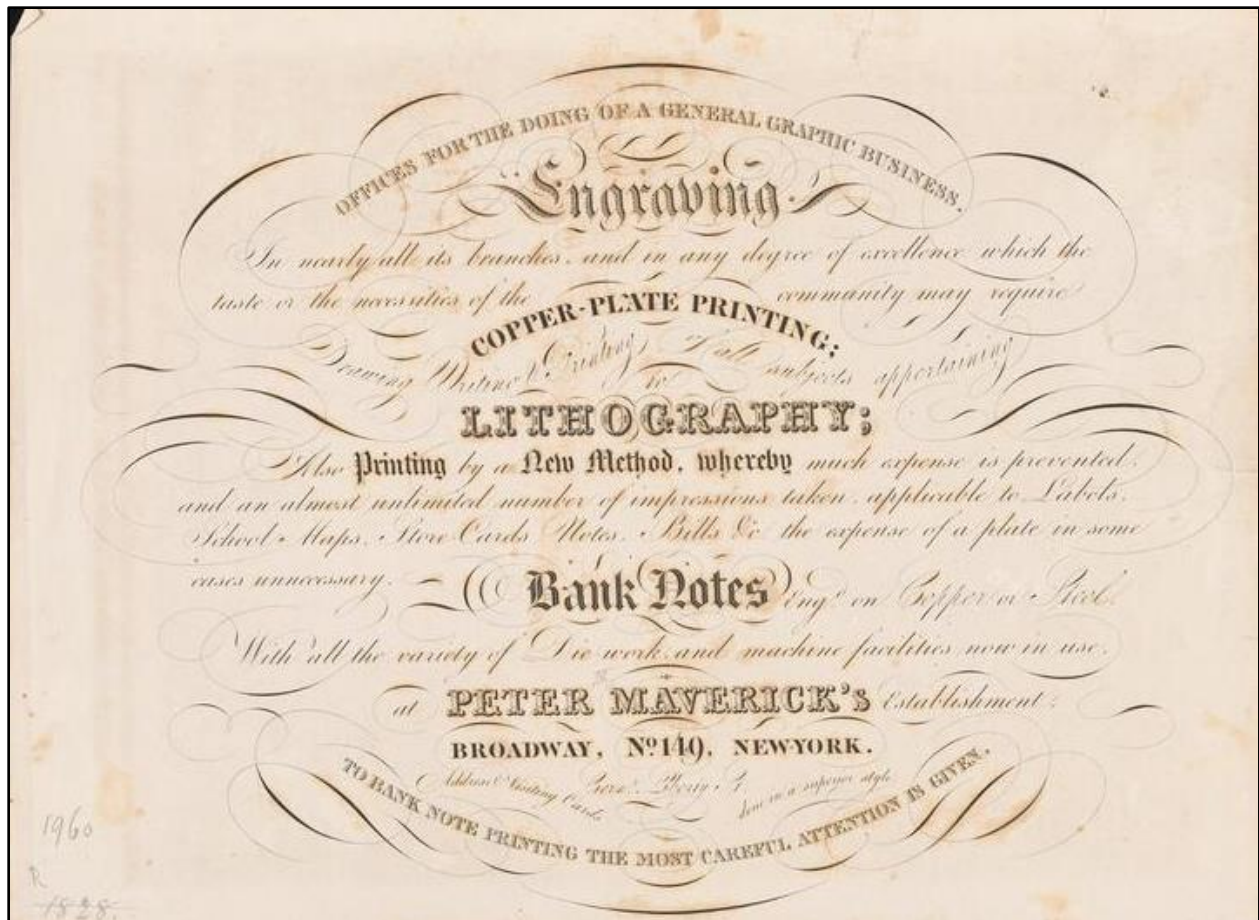


Figure 3 PM-101 No Units, circa 1823.

Maverick, Stephan & Co. Lithographers & Printers

Brewster Maverick was the son of Samuel Maverick. Like his father before him he became an engraver, but after 1856 he added lithography to his skills. In 1866 he entered into partnership with Louis Stephan, and in 1878 with J. G. Wissinger. Maverick, Stephan & Co. produced checks and revenue stamps. Here's a two-sided advertising note for the firm with a miniature New York Central Rail Road Company bond on reverse

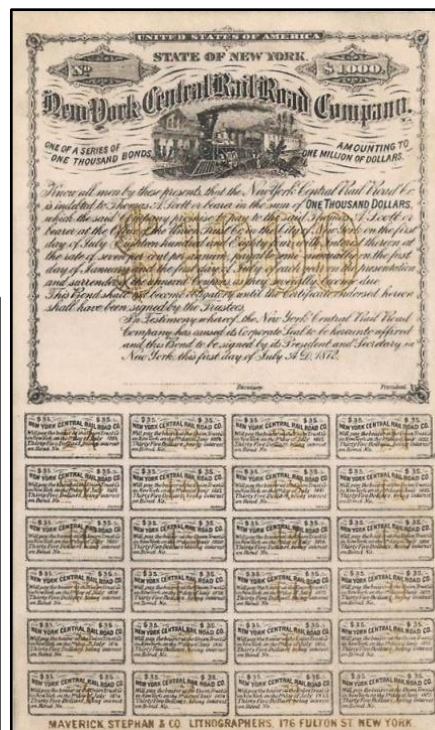
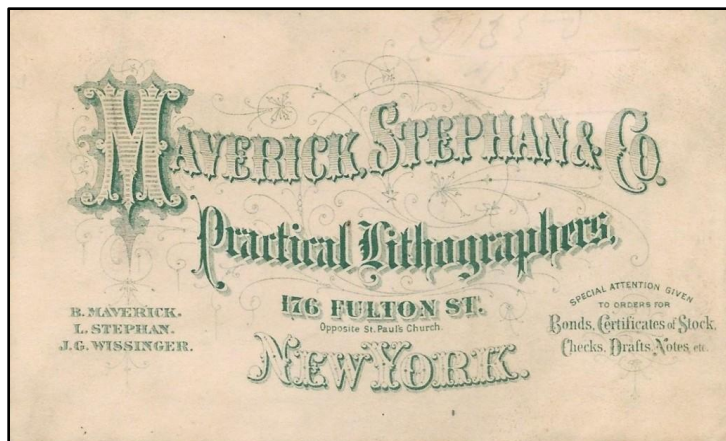


Figure 4 MSC-141 \$1000, circa mid 1870s.

I've been a NENA member for a few years and don't live in New England, but a little west – Oklahoma! I joined the association because of the great content of the NENA News. My first article here was also spawned from an intriguing NENA article by Russel Easterbrooks back in 2002. Luckily the article is posted on the Mansfield Numismatic Society website and the original is posted with all the NENA News journals on the great Newman Numismatic Portal. That article was "Counterfeiting New England Bank Notes - Early Engravers Temptation". I wrote on the firm William Wilson, where Christian Meadows in the NENA article was employed.

I hope other collectors not in the New England area will join as I did. The NENA News is well worth the membership fee!