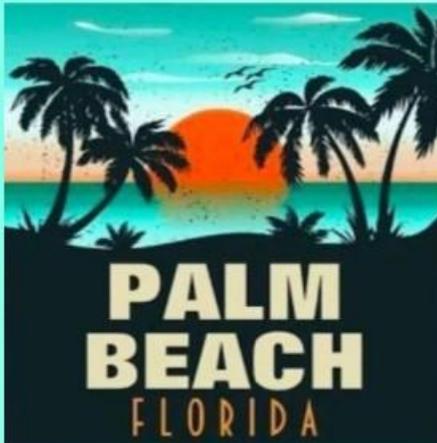


# Palm Beach Stamp Club

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NEWSLETTER

March 2026



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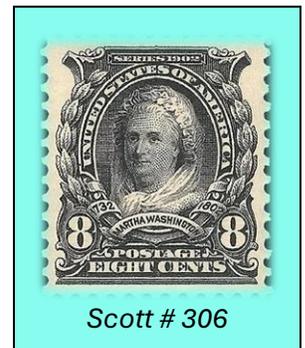


American Philatelic Society  
Chapter Affiliate #923  
Membership Affiliate #81338

March is Women's History Month, which invites us to honor the women whose contributions have shaped our nation—and our hobby—in ways both visible and quietly profound. From early postmasters who kept frontier communities connected, to the artists, engravers, and clerks whose skill brought our stamps to life, women have long been essential to the story of American mail. Their work traveled farther than many ever could, carried in every letter that crossed a counter or a continent.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, it's a wonderful time to revisit the women featured on our stamps, explore the stories behind their achievements, and recognize the collectors and researchers who continue that legacy today. Our albums are richer for their presence, and so is our shared history.

**Stamp of the Month** - The first United States postage stamp to honor an American woman was the 8¢ Martha Washington, Scott #306, issued in December 1902. The first female postmaster was Mary A. E. Smith, appointed in 1835 to the town of Northfield, Vermont.



Scott # 306

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## March 2026

Every Saint Patrick's Day, collectors retell the curious tale of the Ballyclover Post Office, a tiny rural station in County Cork that briefly became the most sought-after address in the British Isles. In March 1907, Postmaster Eamon O'Shea decided to celebrate the holiday by filling his inkwell with a homemade green ink—brewed from spinach, soot, and a splash of whiskey for “spirit.” For one day only, every letter leaving Ballyclover bore a crisp circular date stamp in a bright emerald shade. The London GPO was not amused, and O'Shea received a stern reprimand for “tampering with official instruments.” But by then, the damage—or delight—was done. Collectors across Ireland scrambled to find examples of the rare green cancellation, of which only a handful of authenticated strikes survive.

Club member Keith Lichtman was honored by the American Philatelic Society and will receive an Article of Distinction certificate for his *Wilkins-Ellsworth Expedition* article. The award was announced in APS newsletters on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Also mentioned was the Palm Beach Stamp Club for holding annual newsletter “best

article” contests. Great publicity for the club!

February club meetings were well attended at overflow capacity in the Kingdom Buffett restaurant. If any club member has an idea for a new meeting venue, please contact President Richard Kaye.

Noel Vassallo provided a very interesting in-depth review on collecting Patriotic Covers, specifically Civil War covers at our meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Final plans for our Spring stamp show on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Embassy Suites Hotel have been made. See you at the show!



March 7, West Volusia Stamp Club Annual Show, American Legion Post, 470 Summerhaven Dr., DeBary 32713, Saturday, 10-3.

March 8, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne 32935.

March 21 & 22, TALPEX 2026, Stamp & Coin Show, Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee 32303, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.

March 28, Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo, Higgins Hall (St. Lawrence Church), 5225 North Himes, Tampa 33614, Saturday 9:30-3.

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# America Smiles

Pat Hensley

Every morning my husband kisses me good morning and announces with a smile that he is happy to be alive! It is with this smile and positive attitude that starts each day on the right foot. So, it made me wonder if there was a stamp that promoted positive attitudes and I found it in the stamp with a smile!



The 1999 33¢ Celebrate the Century – 1970s: America Smiles stamp, Scott #3189m, was part of a special U.S. Postal Service series called Celebrate the Century. This series included stamps from each decade of the 20th century to honor important people, events, and trends in American history. The “America Smiles” stamp shows the classic yellow smiley face that became very popular during the 1970s. People in that decade saw the smiley face everywhere, from buttons and T-shirts to mugs and signs, and it became a symbol of happiness and fun. The “America Smiles” stamp was issued on November 18, 1999, in New York and had a value of 33 cents, which was the regular U.S. postage rate at that time.

The 1970s sheet in the Celebrate the Century series included 15 stamps, each showing a different part of life from that decade, like disco music, Sesame Street, women’s rights, and smiling faces. The yellow smiley face became so famous that it wasn’t just on stamps; it was used on all kinds of products and even inspired people to think more about happiness and goodwill. The art for the stamps was done by Kazuhiko Sano and the sheets were printed by Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd. A lot of these stamps were made—about 90 million sheets—so many people could enjoy them.

I also found a holiday that goes perfectly with this stamp! Share a Smile Day happens each year on March 1<sup>st</sup>. This celebration began in 1997 and encourages people to share smiles with others to spread happiness and kindness. Smiling has real benefits: it can make you and the people around you feel happier, reduce stress, and even help your health. So, on March 1, 2026, you can take part by simply smiling at others and making someone’s day brighter—just like the cheerful smiley face celebrated on the 1999 stamp.

#### References:

*Celebrate the Century 1970 stamps from the author's collection.*

*Stamp information from Celebrate the Century: 1970s – America Smiles and the Celebrate the Century series (USPS) (Mystic Stamp Company)*

*Share a Smile Day details (history and date for 2026) <https://nationaltoday.com/share-a-smile-day>*

# Gold Mailed to Fort Knox

Keith Lichtman

In June 1935, the United States Treasury announced that it intended to build a gold depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Treasury's intention was to store gold that was kept in New York City and Pennsylvania away from the coastal cities to a place less vulnerable to foreign military invasion. Construction began in 1936 and was completed by the end of the year.



The first shipments of gold to Fort Knox began in January 1937 and continued through June. The gold was transported from New York and Pennsylvania by U.S. postal trucks with police escorts to armored train cars. The transfer required 39 trains of 215 cars. Postal workers were accompanied by soldiers, secret service agents, and U.S. Mint guards. The gold was then transferred by postal workers to Army trucks. Those trucks were protected by soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calvary Regiment, armed with machine guns.

The next shipment occurred between July 1940 and February 1941 and was also executed by the U.S. Postal Service. This larger transfer between New York and Fort Knox required 45 trains of 337 cars. The Post Office Department billed the Treasury at a fixed rate, approximately \$180.00 per million dollars of gold transported.

References: Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Bullion\\_Depository](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Bullion_Depository)

USPS, <https://facts.usps.com/fort-knox-gold-in-the-mail/>; Instagram,

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DGqTZ8cSJDL/?hl=en>

Google, AI Overview, USPS fee for gold to Fort Knox 1937; Google, AI Overview, USPS fee for gold to Fort Knox 1941



# Shamrock, Florida

Michael Swope



Shamrock, Florida: Where the pines are tall and the blarney thicker. Shamrock owes its name to William O'Brien, a timber baron of Irish descent who apparently decided that if he couldn't bring Ireland's weather to Florida, he'd at least bring the branding. And honestly, who can blame him? "Shamrock" sounds far more charming than "Mosquito Flats" or "Pine Sap Junction," both of which would have been historically accurate.

O'Brien built a massive lumber empire in Dixie County, and like any self-respecting industrialist of the 1920s, he created a full company town. Houses, schools, a dairy, an ice plant, everything a hardworking family needed. The crown jewel of Shamrock was—and still is—the Putnam Lodge, a rustic hotel built in 1927. While it doesn't look particularly Irish, you might tilt your head and imagine it as an old Gaelic hunting lodge. While teeming with Irish lore, it is astonishing that the town has never held a St. Patrick's Day parade!

Featured above is a St. Patrick's Day cacheted cover produced by the Keystone Cover Club of Glenn Dale, Maryland. It is franked with the 3¢ bright violet, Torch of Enlightenment postage stamp, Scott #901, and was cancelled eighty-five years ago at Shamrock, Florida, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1941.

References: Cover from Author's collection; Wikipedia.org