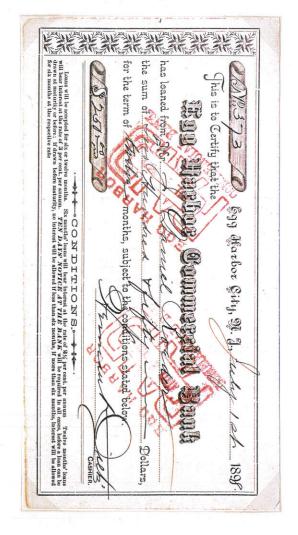


instrument taxable at the bank check rate. The tax was paid with a pair of serifed-letter overprinted one-cent provisional revenue stamps. Note that these are from the lower right corner of the stamp sheet, and were likely the first subjects used from a new sheet of stamps. A backstamp indicates the draft was cashed on July 5, 1898. A company draft written on the first day of the new tax. Since the line below the dateline is blank, payment is assumed to be available on sight or demand, making this



thereof, executed on the first day of taxation. The tax of six cents is paid with a block of six serifed-letter overprinted one-cent provisional documentary revenue stamps applied to the back of the note. The lower left stamp is the "small dot" variety. A scan of the front of the document appears below. A promissory note in the amount of \$250, taxable at two cents per \$100 or fraction



RECEIVED BY

MERCHANTS AND MINERS TRANSPORTATION CO., from Fales
the property described below, in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition)

189

Providence, R. I.

To be transported by Steamer

ditions, whether printed ragreed that the rate of freight from SPECIAL.

If....Times let Class. 2nd Class. 3rd Class. 4th Class. 5th Class. 6th Class. Olass A Class

WEIGHT.

In order to meet the expected large demand for one- and two-cent stamps for use on shipping receipts, bank checks, promissory notes, etc., those denominations of regular postage stamps of 1895 and 1898 were overprinted with the letters "I.R." for provisional documentary use. This Bill of Lading is dated July 1, 1898, and has a one-cent, serifed-letter, "I.R." provisional overprinted, documentary stamp of 1898 tied by first-day letter, "I.R." provisional overprinted, documentary stamp of 1898 tied by first-day handstamp cancel.



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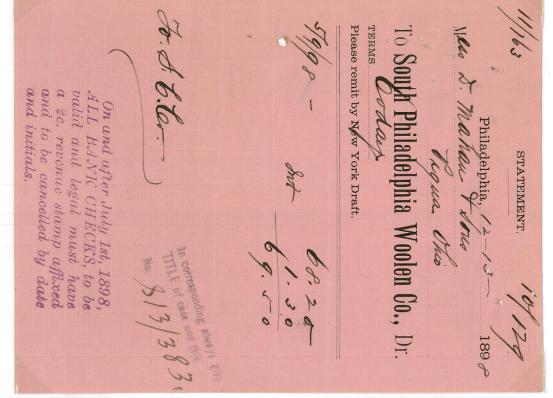
## Revenue Stamped Documents The First Day of Taxation – July 1, 1898

the taxes had to be made available by the first day of issue everywhere in the country. variety of goods, activities and documents. A large number of revenue stamps were issued on that date for usage on a variety of documents. Revenue stamps valid to pay On July 1, 1898, the War Revenue Act went into effect, levying taxes on a wide

stamps were valid. Present here are a 2c postage stamp, and a 2c "battleship" the 2c including both Type III and Type IV stamp designs. "Battleship" documentaries include 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 25c and 50c. The last is used on a note dated July 1, but canceled and a bill of lading. There are also some illegal usages, as only documentary revenue different stamps as possible on a variety of documents. Included are the 1c and 2c serifed-overprint provisionals (R154 and R155), both large- and small-dot varieties, with The purpose of this exhibit is to show first day of issue usages of as many The types of instruments include bank checks, drafts, promissory notes, deeds

proprietary stamp. Other highlights include a check signed by Robert Peary, the famous polar explorer, and a check written on June 29, with the stamp canceled on that date but with a July 1 bank cancel.

The invoice at right was handstamped at bottom with a reminder of the tax that went into effect, and the date of inception.



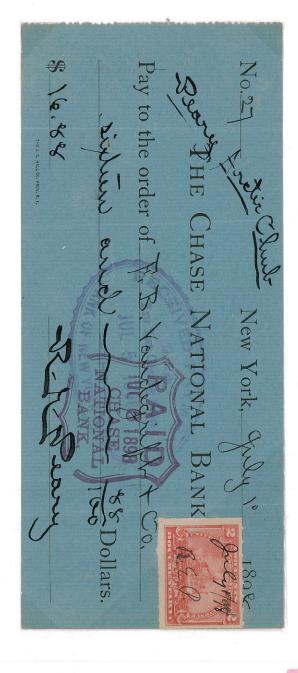


A pair of documents used on July 1, 1898 originating at Burling ton, Vermont, both of which had stamps applied after the instruments were originally written, and both with the handstamp: "IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCURE PROPER REVENUE STAMPS FOR THIS INSTRUMENT." This gives some indication of the shortages experienced at the onset of taxation. The item above is a Cashier Check; below is a bank draft. Both are franked with the two-cent serifed-letter overprinted provisional documentary revenue stamp.





河 Brown To Columbia National Bank The safe of the sa Minimula Neh- Cal Ron Lincoln, 1898-07-01. N.B. Lincoln DELIMINE.



A first day bank check with a two-cent "battleship" documentary revenue stamp signed by Robert E. Peary, eventual discoverer of the North Pole. The check was drawn on the account of the Peary Arctic Club, a consortium of businessmen and scientists dedicated to supporting Peary's efforts, and was likely used to purchase supplies for his upcoming unsuccessful expedition of 1898. The stamp was canceled with the date and Peary's initials, albeit in the handwriting of another, perhaps the payee or a member of the club.



A first day bank draft with a two-cent overprinted provisional documentary stamp of 1898. The stamp is the Type IV design. Note the gap in the "I" of the overprint. Overprints were accomplished with rubber mats that were easily subject to damage, and applied hastily, causing minor varieties and freaks.



A first day bank check, also with a provisional "I.R." overprint on the Type IV design. The stamp is the "small dot" variety, as the period behind the "I" of the overprint is smaller than that behind the "R." It is properly pen canceled with initials and date.



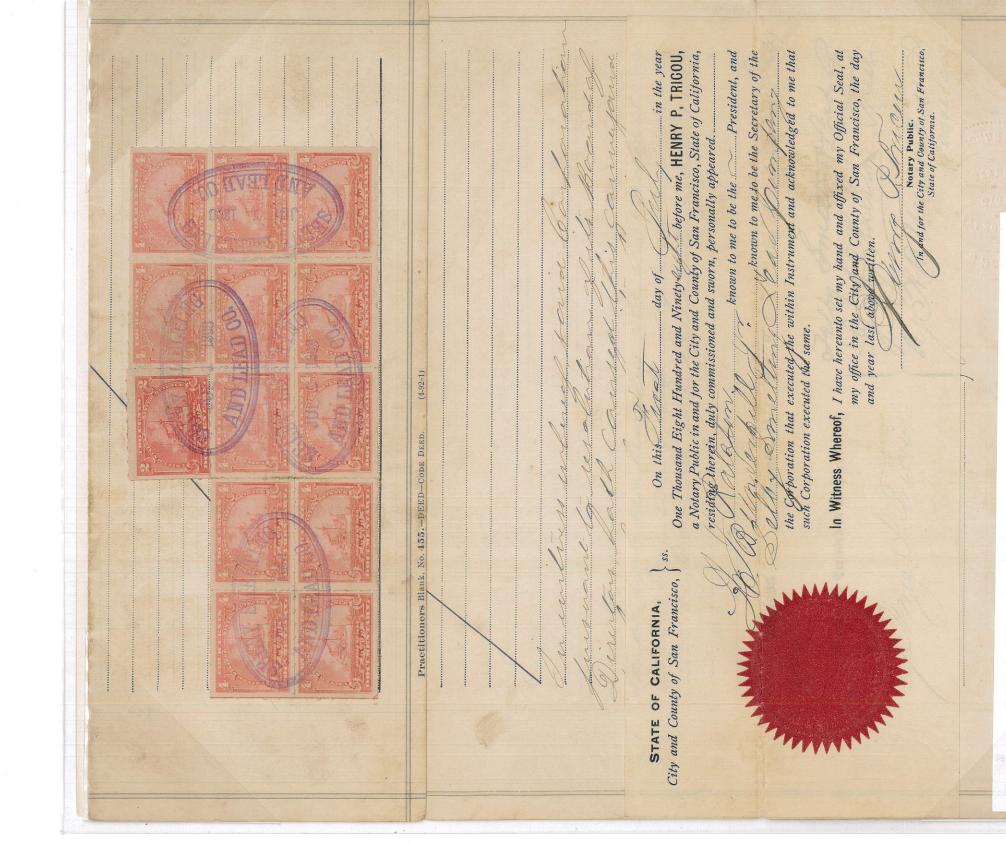
A company draft issued on the first day of taxation, payable at sight, and therefore taxable at the bank check rate. The tax was paid with a two-cent rouletted "battleship" documentary revenue stamp, tied by company handstamp cancel.



Two drafts written on the first day of taxation with two-cent "battleship" documentaries paying the tax and handstamp canceled.



Promissory note dated July 1, 1898 in the amount of \$300, payable in six months, later altered to \$309 to reflect a 6% interest rate. Tax of six cents was paid on the principal with one-cent and five-cent "battleship" documentaries, each properly pen canceled.



Deed executed July 1, 1898, transferring land in Grass Valley, California for payment of \$400. Conveyances in an amount over \$100 and not exceedind \$500 were taxed at the rate of 50 cents. The tax here was everpaid by two cents, jusing 13 four-cent "battleship" documentary stamps, canceled by handstamps of the selfers. No



and stamped until July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The amount of \$77,000 was taxable at the rate of two cents per \$100, or \$15.44, which was paid with thirty 50-cent, one 25-cent, three 5-cent, and two 2-cent "battleship" documentary stamps. These were handstamp canceled on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the earliest reported usage of the 50-cent stamp. The majority of the stamps were placed on the reverse, shown here, and the 2-cent stamps were affixed to the front, This promissory note was drawn up on the first day of taxation but was not finalized shown as a color photocopy below.





## Arkansas Construction Company.

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Ass't Treas.

The usage of proprietary revenue stamps for documentary purposes was deemed illegal, but shortages were rife during the first days of taxation, and improper stamps were substituted so as to indicate good intention. Here is a first day check using a two-cent "battleship" proprietary stamp tied by handstamp cancel to pay the documentary tax.



The usage of postage stamps for documentary purposes was also deemed illegal. Here a first day check using a two-cent, Type III, first Bureau issue, postage stamp of 1895-1897. The stamp has a small manuscript "I.R." at the bottom, along with the proper cancellation of initial and date tying it to the check, which was paid July 5.

3 corrected before agoing

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one thousand eight hundred and ninty Made the eight. Between E. E. Pangburn and Annie -day of\_

his wife, Ella M Shoemaker and John S, her misband, Laura H Messenger Edgar her husband, only heirs of Martha McDonnough (nee Pangburn)

first part and Joseph Kellar of the borough of Mount Pleasant deceased, late of Vance Ville Washington County Pa, , parties of County

Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of

of Westmoreland and State of Pennsylvania party of the second

lawful money of the United States of America, unto them well and truly paid by the said ceipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, HAVE released, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these presents grant, bargain, sell, ussigns, forever, all the following described property, release, convey and confirm unto the said party.....of the second part,... of the second part, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the regranted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, viz: has heirs and alien, enfeoff

afterward intermarried with Joseph McDonough. ded in deed book vol 77 page 521, did convey and confirm unto Lester vol 89, page 271, aid convey and confirm unto Mrs Martha Pangburn who deed dated the second day of April A, N. 1875, and N Boyd, and which wife, by theor the sid Lester N Boyd and Mary dated the twentieth day of June recorded in deed book E, his A. D. 1873, and by recor

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