

## Thomas Slaughter Paper Seal Padlock Timeline

Andrew Oniszczuk - January 22, 2011

Early 1870 – The US Treasury Department formed a committee to look at various seal lock padlock designs.

- October 1872 - The committee concluded:  
“It is believed, however, that by the use of a seal-lock submitted by Thomas Slaughter, of Newark, N.J., and paper seals to be prepared in this Department, the same security may be obtained as by the use of the glass seals of the American Seal-Lock Company. We, therefore, recommend the use of Thomas Slaughter’s lock whenever a seal-lock is needed, the seals to be prepared and issued...”<sup>1</sup>
- October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1872 - Thomas Slaughter signed a contract to provide his seal locks to the US Internal Revenue for \$3.50 each.
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1872 - Slaughter filed a patent for the seal lock.
- August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1873 - Patent 141519 was granted to Thomas Slaughter for his seal lock.
- 1903 – Slaymaker Lock buys the Slaughter Lock Company
- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1930 - The Bureau of Prohibition became the Bureau of Industrial Alcohol.
- 1940 – The Bureau of Industrial Alcohol was abolished and the Bureau of Internal Revenue was formed by the Treasury Department.
- 1951 - The Bureau of Engraving and Printing stops printing seals for the Slaughter lock. The locks, no longer owned by the US Government, were still being used by distilleries and were marked with the distillery’s name by the distillery.
- 1953 - The Bureau of Internal Revenue changed its name to the Internal Revenue Service. Eighty one years after their inception and without any changes to the design, the Slaughter paper seal locks became obsolete.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> “Letters, Reports, and Other Papers Related to Locks and Seals Used in Internal Revenue and Customs Service of the Government” Government Printing Office, 1876.