

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 46 Number 2

September 2013

COMING EVENT

STEPEX 2013

Southern Tier/Elmira Philatelic Exposition

October 18 and 19

American Legion Post, 45 South Olcott Road, Big Flats, NY

Friday Hours: 10a.m. to 6p.m.

Saturday Hours: 10a.m. to 5p.m.

Contact Al Parsons for Show information: alatholleyrd@aol.com

**There will be an ESPHS Regional Meeting at STEPEX
Saturday at 1p.m., room to be announced.**

President's Message

Here we go again; another summer has passed us by. The weather must have been good, because it sure went by fast. I'm happy to report the society is doing well in all aspects; we are strong financially, we have a good web site, publications are done well and on time and we have resurrected our membership list. I hope you are able to make use of the list, as it is intended to help members contact each other. All these things are going well because of our dedicated volunteers who make it happen. Thank you.

We will have a regional and board meeting at STEPEX on Saturday October 19, at 1 pm in Big Flats NY. This show is sponsored by the Elmira Stamp Club and is held at the American legion Post, 45 South Olcott Road. Hope to see you there.

David Przepiora

Important Notice Regarding ESPHS Auctions

Starting with our Auction #7 opening December 2013, for which consignments are solicited in this copy of BULLETIN, two important changes will take place. First, each consignor may send up to 10 pieces, up from 5. In addition, unsold lots will automatically be returned to consignors. These changes are intended to make each ESPHS auction more exciting for Bidders and more productive for Consignors. The details are contained on the enclosed Consignment Form. We hope each of you will support our auctions as Consignor and Bidder.

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Secretary's Membership Report

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Life Memberships are Available
For Details, Contact Membership Secretary George McGowan



SALAMANCA (Cattaraugus Co.) RARE FLAG CANCEL

By George McGowan

Have you ever looked through thousands of stamps, post cards or covers looking for that rare find? I am sure we all have. This is a story of a rare find while not looking for it.

While culling through some postcards and selecting some for the dollar box, I noticed the flag cancel above and something seemed wrong. Upon examination with the glass, I noticed that "Salamanca" was spelled "Salamanc". So out comes Langford's Flag Cancel book. Langford confirms the error, noting that it was used during January of 1910, and gives it a rating of 90 out of 100. Elsewhere, he also notes that any rating over 90 is difficult to evaluate because of rarity.

I wonder how rare this error may be, and just how long it was in use before being replaced? The copy I found is dated January 21st. Does anyone else have a copy of this flag? Does anyone know the circumstances of the error? If anyone can add to this story, please contact *Bulletin* editor Bob Bramwell (rbramwell@nc.rr.com) so that we can share the results in a future edition.

TRADING POST

WANTED: Durant, Raquette Lake, Marion River & RR, Blue Mountain Lake, NY areas. Post Cards, RPPCs, Photos, all ephemera. Also early **ornithology** mag. *The Observer* (1890-98) and *Ornithologist & Botanist* (1891-92). Eric Sullivan at oldcards1@aol.com.

Marge Faber collects Rockland County, esp. **Ramapo Works** and anything to do with the Ramapo area. Contact her at margefaber@comcast.net.



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

APS UNIT 28

www.esphs.us

Meets twice annually

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COLLECTING POSTMASTER/COUNTY CANCELS

By Glenn A. Estus

One of the areas of New York State postal history that I find most interesting and rewarding is the collecting of postmaster/county cancels. These are townmarks that contain either the county name as well as the town name or the postmaster's name and the town name, or both the county name and the postmaster's name.

In New York State, these types of cancel are found as early as the 1810s from Coopers-town and as late as the early 1900s from Wells. They range from simple circular datestamps to ornate ovals and straight lines. At the current time there are more than 600 post offices known to have used this type of cancellation.

While most of the post offices used ordinary bullseye killers in conjunction with the townmarks, some post offices used extremely decorative killers to deface the stamps.

A few cropped examples of these decorative killers are shown above. The majority of decorative killers are stars such as these from Clifton, Millers, Forest Glen, and Hotel Champlain. Also, if you look closely at the Forest Glen example, you can see a star within a star design. Other designs include Wheels of Fortune (Castleton Corners), geometrics (Dalton), and monograms (Footprints and Hume). The Footprints example shows "US Mail" and the Hume shows a stylized "H." Webster Station has a Maltese cross. ■

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ESPHS member Glenn Estus provided this article to *Stamp Insider*, published by the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, available without charge on the internet at stampinsider.org. Contact *BULLETIN* editor Bob Bramwell if you have a short subject suitable to be published by *Stamp Insider* on the Empire State Postal History Society page.

