

# **BULLETIN** of *The Empire State* *Postal History Society*

Volume 42, Number 1

June 2009

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

ESPHS WILL HAVE A PRESENCE AT STAMPSHOW 2009  
IN PITTSBURGH, AUGUST 6 – 9

THE SOCIETY WILL ALSO BE AT STAMPEXPO400  
IN ALBANY, SEPTEMBER 25 – 27  
ESPHS PARTICIPATION AT STAMPEXPO400 WILL FEATURE:  
A MEMBERSHIP MEETING;  
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON *BUFFALO POSTAL HISTORY*

PLAN TO ATTEND THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS!

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

The past three months have seen more than their share of change and activity for Empire State Postal History Society. As soon as the March *Bulletin* was in the mail, Glenn Estus, its editor for almost 15 years, resigned and the search was on for a new editor. Happily, a qualified replacement has been found and he will introduce himself in this, his first issue.

For three days at the beginning of May, ESPHS was well represented at a multi-state postal history exhibiting competition held at Philatelic Show 2009 in Boxborough, Mass. May 1 - 3. Although it didn't win the competition, Empire State's six exhibits from five of its members took second place behind Massachusetts and ahead of New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Details to follow.

Society Auction 123 was re-mailed to the membership May 6 with no change from its 2008 mailing except for the closing date. The auction originally closed July 1, 2008 but was nullified when bids were lost through failure of the auction manager's hard drive. The new closing date became July 1, 2009.

May continued to be a busy month with our annual meeting and other activities at ROPEX May 15-17 in Rochester. Change again was evident in the election of two new members to the Executive Board, replacing officers who chose not to run for reelection. As a result, we have a new Vice-President and a new Director in the "Class of 2012." A full report on ROPEX and our annual meeting appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Many thanks to the two retiring Board members, Joe Rowbottom and Bill Hart, and to Glenn Estus, resigning as *Bulletin* editor, for their years [continued on page 4]

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Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums  
Mohawk: *vacant*  
Lower Hudson: *vacant*  
NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite  
Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*  
Central: Bob Davison  
West Central: *vacant*  
Southern Tier: Alan Parsons  
Western: David Przepiora

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( '11): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, David Przepiora  
( '12): Maris Tirums, Brian Levy, Bob Davison

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**Secretary's Membership Report**

**Applications for Membership:**

Peter Kanze	7 Circle Drive, Waverly, NY 14892
David Straight	PO Box 32858, St. Louis, MO 63132
Joseph Zucco	642 New Dam Rd., Sanford, ME 04073

**Resignations:**

C. Holden Bachner (2/2009)	Gloversville, NY
Agnes Cavalari (2/2009)	New Windsor, NY

**Deaths:**

Harold vonHagn (5/2009)	Elmira, NY
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## MEET THE NEW EDITOR

The new look for *BULLETIN* coincides with transfer of its Editorship from Glenn Estus, who served the Society in that position just under 15 years, to a relative newcomer, Bob Bramwell. Bob joined ESPHS in 2007 and has Schenectady County postal history as his area of interest. Bob says:

*My face will not be familiar to you because I have lived in North Carolina for the last 12 years. But my name may not be completely unfamiliar to those who have read articles in the last few issues of Excelsior! I have been a stamp collector for many years – and continue to collect well-struck cancellations on U.S. regular issues from the Provisionals to 1882. But a few years ago I bought a Civil War soldier's letter simply because it bore a Schenectady postmark (full disclosure, I was born in Schenectady in the last century), having been addressed to Potsdam, NY and missent to Schenectady, from where it was forwarded. It contained a fascinating letter written by a private in the 92<sup>nd</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment "on the lines" in siege of Richmond. This letter and cover was a revelation to me and I immediately became a postal history enthusiast, specializing in Schenectady. Membership in the Empire State Postal History Society followed very shortly and I have gained a lot from my contacts in the club. The more members I can meet, the better I think I will be able to do this job. To that end (and to perhaps pick up some Schenectady postal history) I will attend StampExpo 400 in Albany the weekend of September 25-27 and I hope to meet other ESPHS members there. Please attend and stop by our table.*

*In addition to Schenectady and even rarer Schenectady County postal history, I recently started a collection of postally used air mail envelopes of the 1920's and 1930's by the likes of J. W. Stoutzenberg, A. C. Roessler and Carl Becken & Co. See my notice in **The Trading Post** on page 9.*

In coming issues, we hope to highlight and report on the varied philatelic interests of our members. *BULLETIN* has always reported on ESPHS members' exhibiting at regional shows and competitions and there is no question that exhibiting is a philatelic passion for some of us. These efforts should appear in our journal *Excelsior!* We know from the *Trading Post* adlets and your occasional pleas for help that many of you also work diligently in your areas of interest, but with non-competitive goals in mind. To facilitate sharing these results, your Editor would like to encourage non-competitive submissions of member's philatelic material on a single subject that can be reproduced on somewhere between one half and one and one half pages, to appear in the *BULLETIN*.

This effort will be a work-in-progress itself. Interested members should create a layout of scans and text that can be sent as an attachment by email to Bob Bramwell at <rbramwell@nc.rr.com> or by snail to POB 4150 Pinehurst NC 28374. Guidelines for these submissions will evolve over time. Consider it training wheels for the pre-exhibitor. If material is best suited to our sister publication *Excelsior!* I will be the first one to propose it.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

[continued from page 1] of service to the Society. Joe has been Vice-President since 1997, and Bill, a former President of the Society, has probably served at least 15 years as a director. I am grateful for all that Joe, Bill and Glenn have done on behalf of the Society.

In his email to the Executive Board announcing his resignation as *Bulletin* editor Glenn Estus stated he would continue to serve the Society by contributing articles and managing our website. Glenn is also one of the two New York State coordinators for updating the American Stampless Cover Catalog for its new edition in 2010.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> Western Regional Representative David Przepiora and I, at the invitation of Canada's National Stamp Exhibition (Royal 2009), traveled to St. Catharines, Ont., for a one-hour presentation of his PowerPoint program on *Buffalo Postal History*. While a pleasant trip and the first time for ESPHS at a Canadian show, the lack of publicity in the Show program undoubtedly discouraged attendance. Only two persons, one of whom was Larry Cherns - our lone Canadian member - showed up.

I've been President of ESPHS for ten years now and was elected for my sixth two-year term, again without opposition, at the annual meeting May 16. While I appreciate the lack of opposition, I suspect it's a case of no one else wanting the job rather than any particular confidence in my leadership of the Society.

Membership has dropped in the last ten years. Whatever the cause, our efforts to recruit new members, retain current members and reenlist dropouts have not been good enough. If recent auction realizations and course enrollments are any measure, there is plenty of interest in NY postal history. Our Society should be growing, not shrinking!

In my first President's Message, in the June 1999 *Bulletin*, I emphasized the need for greater membership participation in attendance at meetings, new member recruitment, articles for our periodicals, lots for our auctions and exhibits of NY postal history at shows. Ten years later this bears repeating, especially in the area of new member recruitment.

**Our next activity will be at APS StampShow in Pittsburgh August 6-9, where we will share a booth with Pennsylvania's Postal History Society and possibly other State postal history societies. If you are planning to attend the show, please at least drop by and sign in. Better yet, plan to spend an hour or two helping to staff the booth (no previous experience required)!**

**We will also have a booth at StampExpo400 in Albany September 25-27 and help will be needed there as well.**

On a sad note, Drew Nicholson and I lost a valued and mutual friend when Society member Harold vonHagn died May 24. Harold had been an Elmira stamp dealer for over 50 years and Drew's work as a part-time dealer initially brought him in contact with Harold. For myself, I've known Harold for 40 years as a dealer and as a fellow member of the Elmira Stamp Club. He served that Club in many capacities. The Elmira Stamp Club will miss him, and so will Drew and I.

Al Parsons

<alatholleyrd@aol.com>



## ESPHS Places Second in Exhibiting Competition for Sweeting Award at MPRS Philatelic Show 2009

The Massachusetts Postal Research Society hosted its 2009 Northeastern Multi-State Postal History Society Exhibiting Competition at Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts May 1-3. ESPHS was invited, along with eight other state postal history societies, to compete for the *Charles H. Sweeting Memorial Award* presented to the society winning the competition, to hold until the next annual or biennial Sweeting competition.

Six of the ten eligible societies entered exhibits. Thanks to the hard work of Nancy Clark, coordinator for the competition as well as for MPRS, Massachusetts won by a substantial margin. New York was second, New Jersey third, Maine fourth, Connecticut fifth and Rhode Island sixth.

Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island each had only one exhibit (multi-frame) in the competition. The exhibits from Maine and Connecticut both took Gold, but the Maine exhibit also won the Reserve Grand, thus giving Maine more points in the competition than Connecticut.

A total of 15 multi-frame exhibits and seven single-frame exhibits were entered in the competition. MPRS had six of the multi-frame (two Gold, two Vermeil and two Silver) and three of the single frame (one Gold and two Vermeil). ESPHS had three multi-frame, all Vermeil, and three single-frame, one Gold, one Vermeil and one Silver. NJPHS also had three multi-frame exhibits (one Gold and two Vermeil) but only one single-frame (Silver).

Doug and Nancy Clark's eight-frame exhibit *The Massachusetts Island Counties* not only took the award for the best multi-frame in the Sweeting competition, it also took the Show Grand. The Reserve Grand went to Bill Sammis of Ithaca, NY, a member of ESPHS as well as the Maine Philatelic Society, for ten frames of *The Expresses of Maine—Private and Postal, 1840-1865*.

Competing for ESPHS in the Sweeting competition at Philatelic Show were Ellen Rose, single frame, *Utica New York's Stampless Handstamp Markings*, Bill Bauer, ten frames, *Otsego County New York*, George DeKornfeld, five frames, *The First 125 Years of Postmarks and Postal Markings of Hudson, NY*, Bill Hart, single frame, *Rural Free Delivery in New York State*, and Alan Parsons with two exhibits, five frames of *Corning, NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served By the Corning Post Office* and a single frame of *19<sup>th</sup> Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY*.

Ellen Rose will receive the ESPHS award for the best NY postal history exhibit in the Sweeting competition at Philatelic Show. The award for the best overall single-frame exhibit in the competition went to Mark Schwartz of MPRS for *The Private Ship Letters of Essex County, Massachusetts*.

At the Philatelic Show awards banquet Al Parsons, ESPHS President, was asked to present the *Sweeting Memorial Award* since it was donated by the Society in memory of one of its founders and its first President. Al spoke briefly about Charlie Sweeting and the history of the Award first presented at ROPEX 2004, congratulated Nancy Clark on the MPRS win, and then thanked her for leading a successful and enjoyable 2009 Northeastern Multi-State Postal History Society Exhibiting Competition!

## **ESPHS Member William Sammis Wins Grand at NAPEX 2009 in First Year as Exhibitor; Will Compete in C. of C. at APS StampShow in Pittsburgh August 6-9**

Not long after winning Reserve Grand at Philatelic Show 09 in his first try at exhibiting, Society member Bill Sammis of Ithaca, NY took the Grand Award at NAPEX 09 held at the McLean Hilton in Tyson's Corner in northern Virginia June 5-7.

NAPEX was the third consecutive Gold in little over two months for Bill's ten frame exhibit, *The Expresses of Maine - Private and Postal 1840-1865*. He received Gold at ROPEX 09 in Rochester May 15-17.

By virtue of his Grand at NAPEX Bill will be invited to compete at APS StampShow 09 for the title of 2009 Champion of Champions against the Grand Award winners of all World Series of Philately shows, including Philatelic Show 09 and ROPEX 09, during the 12 months prior to July 1, 2009.

As might be expected, Bill is an active member of The Carriers and Locals Society, currently serving on its Board of Directors. He writes regularly for *The Penny Post*, quarterly journal of the Society, and received the Editor's Choice Award for the best 2008 article at the Society's 2009 annual meeting.

Congratulations, Bill. Best of luck in the Champion of Champions competition!

## **Carl Blazejewski Named Society Vice-President; Brian Levy Joins Board of Directors at Annual Meeting**

Carl Blazejewski of Albany, longtime proprietor of B Trading Co., Albany, and Brian R. Levy of Seaford, an active member of the Long Island Postal History Society when it merged with ESPHS, were elected Vice-President and a Director, respectively, at the Society's 2009 annual meeting May 16 at ROPEX.

The Vice-President's term runs for two years and a Director's term for three years. Bill Hart declined election to a new three-year term on the Board of Directors and Levy took his place. The other two Directors whose terms expired this year, Maris Tirums and Bob Davison, were elected to new three-year terms.

Blazejewski succeeds Dr. Joseph Rowbottom of Oneida, retiring after 12 years as Vice-President. Carl has been a member of ESPHS since 1993, a member of APS for over 30 years and a full-time retail dealer at shows and a store even longer, including, more recently, sales through quarterly public auctions. Carl also serves philately as a member of the APS estate advisory panel and as an appraiser of philatelic properties for Albany area banks. He collects the U.S. 3¢ 1861's non-grilled and grilled, on and off cover, from various areas of the country with an emphasis on NY.

Brian served LIPHS as its APS Representative and presented this organization's application for Affiliate status to the APS. In addition to ESPHS, he is currently a member of Metropolitan Air Post Society and American Air Mail Society. His collecting interests are postal history of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties and fairs and expositions. He has a specialized collection of mail received at fairs and expositions.

## **ESPHS Presence at ROPEX 09 Included Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Buffalo Postal History Presentation, Award for Best NY Postal History Exhibit and More**

The Society's 2009 annual meeting, held at ROPEX in Rochester May 16, was preceded by David Przepiora's PowerPoint presentation, *Buffalo Postal History*, in the same room as the annual meeting. Many of those attending the meeting also saw *Buffalo Postal History* and participated in the lively discussion it generated.

Eleven Society members were present in person and ten by proxy, more than enough to meet the required quorum for the annual meeting. Attending in person were Bill Sammis, George Fekete, Doug Penwell, Bob Davison, Bill Hart, John Cali, David Przepiora, Drew Nicholson, George DeKornfeld, Larry Rausch and Al Parsons.

Al Parsons, Society President, presided. Following routine reports from officers present to make them, Doug Penwell took over to tell about his experience at Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City December 9-11, 2008 examining the two large lots of stampless covers from the Cal Hahn collection.

The lot description for each ended with "...an important and valuable holding... please allow sufficient time to view the entire lot." Doug took this warning seriously, spending most of his time viewing the lot of more than 1,500 covers comprising Cal Hahn's collection of New York stampless covers with manuscript town markings. He bid on the lot and won it.

Doug also took time to remind those in attendance of his intention to combine the original *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State* (Chlanda & Wilcox, 1984), his Master Supplement in 1999, and additional information received to date, in one volume to be published in 2010. This meant time was of the essence for Society members to examine their NY stampless covers and report to Doug any earlier and later dates than now recorded for each county in which the post office has been located.

John Cali presented the report of the Nominating Committee when Penwell finished. There were no contests for any of the open offices and the Committee's report was approved unanimously.

Parsons wound up the meeting requesting renewed efforts at membership recruitment help with the American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. 1 update, and announcing possible Society participation in StampShow 2009 and StampExpo400.

At the Executive Board meeting following the annual meeting, rates for advertising in Society publications were approved, along with distribution of a membership list and Society participation in StampShow 2009 and StampExpo400. Parsons and Nicholson reported on the search for a new *Bulletin* editor and were authorized to select the person they felt best suited for the job.

In the exhibiting department, ESPHS members had four exhibits in the frames, three of NY postal history and one of Maine postal history. The ten frame exhibit by Bill Sammis entitled *The Expresses of Maine – Private and Postal 1840-1865* took Gold along with the APS Medal and Ribbon for Research Excellence and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society's gold medal.

George DeKornfeld's five frames entitled *The First 125 Years of Post Marks and Postal Markings of Hudson, New York* won Show Vermeil as well as the ESPHS award



(a Waterford small Lismore clock) for the best NYS postal history exhibit earning Vermeil or higher. The two remaining NY postal history exhibits were single frames entered by Bill Hart and Al Parsons, each awarded Silver-Bronze by the ROPEX Jury.

Last but not least, ESPHS manned a table on the show floor all three days of ROPEX, selling our publications and handing out free postal history information along with membership information and applications. Five members who were unable to attend the annual meeting signed in at the table: Vincent Juchimek, Jack Ericson, Marvin Raphael, Ann Triggie and Ed Beiderbecke.

All told, it was a busy and satisfying three days of philatelic and postal history activity!

### **Diane DeBlois and Rob Harris Provide Another Stimulating Postal History Course at 2009 APS Summer Seminar**

Following up on their success at the 2008 APS Summer Seminar, where they taught a course entitled "Cultural Projects in Postal History," Society member Rob Harris and his wife, Diane DeBlois, proprietors of aGatherin' in West Sand Lake, NY, taught a new course entitled simply "Postal History" at the 2009 APS Summer Seminar June 21-26 in Bellefonte, PA.

Billed as a "behind-the-scenes tour" of how the mail system actually worked, the instructors fulfilled this promise with an amazing variety of postal artifacts and documents, maps, charts and actual covers to demonstrate how mail was initially processed, then moved from Point A to Point B, and ultimately delivered to the addressee throughout the history of the Post Office.

Diane and Rob made good use of "hands-on" participation by the 18 class members, including, at one point, having each carve a "fancy" cancel from a wine-bottle cork. This involved supplying a cork and single-edge razor blade to each student and then having a variety of ink pads available for them to test their cancels. They worked!

This was just one of a number of exercises designed to give the class a better understanding of postal system operations at various points in U.S. history. The instructors challenged the class in many ways to come to deeper appreciation of what the postal system has contributed to the growth of our nation.

Rob and Diane pulled off another winner! Three ESPHS members were there to appreciate their hard work and expertise: Keith Bantz, John Flannery and Al Parsons. The Postal History class filled very early this year. If it's repeated in 2010, sign up quick!

### **New Member Recruiting**

Do you know a New York State postal history collector who is not a member of ESPHS? Send their name and address to Membership Secretary and Advertising Manager George McGowan so they can receive a complementary copy of *Excelsior!* together with membership information and an Application.



## The Trading Post

### Where Members Make Offers To Buy, Sell or Trade NYS Philately and Promote Research Projects

All members in good standing may submit one notice to **The Trading Post** each year.

**Trading Post** ads should relate to New York State or other collecting interests  
or a New York State research project on which you seek members' help.

(25 word maximum excluding name and contact information. Send to *Bulletin* Editor)

Member: Robert (Bob) Boos (r\_boos@msn.com)

Contact:

Message: Interested in pre-1900 Hicksville, New York covers. Please  
send scanned pictures to my email address.

Member: David Salovey

Contact: Apt 8H, 55 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10010

Message: Rockland & Bronx County [covers] and ephemera.

Member: Modest Oprysko

Contact: PO Box 218, Baldwin Place, NY 10505

Message: I collect 3<sup>c</sup> 1861 on cover with NYC cancels. Also interested  
in advertising & corner card covers, etc. Please send photocopies  
with asking prices.

Member: Roger Curran (rcurran@dejazzed.com)

Contact: 20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837; (570) 523-0783

Message: Albany, NY covers in December 1860 to June 1861 period.

Member: Bill Hart (bill.nysph@verizon.net)

Contact: PO Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588

Message: Would like to trade or buy NYS handstamp or manuscript examples.

Member: Joseph V. Gallagher (deantovar@aol.com)

Contact: 275 Wolf Hill Road, South Huntington, NY 11747

Message: Glen Cove native seeks postal covers pre-1940 postmarked Glen Cove.  
Will trade or pay cash.

Member: Bob Bramwell (rbramwell@nc.rr.com)

Contact: PO Box 4150, Pinehurst, NC 28374; (910) 295-5808

Message: Wanted: Schenectady town & County postal history 1792 to 1920; Manu-  
script postmarks, simplex & duplex handstamps, early machine cancels.  
Send scans with prices.

Member: Stephen Reinhard

Contact: PO Box 110, Mineola, NY 11501

Message: Wanted: Air Mail to or from Mexico through 1939. Commercial, first-flight,  
Zeppelin, catapult, etc.

- Member: Keith Bantz, M.D. (keithphilately@cs.com)  
Contact: (631) 775-9493  
Message: Wanted: Stampless Long Island; War of 1812; Hudson River covers.  
Literature and appropriate ephemera also.
- Member: Jim Mehrer (www.postal-history.com)  
Contact: 2405 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201  
Message: U.S. Postal History Mail Bid Sales: 5,000+ lots in each catalog; always  
Including many New York listings. Send \$2.<sup>00</sup> for next issue.
- Member: Art Groten (artgroten@optonline.net)  
Contact: PO Box 30, Fishkill, NY 12524  
Message: Wanted: Adirondack hotel ephemera, covers, letterheads, brochures, etc.

**Visit This Section Next Time, When More Members Will Advertise On  
The Trading Post  
To Sell Unwanted Philatelic Material, Consign To Auction #124  
Auction Manager John Nunes, Scotia NY (nunesnook@aol.com)**

### **Wanted: Saratoga County, NY**

Better grade stampless covers wanted for exhibition purposes from these towns:

Ballston, Ballston Centre, Ballston Spa, Ballston Springs, Barkersville, Batchellerville, Bemus Heights, Birchtown, Burnt Hills, Charlton, Clifton Park, Concord, Conklingville, Corinth, Coveville, Crescent, Day, Deans Corners, Dry Dock, Dunning Street, East Day, East Galway, East Line, Edgecombs Corner, Edinburgh, Elnora, Fortville, Galway, Gansevoort, Grangerville, Greenfield, Grooms Corners, Hadley, Hagedorns Mills, Half Moon, Jonesville, Ketchums Corners, Malta, Maltaville, Mechanicsville, Middle Grove, Milton Center, Moreau, Mosherville, North Galway, North Greenfield, Northumberland, Pope's Corners, Porters Corners, Providence, Quaker Springs, Rexford Flats, Round Lake, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, Schuylersville, South Ballston, South Galway, South Glens Falls, South Greenfield, Stillwater, Victory Mills, Vischers Ferry, Waterford, Wayville, West Charlton, West Day, West Greenfield, West Milton, West Providence, Wilton.

Send original on approval, or a photocopy, with price to:

**John A. Lange, Jr.**  
373 Root Road  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
(518) 882-6373      johnlangejr@aol.com