

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

Volume 42, Number 2

September 2009

Two Society Events September 25 & 26 During StampExpo400 in Albany

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON *BUFFALO POSTAL HISTORY*
WILL OPEN FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AT 3:30 FRIDAY, SEP 25TH IN ROOM 1.
MEETING WILL CONCLUDE WITH VOTING FOR WINNER OF ANNUAL
KENNETH R. DELISLE 4-PAGE EXHIBIT COMPETITION.

TALK BY DIANE DEBLOIS AND ROBERT DALTON HARRIS AT 12:30
SATURDAY, SEP 26TH IN ROOM 3: "*EMPIRE STATE INSIDE AND OUT:
NEW YORK POSTAL HISTORY IN CONTEXT*"

PLAN TO ATTEND AND STOP BY THE SOCIETY'S BOOTH!
HELP OUT AT OUR BOOTH FOR AN HOUR OR TWO.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Borrowing a phrase that has been ringing in my ears for some time now, I hereby declare that StampExpo400 in Albany September 25, 26 & 27 will be the 2009 *signature event* for Empire State Postal History Society.

StampExpo400 will be held in Albany's Empire State Plaza, an underground concourse that connects the Capitol building with the New York State Museum and Cultural Center and a series of State office buildings. Hours for the Show are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

For starters, the Society will have a booth on the Show floor for selling its publications, recruiting new members and promoting New York postal history in general. **Society members are asked to sign in at the booth and take turns staffing the booth. There will be a sign-up sheet for staffing; it is hoped each member attending the Show will take at least one hour of "booth duty."**

Our 2009 fall membership meeting will kick-off at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Room 1 adjacent to the Show floor with a powerpoint presentation on *Buffalo Postal History* by David Przepiora of East Aurora, a Society Director and its Western Regional Representative. David welcomes questions and commentary during his presentation, making it difficult to say when it will end and when the meeting will begin. In any event, it will not start before 4:15 and could easily start later. The door to Room 1 will be open throughout the entire two hours ESPHS has use of the room (3:30 to 5:30 p.m.)

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 Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums
 Mohawk: *vacant*
 Lower Hudson: *vacant*
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 Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*
 Central: Bob Davison
 West Central: *vacant*
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 Western: David Przepiora

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Secretary's Membership Report**Applications for Membership:**

Dr. Gregory Hanson 101 NE Lynnwood Drive, Belfair, WA 98528
 Robert Vary 423 Cook Road, Jackson, NJ 08527

Accepted into 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

26 Members, listed in a continuation of this report on page 9, have not renewed as yet and will be dropped from membership if their payment is not received by Oct. 15.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from Page 1)

The Fall meeting will be informal and open for discussion on any topic germane to NY postal history or the state of the Society. Members are urged to attend and voice their concerns about, and suggestions for, Society programs. Visitors are welcome. The meeting will conclude with the Society's annual Kenneth R. deLisle competition.

ESPHS members should plan to bring to the Fall meeting four pages of connected N.Y. postal history to be displayed on a table for the Kenneth R. deLisle Award. The winner is determined by vote of those present, taken at the conclusion of the meeting. The deLisle Award is a handsome walnut plaque outline of New York State, suitably engraved, and will be given to the 2009 winner at the 2010 annual meeting.

Whatever excitement and interest is generated by Friday's Society activities will find an excellent outlet in Saturday's ESPHS-sponsored presentation, a talk by Diane DeBlois and her husband, Robert Dalton Harris, entitled *Empire State Inside & Out: New York Postal History in Context*. At my request Diane prepared the introduction, or "teaser," for the talk found later in this Bulletin.

Diane and Bob have been active and prominent in postal history matters for many years; Bob is a long-time ESPHS member and former officer of the Society, Diane authored an article entitled *Postal History* which took up the front page of the Fall 1988 *ESPHS Bulletin* (in those days our Journal and Bulletin were combined). A complete list of all their awards and accomplishments as postal historians would fill many pages. (note: a copy of Diane's article, still timely, will be available, gratis, at our Show floor booth)

I am happy to report that David Przepiora has agreed to become our webmaster, taking over from Glenn Estus. I am grateful to Glenn for having set up our website some nine years ago and maintaining it to date. Your efforts are appreciated. Thank you, Glenn.

Glenn is one of four ESPHS members exhibiting competitively at StampExpo 400. Glenn's exhibit of Olympic machine cancels fills six frames, Bill Bauer's Otsego County, 10 frames, George DeKornfeld's Hudson, NY five frames and my exhibits of Corning, NY five frames and 19th century railroad postal markings related to four Southern Tier NY counties, one frame.

Two Society members are exhibiting non-competitively: Art Groton with two exhibits, *Promotion of U.S. Airmail by Government and Industry*, seven frames, and *Are We There Yet? Adirondack Hotels: The Classic Period*, 10 frames. If the postal history exhibits by Society members aren't enough to quench your thirst, take a look at Tony Dewey's five frames of Hartford, CT postal history.

Congratulations to ESPHS Secretary George McGowan on the publication of his six-page article *General Delivery* in the current *Postal History Journal* (June 2009)

Last but not least, all members should take a look at the list in the Secretary's report of those who have not yet paid their dues for 2009. If they don't pay by October 15 they will be dropped from membership. There are 27 names on the list; the Society can ill afford to lose any more members. If you are on the list and don't want to be dropped, please pay up. If you are not on the list but know someone who is, remind and encourage that person to pay up. The Society needs your help. Thank you.

Al Parsons
alatholleyrd@aol.com

Attention Western Region Members.....

Regional Representative **Dave Przepiora** would like to hear from members in the western region (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming Counties) who would like to get together to look at and talk about covers and other items of postal history. Dave can be reached by email at djprze@hotmail.com or by phone at 716.652.1076. Dave is the author of an excellent PowerPoint presentation of Buffalo Postal History. He says he would be glad to help others who want to explore this method of presenting postal history topics.

**ESPHS AND PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
SHARED BOOTH AT STAMPSHOW 2009 IN PITTSBURGH**

It all went according to plan until I took a bad tumble crossing Ft. Duquesne Blvd Friday morning on my way into the Convention Center and ended up in the hospital for the next 30 hours. Norm Shachat of PPHS had set up the Pennsylvania half of the booth before I arrived at the Show Thursday morning. I set up the ESPHS half and Thursday went smoothly with Norm, his wife Janet, and Dick Colberg of PPHS watching the booth along with myself.

We also had help Thursday, and probably the other days as well, from Tom Post, Mobile Post Office Society President and an ESPHS member who was attending the MPOS booth across the aisle. On Friday, of course, I missed the dinner at a local brewery arranged by the Pittsburgh PPHS members. I had signed up for this affair for myself and four guests (my daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons). My son-in-law, after taking one look at me in the emergency room, found our booth at the Show and reported on my situation before the Show closed on Friday.

From all reports, the dinner Friday evening was a great success. Drew Nicholson, Larry Laliberte and Tom Post were there from ESPHS; I apologize if I've left anybody out. Thanks to the Pittsburgh PPHS members who made the arrangements.

On Saturday afternoon my daughter drove me from the hospital to the Show where I found Drew and Larry watching the booth along with Rick Leiby, PPHS President. Since I knew I wouldn't get to the Show on Sunday—my hospital discharge orders prohibited driving until my right eye had been examined by my eye doctor---with the help of Drew I packed up the Society property at the booth and took it with me.

In addition to myself and the three ESPHS members already mentioned, Larry Rausch, Dan Knowles, Bill Hart, Bill Sammis, Frank Braithwaite, John Flannery and one name I can't read signed in at the booth. My thanks to Drew Nicholson, Larry Laliberte and any other ESPHS members (I wish I knew who you were) attending the booth during StampShow 2009.

Al Parsons

FOURTH ANNUAL POSTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM SLATED FOR APC IN BELLEFONTE, OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1

The fourth annual Postal History Symposium sponsored by the APS, APRL and the National Postal Museum will be held in the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA October 30 – November 1, 2009. This year's Symposium takes place in conjunction with Classics 2009 sponsored by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society.

The topic for the 2009 Symposium is *Post Office Reform*. One of the papers to be delivered at the Symposium will be presented by ESPHS member Robert Dalton Harris and his wife, Diane DeBlois. Their paper is entitled *The Sunday Mail Controversy Paves the Way for Postal Reform* and will be presented and discussed beginning at 2 p.m. October 30.

Following DeBlois and Harris will be a paper by another ESPHS member, David L. Straight, entitled *Putting a Human Face on Post Office Reform*. David is one of the chairpersons for the annual Postal History Symposiums.

The Keynote speaker at the dinner for the Postal History Symposium Friday night will be Dr. Richard R. John, author of *Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse*.

The events of both the Postal History Symposium and Classics 2009 are open to the public without charge. A complete schedule of these events can be found at the APS website, www.stamps.org/directories/SymposiumSchedule.htm or the Classics Society website, www.uspcs.org/2009_APS_NPM_USPCS_Meeting.html.

ESPHS PRESENT/FUTURE EXHIBITORS TAKE NOTE: NOJEX 2010 WILL HOST NEXT MUTI-STATE POSTAL HISTORY EXHBITING COMPETITION FOR THE SWEETING AWARD

Calling all present and prospective postal history exhibitors belonging to Empire State Postal History Society: PLAN NOW to exhibit at NOJEX 2010 in Secaucus, NJ May 28-30, 2010 as part of the ESPHS team in the next Northeastern multi-state postal history exhibiting competition for the Sweeting Award.

The postal history societies of the New England states plus NY, NJ, PA and OH (ten societies in all) have been competing for the Sweeting Award since 2004, when it was first won at ROPEX that year. Its most recent winner is the Massachusetts Postal Research Society, topping the competition at Philatelic Show 2009.

The Sweeting Award is named in memory of Charles H. Sweeting, one of the founders of ESPHS and its first president. It is a large plaque with individual plates for engraving the name of the winning society and the show where the competition was held. Previous winners in addition to Massachusetts are NY, OH and PA.

The host group for the 2010 competition is the New Jersey Postal History Society, www.NJPostalHistory.org/. NOJEX is an annual WSP show produced by North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc. A precursor to the Sweeting Award competition was held at NOJEX 2002 with three societies competing: ESPHS, NJPHS and PPHS. No scoring was done, but PPHS claimed victory based on the higher medal levels its exhibitors achieved.

LET'S BRING HOME THE SWEETING AWARD IN 2010!!

PENWELL HOPES FOR “HOME RUN” FOR NEW EDITION OF MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICES OF NEW YORK STATE.

Doug Penwell, Empire State's editor for the next edition of its popular reference, *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*, wants to publish the fourth edition in 2010.

This new edition will combine the pioneering work of Lee S. DeGraff, Henry Chlanda and Chester E. Wilcox found in the third edition, published by the Society in 1984, the Master Supplement to the Third Edition (Penwell, Ed.) published 1999, and the new data obtained by Penwell from Society members, and from his own research, since 1999.

Manuscript Post Offices of New York State lists for each NY post office ever opened the earliest and latest dates of use for the manuscript style of post office marking incorporating the office name and date of dispatch on a piece of mail.

The format of the fourth edition will contain a departure from previous editions. Doug has requested more data than now listed for so-called multi-county post offices, i.e., post offices existing in more than one county during the period since the office first opened. This requires documenting earliest and latest manuscript townmarks for such post offices for each county in which they have existed.

Doug points out that the effort to compile data for the fourth edition is now fully in gear, so assuming our membership wants this edition to be as complete and comprehensive as possible, it is imperative for members to review their manuscript townmarks on both stampless and stamped covers, and report to Doug the earliest and latest dates for each county period for multi-county post offices and any change in the current listings for post offices not existing in more than one county.

Send your findings to Doug either by email, dougpenwell@mail.com, or land mail, P.O.Box 3525, Glendale, AZ 85311-3525. Include month, day and year date if available, and rate or stamp franking information – and a clear scan if possible. Please do it now!!

UPDATING OF AMERICAN STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG ALSO NEEDS HELP FROM SOCIETY MEMBERS

Although the September 1 deadline for submitting data has passed, ESPHS has been advised by Van Koppersmith of the Classics Society that he will be able to accept input for updating ASCC Vol. I “probably into next year without much trouble.”

The NY coordinators for data updating the ASCC, now owned by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, are Glenn Estus (gestus@esphs.org) and Doug Penwell (dougpenwell@mail.com). Both have had few or no submissions to date.

Van Koppersmith heads the update effort on behalf of USPCS, and this work is specifically directed to ASCC Volume I (Fifth Edition, 1997). This volume in particular is a valuable reference work for state and local postal history collectors. Those ESPHS members who haven't already done so should respond at once to Van's appeal for help.

Go to www.stamplesscovercatalog.com/input.html to download the information and format necessary to make a submission. For those members who do not have Vol. 1

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of the ASCC readily available, the Society will have it at its StampExpo booth, along with copies of the website download referred to above. Copies of listings for specific NY post offices in ASCC Vol I will be supplied on request to Al Parsons (alatholleyrd@aol.com).

New York stampless cover collectors: LAST CALL! DELAY NO LONGER.

New Yorkers' Palmer & Clark

By George McGowan

The following is from Bob Payne's book *US Classic Machine Cancels 1871-1991 Vol. I*: "In the year 1875, Timothy G. Palmer of Shultzville, NY and Dr. Henry F. Clark of Poughkeepsie, NY began to develop a machine to cancel letters they hoped would be acceptable to the Postal Dept. and secure a lucrative contract. The Post Office Library has a letter written March 30, 1876 by Postmaster General Marshall Jewell to Timothy G. Palmer that authorized him to furnish the Post Office Department with...

'ten postmarking, stamping and cancel printing machines of the same kind as the one exhibited in this Dept. on the 29th (March) inst., but of perfect mechanical construction and with such improvements as may suggest themselves'

Palmer was to be paid \$100.00 for each machine upon its delivery and acceptance. Each machine was to be furnished with a full set of dates, including year, month, day, and hour blocks. Ten of the canceling machines were to be constructed and shipped to: New York (2), Boston (2), Philadelphia (2), Albany (1), Cleveland (1), Hartford (1) and Washington D.C. (1)."

Payne speculates that the machine at Albany was transferred from Washington D.C. He further reports that, of the units delivered only the Albany cancel had a year date. Evidently, the first machine went to D.C. in December of 1876, and was never perfected to the satisfaction of P.M.G. Jewell and the contract was canceled. Payne lists the Albany machine as only being evaluated from January 10th to January 17th 1877. Poughkeepsie was not on the original P.M.G. list, but was Clark's residence and the last city known to have used one of these machines (known from January 30th to March 27th 1877).



Palmer & Clark machine cancel on Albany, NY March 8 1877 Postal Card

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The Postal Card illustrated above has an Albany, NY cancel dated March 8th 1877, which is outside the seven day period that was thought to be the only Albany dates of use. A query to Mike Ellingson of the Machine Cancel Society brought this reply:

"This machine was well traveled (i.e. Washington D.C., Centennial Expo, Baltimore, Albany, and Poughkeepsie). ...it was thought to be in Poughkeepsie on March 8th, 1877...I will do some digging."

We could draw some new conclusions from all of this, but I felt they would be premature. Enough to say that New York postal history still offers a fertile field for new discoveries. (*Note: Larry Laliberte reports the above strike is new to his census. See Excelsior! Whole No. 6/New Series (March 2006), pages 26-27. D.A.N.*)

(The above article was also submitted for publication on the ESPHS page in the September/October 09 issue of *Stamp Insider*)

ESPHS SPONSORS POSTAL HISTORY TALK AT STAMPEXPO400

Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris will present findings from their research into New York State postal history at 12:30 on Saturday during StampExpo400. Robert and Diane are proprietors of aGatherin', specializing in postal history and ephemera, co-editors of Postal History Journal, published three times a year by the Postal History Society, and jointly teach the postal history course at the APS Summer Seminar. Diane supplies the following synopsis of their presentation:

Empire State Inside & Out: New York Postal History in Context

By most postal measures, New York has ranked first among the states, and yet its character is inextricably linked with all the rest.

On Saturday, September 26, at 12:30, at StampExpo400 in Albany, Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris will explore this basic idea with five conclusions:

1. Postal route contracts and maps (available for the 1839 period in the published *Gazetteer*) disclose topological and temporal patterns that technically define a modern postal system.
2. Post offices – the 4th class offices by far the most numerous – from general stores to government buildings represent the federal government at a local level.
3. Official Registers record local revenues that link each post office to the gross revenues, not only according to patterns of the whole but also to local idiosyncrasies.
4. Money Order business is a commercial register of cash flow in the broader economy.
5. Post office records (of receipts, Registered Mail, etc.) provide a robust index to local affairs.

Richard Russo, New York State's talented novelist, has understood the universal appeal of the conflicts in mundane life. As collectors, we take on the task of making the mundane details of postal history count.

Secretary's Membership Report (Continued)

The following members will be dropped
for non-payment of dues
if payment is not received by October 15, 2009:

Edmund Bashista, Westfield, MA
Allen Bohart, Livermore, CA
Elwyn Daisley, Sheridan, IN
Walter Demmerle, Virginia Beach, VA
John Donnes, Gretna, LA
Sidney Fingerhood, Ardmore, PA
Wallace Gallup, Canandaigua, NY
Augusta Gelfand, Austin, TX
Robert Govern, Cary, NC
Warren Groeger, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Robert Juceam, Manhasset, NY
Richard Komulainen, East Greenbush, NY
Morton Laby MD, East Setauket, NY
Donald LaShomb, Adams, NY
Vincent Martonis, Silver Creek, NY
Thomas O'Hagen, Lewes, DE
Kenneth Pitt, Catharpin, VA
Stephen Resnick, Cazenovia, NY
Joseph Rhatigan, Long Beach, NY
Lawrence Robillard, Massena, NY
David Shufelt, Millerton, NY
Eric Sullivan, Binghamton, NY
Nicholas Todaro, Syracuse, NY
Reginald White, Patterson, NY
Nicholas Zevos, Potsdam, NY
The Collectors Club, New York, NY

If there is an error, please contact the Secretary.

Attention Southern Tier Members.....

Regional Rep. Al Parsons reports that STEPEX 09, scheduled for October 16 & 17 at the Rig Flats American Legion Post, will have NY postal history exhibits and can use more. Contact Al for information and to obtain an entry form.

For those attending STEPEX 09, there will be an informal "show and tell" session Friday afternoon, Oct. 16th. Bring some covers and share in the discussion.

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)

Correction:

Member: Bill Hart (bill.nysph@verizon.net)
Contact: PO Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588
Message: Would like to trade or buy NYS RFD handstamp or manuscript examples.

BULLETIN omitted "RFD" from Bill Hart's Trading Post ad. Apologies to Bill.

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