

# ***BULLETIN*** *of the Empire State*

## *Postal History Society*

Volume 53 Number 3

September 2020

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, many events have been cancelled. The web site from which this calendar has been drawn, iStampshows.com, has not shown any cancellations including shows scheduled for September to November. Please verify with organizers before heading out.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Bayside Stamp Show**

**Bayside, Queens, New York**

**Nov. 15, Dec. 20, 2020**

The Best Western Queens Gold Coast, 22033 Northern Blvd., Bayside, Queens, N.Y. 11361

Hours: 10-4:30. Info: Marilyn Nowak, Email: marilynnowak@verizon.net

#### **Fort Orange Stamp Club**

**Colonie, New York**

**Oct. 18, 2020 CANCELLED**

Colonie Recreation Center, 3 Thunder Rd, Colonie, N.Y.

Hours: 10-3. Info George McGowan, (518) 479-4396, Email: geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com

#### **Melville Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show**

**Melville, New York**

**Oct. 11 & 25, Nov. 8 & 22, 2020**

Catapano Engineering Hall, 585 Broadhallow Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11747

Hours: Sun. 8-2. Info: George Schultheis (516) 557-7096

Information obtained from iStampshows.com. Please verify before going.

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APS Affiliate #28

web site [www.esphs.us](http://www.esphs.us)

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Mohawk: *vacant*

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Central: Bob Davison

West Central: *vacant*

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## BULLETIN DEADLINE

**DEADLINE** – The deadline for the Dec. issue of the *BULLETIN* is **November 20th**. The editor is always looking for short (1/2 page, 1 page, 1 ½ page or 2 page) articles to fill spots in the *BULLETIN*. Submit to [largin1@verizon.net](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). Larry Laliberte

## President's Message

As I type this message, I am reflecting on the past 8 months. As complicated as this moment in time has been for many, this 'imposing isolation' has permitted philatelists and postal historians the added time to focus on their collections, exhibits, research projects and manuscripts—especially those that had been on the back burner. I am looking forward to the day in the not too distant future when we can all convene again – the camaraderie is vital for my health and well-being as I am sure it is for yours.

In this issue you will see the minutes from our June Board of Directors Meeting which we held via Zoom. There was an excellent turn-out by our leadership; with dynamic and productive discussions as we planned for the future and growth of our Society. And since we could not hold our Annual Members Meeting, we resorted to an E-mail blast for the 2020 Election/Re-Election of Officers and Board. Thank you all for your responses – the result of which are reported in this issue and listed on our website.<sup>1</sup>

A key item that came out of the Board meeting was the need for complementary PR and Marketing beyond our website. To this end, I suggested the creation of a Facebook page for the ESPHS and took this on. I am pleased to report that this project has been completed; the site is live, hyperlinked from our website, and is attracting many members and guests, with "Likes" and Shares". Please see the Press Release we crafted in this issue, which the American Philatelic Society picked up and promoted via their Social Media outlets. When you get a moment, do visit our Facebook page and invite your friends.<sup>2</sup>

I am happy to report that since our last issue we have added two new members to the rolls. The Postal History Foundation in Tucson Arizona joined us in April, whose mission is to connect people to postal history, philately, and the world of stamps; to inspire curiosity and encourage life-long learning. I highly recommend you visit their website to learn more about their programming, resources and 30,000 titles in the Slusser Philatelic Library.<sup>3</sup> Joining us in June, after he and I corresponded via Facebook, is David Goodhart. Dave is an ER nurse and paramedic in Canton, Ohio. He resides there with his wife Kristen, and their two children. Dave started collecting stamps as a child, but recently picked up the hobby a few years ago. He spends his free time reading, going back to school, and being immersed in the History Channel. Welcome!

I am pleased to announce that the ESPHS has undertaken an ongoing project to digitize the many books the society holds the copyright to. In addition, there will be books that the authors and publishers have kindly given permission to be included here and even publications that are no longer under copyright protection. To this end, I created an online "Electronic Library" on our website under the "Resources" dropdown menu. And the first book chosen is "New York Postal History: *The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980*" by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr. I have completed this project and the viewable/searchable PDF is available to our members and guests.

This is a fledgling project. If you or your colleagues at affiliate organizations holds a copyright to a book and would like to see it presented on our website in the spirit of sharing, please let me know. If there are books that you personally would like to see presented here, again please let me know. If you find the material presented on our website to be valuable, please support the project and make a contribution to the Empire State Postal History Society so we may add even more content.

I thank you all for your vote of confidence as we look to the future. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact me. I'd be most pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President, ESPHS*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.esphs.us/organization/>

<sup>2</sup> [www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety/](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety/)

<sup>3</sup> [www.postalhistoryfoundation.org/](http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org/)

## SECRETARY'S REPORT JUNE 10, 2020

Advertising: The June issue of the Bulletin had two 1/4 page ads which netted the Society \$60.00.

Closed album: Long time member and a friend to all, Bill Hart passed away on March 23rd. He was the definition of a true gentlemen.

Also, sad to report that Ralph Gestwicki of Elmira passed away since the December Bulletin. He joined in 2011.

Lost contact: Life member Joel Shapiro, has lost contact with the Society. Does anyone know Joel's circumstances?

New members: Francis Ferguson was reported in the December Bulletin. Other new members include Charles Epting and Vern Morris.

Received application for membership from David Goodhart, Canton, Ohio

Charles DiComo has reported that the Society has a new database of members.

Respectfully submitted;

George McGowan

Addendum: Member Gary Leggett passed away in 2019

## TREASURER'S TIDBITS

While researching a recent article I was writing for *Excelsior!* I stumbled upon the below website called *NYS Historic Newspapers*. I thought I would share it here in case some members weren't aware of it. All one needs to do is click on the county of interest on the home page, and then use the search box that comes up. The information I was able to bring up was invaluable for my research, especially since there are over 10M newspaper pages available on the site, going all the way back to the 1700's. Best of all, it's FREE.

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>

George DeKornfeld, Treasurer

## Minutes of the 2020 Annual EPHS Board of Directors Meeting

Via ZOOM Video Conference

June 23rd, 2020

The meeting began at 4:00 PM

Present: President, Dr. Charles DiComo; Vice President, Dave Prezprlora; Treasurer, Dr. George DeKornfeld; Secretary, George McGowan; *Bulletin* Editor, Lawrence Laliberte; Auction Manager, Robert Bramwell; *Excelsior!* Editor Jeff Stage; Board Members, Heather Sweeting and Brian Levy.

1. Dr. DiComo opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks.
2. The minutes of the 2019 annual meeting at ROPEX were approved as written.
3. Dr. DeKornfeld gave the treasurers report stating that we are in good economic standing.
4. Sec. McGowan gave a membership report listing;  
Closed Album: William Hart, Ralph Gestwicki, and Gary Leggett  
Lost Contact: Joel Shapiro  
New Members: Charles Epting, Vern Morris, and Dave Goodhart
5. Dr. DiComo announced that the society has a new updated membership database. We thank him for his efforts.
6. Excelsior Editor Dave Williams was thanked for his almost 14 years of editorial excellence.
7. George DeKornfeld suggested that we produce a card to be distributed to prospective members via mail and at shows. All agreed it would be a good idea. He will draft and distribute for comments.
8. Dr. DiComo gave a status report on the website with suggestions for future additions and improvements. He also mentioned the creation of an ESPHS Facebook page to add to our marketing strategy and tie back to the website. He also suggested creating an online Electronic Library, with New York Postal History, by Smith/Kay as our first book to be OCR PDF and made available to the public – he will scope out feasibility.
9. Robert Bramwell has offered to re-institute our society auction after a 5 year hiatus. The next (eleventh) auction will be open to non-members and will, in addition, consign non NYS postal history and include postcards. All agreed with his request.
10. Many in attendance agreed that video meetings are the way of the future and efforts will be made to make our 2021 meeting via the internet.

Meeting adjourned 5:12PM

Respectfully Submitted:

George McGowan | *Secretary*

## OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE



For Immediate Release  
July 12, 2020

### Empire State Postal History Society Creates Facebook Page

The Empire State Postal History Society has created a new Facebook page.

“Having the Society on Facebook complements our website, adds to our overall presence in the digital space, and allows us to augment awareness of our Society’s mission; which is to share our appreciation of the postal history of New York State,” said society President Charles J. DiComo, PhD. I am confident that we can expose a new group of visitors to *like* and *share* our passion, while attracting new members.

The page – which can be found at [www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety) – is available to society members and the public.

DiComo expects society members will periodically post information and images of materials regarding New York state postal history.

“This is a good place for collectors – or even non-collectors – to check in with comments or thoughts about New York postal history,” said Jeff Stage, editor of the society’s journal, *Excelsior!* “Because New York City is such a major player on the world stage of early postal transportation we know that collectors and historians from all over have an interest in Empire State postal history.”

A recent look at the society’s Facebook offerings include images of advertisements for an 1850s Independence Day celebration; a stampless 1839 letter sheet from Ohio to England via New York City; and a link to a resource archive list of New York state post offices by county from 1792 to 1969.

Annual dues for society membership are \$20. For more information or to join the society, visit [www.esphs.us](http://www.esphs.us) online, or write to the Empire State Postal History Society, Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482.

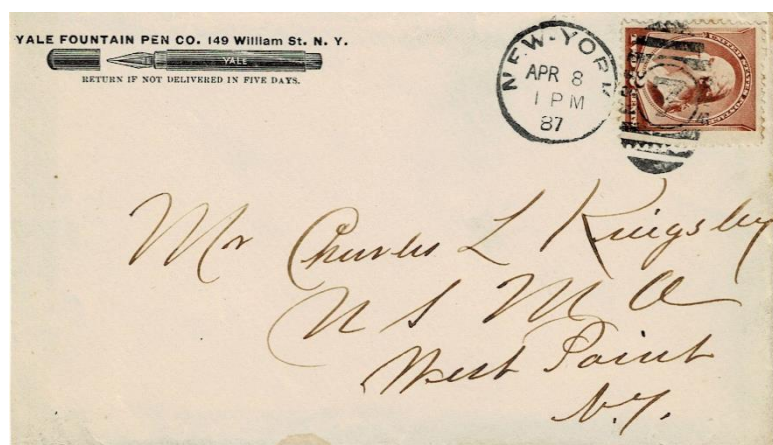
## A COVER TO A WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY CADET

By Mark Fonda

Charles LaRue Kingsley was a West Point cadet at approximately 18 years old from July 1, 1886 to January 27, 1888. He received an appointment from the 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that included Steuben County. Kingsley was born at Bath, N.Y. August 29, 1867 into a family who gained some repute as accomplished lawyers in later years [i.e.: as claims agent for Civil War Veterans and western land mortgage business.]

Kingsley was dismissed from his class at West Pont, where he was 74<sup>th</sup> in his class, for deficiency in Math and French.

It was the custom for each professor to be presented with a gift pen from “each” graduate. The cover in **Figure 1** was mailed April 8, 1887 from the Yale Fountain Pen Co., 149 Williams St., N.Y.C. and was probably in response to an ad similar to the one shown in **Figure 2**. It probably contained a flyer.



**Figure 1:** The cover sent to Charles Kingsley at West Point.

The Yale Fountain Pen was an amazing invention for its time because it allowed the writer to script 20,000 words guaranteed for five years. It did away with the messy ink bottles and was a compact writing instrument without “joints”: “springs”; “dirtubes”; “valves”, “screw sections” or any other machinery. This pen was the predecessor of the modern ball point pen.

Kingsley goes on to become a successful law school graduate and lawyer in

N.Y.C. Just before the turn of the century or right after, the Kingsley family of lawyers leased a portion of their farm at Hammondsport, N.Y. (on Keuka Lake, Steuben County) to the airplane pioneer – pilot – designer – inventor Glenn Hammond Curtiss. It is here that he designed, built and flew the Curtiss JN-4 (Jenny) trainer biplane for the U.S. Army Air Corp. The “Jenny” was depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> series of U.S. air mail stamps of 1918 that we all love.



**Figure 2:** An ad for the Yale Fountain Gold Pen that appeared in “The American Stationer” of Jan. 8, 1885



Glenn Curtiss leased the Kingsley farm property to build a factory that employed 3,000 workers. He also experimented with seaplane designs which evolved into the NC-4 model that made a transatlantic flight after 1919.

Curtiss had only an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education and was a dropout who had an uncanny ability in mechanics and design which turned out to be the foundation of a brilliant career in the airplane and motor industry. His company is still successful today.

Like Curtiss, Kingsley was a drop out from Steuben County, N.Y. who crossed paths and two success stories evolved. from the mighty stroke of a pen.

Charles LaRue Kingsley died November 16, 1942 while Glenn Hammond Curtiss preceded him in an untimely death, due to appendicitis complication on July 23, 1930.

The author would like to thank Alicia Mauldin-Ware, Archives Curator at West Point Military Academy for her assistance.

### THE AWARD IS IN



The accompanying photo shows the award given to Charles J. DiComo for the best article in Excelsior! - 2019. The article was titled "From the Front Lines: Lt. Col. William G. Belknap's First Hand Account of the Battle of Monterey, 1846"

Charles is to be congratulated again for receiving the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Award for National Service. This is given for outstanding efforts of APS volunteers at the national, regional and local level, and also recognize our younger members whose contributions and abundant talents are crucial to our future. See the full write-up on page 714 of the August 2020 issue of *The American Philatelist*.

### BULLETIN

#### ADVERTISING & CLASSIFIED ADS

ESPHS members are entitled to one classified ad per year of 25 words not counting contact info. For larger ads, refer to the table Send ads as a Word doc to the editor at [largin1@verizon.net](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). Send payment to the editor via check payable to Empire State Postal History Society at 15 Sunset Hill Ct., Carmel, NY 10512-5027

Ad Size	One-Time Placement	Two Issues	Full Year (Four Issues)
Classified (max 25-words)	\$10	\$18	\$27
1/4 Page	\$30	\$58	\$97
1/2 Page	\$50	\$90	\$160
Full Page	\$125	\$230	\$400



## A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Member Brian Levy sent along the following request for assistance in researching a modern postal history article on returned mail and postage due.

I imagine the ESPHS mailing of our periodicals is similar to my Alumni Association, you get returns and associated Postage due notices. In order to strengthen this article or continue its thread, I would love to "compare notes", do you get the same forms and markings? Do you get the markings (from) or have them saved by, your third party mailer? If you have examples, I would love to work on this together and strengthen this article.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
FORM 3547 fee due \$0.61  
Restricted Data  
First-Class Mail Postage and Fees Paid USPS Permit No. G10

Quartdeck  
Spring 2019  
W.C. Mayhew High School  
Alumni Association, Inc.  
2401 Camp Ave  
Bellmore NY 11710

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
EXP 2018 15435  
SUSAN P. 14  
2-12-18

TO THE POSTMASTER OF  
WC MEHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
2401 CAMP AVE  
BELLMORE NY 11710-9998

OLD:  
NEW:

01/06/19 17:28 7960130000567 013 pnc:28798797 v08:2180716  
PLANET: M10 Code:27190050179623436421742402947

I have attached the very interesting picture of USPS Form 3547, *Notice to Mailer of Correction in Address*, which provides the change of address information and includes a picture of the address portion of the original "Flat" that the mailer had sent out. It also provides the "Postage Due" amount.

The following is from a USPS search of Form 3547. "In 2011, the USPS revised its Domestic Mail Manual regrouping three ancillary service endorsements:

1. Address Service Requested, providing address correction and forwarding;
2. Return Service Requested, providing address correction and returns the mail piece; and
3. Change Service Requested, providing address correction Service but doesn't forward the mail piece.

If the mail piece cannot be forwarded to the new recipient address, the sender received back a form 3547. The USPS Form fee is charged for each separate notification of address correction."

Brian Levy

If you have examples that you would like to share, Brian can be reached at [bellobl@gmail.com](mailto:bellobl@gmail.com)

## ELECTION RESULTS

George DeKornfeld – Treasurer.....47  
George McGowan – Secretary.....48  
Bob Bramwell -- Board Member.....48  
Heather Sweeting -- Board Member.....48

## **EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE**

The deadline for the **March 2021** issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is mid-**January** or earlier if possible.

As an incentive, submitting a one to four-page article will get you a one year extension on your membership and a five-page article will get you a two year extension. Just think – if you write regularly for *EXCELSIOR!*--you'll have the potential of earning free membership for life!...And think about how you will enrich yourself and others.

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

I attempt to make the *BULLETIN* easily readable by using font size 12 throughout for text. In this issue, *EXCELSIOR!* Editor, Jeff Stage requested the inclusion of a sheet outlining how he would like articles submitted. Because the outline was a full two pages in font size 11, I decided to maintain that size to keep it at two pages and place it as the last two pages of this issue. This will allow for anyone to copy it as a stand-alone piece that can be filed for reference **when you write your articles**.

## **THIS MONTHS BOOK SALE**

### ***Federal Post Offices of New York State***

Reprinted June 1994 ESPHS

Alphabetical List referencing county revised and corrected to March 1, 1973, 60 pages'

Soft cover, 5.5" X 8.5" Format, Stapled.

List price \$5.00; Member price \$4.00. Plus postage (5 in stock)

### ***Manuscript Post Offices of New York State***

*Edited by Henry Chlanda and Chester E. Wilcox*

1984, 54 Pages, plus the 1999 Master supplement, Edited by Douglas Penwell, 34 Pages; both are soft cover and stapled.

List price \$14.00; Member price \$12.00. Plus postage (**48 sets in stock**, only 20 are free of water damage)

To see all offerings, go to our web site at <http://esphs.us>

If you wish to purchase MORE THAN ONE COPY of a title, please contact the ESPHS Publications office: Drew Nicholson, Publications Chair, 18 Valley Drive, Pawling, NY 12564-1140 or e-mail at [dan.ddn@comcast.net](mailto:dan.ddn@comcast.net). We will work with you to achieve the best publication/shipping rate discount. Registered dealers are always welcome and receive the standard professional discount; a larger discount is made available to those dealers who are members of the ESPHS

## **SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR EXCELSIOR!**

By Jeff Stage -- Editor, Excelsior!

Greetings all. Jeff Stage reporting from the publishing offices of the Excelsior! here in Syracuse, N.Y.

Before we turn to a few notes and comments about a new era for your journal, I wanted to thank the most recent editor, David Williams, for all of the hard work he did over the years, and to Charlie DiComo for reaching out and asking me to take on the editorial duties.

You will see from the next issue of the Excelsior! that changes are afoot. Transition is not always easy but it is fluid, so there will be some changes that might be experimental and others that will stick – all with the purpose of creating a better and livelier product for society members, current and future.

The main thing I want to help create is an easy-to-read, digestible journal that often presents classic and vintage material, but with a contemporary voice.

Here are a few words about editing, writing and design.

First, a philosophy. Although all of your work is scholarly and well researched, we are not writing or publishing here to earn some kind of a degree. We are doing this work to share information, knowledge, areas of expertise and, most importantly, philately. That said, I tend to want to present information in a journalistic and conversational style more than an academic style.

Here, I want to focus on editing and writing. We can talk about presentation and layout at another time.

I am primarily interested in editing for clarity and understanding. I want you to retain your voice, so to speak, but I also want anyone with an average background in philately to read your article and understand it.

Following are some basics, in no particular order, that I follow.

You can expect editing in your submissions. After all, none of us are named Shakespeare. Editing hopefully is a collaboration and not (too) painful.

I use Associated Press style. Aside from being familiar with it from my journalism career, this is the most widely accepted style throughout the United States so it's familiar to anyone who has read a magazine or local newspaper. It is also based on common sense and simplicity. (Don't worry if you don't know it; just write and I will edit as needed.)

As the AP Stylebook suggests, I tend to nix the following: overuse of acronyms, over capitalization, quotation marks, italics, boldface, the Oxford comma, unnecessary metric usages, non-American date usage, most courtesy titles and so much more.

A further note on acronyms. I especially would not want one on the first reference, but very common acronyms such as APO, after first stating it's the Army Post Office, may be OK, depending on how often it's used.

Headlines – aka titles. Please include a title or headline as you see fit, but don't necessarily expect to see it in print. (Remember, the width of the page is short.) If you are using the title to merely describe the essence of the article, instead, make that part of the text – preferably within the first couple of paragraphs. I also like subtitles in smaller font, so sometimes that is a nice place to include a longer descriptive phrase. Again, don't sweat it – I will figure the titles (headlines) out, as that is part of the editing process.

Footnotes – hate them, and most times they are not necessary. They tend to slow the reader and if you slow a reader you may lose the reader. Most footnotes can easily be adjusted to simple references, which can be listed at the end of the article. As points of reference, you rarely see footnotes, if ever, in articles by most regular philatelic writers.

Another note about footnotes is that they can complicate the editing process. Because of the quirkiness of various writing software, if I remove a footnote but not others, other footnotes may go awry.

That said, references are certainly important and these can be noted as part of the text (journalism style) or just noted in the reference list at the end.

Explanations of some philatelic terms may be necessary, especially if they are not common (first day cover – no explanation needed; but “albino” would need one).

OK – this one is about the submission process and is important: stories should be submitted as text only. Images should be submitted as separate (do NOT link them) high resolution jpegs (300 dpi or higher) if possible.

Do NOT embed images in your articles unless you submit them in a separate file as part of a suggested layout. I appreciate your vision in a sample layout, but I cannot promise I will follow it – there are too many variables in creating pages that affect the layout.

Do not include any software formatting within text or images. Do not alter images. Send the whole image and feel free to make suggestions about any alterations that might be important. If I need your help, I will definitely ask for it.

Another note about submissions – Please do NOT include headers or footers on your pages. If you want to number your pages just lead the text with 1-1-1 ... 2-2-2 ... 3-3-3- etc. I use this multiple number system (1-1-1) so I don’t miss them, fail to erase them and they find their way onto the printed page.

Captions for your images are appreciated. Just label them and put them all at the BOTTOM of your story text.

Even if you have written a hundred stories for the journal, please include a short “About the Author” paragraph at the end of the article.

There are some philatelic usages and style that are in development, but we can save that discussion for a later time.

If you want to contact me about an article idea, direction or whether you should or shouldn’t include something, please do so.

As usual, there are always exceptions, but hopefully we can create a firm style that works for everyone. Like everyone else, I have my strengths and weaknesses (I use too many commas; still learning Publisher). I hope my strengths will help solidify articles and I hope to quickly overcome my weaknesses so that you can all benefit.