



The Maine Philatelist

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Whole No. 169

Was Portland's Charles H. Lamson an aviation pioneer?

By Mark Fonda



Charles H. Lamson of Portland from a New York newspaper in 1896.

Recently, I acquired five postcards from the late 1800s, all addressed to “Mr. C.H. Lamson” in Portland, Maine. Two of the cards had an address of 203 Middle Street and the others only had the city and state. It didn’t take long to discover “C.H. Lamson” or “Chas. H. Lamson” on one card was likely Charles H. Lamson, a successful jeweler, watchmaker, bicycle dealer and kite inventor. And, lost to history is the fact he could be considered an aviation pioneer.

According to the website New England Aviation History, “Dedicated to preserving the forgotten and little-known aeronautical history of New England,” Lamson was known for his experiments with kites in the Portland area during the late 1890s which “achieved remarkable results.” Other experiments with Mr. Lamson’s kites were conducted at the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, Massachusetts.

So who was Charles H. Lamson? If indeed these postcards were addressed to the same man, and the likelihood is strong, then he deserves a place in Maine’s aviation history. Perhaps an article in *The Sun*, a New York City newspaper, best conveys his achievements. The article, “This Airship Did Soar / Lamson’s Kite Carried Up A Dummy Man 600 Feet,” was in the August 21, 1896 edition.

“Portland, Me., Aug. 20 – Charles H. Lamson performed a feat here to-day practically demonstrat-



July 1, 1893 postal card from Boston to “Chas. H. Lamson” at 203 Middle Street, Portland, Maine. Reverse side of card (right) shows it is from the manufacturer of “Fire-Arms, Bicycles, Gymnasium and Sporting Goods.”



ing that a large airship or kite capable of carrying a man can be floated successfully and steadily. He raised his ship with a dummy man on it 600 feet. The retaining rope broke when the ship was at that altitude.

“Had it not been for this break Mr. Lamson would have sent up a man to navigate his ship. As it was, W. A. Eddy of Bayonne, N. J., an author-

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The Maine Philatelic Society is an educational organization whose purpose is to cultivate and promote the study of stamps and postal history of the Pine Tree State, and to publish such knowledge for the benefit of its members and the public. Dues are \$15 for Regular Member; \$25 for Benefactor; \$35.00 for Champion.

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Maine stamp club meetings



Club meeting schedules may change from month to month; to avoid disappointment, please check with the email contact for the meeting before making plans to attend. Please send information to the editor.

BRUNSWICK AREA COIN & STAMP CLUB

The club sponsors four coin and stamp shows annually, held on the First Sunday in May; Second Sunday in July; Last Sunday in August; First Sunday in October. Shows are held at the Exhibition Hall, Topsham Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Regular meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at People Plus Center, corner of Cumberland and Union Streets, Brunswick. Contact Bob Caouette, email: brunswickcoinclub@comcast.net. Website: brunswickmainecoinclub.com.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Ellsworth Public Library, 20 State Street (use lower rear parking lot and enter to the Riverview Room). Contact Secretary Marc Hasselbrack (mhasselbrack@hotmail.com) for additional information.

WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The Waterville club meets on the first and third Friday of each month at 6 p.m., except during June, July and August, when the meeting is on the third Friday only. Meetings are held at the Kennebec Valley Community College, King Hall Building, 92 Western Ave., Fairfield 04937. Buy, sell, trade, auction items, program, business meeting. For information, contact Alan Tieman, 156 Deer Run St., Apt. 2, Pittsfield, ME 04967. Email: cantdog1@gmail.com.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from the fourth Thursday in August to the second Thursday in June. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Temple on Elm Street in Sanford (behind the library). Usual events include raffle, auction and presentations by members. Dues are \$10 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076. Email: sharpei@sacoriver.net.

Portland's Charles H. Lamson

Continued from page 1

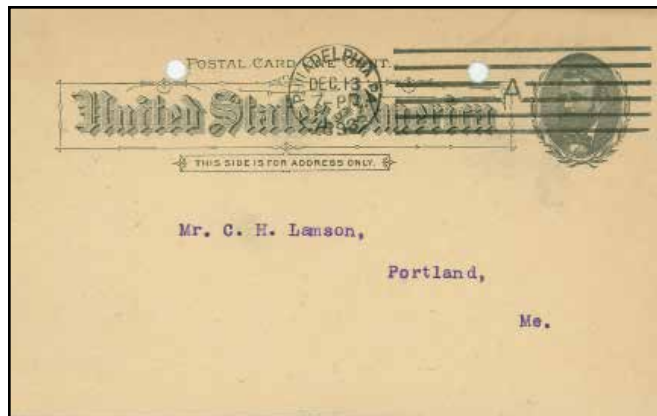
ity on aerial experiments, declared that Lamson's achievement was the greatest step toward solving the problem of aerial navigation of the age. Two records, at all events, Lamson made. He flew the largest kite or airship ever floated. He carried by means of this kite the heaviest weight to the greatest altitude on record.

"Mr. Lamson has been an experimenter in kite flying and construction for a long time. He has been in constant correspondence with Lilienthal and other noted authorities for many years. The kite which made the flight is an invention of Mr. Lamson and is called 'The Lamson Airship.'

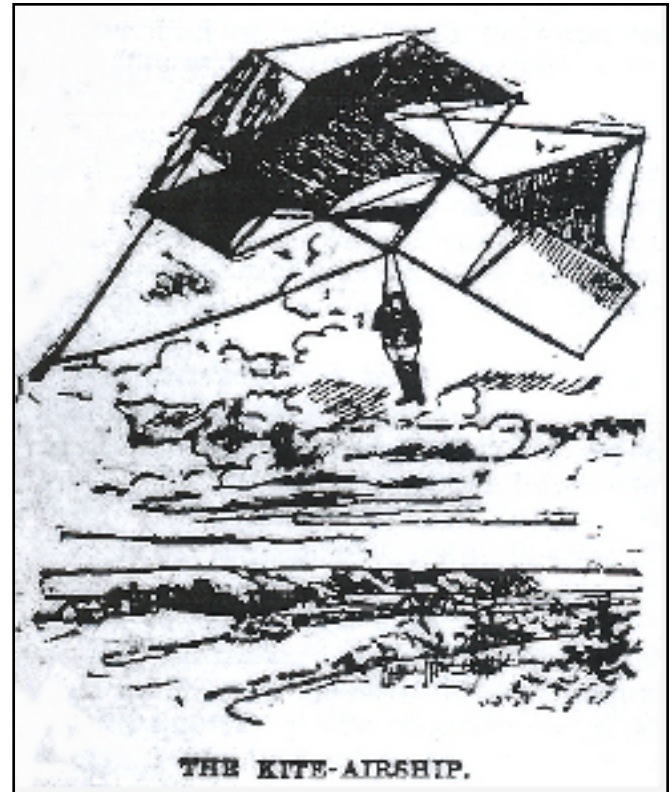
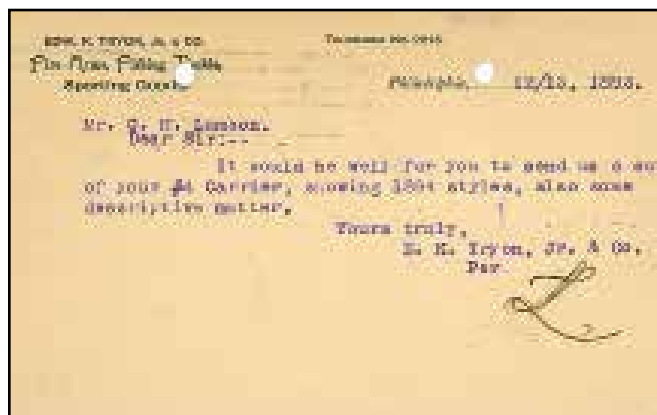
"The kite, when in the air, resembles two large oblong boxes parallel to each other and attached to each other in the middle. It took fifteen men to carry the kite or ship into the field from which it was to be sent up. The retaining cord was a large braided window cord tested to a pull of 500 pounds. This was made fast to a huge reel and four men attended to it. About 400 feet of the rope was run out along

the ground, and at a signal from Mr. Lamson the ship was released. It quivered a moment and then steadily rose skyward.

"Seated on the car of the ship was a dummy weighted to 150 pounds. The ship carried it without



This card to Mr. C.H. Lamson is dated December 13, 1893 and was mailed from Philadelphia. It is from a dealer in "Fire Arms, Fishing Tackle (and) Sporting Goods."



The Kite-Airship by Charles Lamson, 1896. From The Sun, a New York City newspaper.

any perceptible jar. It rose to an altitude of 600 feet, and was rising steadily when with a sudden gust of wind, snap went the rope, showing that tremendous pressure was brought upon it by the soaring of the ship. The ship floated out a half mile and descended as easily and gracefully as it went up. Had a man been in the car he would not have been harmed in the slightest.

"Mr. Lamson in the construction of this ship has followed some of Mr. Hargrave's ideas. The point of similarity between the kite and Hargrave's is in boxing the ends and making it double, that is, with two boxes or 'cells,' as Hargrave calls them, with a space between. This style of kite has great stability when in the air, and when floating freely always settles gently, like a parachute.

"Mr. Lamson built his airship after Hargrave's

Continued on page 4

general plan, but added improvements of his own to make it more manageable in the enlarged form. In the first place, the rear cells were hinged on pivots near the center, so that their angle of inclination in reference to the wind and to one another can be changed at will. The passenger, by manipulating a lever, can keep the airship on an even keel, make it rise or fall, and direct its course in coming down. Lateral steering can be accomplished by changing the weight to the other side of the center, the aerial vessel then turning toward the side where the weight is greatest.

“Each pair of wings is like the wings of a bird. They are also ribbed fore and aft, and covered so that the stream of air can have its full lifting effect following the curve from front to rear, and preventing all shaking or flapping of the fabric.

“Mr. Lamson’s plan of jointing the aeroplanes or aerocurves makes it possible to attach the flying cord on a bowsprit. This makes it much easier to float the great kite than by Hargrave’s plan. Mr. Clayton of Blue Hill Observatory estimated that the kite would pull at least 800 pounds if it were hung as Hargrave advises, but by Mr. Lamson’s arrangement the strain on the cord is greatly reduced, so that a few men can handle it in ordinary winds.

“A heavy windlass loaded with sand bags held the 2,000 feet of cord to-day. All that was necessary to launch the airship was to raise its forward end a little and take a short run, when it sailed up into the air like a balloon.

“The ship presented a novel and beautiful appearance as it soared gracefully above the heads of 1,500 people, who stood gazing with open mouths at this strange monster of the air. Nobody, to see the kite on the ground, would ever imagine that it would fly in mid-air, but Lamson demonstrated the fact that it would. Mr. Eddy and other authorities said that to-day’s performance exceeded anything that Lilienthal or any former leader in this work has done.

“Mr. Lamson was disappointed at the collapse of the rope, but was pleased at the success of the experiment. He said: ‘The performance of my airship to-day satisfies me beyond all question that the ship in its present form will always ascend in a fair breeze and will remain flying any length of time under favorable atmospheric conditions; that a kite of this size will sustain and carry a man all night,

and that the latter can regulate the direction of the kite in the air and descend. I do not mean he can propel the kite. This remains to be discovered, but I mean that, taking advantage of the air currents, he can guide the ship to a very large extent. By means of the guiding lever he can regulate the course up or down, and by shifting his weight can curve to the right or left.’”

Charles Henry Lamson was born on September 17, 1847 and died on May 19, 1930. He married Elizabeth Harrod Cox in 1874 and was a jeweler in Portland from 1870 to 1910. More evidence that the “Chas. H. Lamson” noted on an 1893 postcard was the same person discussed in the newspaper article is the fact the postcard came from a “Fire-Arms, Bicycles” dealer in Boston, and Mr. Lamson was a bicycle dealer in addition to jeweler.

Remembering old Maine post offices

By James Husson

Do you have photos of old Maine post offices or postal activities? Send them to the editor so they can be shared with others.

The photo below shows the old Cape Porpoise Post Office and at bottom, Portland letter carriers in earlier days. They certainly look loaded down with mail!



Post Office Cape Porpoise



Letter carriers, Portland 1926

Iconic Maine precancels: Shiloh

By Rick Stambaugh

In 1996, I needed only three more Maine town precancels to complete my quest to have a precanceled stamp from all known Maine town precancels (336 at that time). So, when I finally found one in a dealer's stock, I broke down and spent \$10 - \$15 to get this Shiloh Maine L-1 R precanceled stamp. It was one of the most expensive Maine precancel towns. The L-1 R designation means that the precancel device was a roller cancel obtained locally just for Shiloh, Maine.

What makes it iconic worthy? It isn't a precancel. It was. Then it wasn't. Then it was. And, now it isn't as of 1997 (I'd saved the money if I hadn't found it for another year). That history of "it is, no, it isn't" makes it iconic to me. Here's the back-story.

In 1930 it was a listed roller precancel, "Seen on the 1898 issue in red-purple ink."¹ The 1937 edition of the catalog stated: "It has been shown that the stamps listed in the 1930 catalog are package cancellations. They have therefore been delisted." But, sometime before 1991, it was included in my New England Town & Type Precancel Album published in 1991 by the New England Precancel Club and was listed in the *Town & Type Precancel Catalog* of that time.



Then in 1997 a letter from the Shiloh Postmaster was found and is noted:

Shiloh, Feb 19, 02

A. L. Jones

Dear Sir,

When "The Everlasting Gospel" goes out there is one stamp on each paper and it makes a great deal of work to cancel them, so I made a self inking stamp in the form of a roller, which I simply roll across the stamp.

Respectfully

/s/ T. Albert Field

So, the Shiloh Maine precancel was finally de-listed. But I'm not removing it from my album for the following reasons: 1. There is a space for it, and 2. I think it makes a neat story.

FOOTNOTE

¹ *Hoover Brothers' Official Precancel Stamp Catalog* (New York: Hoover Brothers), 1930.

We'll have more on Shiloh, Maine in a forthcoming issue!

“Dana Sarsaparilla Co.” was Belfast fixture in earlier days

By Michael Strout

It has been said that every cover tells a story, and that is certainly true of the cover shown in *Figure 1*. It was mailed from Belfast by the Dana Sarsaparilla Company to a Mrs. Crocker, a teacher in Marshfield, near Machias in Washington County. David W. Smith, in his book *Silent Precancels: a Catalog of Lines, Bars, & Designs on 19th and 20th Century Stamps Used Postally in the United States*, identifies the stamps as a Belfast Type B silent precancel. When I showed him the strip of six on cover, he said, “Wow, that is the largest multiple on cover I have ever seen.”

There is more to the story. The corner card return address merely shows: “FROM / DANA SARSAPARILLA CO, / Belfast, Maine.” Dana’s Sarsaparilla was brewed and bottled in Belfast, Maine from 1889 to 1917, and Belfast’s City Drug Store advertised it as a reliable remedy for the liver, kidneys and diseases of the blood. According to Maine Memory Network, a Maine Historical Society website, due to a lack of government regulation in the period, virtually any substance could be advertised as a “remedy.”

Edgar F. Hanson was one of the men behind the business. He was born in Lincoln in 1853 and as a young man he farmed, went to sea and was a general laborer on the railroad after moving to Belfast. With his savings, he started a company to manufacture carriages where he was manufacturing as many as 300 carriages per year and doing \$36,000 a year in business, a remarkable amount in a small town. With the money he made on that enterprise, he invested in Dana’s Sarsaparilla as one of the owners and was the manager. He was also director of People’s National Bank and president of the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad. As a man who was always on the hunt for financial advance, he invested in the Eastern Importing & Breeding Company and was also an investor in the Petit Manan Island land development company.

In politics, he served 10 terms as Belfast’s mayor as well as a state senator. Also, as a Democrat, he was diametrically opposed to Charles Pillsbury and his *Republican Journal* which encouraged him to found the *Waldo County Herald* (1908-1918) which was to have been more politically neutral but quickly devolved into partisan politics with a decidedly Democratic bent.

Hanson brought Herman Cassens to Belfast to take a job with his Cream Publishing Co., which published the magazine *Cream* from 1897 to 1898. Cassens eventually married Hanson’s daughter, Lillian. With his financial aid, Cassens founded the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. in 1909, and later worked at the *Waldo County Herald* where his father-in-law was editor and publisher.

Hanson retired to Florida but soon became a land developer as the Square Deal & Development Company and became the owner and developer of the largest avocado grove in the world. It was a square mile in size and located west of Miami. It was destroyed in two separate hurricanes in 1926 and 1928. He passed away in 1933 at the age of 80 and is buried in the Smart Cemetery in Swanville.



Figure 1

Strip of six precancels on Dana Sarsaparilla Co. cover.

New stamp club forms for Bangor region collectors

By Dave Kremelberg

I was walking home from school one day when I happened to look down on the sidewalk and noticed an ad from a magazine advertising 1,000 stamps for \$4.95. I thought it was amazing that it would be possible to buy a thousand stamps for only \$5, and, excited, I sent away for the stamps.

Once received, I excitedly opened the package, started looking through the stamps, and learning how to identify the country of origin, started sorting them and putting them into a stock book. This was my entry into the world of stamp collecting and philately.

As a child, I collected U.S., Dutch stamps (a large component of the original 1,000 stamps that I ordered), former British possessions, and a lot of fun things like 3D stamps from Bhutan and Disney stamps. Like many collectors, I stopped collecting as a teenager, and then began again as an adult, largely collecting the same areas that I had before, but more systematically, and also learning more about the history of the stamps and postal history.

Now living in Maine, I felt that it was high time to restart a stamp club in the Bangor area. Beginning a few months ago, we began holding monthly

meetings on the last Friday of the month at 6 p.m. at Bangor Makerspace, 34 Freedom Parkway Suite #2, in Hermon.

Meetings have been successful, with even our first meeting having six attendees. I'm hoping that we can increase our membership and the activity of the club. I invite all interested parties to attend our club meetings; currently, no dues are being collected and our meetings are open to the public.

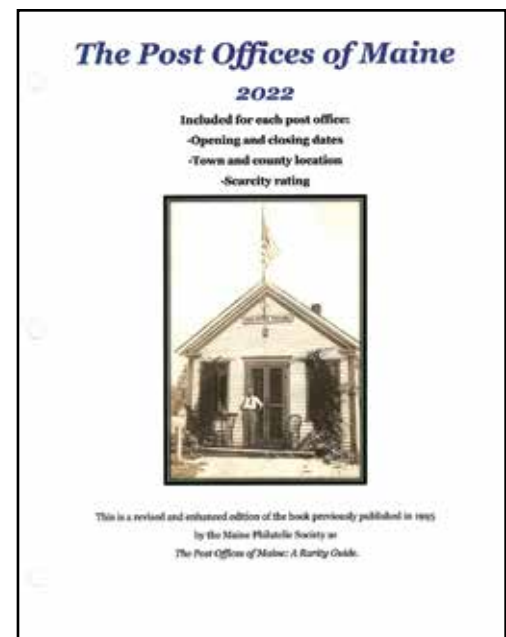
All are welcome to bring stamps to swap or sell or to auction off, and my aim is that each meeting will have at least one talk on some area in philately or postal history.

Anyone is free to simply show up, though if you send me your contact information (your name, email address, and phone number, as you prefer), I have an email and phone list and send reminders once a month as to our upcoming meeting and any specific details, such as the topic of the talk. We are also accepting donations to the club, including books and magazines. I can be reached at dkremelberg@protonmail.com, or at (682) 710-3441. I hope to see you there.

New Maine post office book now available!

The Post Offices of Maine, 2022, a project of the Maine Philatelic Society, is now available for purchase. The book is a significant enhancement from the 1995 edition, with an extensive introduction, appendices and list of sources, full color pictures, and a significantly more detailed post office listing. The main listing stands at some 3,300 entries, or a couple hundred more than the old book, in addition to being 27 years more up to date. If you collect Maine postal history, you will want a copy!

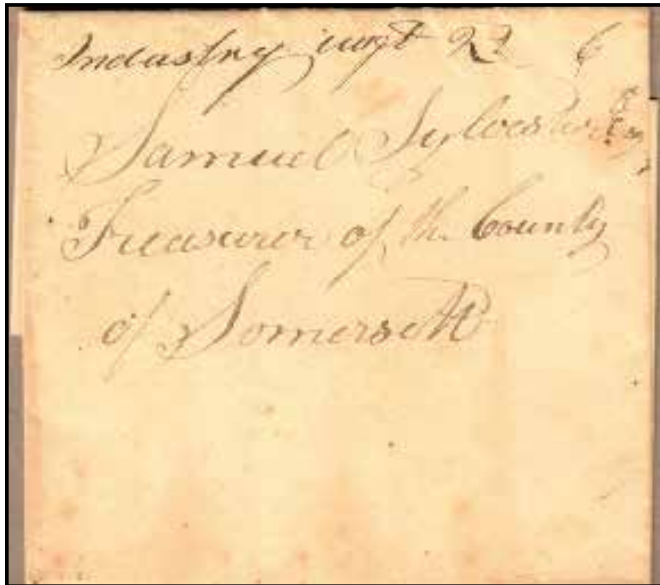
The book, covering about 280 pages, is published in the 8.5 x 11 inch format and three-hole punched to fit in a binder if so desired. It is available for \$35.00 postpaid from Moosehead Communications, Inc., 207 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449-3057. Checks should be made out to Moosehead Communications and NOT Maine Philatelic Society, please! The Maine Philatelic Society receives a royalty on each book sold.



Maine Cover of the Quarter

*A postal history
feature by
Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan.*

The folded stampless cover shown here has a manuscript Industry, Maine cancel. The letter is from the Assessors of the Town of Industry and just above the signatures of the Assessors it is dated June 3, 1826. In 1826, Industry was part of Somerset County. In 1838, the Maine Legislature changed Industry and several other towns in Maine to different counties. Industry is now in Franklin County. *The Post Offices of Maine – 2022* gives this cancel a rating of 7.



(If you have an unusual, interesting or scarce Maine cover candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a clear photocopy against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976 or email: stamps@beeline-online.net).

ADDENDA and ERRATA: *The Post Offices of Maine*

These all demonstrate the importance of all collectors reporting their discoveries and reporting any errors, apparent errors, or questions they may have. PLEASE report anything to the Secretary at Kelvin01027@gmail.com or to Postalhistorymaine@gmail.com.

- **Crystal (1)** and **Crystal (2)** should both be just Crystal. The (1) and (2) mean two separate locations of a post office with the same name, at different times. It would appear that in fact both time periods of Crystal were in the same vicinity, near where the DeLorme *Maine Atlas and Gazetteer* shows Poor Mans Retreat heading west from the sharp bend of Route 159, in the northwest part of the town of Crystal, and neither was at the village of Crystal at the railroad tracks and Cow Team Road in the southeast part of the town of Crystal.
- **Goodrich**, first closing should be November 30, 1903, not November 10.
- **Weeksboro**, second time period, probably never actually operated. The Postmaster Appointment records show that William J. Bartlett was appointed December 20, 1905, but that appointment was rescinded on April 14, 1906. Those are the dates the book shows the second time period of Weeksboro operating, but given that the records show the appointment was rescinded, rather than the post office was discontinued, it would appear that Bartlett never served during that time, and that the Weeksboro Post Office did not exist during that time.

From the President ...

It's time for our annual meeting once again, and it will take place during the MAIPEX stamp show at the MacCrillis-Rosseau VFW in Winslow (see ad elsewhere on this page) on Saturday, October 14. We'll plan on starting at 11 a.m. and the meeting will be very informal.

I would encourage you to attend the stamp show and meet with your fellow MPS members. It is particularly important for our officers and board members to be present for the meeting!

Speaking of MAIPEX on October 14, somehow I got the wrong date in the ad which ran in the July issue. Actually, it was a "pick up" from the 2022 show and I forgot to change the date. And that's even with two people proofreading the entire journal before it goes to print! October 14 ... be there!

We continue to see our membership grow, partly because of our invitation sent to members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) who live in Maine. And we also see growth through the contacts with other non-members being made by our members. Thanks to Kelvin Kindahl, our hard-working secretary, for his efforts in this project. If you would like to help out by contacting APS members in your part of Maine, let me know and we'll send you the names and addresses.

If you know other collectors in your neck of the woods who are not members of the MPS, show them your copy of *The Maine Philatelist* and encourage them to join with us. The more members we have, the more we can increase the journal and active participation in Maine philately!

Everett Parker

Aroostook collectibles buy-sell show coming October 8

Aroostook County Collectors Club will be hosting a collectibles buy-sell show with coins, stamps and other collectibles on October 8, 2023 at the Presque Isle Recreation Center, Chapman Street, Presque Isle. The hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and admission is free. There will be a table auction from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact Spike Savage by email at dsavage7@maine.rr.com for more information.

A look back ... 20 years ago

In the October 2003 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*, Mike Brown authored a lengthy article on the story of the Christmas Seal and how it came to become a holiday tradition on postal articles and mail.

Brown traced the history of seals from the day in October 1907 when Dr. Joseph P. Wales told Emily Bissell that unless money could be raised soon, tuberculosis patients in Delaware would be evicted from hospitals. What happened following that dire prediction eventually resulted in Christmas seals.

Also, the history of Maine exchange offices on the Canadian border was examined. Robbinston was noted as perhaps the most interesting, but the article also included Calais and Houlton, all three of which had been established as exchange offices in 1852.

The post office in Alna in Lincoln County was featured in "Post Offices of Maine," a quarterly feature.

MAIPEX coming on October 14!

With the arrival of fall, it's time for the annual MAIPEX stamp show, sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club.

October 14, 2023

**MacCrillis-Rousseau VFW,
175 Veteran Drive, Winslow**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Dealer Tables, Huge Silent-Live Auction!
The Post Offices of Maine on sale at the MPS table.

Contact Al Tieman, cantdog1@gmail.com

DEADLINES

January issue

Deadline: November 15; mailing December 30.

April issue

Deadline: February 15; mailing March 30.

July issue

Deadline: May 15; mailing June 30.

October issue

Deadline: August 15; mailing September 30.

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Brian Damien

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Collects Maine and Québec postmarks, stamps, postmarks and postal history of Newfoundland.

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Bruce Downs

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Collects Deer Isle postal history and covers surrounding Maine statehood date. Also French and Swiss.

Paul Eagle

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Collects pre-1950 European postage, back of book, cinderellas.

Patrick F. Gilheany

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Collects China, Japan, Germany, trains on stamps.

Dan Goodwin

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Collects U.S. plate blocks prior to 1980, Maine postmarks, anything Christmas related, Naval ship postmarks, World War II related.

Tim Grant

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Collects U.S. (including BOB) in MNH condition and U.N. singles and Inscription Blocks, also MNH.

Robert Gross

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Collects stamps related to North Carolina.

Elmer Harmon

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Jan Hokenson

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Collects worldwide to 1949 including dead countries and military occupations.

Larry Huff

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Collects U.S. classics, Worldwide to 1940, Christmas Seals, Perfins, Disney Stamps, U.S. mint sheets, FDC's.

James Husson

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Collects Maine postal history.

Kelvin Kindahl

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Collects New England postmarks and postal history, all time periods.

Rusty Marr

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Collects worldwide, U.S. mint, plate blocks, FDCs, stationery, Christmas seals, Disney and U.S. back of book.

Peter Martin

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Bob Mellish

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Collects used U. S. current year, Vermont and New Hampshire postal history.

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Bill Sammis

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Collects worldwide to 1959, U.S. to date.

Rick Stambaugh

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Mike Strout

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Collects Maine postal history Maine precancels, Maine state revenues, U.S. revenues, Patriotic covers, Ship covers and postal cards.

Alan Tieman

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Collects Canada & Provinces, Falklands, Tristan, Ascension, St. Helena, Liberia, Maine postal history/postmarks and Topicals: penguins, tractors.

Bernie Vinzani

bvinzani@maine.edu

Collects watermarks on stamps, printing and paper of stamps, postal history of Downeast Maine, and early bishop marks and postmarks of Great Britain.

Rob Washburn

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Art Wittine

lindawittine@yahoo.com

Collects U.S. "back of book" and U.S. with plate numbers.

What does your stamp room or den look like?

Member Donald Drewry of Brewer sent this photo of his stamp den. The desk at left foreground was rescued from the landfill as the former owner was unloading it. Donald said he refurbished the desk over a period of time and now it looks fine as the centerpiece in his stamp den! Donald is a relatively new collector, having been active in the hobby for about three and a half years. He is also a member of the Union River Stamp Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month in Ellsworth. So what does your stamp room or den look like? Send a high resolution pdf or tiff image and let others know. Email to: everettparker1245@gmail.com.



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Classified advertisements are free to members. You may use this space to buy, sell, trade or swap. When sending an advertisement, please advise it is for The Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will be printed four times and then removed unless indicated otherwise.

WANTED

WANTED: New England numbered stations, sub-stations, C. O. D. stations, other stations and branches, postal forms, documents, any time period. Kelvin Kindahl, 267 Locust St. # 2E, Florence, MA 01062-2059. Email: Kelvin01027@gmail.com. (4-23)

WANTED: U.S. precancels, buy or trade. Elmer L. Harmon, 83 Milwaukee Road, Dennysville, ME 04628; email: Elmerlookharmon@icloud.com. (4-23)

WANTED: Lubec postal history. Particularly interested in South Lubec postal markings. Please email John Schorn, jschorn@gmail.com. (4-23)

WANTED: I am writing a postal history for Hampden, Maine. I am interested in buying or obtaining scans for the following: Hampden, Hampden Corner, Hampden Highlands, North Hampden, South Hampden, West Hampden, East Hampden, East Hampden Branch Bangor, Hampden Postal Distribution Center, Hampden Centre, Hampden Center and Nealey's Corner. Contact Jim Husson at jimhusson65@gmail.com. (4-23)

WANTED: Postal history from Isle au Haut, Lookout, and Stonington, Maine. Will buy, but if not for sale, a scan or photocopy would be appreciated. Peter Martin, P.O. Box 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; e-mail: pmartin2525@yahoo.com. (4-23)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 656 different U.S. precanceled stamps. Will trade or for sale at Scott catalogue prices. Phone or write for list. Sorry, no computer or smartphone, just landline -- (207) 989-1061. Donald Drewry, 473 S. Main St., Brewer, ME 04412-2428 (4-25)

FOR SALE: For sale, 50 quality worldwide stamps for SASE. Elmer L. Harmon, 83 Milwaukee Road, Dennysville, ME 04628; email: Elmerlookharmon@icloud.com. (4-23)

FOR SALE: Vatican City sets and FDC's, Australian, French and British Antarctica, all MNH-VF sets. Prices you can't refuse! What do you need? Joseph LoPreiato: enotrialp@gmail.com. (4-23)

Secretary's Report

Kelvin Kindahl
267 Locust St., #2E
Florence, MA 01062-2059

The society welcomes Donald Brown of Lyman; Elliot Fowler of Belfast; Bob Mellish of Keene, New Hampshire; and Lawrence Pistill of Bath. This brings our membership to 114. It's only October, but the October issue is the last one before New Year's Day, also known as MPS Dues Renewal Time. We hope you'll find it worth your while to renew for another year of the outstanding *The Maine Philatelist*.

Dues remain the same as last year, as shown below:

Regular dues: \$15.00

Benefactor level: \$25.00

Champion level: \$35.00

Please consider renewing at one of the higher levels. It'll give you that warm fuzzy feeling of helping to promote philately in the Great State of Maine, the joy of helping to share philatelic knowledge among Mainers, the thrill of spreading that joy and knowledge to some of us outsiders, and the satisfaction of having helped make the world an ever-so-slightly better place! It will also help the treasury, and that's a good thing. Please mail your check to Secretary Kelvin Kindahl, 267 Locust St. # 2E, Florence, MA 01062-2059.

Meanwhile, go to a stamp club meeting, share something from your collection in *The Maine Philatelist*, tell us about what you collect, and why you collect it. Items of any length are always welcome. You do not need to be a "writer!" As always, the secretary welcomes comments!

If you would like to receive important notifications from MPS, but don't necessarily want to share your email address publicly, please let the secretary know. He certainly finds email addresses very useful at dues renewal reminder time (hint, hint!) but he will NOT use them for spam.

Maine Philatelic Society
207 Corinth Road
Hudson, ME 04449-3057

To:

From the President ...

In the n hospitals. And thanks to Elmer for the information!

Everett Parker

A look back ... 20 years ago

In the October 2003 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*, Mike Brown authored a lengthy article on the story of the Christmas Seal and how it came to become a holiday tradition on postal articles and mail.

Brown traced the history of seals from the day in October 1907 when Dr. Joseph P. Wales told Emily Bissell that unless money could be raised soon, tuberculosis patients in Delaware would be evicted from hospitals. What happened following that dire prediction eventually resulted in Christmas seals.

Also, the history of Maine exchange offices on the Canadian border was examined. Robbinston was noted as perhaps the most interesting, but the article also included Calais and Houlton, all three of which had been established as exchange offices in 1852.

The post office in Alna in Lincoln County was featured in "Post Offices of Maine," a quarterly feature.

Question & Answer ?

By Jim Husson

Got a question about Maine philately (or collecting in general)? Know the answer to a previously asked question? We want to know!

*Send your input today to:
jimhusson65@gmail.com*

This quarter's question is

DEADLINES

January issue

Deadline: November 15; mailing December 30.

April issue

Deadline: February 15; mailing March 30.

July issue

Deadline: May 15; mailing June 30.

October issue

Deadline: August 15; mailing September 30.

Maine Cover of the Quarter

*A postal history
feature by
Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan.*

Secretary's Report

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To: