

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Postcards, a Source for Ancestry Research

Contribution by Ed Heller

Have you caught the ancestry bug? It's quickly spreading everywhere, including the Postal History Foundation. Ancestry research uses the science of DNA technology, coupled with the power and speed of the internet to develop your family tree. Additionally, if you're someone who loves history, these ancestry stories are more than just leaves on the tree; they are the personal stories of war, epic migration, and the building of communities. These stories echo around the globe, from Dublin to Auckland, and serve to re-educate those of us who at times forget the life struggles of our ancestors.

The Postal History Foundation's sales department should be considered as a great source for anyone doing ancestry research. PHF not only sells postage stamps from around the globe, it also offers the ancestry researcher thousands of postcards. They are unique snapshots in time, depicting everything from historic hotels and buildings, to family vacation and honeymoon spots. Many of them are postmarked and capture a written record of a visitor to the location.

Ancestry research is fun, relaxing, and certainly a conversation starter. You will inevitably discover someone in your tree that you will want to brag about, while at times you may uncover some less than stellar characters. My Bohemian and Irish ancestors, who worked on the farms and in the logging



Postcard of Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, circa 1920.

camp of 19th century Wisconsin, inspire me to learn more about them.

I recently made two interesting discoveries while searching the PHF postcard files and will use the postcards as visual additions to my genealogical profiles. The first is a postcard, above, depicting Twin Lakes, Wisconsin circa 1920. This idyllic scene must have welcomed my Dad in the 1920s when he spent time here fishing. The photograph at left, taken in 1928, shows my Dad at the location.

My second find shows the National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, circa 1904. The facility was constructed for Civil War Veterans who were recovering from wounds and



Ed Heller's father at Twin Lakes in 1928.

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Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

520-623-6652

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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See past issues of **Stamp Tracks** at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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Message From the Chair

Bob Davis

In February we attended the Ameristamp Expo/ARIPEX in Mesa. This year, the American Philatelic Society took over the show and ran it as the ARIPEX/AMERISTAMP EXPO. Our table did not do as well as expected, even though we had more great collections and covers to sell. The APS Show Chairman forgot to list us as sellers attending the show.

Next year we will travel back up to the normal ARIPEX show in Mesa on February 14-16, 2020. Be sure to mark your calendar. We will bring our wonderful covers, collections and more for you to look at. And, of course, we will take your donations for the kids.

I want to remind you that we have moved the sales area to the front of the building and cleared the way to increase the museum space. We have started to fill red boxes with stamps from various countries and we are organizing the covers. If you haven't been to the Foundation lately, come and see our new arrangement. We are progressing to a more customer-friendly sales department.



PHF Membership

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**PHF, Youth Education thru Stamps (YES), and
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For additional gifting opportunities visit

"Ways to Help" on our website at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

ARIPEX/AMERISTAMP EXPO 2019

The annual February stamp show, ARIPEX, was expanded this year to include the American Philatelic Society's final winter national show. It took place February 15-17 at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

The Conference Theatre was standing room only for the unveiling of the Cactus Flowers Forever Stamp booklet issue. The photographs of the cacti were taken by Professor John P. Schaefer, president emeritus of the University of Arizona and former PHF board member. He also co-founded the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona. The beautiful blooms were called "Mother Nature's fireworks" by John DiPeri, Postal Service acting Manager of Operations and Support for the Western Area. They are a particularly striking set of stamps and have already proved to be very popular and in demand at post offices.



Professor John P. Schaefer addresses the overflowing crowd at the unveiling of the Cactus Flower Stamps. John DiPeri is at left.

The Postal History Foundation table had an average year at the show. As usual many collectors donated boxes and even a suitcase full of stamps to help the PHF provide stamps and lessons to teachers and students across the country. Board of Director Chair Bob Davis, pictured below left, ran the table all weekend. Bob is especially grateful to Dan Sherry, below left, and Jack Mount, not pictured, for their help during the four days of work at the show.



The entire Main Hall was used for the bourse, pushing the exhibits to the Palo Verde Room in Building B. Over 4,000 pages of exhibits and displays were available for perusal and enjoyment. The exhibits appealed to a wide variety of viewers such as General Class Gold Winners *Backyard Chickens-Raising Chickens at Home, Then and Now* by Dawn R. Hamman and *The Magical World of Harry Potter* by Van Siegling, to the Single Frame Champion of Champions winning exhibit *New Orleans in the Confederate Mail System* by Doug Weisz.

Rangers Descend Upon ARIPEX 2019

Contribution by Wayne Youngblood

It's always fun when the Arizona Philatelic Rangers come home to roost at a banquet in their own back yard. In this case, it was a lovely evening spent at Ill Vineaio, an Italian restaurant near the show venue during Aripex 2019 in Mesa, Arizona, February 16-18. The banquet was held on our traditional Friday evening.

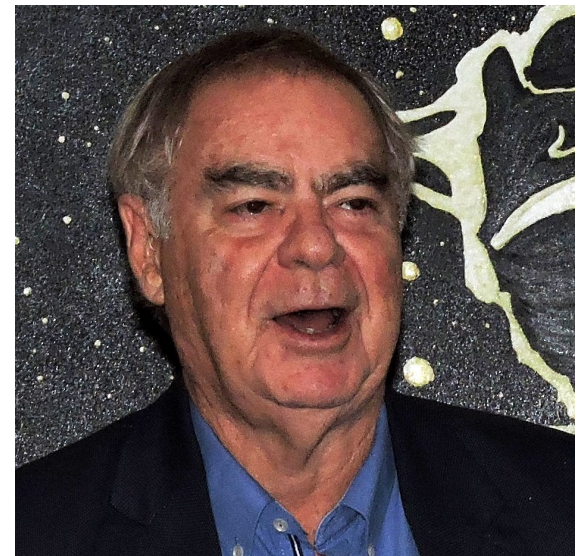


Some of the attendees at the banquet enjoying fine conversation during the evening.

As the show opened on Friday, there was considerable general media attention, due to the release of the Cactus Flowers stamp booklet. During the day, of course, many Rangers in attendance at the show wore their stars in support of youth philately, which never fails to elicit inquiries about who all these folks are at the show who are wearing a star.

As mentioned, the Aripex banquet was held Feb. 16 at Ill Vineaio. Among those in attendance were John and Seny Birkinbine, Sandeep Jaiswal, Bob Davis, Stephen and Cathy Schumann, Cheryl Ganz, Dale Forester, Peter McCann, Pat

and Dan Walker, Joseph and Zlatka Cody, Gregg Hopkins, Bill Robey and Bessie Johanson, Wayne Youngblood and featured guest and speaker Bernard (Bernie) Beston, from Australia. Beston was recently elected president of the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie), which is the governing body for international philatelic exhibiting. Although some had expected Beston to elaborate on the FIP and its recent activities, attendees were treated to an interesting and very entertaining visit about some of the differences between Australian and U.S. philately.



Bernie Beston responds to a question from one of the banquet attendees.

Of course, no Ranger dinner would be complete without some form of official business. In this case, Rangers were able to



welcome a new member, Sandeep Jaiswal, who is an extremely active collector and exhibitor. Pat Walker performed the official duty of presenting Sandeep's star.

Our next official function will take place during Westpex on April 26. We hope to see you there!

At left, Pat Walker presents Sandeep Jaiswal, our newest member, with his Ranger star.

Celebrating the Lutgendorfs

By Lisa Dembowski, Education Director

In this issue of *Stamp Tracks* we remember Beppie Lutgendorf, long-time volunteer at the Postal History Foundation. Sadly, Beppie passed away last November. For over 50 years Beppie accompanied her husband, Alex, to volunteer at the foundation. Alex is still an active member. Below is a brief story of the Lutgendorfs.

Theirs is a true love story, as told by Alex. The two met in Amsterdam in 1945 after the end of World War II. Alex was waiting for a passport to go to the United States and found a job at the Dutch Newspaper, *VrijeVolk* ("Free People"). Beppie trained him to replace her and she was promoted to the publishing department. It was love at first sight for Alex who was 18 at the time and Beppie was 16 years old.

Alex invited Beppie to join in the dance lessons that the company was providing to the staff but she demurred. He even sent American candies through the pneumatic tube mail system to Beppie and hand-delivered misdirected mail to her department just to see her.

Alex finally received his passport so he set sail for the United States and enlisted into the Army Air Corps. He and Beppie corresponded over two years and Alex finally asked Beppie's father for her hand in marriage via the mail. Beppie's father said yes and Alex set sail for Amsterdam for the wedding in 1948. They then left for the United States to start their life together.



Beppie and Alex celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary this past year.

Throughout his 20 years of service in the United States Air Force, they were stationed at more than five



Beppie and Alex with their four children. 1956

military bases, but were never separated for more than 90 days. That was lucky, as they were raising four children. When Alex retired from the Air Force as an air traffic controller, he was immediately picked up by the Federal Aviation Administration where he worked out of Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona, until retiring in 1983.

When Alex joined the Postal History Foundation in 1968, Beppie started accompanying him and attaching postage on envelopes for the Executive Assistant. Beppie also accompanied Alex and the members of the PHF on trips around Arizona in search of old post offices. She enjoyed the social activities of the foundation.

Alex has been our special event cover volunteer ever since working on the covers for ARIPEX 1969 in Tucson. He continues to sell the many event covers that the PHF has produced over the years. Alex has been involved in the production of approximately 150 or more event covers over the years.

We appreciate all the volunteer work by Beppie and Alex over the past 50 years. They received their Arizona Philatelic Ranger Badges for outstanding philatelic work, Alex in 1979, and Beppie in 1981.

We miss Beppie's wonderful smile and gentle nature, and we celebrate her long life. Alex continues on, helping by selling covers, and taking over Beppie's job now, just as he did in Amsterdam.

It's Story Time in the Library

The library's first exhibit of 2019, *Everything's a Story*, features children's literature on postage stamps. Postal authorities around the world recognize the importance of children's books and have celebrated some of the most beloved stories on postage stamps. The stamps in this exhibition were selected because they would be most familiar to the Postal History Foundation's typical audience: Winnie-the-Pooh, Peter Rabbit and friends, *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Harry Potter*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Snowy Day*, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, to name a few. The exhibit showcases colorful stamps primarily from Great Britain and the United States, along with stamp production information, historical context, and quotations from the stories.



From Great Britain's Royal Mail
2016 Beatrix Potter set.

A digital exhibit that plays on a nearby television screen shows enlargements of the joint issue of Great Britain's Royal Mail's Animal Tales stamp set and the United States Postal Service's "Favorite Children's Book Animals," both released in 2009. The digital exhibit also highlights three stories (Pooh, Alice, and Harry Potter) with many stamps from around the world.

Please visit <https://postalhistoryfoundation.org/2019/01/03/everythings-a-story/> to see some of the stamps on display as well as a link to the digital exhibit.

Everything's a Story runs through May 2019 in the Stusser Library. Library hours are Monday-Friday, 9-3. Please consult the online schedule or call ahead to be sure the library is not closed for reservation.



From the United States
Postal Service's 2017
The Snowy Day set.

In the "Loupe"

- The Slusser Library has been awarded a small grant from the Arizona Historical Society. The funds will be used to purchase more shelving for our expanding archival collections.
- The paintings in the library are getting new labels. Temporary labels with a new interpretation and supplemental information are already on display.

New on the Shelf

Graphic Stamps, the Miniature Beauty of Postage Stamps: From the Collection of Iain Follett and Blair Thomson, edited by Tony Brook and Adrian Shaughnessy. (2016)

Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society: America's Original Gangsters and the U.S. Post Office Detective Who Brought Them to Justice, by William Oldfield and Victoria Bruce. (2018)

John M. Brooke: Naval scientist and Educator, by George M. Brooke, Jr. (1980)

Lincoln's Last Trial: the Murder Case That Propelled Him to the Presidency, by Dan Abrams and David Fisher. (2018)

Postcards, a Source for Ancestry Research cont'd

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injuries resulting from the conflict. My great uncle Patrick H. Murphy was a resident at the Soldiers Home and I have added this postcard to his personal profile.

I think fellow ancestry researchers will be amazed at the volume and scope of the postcards for sale, most reasonably priced.

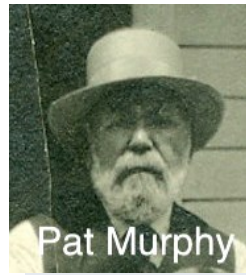
I encourage anyone who is conducting genealogical research to stop by the PHF and search through the numerous postcards. I'm sure, like me, you may uncover a treasure for your tree.



Ed Heller is a volunteer who sorts and soaks stamps, especially beautiful topicals. His work benefits both sales and the education program.



Circa 1904 postcard of National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Ed Heller's uncle Patrick H. Murphy, a civil war veteran, convalesced at the National Soldiers Home pictured above. He was with the Wisconsin 3rd. Cavalry Regiment, which fought in Kansas, Arkansas, & Missouri.

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PHF Calendar

January - May 2019

"Everything is a Story"

Exhibit in the Slusser Library continues until the end of May

April 2019

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Luncheon - April 13th noon
Westward Look Resort
Contact Lena Rodgers

Mid June 2019

New exhibit in the Slusser Library celebrating the first Lunar Landing

July 2019

Tucson Birthday Stamp Design Contest Entry Deadline:
July 26, 2019

August 2019

Awards Ceremony
August 20th 10am
Tucson Birthday Stamp Contest

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Susan Rogers
Tucson, AZ

Floyd Slotterback
Marquette, MI

Fred Zobrist
Tucson, AZ

Tucson Postcard Club

Meets every second Sunday at the PHF
1- 3pm • September—May

Contact **Joyce Kagarise** at
dkagar@dakotacom.net or
520-682-8424

Civil War Roundtable

Meets every second Friday in the Stusser Library, except summer.

Contact **Bob Burdick** at:
bob.burdick45@gmail.com

April 12, 2019

"Civil War Poetry"

By Gene Bryan and Jerry Myers

May 10, 2019

Part 2 of "Civil War Notables:
Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery"
By Paul Kalina

June 14, 2019

Lunch at Caruso's at Noon

In Memoriam

The following members:

Larry Brown
Kendall Hayes
Jerome Husak
Don Kagarise

Tucson Stamp Club

First and third Saturdays at the
Postal History Foundation
11 am Bourse • 12 pm Meeting

April 6, 2019

World War I

April 20, 2019

Spring Auction

May 4, 2019

Panama Canal

May 18, 2019

Napoleon

June 1, 2019

Coins on Stamps

June 15, 2019

National Parks

July 6, 2019

Finance

July 20, 2019

Space Missions

Planning to view the current exhibit or research in the Library?

Please check our website calendar for library closures due to scheduled field trips and other events at:

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org