

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 47 Number 3

September 2014

COMING EVENTS:

STEPEX 2014

Sponsored by Elmira Stamp Club
Returns to American Legion Post, 45 South Olcott Road, Big Flatts, NY
Hours: Friday Oct. 17, 10a.m. to 6p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 18, 10a.m. to 5p.m.
For information contact Alan Parsons (607) 732-0181
ALATHOLLEYRD@AOL.COM

CAPITAL DISTRICT STAMP & COLLECTIBLE SHOW

Troy Elks Lodge,
134 North Greenbush Road
Hours: Sunday, Oct. 19 10a.m. to 4p.m.
For information contact George McGowan
(518) 479-4396

October 23 to 26:

ASDA NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP SHOW
Hilton Hotel, 1335 Avenue of the Americas
Hours: Thursday – Saturday 10a.m. to 6p.m.
Sunday, 10a.m. to 4p.m.
For information: ASDA@ASDAONLINE.COM
(718) 224-2500

President's Message

Members, another summer has gone by us. We had our annual members meeting in July at the Northeast Postal History show in Albany. Although we lacked a quorum and were unable to conduct any business it was a good meeting with lots of discussion. Our membership and finances remain strong. A board meeting was held after the annual meeting with some accomplishment. Our annual meeting for 2015 will again be held at Albany in July and a board meeting held at STEPEX in October. We will also attempt to have a presence at NY2016, but volunteers will be needed. But the big issue and the item discussed at length was formation of a new web site. Lots of ideas and suggestions were discussed, but no proposals approved yet. We will keep working at it.

David Przepiora

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Secretary's Membership Report

Album Closed: Carl Blazejewski

Welcomed into Membership:

Preston E. Pierce Canandaigua, NY

Application for Membership:

J. Ogden Tyldsley, Jr. Brewster, Mass.

PRICES REALIZED, AUCTION #8*(Closed August 15, 2014)*

Our recently completed auction was supported by five Consignors and nine Bidders; my thanks to all of them – including those bidders who were a bit shy of success. Here are the Prices Realized:

Lot 1	\$25.00	Lot 13	\$25.00
Lot 5	\$ 5.00	Lot 14	\$11.00
Lot 6	\$25.00	Lot 18	\$20.00
Lot 7	\$ 3.00	Lot 19	\$11.00
Lot 8	\$90.00	Lot 22	\$ 4.00
Lot 9	\$ 5.00	Lot 24	\$15.00
Lot 12	\$ 5.00	Lot 30	\$ 1.00

In this mailing you will find the Consignment Sheet for Auction #9. I hope each of you will spend a few minutes sorting through your New York State postal history to find those few *really nice covers* that “don’t fit” your current collecting interests. Read and fill out the Consignment Sheet, then send your consignment to me. ESPHS auctions are low-key mail sales, but they are special because there is *no Buyer’s Premium* and the Consignor *gets 100% of the Price Realized*. I do this for the fun of it, and so should you.

Bob Bramwell

In Memoriam: Carl Blazejewski

Carl Blazejewski, long time ESPHS member, passed away June 18th, in the 75th year of his age. Carl made many contributions to the society and its members, serving as both officer and director. George McGowan, a fellow dealer in the Capitol District, put it best: A Catholic Priest, A School Teacher, A Long Time Stamp Dealer and Shop Owner, Honest as the Day is Long. We are honored to have enjoyed his company.

WHAT'S IN A TRUNK?

By Margaret M^cClure

What's in a trunk? The answer to that can be found in this my story about how I got started in stamp collecting and cover collecting and vintage postcard collecting and postal history!!! It has definitely "snowballed"!!

Just a few years ago, after I retired from my last job as Director of the Lake George Historical Association and Museum, I decided I had better get acquainted with the contents of a huge family steamer trunk which I had inherited and that was in my possession [unopened] for over twenty years. I had no idea what was really in there, but I had memories from childhood of seeing photos of men with muttonchops!!!

Fortunately there was a lot more than photos of men with whiskers and I'll prove that with illustrations of a few of the first treasures that got my attention when I started trying to make sense of all the hundreds of envelopes, photos, articles, documents and et ceteras that were in the trunk.



Fig 1: May 5, 1861 letter from Maggie Wood to John A Wood.

There are about 25 envelopes in this "series" – many have letters which I was able to match up to the proper envelope, some have no letter. Who were these people?? After more piecing things together I learned that the letter writer was my Great Grandmother, Maggie Wood, when she was in her late teens and early twenties. She was writing to her cousin John A. Wood, Architect. Maggie grew up in Kingston and Stone Ridge, New York. Cousin John was born in 1837 in Bethel, NY. He traveled and lived in different places when he worked on architectural commissions.

Of course I had to get busy and research John A. Wood, which got me into collecting post cards that tell the history of his work. Here are a few of many:



Fig. 1: Stuyvesant Hotel, Kingston, NY. Designed by John A. Wood, constructed in 1910 at the corner of John and Fair Sts. Today a restaurant occupies the street level, making use of the historic main entrance (shown adjacent).

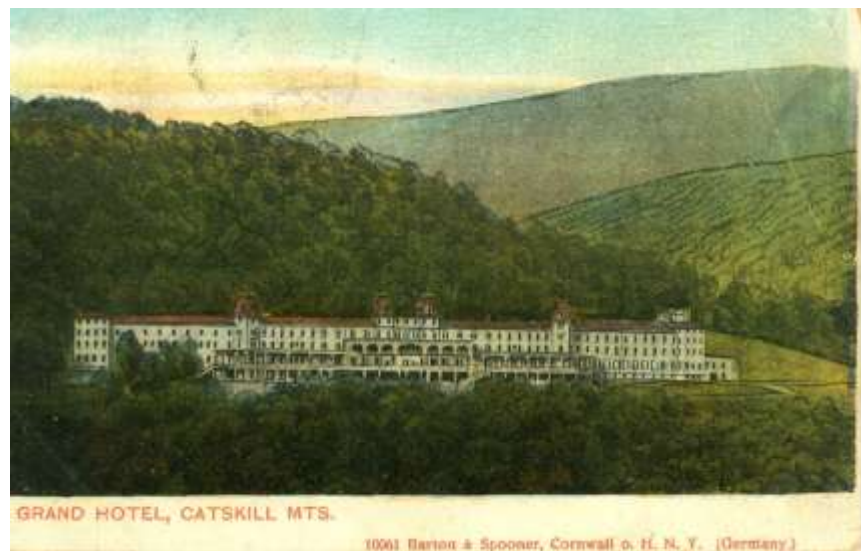


Fig. 2: Grand Hotel, Highmount, NY, designed by John A. Wood. This 418 room showpiece was built by the Ulster and Delaware Railroad in 1881 to serve summer visitors to the Catskill Mountains, a popular retreat for New York City residents.

The picture postcards above show just two of John Wood's architectural designs. He designed the Grand Hotel for steamship and railroad magnate Thomas Cornell, who correctly understood that a luxurious hotel close to his rail line would draw wealthy guests who could travel from Grand Central Station to the countryside in just a few hours.

Wood also completed commissions for, among others, Matthew Vassar – including buildings for the College, Smith Brothers, of cough drop fame, and for Henry B. Plant, another railway and shipping magnate.



Fig. 4: Henry B. Plant commissioned John A. Wood to design the exotic Tampa Bay Hotel, which is now Plant Hall on the campus of the University of Tampa.

My research into architect John Wood is not complete, but has so far created the impression that he may have traveled to Canada “on business” to create a plausible reason why he “could not volunteer” for service during the Civil War. Figure 5 below shows another letter from that period addressed to Wood in Canada.



Fig. 5: November 12, 1861 letter from Maggie Wood to John A. Wood while he was in Lindsay, West Canada (with a post office box!)

I look forward to sharing more of my “finds” from The Trunk in future editions of BULLETIN.

Editor's Note: Margaret McClure, who prefers “Maggie”, recently joined ESPHS and I got to “meet” her through her participation in our Auction #8. She promises to continue this story of her discovery of the joys of postal history in future issues of BULLETIN. I'm particularly pleased that she thought to share The Trunk with us:

