



THE MAINE PHILATELIST



Volume 40, Number 2

Fall 2007

Whole #149

Seasons change.....

By Max Lynds
President



In the last issue I asked for some guidance on the future of the journal and the society. I had many e-mails, calls and even some letters . (I saved the covers that had stamps). There were many suggestions but the over all consensus was to keep the journal with as much Maine content as possible. I have received some articles already for this and future editions. Again, you do not need to write an in depth article-just a scan of your favorite stamp-cover-postcard is all that is needed with a brief description of the item. I had many positive comments on the Houlton POW article.-Thanks. I will have more on the Camp in future issues.

No one seemed to have a problem of raising the dues. The Board met on September 8 and decided to make a change to \$10.00 with the July 2008 renewals. This will allow us to continue with 4 issues a year.

There will be some added benefits beginning by January 2008 by revamping the website-see article on page 6. We also would like to publish an update to "The Post Offices of Maine – A Rarity Guide" published in 1995. If you have any updates that should be included please send us the information so we may update our database.

MAINEPEX 2007 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Portland on Nov 10. (see page 7). There will be 12 frames available for exhibits. Dan Goodwin of the York Club will be in charge of the exhibits. If you plan to exhibit (or know of someone that is), please reserve frames as early as possible by emailing Dan at dgoodwi3@maine.rr.com or by phone at 207-676-5591 (evenings please) We are planning on 12 frames this year rather than the usual 8. Exhibits must be available by 8:00 AM the day of the show.

Ads– Member ads will be run as space allows. Commercial ads will be \$15.00 for a quarter page and \$25.00 per half page per issue.

Latest show information is on the web at:
http://www.maxlynds.com/mps_shows.htm

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the

Maine Philatelic Society

Website <http://www.maxlynds.com/mps.htm>

The purpose of the Society is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to everyone. Please send your name and address to the Secretary listed below along with \$5.00 dues for a year. Life memberships are not available at this time but you may prepay for as many years as you wish.

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James Violette, Nobleboro
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Maine Stamp Club Meetings



WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fairfield (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872- 5107. Non-members are invited to attend.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm Street, Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$5 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Comer Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The club meets from April to November on the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Ellsworth Library. Typical events include an auction, a raffle, presentations and an opportunity to purchase from a member stamp dealer. Non-members are welcome. For further information, contact Eric Beal, 827-2686, Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu

KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from September thru June at the Central Maine Power Co. main office in Augusta. The time of the meeting is 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Contact Shirley McKay, 622-7978 or kildonan@prexar.com

Please send your articles, scans, stories, comments, suggestions or questions to Max Lynds at the address listed on the left.

Covers on this page were submitted by member George Wood.



Special delivery from SOUTH PARSONFIELD to Boston. with a N.CONWAY & BOSTON R.P.O.

This cover was found with a letter from Helen Keller



Many countries have issued stamps in honor of Helen Keller



Helen Keller (Nicaragua, 1999)



Helen Keller with her secretary, Polly Thomson. (Liberia, 1999)

93 BEMHOLE AVENUE
FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

November 27, 1929

Dear Mr. Volk:

Out of the goodness of your heart, I beseech you to pause for a moment and try to realize the plight of the majority of my blind fellowmen and women.

For the most part, they are poor. Before the loss of their sight, they were engaged in useful, if humble occupations. Disease or accident destroys their sight. They can work no longer.

Unless some agency comes to their rescue, they will spend the rest of their lives, "sitting round" with nothing to divert their minds from the gloomy thoughts which prey upon them.

Can you imagine what it would be like to sit always waiting and hoping that something would happen to break the terrible monotony! Something to do -- some sort of work and recreation are necessary to the happiness of a human being. They are as important as the food and shelter which keep us alive.

BUT IT IS IN THE POWER OF NEARLY EVERY SEEING PERSON TO HELP LESSEN THE TRAGEDY OF THE BLIND, - TO BRING THEM COURAGE, TO OFFER TRAINING, - TO PUT WITHIN THEIR REACH THE JOY OF NORMAL ACTIVITY.

Won't you, my friend, make the Foundation your Messenger of Comfort to those who must live always in the dark!

Sincerely and hopefully yours,
Helen Keller.

Expressly Surprised at Old Town

By
William W. Sammis

In the early 1840s in this country there was widespread dissatisfaction with the Post Office Department both in terms of service and price. This led entrepreneurial businessmen to compete against the government by forming inter-city expresses. The "People's Mail" was enthusiastically supported during what is generally referred to as the Independent Mails Period which ended on July 1, 1845 when postal reforms (a strengthened letter-matter route monopoly and reduced rates of postage) enacted by Congress on March 3, 1845 took affect.

One of the largest independent mail carriers was Lysander Spooner's American Letter Mail Company, which started business on January 23, 1844. Spooner focused on the northeastern United States and found that a way to increase his company's delivery range was to enter into conjunctive arrangements with other expresses. Through these arrangements letters were exchanged between companies at junction points. (For example the arrangement between Hale & Company and Jerome & Company's Express is well known. Jerome would accept Hale's letters bound for the Penobscot River Valley at Boston and in turn would rely on Hale for service to, for example, New York City and Philadelphia.)

The cover in Figure 1. is an example of the American Letter Mail Company enlisting the services of a rather unusual partner; their competitor, the United States Post Office Department!



Figure 1. Boston via Bangor to Old Town, Maine December 6, 1844

The letter was consigned to the American Letter Mail Company at Boston. Six and one-quarter cents (“one-half bit” based on the Spanish real) was accepted and the letter addressed to Oldtown (actually “Old Town” during this period) was marked paid. (The “PAID” marking measures 10 x 4 mm. and is ALM-BOS-PO4. The oval handstamp (Figure 2.) is ALM-BOS-F03¹ and advertises the company’s 12 State Street, Boston address.)



Figure 2.

The letter was carried by the American Letter Mail Company (or by Gilman’s Express acting as their agent) to Portland on the Eastern and Portland, Saco & Portsmouth Railroads and to Bangor on the steamship *Portland* December 6, 1844. On December 11th, possibly because it was unclaimed, the letter was taken to the Bangor Post Office. The “PAID” marking was crossed out (after an unsuccessful attempt was made to erase it) and the letter received a federal six-cent collect rate (under thirty miles) for service to Old Town. The additional fee was perhaps a surprise to the addressee. However, the six and one-quarter cents paid at Boston plus the six cents paid at Old Town was still a savings over the federal rate from Boston which would have been eighteen and three-quarter cents.

An Introduction and a Request

For a number of years I have been interested in our country’s private express companies both before and after the Independent Mails Period (1843 –1845). More recently I have focused on the expresses of Maine, which naturally led to membership in the Maine Philatelic Society and an earlier article on Cleaveland’s Express published in *The Maine Philatelist*. I am currently rewriting an exhibit entitled “The Expresses of Maine – Private and Postal 1840-1865”. As I make my home “far above Cayuga’s waters” in Ithaca, N.Y. my trips to Maine are infrequent. Therefore, I would like to introduce myself to the membership through short articles such as appears above with the hope of stimulating correspondence. I would like to add information to my files so I solicit replies from members who may own or be familiar with Maine express covers (even one!). (Jerome, Hale, Gilman, Favor, etc. may be familiar names to many of you.) What may appear to be trivial information, such as the date of use of a handstamp, may actually be significant. I can be reached at 436 Thomas Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-9653 or e-mailed at cds13@cornell.edu. Thank you.

John D. Bowman and Gordon Stimmell. Handstamps of the American Letter Mail Company. *The Penny Post*, Vol. 14. No.2 (Apr) 2006, pp. 4-10. (Journal of The Carriers and Locals Society www.pennypost.org)



THE ENJOYMENT OF STAMP COLLECTING**A PERSONAL VIEW**

**By
Dan Goodwin**

A most wonderful hobby is stamp collecting. I say wonderful because for me, over the past 60 years, it has been. Although I have changed my interests many times I still come back to stamps. By collecting stamps, one can enjoy history, science, geography and many other subjects commemorated by countries around the world through the issuance postage stamps. If one is interested in just one or two subjects, then be a topical collector. Some philatelists collect only postal history. The subject matter for collecting is a seemingly endless list.

I collect whatever I like and that which I can afford. Some of the stories about how I came to collect a certain subject are unusual. For instance, I never cared much for lighthouses. When my daughter decided that I should wallpaper her kitchen with a lighthouse pattern, I began to look closely at some of the lighthouses and read their histories. Bang! That was it. My topical lighthouse collection was born.

Christmas is a subject I have liked ever since I was old enough to rip the paper from those carefully wrapped packages. It just followed that I should collect Christmas stamps. And the list goes on. World War Two, flowers, polar, ships, waterfalls, National Parks and Monuments, and on, and on.

Inexpensive stamps can be obtained from dealers at stamp shows or by mail. I go one step farther and purchase new stamps directly from a few of the world's philatelic bureaus. It still excites me to receive mail from foreign countries. Occasionally I will go to on line auctions such as eBay and Stamp-Wants to bid on items.

Philately is an interesting hobby to say the least. It can be a hobby of personal preferences. In those personal preferences are philatelic stories to be told.

Maine Philatelic Society Website

By the first of 2008 there will be an updated website for the society. It will be moved to a new url probably something like www.mainestamps.org. The name may be a bit different but once the site is set up each club in Maine will be able to maintain their own pages if they choose to do so. You will notice I am not including member e-mails in the newsletter. These will be available to members on the website. Right now I have added to the current website at

http://www.maxlynds.com/member_page.htm

the updates previously published for the Maine Post Office Guide and the lists of Maine Doane Postmarks. These are in pdf files and you will need Adobe Reader to open the files. This program is available for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> . Also available on this page will be the previous Maine Philatelist in color. Each issue will be added as printed.

SHOW SCHEDULE

MAIPEX '07 STAMP SHOW & AUCTION

Sponsored by:
Waterville Stamp Club

Stamps
Giant Board & Oral Auction
Postcards & Covers
50/50 Drawing

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Saturday October 27, 2007

Table Auction closes 12:30
Oral Auction starts 12:45

Location

MacCrillis-Rousseau VFW
175 Veteran Drive
Winslow, Maine

Greater Nashua Stamp Show

Holiday Inn
9 Northeastern Blvd
Nashua, NH

9:00 AM-3:00 PM
October 21
November 18
December 16

Information:
ptstamps@megalink.net

MAINEPEX 2007 STAMP SHOW

Stamps
Covers
Postcards
Exhibits
Supplies

Coffee and refreshments
Restaurant on site

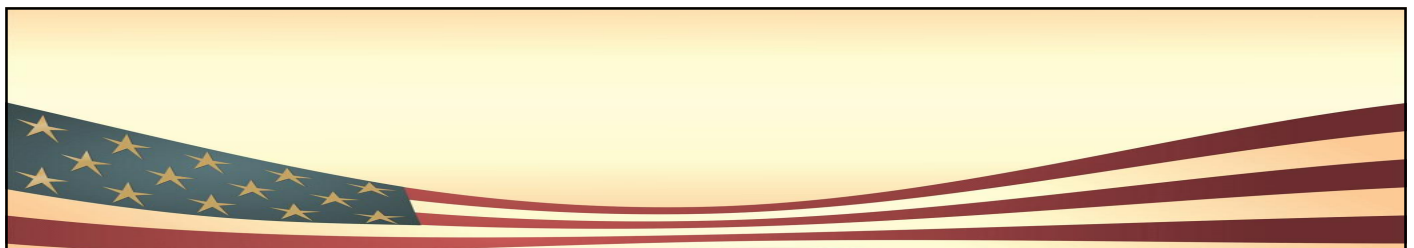
9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Saturday-November 10, 2007

Location

Holiday Inn Portland-West
Exit 48 - Maine Turnpike
81 Riverside Street
Portland, ME

Sponsored by:
Maine Philatelic Society
&
York County Stamp Club

Information:
max@pwless.net





George Bostwick
Maine Philatelic Society
115 Moody Island Road
Nobleboro, ME 04555-9512

Please mail to :

Dues are \$ 5.00 per year. July to July

e-mail _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Address _____

Name _____

Please accept my membership application to the Maine Philatelic Society:

Membership Application



Maine Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 761
Houlton, ME 04730

TO: