

HISTORY OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

by

James L. Knipe

In the early months of 1938 Robert Ruppin, attorney-at-law, Lancaster, sent out letters to all philatelists throughout the county, particularly members of the American Philatelic Society, as a gesture to determine whether or not an A.P.S. chapter could be formed in this community. Several preliminary meetings were held and finally on May 20, 1938 in the law office of Mr. Ruppin, Room No. 514, Fulton National Bank Building, Lancaster, the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County was formally organized. One of the first acts was to file an application for membership in the American Philatelic Society. On August 1, 1938 the society became the James Buchanan Chapter No. 173 of the American Philatelic Society.

From its inception the Society has made an effort to attract members of the highest type so that the membership would always be a body of mature men and women of high character, all interested in actively promoting the interest and welfare of philately. At first membership required the attainment of one's majority, but after two years the age minimum was reduced to eighteen.

The Society got started with a charter membership of twentyfour persons. Growth has been very slow from the beginning and during the war years beginning in 1940 the membership receded to a few less than the original number, but there is every indication that much of this was due to the rationing of gasoline and the many activities demanding one's time during national trouble.

The bylaws of the Society call for six officers; president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, sales manager, and American Philatelic Society

representative. The following officers have served the Society from its inception to date: For the term May 20, 1938 to November 27, 1939: Robert Ruppini, President; V. W. Voris,* Vice-President; Rollin L. Charles, Secretary; James L. Knipe, Treasurer; Robert H. Goodell, Sales Manager; and J. Andrew Frantz, A.P.S. Representative. For the term November 27, 1939 to October 20, 1940: Rollin L. Charles, President; James L. Knipe, Vice-President; Edgar W. Worrest, Secretary; Richard L. Singley, Treasurer; Robert H. Goodell, Sales Manager; and Owen Hershey, A.P.S. Representative. For the term October 20, 1940 to October 23, 1941: J. Andrew Frantz, President; Robert H. Goodell, Vice-President; Edgar W. Worrest, Secretary; Richard L. Singley, Treasurer; Donald B. Witmer*, Sales Manager; and Robert Ruppini, A.P.S. Representative. For the term October 23, 1941 to December 31, 1942: Robert H. Goodell, President; Richard L. Singley, Vice-President; Mabel Ruppini*, Secretary; Robert Ruppini*, Treasurer; Albert F. Witmer, Sales Manager; and James L. Knipe, A.P.S. Representative. For the 1943 term: Robert H. Goodell, President; Richard L. Singley, Vice-President; Edgar W. Worrest, Secretary; James L. Knipe, Treasurer; Albert F. Witmer, Sales Manager; and J. Andrew Frantz, A.P.S. Representative. For the 1944 term: James L. Knipe, President; Edgar Charles, Vice-President; Edgar W. Worrest, Secretary; Albert F. Witmer, Treasurer; J. Andrew Frantz, Sales Manager; and A. R. Gerhart, A.P.S. Representative. Officers for the 1945 term are: Edgar W. Worrest, President; Albert F. Witmer, Vice-President; Mrs. Edgar W. Worrest, Secretary; James L. Knipe, Treasurer; J. Andrew Frantz, Sales Manager; and J. Andrew Frantz, A.P.S. Representative.

Monthly meetings were held until 1942 when gasoline rationing and war activities made it impossible to hold meetings at such frequent intervals. During

*These have since resigned from membership in the Society.

1943 meetings were held quarterly, and in 1944 the monthly schedule was again adopted, eliminating the summer months. The meetings have always abounded in a variety of interesting philatelic subjects interspersed with a few picnics or purely social ^{GATHERINGS} ~~evenings~~, a good example of which was our entertainment at Norwood Farms in the lower end of the County by John Andrews, and the well-known "October" meetings chez Andy Frantz. From time to time leading speakers on philatelic subjects have come to Lancaster to appear before the Society.

Neither the educational nor the social side has been neglected. ^{SEVERAL TIMES} ~~From time to~~

during the year ~~the~~ auctions are held and when they are the opportunity to attend them is usually extended to persons other than members of the Society.

There is a great deal of direct exchange between members, as it is apparent that a society of this kind offers limitless opportunities for members to exchange stamps and thus add to their collections.

The Society is proud of the fact that it has among its members philatelists ^{of} ~~known~~ internationally ^{reputation.} Robert Rupp, who discontinued practicing law in 1942 to transfer his Robert Fulton Stamp Company to Portland, Maine, has now become a dealer of international reputation. Robert H. Goodell, winner of many blue ribbon prizes, is well known to dealers and publishers as a result of his broad knowledge of the subject. Richard Singley, one of the charter members, has been national president of the American Airmail Society. Dr. Arthur R. Gerhart, usually found on the Board of Judges of many exhibitions, is internationally recognized for his specialized collections of Japan, Heligoland, and broad general knowledge of philately. In addition to these star performers, the Society can boast a membership of good substantial collectors who consistently and conscientiously follow their hobby, as will be observed from the following list of members:

* still retain same number

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No.	Name and Address	Admitted
* 6.	Edgar W. Worrest, R. D. No. 5, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 7.	H. Dorn Stewart, 938 Pleasure Road, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
* 8.	J. Andrew Frantz, 35 North Lime Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
* 9.	Robert H. Goodell, 921 Helen Avenue, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 11.	James L. Knipe, 1004 Wheatland Avenue, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 12.	Ralph S. Landis, R. D. No. 6, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 13.	Owen Hershey, 314 Linden Street, Lititz	May 20, 1938
X 16.	Albert F. Witmer, 117 East Clay Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 17.	Richard L. Singley, 1022 West Ross Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 22.	Henry B. Howell, 22 East Walnut Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
23.	C. Howard Witmer, 126 East Chestnut Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 28.	George T. Hambright, 548 South Ann Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 29.	Mrs. George T. Hambright, 548 South Ann Street, Lancaster	May 20, 1938
X 30.	Robert W. Gabriel, Quarryville	October 21, 1938
X 34.	Ira G. Hershey, 136 North George Street, Millersville	February 20, 1939
X 38.	John H. Andrews, Paradise	April 21, 1939
X 42.	Wilson Brubaker, 246 East New Street, Lancaster	April 1, 1940
X 44.	Wm. J. Harvey, 46 North West End Avenue, Lancaster	March 20, 1941
X 45.	Edgar Charles, 504 Fifth Street, S. E., Minneapolis, Minn.	March 20, 1941
X 46.	Ida L. Hostetter, 715 North Duke Street, Lancaster	June 23, 1941
X 47.	Mrs. Elva K. Staman, 538 Chestnut Street, Columbia	May 20, 1942
X 48.	Arthur R. Gerhart, 1116 Louise Avenue, Lancaster	May 20, 1942
X 49.	J. Richard Gaintner, 107 Atkins Avenue, Lancaster	October 20, 1943
X 50.	Roy W. Donaldson, 823 State Street, Lancaster	October 20, 1943
X 51.	William F. Taylor, 543 North Mary Street, Lancaster	October 20, 1943
X 52.	Mrs. Marion B. Walker, 144 East Chestnut Street, Lancaster	October 20, 1944
X 53.	Richard H. Shopf, 77 Spencer Avenue, Lancaster	November 20, 1944
X 54.	Rev. Geo. D. Lowery, Neffsville, Pa	Jan 19, 1945
X 55.	Mrs. Edgar W. Worrest, R.D. #5, Lancaster Pa	Jan 19, 1945

Note: All who joined May 20, 1938 are charter members.

29 original members
18 still hold original membership number