

Green Bay Philatelic Society Newsletter

GREEN BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY 2214 Allouez Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311

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September Meeting – Welcome Football Season!

WHERE: FESTIVAL FOODS on University Ave.
2430 University Ave., Green Bay, WI 54302

WHEN: September 21, 2023 (third Thursday of every month)

TIME: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Philatelic Video by Dave Burrows

Note: The meeting location. We are here at least through December of 2024.

Reminder: There are no business meetings in June, July, and August unless something unexpected comes up. We will still meet to discuss stamps and have philatelic socializing.

June, July, and August Meetings

The summer (June, July, and August) meetings were well attended. As noted above, there are no business meetings scheduled for the summer months and no emergency business came up. Those that did attend enjoyed philatelic camaraderie and a program each month put together by Dave Burrows. The programs included videos on “dead countries,” “bank notes identification,” and “covers, stamps, and stories.” All were very informative and interesting. Thanks Dave, for your efforts. In addition to the video programs, several members brought items from their collections to show other members of the club.

Old Business

At our last business meeting back in May we discussed a donation to help support MILCOPEX. A motion was made and passed to donate \$100 to this cause once we were assured that the show would take place. Confirmation that the show will occur was received over the summer and Treasurer, Clete Delvaux, sent a check to MILCOPEX. For those that don't know, MILCOPEX '23 will

occur on September 22nd and 23rd. See the Upcoming Shows section at the end of this newsletter for details.

New Business

There really is no New Business as there were no meetings, but there are several notes for discussion at our September meeting. First, several years ago, we had an annual club picnic in August. The picnic was hosted by Dave and Sandy Burrows. This became quite an endeavor and the picnic was discontinued when nobody else volunteered to host the picnic. It has been suggested that we rejuvenate the picnic at a local park as a bring your own picnic. The picnic would take place each August at a local park and for this meeting only, we would change the meeting time to 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We met like this for several meetings during covid restrictions and it went quite well. There would be no business meeting so it would give us more time to socialize. Please think about this suggestion and come prepared to discuss it at the September meeting.

The second item, is that I have reserved our meeting location at University Avenue Festival Foods for another year, so we will meet there through December of 2024.

Finally, it has been hinted that Dave's supply of philatelic videos is not endless. With that in mind, it may be good for us to find a program chair or a program committee. I would be willing to serve on a committee, but would like one or two others to join me. Please think about helping out your club in this manner.

June, July, and August Programs

As previously noted, Dave Burrows presented videos each month on different aspects of philately. Thanks Dave.

September Program

Philatelic discussions and socialization.

In addition, I hope that Dave Burrows has another video program for us.

Ray's Ramblings

The last few issues of this newsletter included "Ramblings" on team sports, flowers, and individual sports. This month I thought I'd do something in the way of postal history. Over the years, I've accumulated a few Civil War covers, all of which are franked with U.S. stamps. I'd love to add at least one franked with a Confederate States stamp, but those are often on the pricey side. I'll keep looking though.

We'll start with two covers that originated two years apart based on the dates penciled on the covers. I'm not sure how the dates were established as there are no year dates in the cancels. They are both addressed to Miss Laura Lathrop in Racine, WI. Based on the handwriting they were written by two different people. I know that some of you have seen these before, as I brought them to a meeting some time ago. I could not find a grill on either of the two stamps. That would indicate that the stamps were printed in the 1861-62 time frame. I did a little research on Laura Lathrop. From

information found on the web, it appears that Miss Lathrop was born in Racine, WI in 1845. There is some information that points to her being a school teacher in East Troy, WI in the early 1860s. East Troy is located in the eastern part of Walworth County, just west of Racine County. The covers are shown below.



1863 cover addressed to Laura Lathrop



1865 cover addressed to Laura Lathrop

The next cover I have is a Civil War patriotic cover. The cover is shown below.

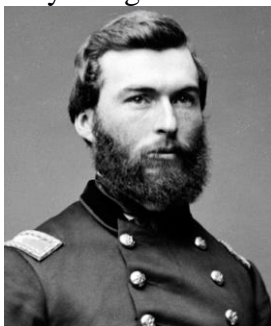


Civil War patriotic cover

It is franked with a Scott U.S. 65 and is tied to the cover with a double black ring Washington, D.C. cancel. The dealer who sold me the cover

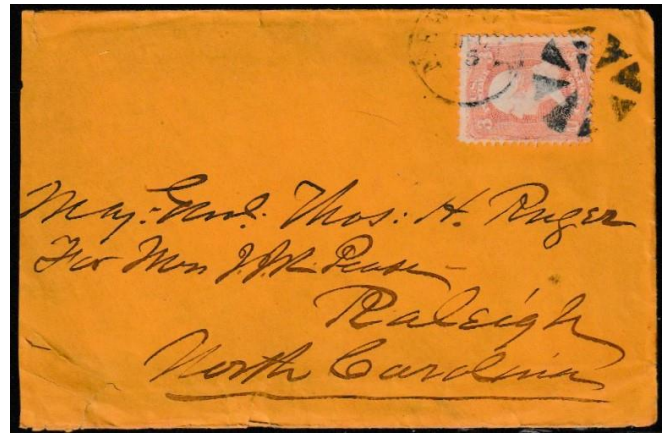
had somehow determined that the cancellation date was October 4, 1861. I'm not sure how the year was determined. I can make out Washington, D.C. and Oct. 4, but I can't make out any year. The envelope appears to be addressed to a Mrs. Celestia C. S1?? in Volusia. The address goes on, but I can't make out the rest of it. There is a Volusia County in Florida, perhaps it is located there. If this cover was mailed on October 4, 1861 when the Civil War was not quite six months old, and the address refers to Volusia County Florida. It was pretty daring to send this patriotic cover to an address in Florida. Never the less, I think the red, white, and blue patriotic cachet is beautiful. If anyone has any ideas on the address, please let me know. I'd love to do a bit more research on this cover.

The next cover I was able to purchase is addressed Major General Thomas Ruger in Raleigh, North Carolina. According to Wikipedia, Ruger was born in Lima, NY on April 2, 1833. He moved to Janesville, WI in 1846 and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1854. He was third in his class of 46. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Ruger was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in June of 1861. He commanded troops in the Maryland and Shenandoah Valley campaigns, and he was wounded at Antietam. He continued to serve in various campaigns and ended the war in North Carolina. He had charge of the department of that state until 1866. That helps us date this cover as 1865 or 1866. He served in various capacities after that including Governor of Georgia and Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. Ruger died on June 3, 1907.



Thomas Ruger from *House Divided*, Dickinson College

Ruger was one of the more noted officers in the Civil War from Wisconsin.



Civil War cover addressed to Major General Thomas Ruger

The next cover is an interesting one in that it is addressed to Mr. John Drake, Esqr. in Pennsylvania. It is franked with a U.S. Scott 65 and cancelled with a 7-bar grid cancel on March 13, 1865 from Fox Lake, WI, the last month of the war. What makes this interesting is that the first Wisconsin man killed in the Civil War was George C. Drake from Milwaukee. This Wisconsin Drake family was originally from Pennsylvania. So far, I have not been able to confirm or refute that this is the same family.



Drake Civil War cover

The next cover I have is post marked on August 20, 1864 in New Orleans, LA. It is franked with what is probably a Scott U.S. 65 that is a color changing due to exposure to fluorescent light or sun light. It was sent by John Baker to Thomas Baker, Esq. in Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, Wisconsin. John Baker was a member of Battery D, 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. Unfortunately, John died of a disease on December 11, 1864 at New Orleans only about four months after this letter was posted. He

enlisted in 1863 and made it through close to two years of war, then died of a disease just months before the war ended.



Civil War cover from Wisconsinite John Baker

Next let's look at another patriotic cover. This one is also franked with a U.S. Scott 65 and is postmarked in Baltimore, Maryland on November 4, 1862. It is addressed to someone in Long Island, NY. The caption under the woman wrapped in the flag reads,

“Flag of the brave,
thy fold shall fly,
the sign of hope,
and triumph high.”



Another Civil War Patriotic cover

This cover was from fairly early in the war and things were not going particularly well for the Union. I'm sure this poem was a vote of confidence for the soldiers fighting for a truly free United States.

As we all know, the Civil War ended in victory for the north, the slaves were freed, and the union survived a very bitter trial. This mourning cover shows that many paid the ultimate price on both sides of the war.



Civil War mourning cover



Blow up of upper right corner of above cover in an attempt to show the black edges on the mourning cover.

Let's be thankful for the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy in this country

By the time we next meet the NFL season will be under way. Good luck to all of you and to your favorite team, unless they are playing the Packers ☺. Gotta “Love” the Pack.



See you on September 21st.

Upcoming Shows

- Sept. 22-23,** MILCOPEX 2023, Brookfield Convention Center, 325 Moorland Ave., Brookfield, WI, Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5
- Oct. 7,** Monroe Stamp and Postcard Show, Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club, Monroe Moose Lodge, 639 Third Ave., Monroe, WI, 9-3.
- Oct. 14,** CENWISPEX, Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, The Elks Club, 1132 Clark St., Stevens Point, 10-4.
- Nov. 11,** Oshkosh Stamp Bourse, Oshkosh Philatelic Society, Mother Theresa Center of Father Carr's Place 2B, 1082 N. Koeller St., Oshkosh.