



APS CHAPTER #122934



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BRANCH RICKEY – ONE OF BASEBALL’S INNOVATORS WITH PITTSBURGH CONNECTIONS



BRANCH RICKEY SIGNS JACKIE ROBINSON, BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER

Fifty years ago this month, on December 9, 1965, Branch Rickey died of heart failure at age 83.

At his funeral, Jackie Robinson contended that only Abraham Lincoln had done more for blacks than had Rickey.

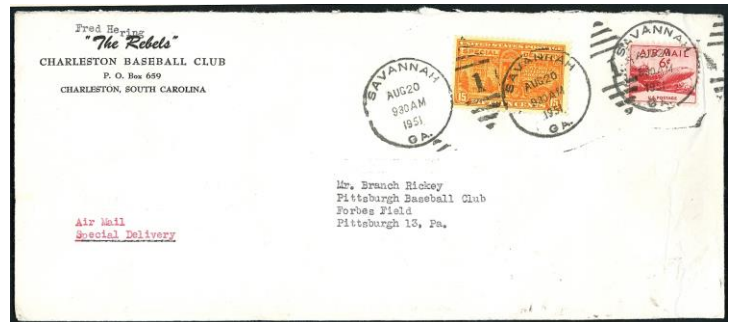
Wesley Branch Rickey, born on December 20, 1881, in Stockdale, Ohio, was an innovative Major League Baseball (MLB) executive elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1967. He was perhaps best known for breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier by signing African American player Jackie Robinson, for drafting the first Afro-Hispanic superstar, Roberto Clemente, for creating the framework for the modern minor league farm system, for encouraging the Major Leagues to add new teams through his involvement in the proposed Continental League, and for introducing the batting helmet.

He was a catcher on the baseball team at Ohio Wesleyan University, where he obtained his B.A..

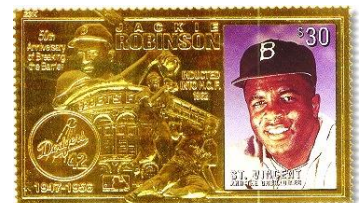
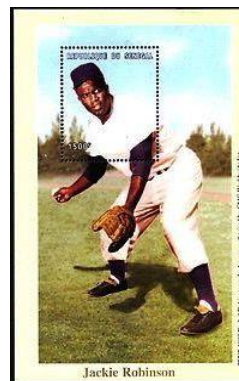
Rickey also had a career in the sport of American football, as a player for the professional Shelby Blues and as a coach at Ohio Wesleyan University and Allegheny College.

Rickey played in MLB for the St. Louis Browns and New York Highlanders from 1905 through 1907. After struggling as a player, Rickey returned to college, where he learned about administration from Philip Bartelme. Returning to MLB in 1913, Rickey embarked on a successful managing and executive career with the St. Louis Browns, the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Yankees, Brooklyn Dodgers and Pittsburgh Pirates. The Cardinals elected him to their team Hall of Fame in 2014.

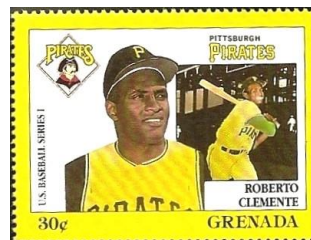
While Branch Rickey has no stamps of his own, there are stamps and covers that are relative to his life. Both Jackie Robinson and Roberto Clemente have stamps honoring them. Also you may search out postal history for and relating to Branch Rickey and baseball in general.



AUGUST 20, 1951 AIRMAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY COVER FROM THE "THE REBELS" CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CLUB TO BRANCH RICKEY, FORBES FIELD, PITTSBURGH, PA



JACKIE ROBINSON-1999 SENEGAL & 1997 ST. VINCENT



ROBERTO CLEMENTE-1988 GRENADA & 1984 NICARAGUA

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - DECEMBER, 2015**

**OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET**

**President:** Andy Novotny  
([email: novoand@hotmail.com](mailto:novoand@hotmail.com))

**Vice-President:** Laura Kaczynski  
([email: laurakac13@verizon.net](mailto:laurakac13@verizon.net))

**Secretary:** Tom Reiff    **Treasurer:** Danielle Weaver

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Wilkinsburg Stamp Club  
P.O. Box 10552  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday (except holidays and fourth Sunday in June, July and August) of each month. Meetings are from 12:30 P.M. until close of business, with the business meeting at 2:00 P.M. Meeting at the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill, PA 15235.

**DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER YEAR (JULY-JUNE)**

**Newsletter Editor:** Tom Reiff  
([email: treiffer@msn.com](mailto:treiffer@msn.com))

**Mailing Coordinator:** Eugene Bujdos  
([email: gbujdos@yahoo.com](mailto:gbujdos@yahoo.com))

**EDITOR'S PERSONAL NOTE...**

Wishing everyone a happy Holiday Season. I hope 2015 was good to you personally and in your "collecting world" and that 2016 will be as good or better.

**DECEMBER, 2015 MEETING DATES**

December 13th ONLY

December 13th – CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Please plan on attending. The more, the merrier!

**FLAT SCREEN COLOR TV AVAILABLE FOR THE  
PITTSBURGH STEELERS GAMES.**

**\*\*\* PLEASE JOIN US \*\*\***

This newsletter is published ten times per year. Eight issues are published monthly for the months of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December. For the months of May through August, two issues are published, one for the months of MAY-JUNE and one for the months of JULY-AUGUST.

**\*\*\*\* OUR FISCAL YEAR IS JULY 1 – JUNE 30 \*\*\*\***

**CLUB NEWS**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY SEASON PARTY:**

Our annual holiday season "party" will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting, just friends, food and fun. The Club, as usual, will cover the expense of the chicken. Members have/will designated/designate other "goodies" that they have volunteered to bring. Tom Reiff will have his annual philatelic trivia contest with the winner receiving a "prize" from Lorraine Vincent. Also, members may bring in a SHOW AND TELL item (or items), philatelic or not.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You are welcome to bring guests, however any non-member guest will be charged a \$5.00 guest fee.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Brian Sieffert, Nicole Santella and Mike Boydos are our newest members. Brian and Nicole are from the South Hills section of Pittsburgh and joined on November 7<sup>th</sup> while at PITTPEX 2015. Collecting interests are US and worldwide. Mike is from the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh, joined at our November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He is the cousin of longtime member Eugene Bujdos. His collecting interest is US. Please introduce yourself when you see him at one of our meetings and/or at one of our shows

**AUCTION HELD:** An auction was held after the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Club auctioned several "older" Scott's Catalogues and other items. There also were member items in the auction. Most items sold. The "winners" were pleased with their purchases.

**MAKING CIRCUIT BOOKS MEETING:** On November 17<sup>th</sup> several members met at our usual meeting place to make circuit books of stamps and other philatelic items. Future plans are to have these "making circuit books" meeting from time to time. So, if you have any items that you wish so sell via circuit books, please contact Danielle Weaver at: 724-492-1192 or email at [dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com) for info about the next meeting.



**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - DECEMBER, 2015**



Photos from our annual luncheon held on Saturday, October 24th

Your editor has picked five photos from the many taken.

Photos include members and non-members

(SORRY IF SOME THAT ATTENDED ARE NOT SHOWN)

Photos courtesy of member Dawn  
THANK YOU DAWN!

The photo at the left is Club President Andy Novotny and Club Vice-President Laura Kaczynski  
REALLY, A SPEECH AT LUNCH?



**ANNUAL LUNCHEON – FOOD SHOULD BE COMING SOON!**  
Joan and Ray Damico



**ANNUAL LUNCHEON – I'VE DECIDED. HOW ABOUT YOU?**  
Gene and Dian Bujdos



**ANNUAL LUNCHEON – THAT IS NOT THE FOOD MENU!**  
Tim Manka (looking at an album of stamps)



**ANNUAL LUNCHEON – C'MON, WE DIDN'T EAT BREAKFAST!**  
Marie along with Mickey Iannone



**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - DECEMBER, 2015**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Upcoming  
Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows

**STAMP SHOW** – December 5-6 – COLUMBUS, OHIO – Worthington Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse. Rhodes Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM.

**STAMP SHOW** – December 6 – Cranberry, PA, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA. 10AM – 4PM FREE

**STAMP SHOW** - January 22-23, 2016 YORK, PA - York County Stamp Show White Rose Philatelic Society of York, York Fairgrounds, Horticulture Hall, 334 Carlisle Avenue.

**STAMP SHOW** – February 14, 2016 - HUDSON, OHIO - Hudson Stamp Bourse - Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Dean Memorial Parkway, Hudson. Bourse Only (no exhibits).

**STAMP SHOW** - March 5-6, 2016 BUFFALO, NY – BUFPEX 2014 Buffalo Stamp Club VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. Regional/Local Show with exhibits;

**STAMP SHOW** – March 10-12, 2016 – CLEVELAND, OHIO – Garfield Perry March Party – 126th Annual Stamp Exhibition & Bourse. La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44130.

**ATTEND A SHOW – FIND A TREASURE**



**DESIGNER**

**BENJAMIN S. NASH**

**SALES \$760,000**

**100 YEARS AGO  
1915 CHRISTMAS SEAL (Scott #WX16)**

**PITTSBURGH AREA STAMP CLUB WEBSITES**

Here are our local stamp clubs Internet Web Sites. Once you access this URL, you may be able to navigate to other parts of the web site.

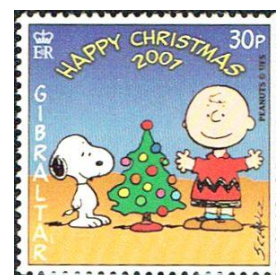
**WESTMORELAND COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
<http://www.muleshoepa.com/WCPS/WCPS.HTM>

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**  
<http://www.presidentdrive.com>

**50 YEARS AGO –DECEMBER 1965**



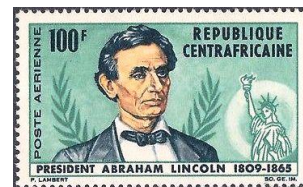
**1980 MALI  
(Scott #C404)**



**2001 GIBRALTAR  
(Scott #891)**



**1966 MALDIVE ISLANDS  
(Scott #192)**



**1965 CENTRAL AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC (Scott #C20)**

**HISTORICAL FACTS WITH PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS OVER THE YEARS, STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR CHARLES DE GAULLE, PEANUTS, GEMINI SPACE PROGRAM AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**

**DECEMBER 5, 1965** - Charles de Gaulle is re-elected as French president with 10,828,421 votes.

**DECEMBER 9, 1965** - *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the first Peanuts television special, debuts on CBS, quickly becoming an annual tradition.

**DECEMBER 15, 1965** - Gemini 6 launched; makes 1st rendezvous in space (with Gemini 7)

**DECEMBER 31, 1965** - Saint-Sylvestre coup d'état: Jean-Bédel Bokassa assumes power in the Central African Republic. Bokassa and his men occupy the capital, Bangui, ousting President David Dacko and overpowering the gendarmerie and other resistance. Police chief Jean Izamo is captured and later killed.