

WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB

APS CHAPTER #122934

WEBSITE: WWW.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER, 2011

PAGE 1



COLLINS HAND PAINTED OCT 18, 2001 FDC WITH SCOTT #3546

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states.

In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday; each celebrated it on a different day, however, and the American South remained largely unfamiliar with the tradition. In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale—author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"—launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians. Abraham Lincoln finally heeded her request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to "commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" and to "heal the wounds of the nation." He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, when Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and on December 26, 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented the President of the United States with one live turkey and two dressed turkeys, in a ceremony known as the National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation. In a tradition that began as a one-off joke by Ronald Reagan in 1987 and made permanent by George H. W. Bush in 1989, the live turkey is "pardoned" and lives out the rest of its days on a nearby peaceful farm. There are legends that state that the "pardoning" tradition dates to the Harry Truman administration or even to an anecdote of Abraham Lincoln pardoning his son's pet turkey; both stories have been quoted in more recent presidential speeches, but neither has any evidence in the Presidential record. In more recent years, two turkeys have been pardoned, in case the original turkey becomes unavailable for presidential pardoning.

*** IN THIS ISSUE ***

- Page 2
1. Club Officers / When We Meet
 2. The Editor Writes
 3. Meeting Dates
 4. Club News
 5. Publishing Months
- Page 3
1. Postal History Cover Research
U.S. Military Telegraph Cover to Gov. Lew Wallace, New Mexico
- Page 4
1. Mark Your Calendars
 2. Internet Connections (Websites)
 3. Member Advertisement
 4. Philatelic Trivia



SARAH JOSEPHA HALE
IN 1831



Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (October 24, 1788 - April 30, 1879) was an American writer and an influential editor. She is the author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb". She famously campaigned for the creation of the American holiday known as Thanksgiving, and for the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument. (On your left is the Bunker Hill Monument stamp issued on September 9, 1959 (Scott #1056)

NOVEMBER, 2011**OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET**

President: Andy Novotny
(email: novoand@hotmail.com)

Vice-President: Jim Senkewitz
(email: senkewitz2012@verizon.net)

Secretary: OPEN **Treasurer:** Ray Damico

MAILING ADDRESS: Wilksburg Stamp Club
P.O. Box 239
Apollo, PA 15613-0239

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.

Newsletter Editor: Tom Reiff
(email: treiffer@msn.com)

Mailing Coordinator: Eugene Bujdos
(email: gbujdos@yahoo.com)

THE EDITOR WRITES...

I was pleased to see that the USPS issued its fourth semi-postal stamp on September 20th. This 44c + 11c stamp features an Amur tiger cub with the 11 cent surtax helping to SAVE VANISHING SPECIES.

Locally, the stamp was introduced at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium a few days after the stamp was issued. Our zoo has a trio of the rare Amur tiger cubs, now over 1-year old and weighing 140 pounds.

Please help by buying some the next time you are at you post office.

**NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING DATES**

November 13th and November 26th
On November 26th we will have "SHOW and TELL" after the meeting. Bring one of your "favorites."
FLAT SCREEN COLOR TV AVAILABLE FOR THE 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.

CLUB NEWS

FRED LEWIS CELEBRATION: During the November 13th meeting, member Fred Lewis, our Club Librarian, wishes to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "start" of his United States Telegraph stamps and related "go with" postal history collection. According to Fred, he bought his first telegraph stamp on November 15, 1961.

To celebrate this event, FREE food "goodies" will be provided compliments of Fred. THANK YOU!

Fred will bring a few "treasures" from his collection.

SOUVENIR SHEET ALERT! Per Gene Bujdos the Club has only 18 of the 1965 WILKPEX souvenir sheets left. If you want one, please order through our Post Office Box (see above left.)

LUNCHEON HELD: Our annual luncheon was held at Drew's Family Restaurant in Forest Hills on October 15th. Eleven members and six guests attended. It was reported that the food was excellent and that everyone had a good time. The Club will consider going back there for our 2012 luncheon.

2012 WILKPEX: It's time to starting thinking about your participation in exhibiting at the show. It can be one frame or multiple frames.

NOVEMBER, 2011



COVER TO GOV. LEW WALLACE, FORT STANTON, NEW MEXICO

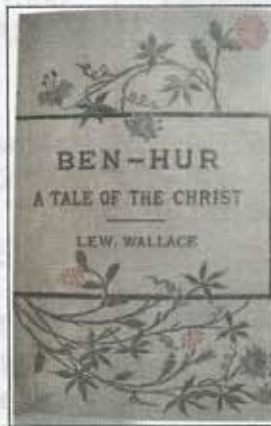
PREPRINTED "UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH"
FRANKED WITH OFFICIAL WAR DEPT. 3-CENT STAMP
(SCOTT #O116) BUT NOT POSTMARKED



LEW WALLACE



BILLY THE KID



BEN - HUR

LEARNING HISTORY BY RESEARCHING A COVER

Lewis (Lew) Wallace was born in Brookville, Indiana, on April 10, 1827. When his father was elected governor of Indiana in 1837 Wallace's interest in reading was stimulated by his new proximity to the state library. He became a reporter for the *Indianapolis Daily Journal* for one year, but when the Mexican War broke out he left to raise a company of soldiers. After the war Wallace served as a member of the Indiana state Senate from 1856 to 1860.

A general during the Civil War, he was distinguished as a leader and fighter, and he was credited with saving Cincinnati from the Confederate Army on July 9, 1864. He also served on the court-martial tribunal that tried the accomplices of John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin. Wallace served as governor of New Mexico Territory from 1878 to 1881 and as the minister to The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) from 1881 to 1885.

During his term as governor, he was asked by Billy the Kid (William H. Bonney, born Henry McCarty, Jr.) a participant in the Lincoln County War for an amnesty "deal". Wallace agreed but due to political forces then ruling New Mexico, was unable to come through on his end of the bargain.

Also while serving as governor, Wallace completed the novel that made him famous: *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1880). It grew to be the best-selling American novel of the 19th century. The book has never been out of print and has been filmed four times.

During the last years of his life Wallace lectured extensively. He died on February 15, 1905, at Crawfordsville, Indiana.

You never know when you find a stamp or cover what interesting things can be found out by researching the item. In this case the cover image was "captured" from the eBay auction website. The additional research was accomplished via various Internet websites and the Scott Stamp Catalogue. Stamp and postal history collecting can be a very rewarding experience. (NOTE: the cover sold on eBay for \$109.40)

NOVEMBER, 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming
Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows

STAMP SHOW – November 5-6 – PITTPEX '11 South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville, PA Sat. 10AM – 5PM Sun 10AM – 4PM FREE

STAMP SHOW – November 12 – Johnstown Stamp Show – Johnstown Stamp Club, Johnstown Activities Center (Main Hall), 550 Main Street, Johnstown. Sat. 10AM – 4PM

POSTCARD SHOW – November 18-19 – York, PA York County Fairgrounds. Fri 9AM – 5PM Sat 9AM – 5PM Admission charged.

POSTCARD SHOW – November 25-26 – Lancaster, PA. The Morlatton Postcard Club, Inc., Fall Show, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Fri. 10AM -6PM, Sat. 10AM - 4PM Admission charged.

STAMP SHOW – December 3 – James Reeves, Churchill Borough Building, 2300 Wm. Penn Hwy. 2-5 dealers. Saturday 10AM – 4PM. FREE.

STAMP SHOW – December 3-4 – COLUMBUS, OHIO – Worthington Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse. Disalle Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17th Avenue. Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM.

ATTEND A SHOW - FIND A TREASURE



ONE OF MANY STAMPS AVAILABLE FROM
ZAZZLE.COM

INTERNET CONNECTIONS (WEB SITES)

Here are some interesting 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://personal.wpa.net/~jvaughn/WCPS/Wcps.htm>

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

U.S. POST OFFICES
http://www.postalhistory.com/Post_Offices/index.htm

U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS 1847-1970 and MORE
<http://www.1847usa.com/>

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENT

Gene Bujdos Stamps
\$125 Scott catalogue value for \$12
Treat yourself to a nice mix of foreign mint and used off paper. No C-T-O.
Post Office Box 5649
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-461-0289
gbujdos@yahoo.com

PHILATELIC TRIVIA

Did you know that captains of ships were the first mail handlers in America? They picked up the mail from mail bags that were hung at various taverns in different towns.



BET THERE WAS NO MAIL ON THIS ONE