



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 7 Number 2 November/December 2013

## Calendar of Events

*Editor: Beginning with the January/ February 2014 issue of The Westfield Philatelist details of upcoming meetings will be coming directly from our Secretary in his Meeting Notices. They will not be attached to this newsletter since the newsletter is a bimonthly publication and not as timely.*

November 21 - Zeppelin\$ - A look by a non-specialist, for non-specialists, at the U.S. Postal history of the Zeppelins.

*by K. David Steidley*

This talk traces the history of the Zeppelins from a US postal history viewpoint. It places each type of Zepp cover in its proper category from 1925 onward to the end of the Hindenburg in NJ. The talk assumes the collector has some knowledge of the three titans of US airmail: the C13, C14 and C15 but wants more information about them and wonders how the other Zepp covers fit into the picture. A 5 minute film clip from 1928 will be shown. It makes the point that the general public of that day was enormously impressed by these monster air ships.

December 26 - Westfield Traditional Holiday Party  
Details will be provided in the December meeting notice from our Secretary, Tom Jacks.

### Ferdinand Adolf August Heinrich von Zeppelin (1838–1917)

*by Frederick C. Skvara*

Born into aristocracy in Konstanz, Baden, Germany, on July 8, 1838, he attended the Ludwigsburg Military Academy and the University of Tübingen before entering the Prussian Army in 1858. The details of his early life are confusing but we do know that he came to America during the American Civil War to act as a military observer with the Union Army. It is thought that he met with President Lincoln who gave him a military pass to join the Army of the Potomac. Although he wanted to be an aerial observer in one of Thaddeus Lowe's balloons, the military authorities refused his request. After leaving the Army in 1863 he

was able to experience his first balloon ride in Minnesota on August 19 or 20 in one of the balloons of John Steiner, a German aeronaut and traveling balloonist.

In a February 1915 interview with Karl H. von Wiegand, a journalist with the United Press, Zeppelin recounted that his first balloon ascension was in St. Paul and "not on the Civil War firing line" and described the event: *An officer of the Union Army, whose name I have forgotten (i.e. probably Steiner), was at St. Paul and had a captive balloon. I wanted a real sensation and arranged for the use of the balloon, he cut the rope and let me make a long flight...* Subsequently in that same interview Zeppelin stated: *While I was above St. Paul I had my first idea of aerial navigation strongly impressed upon me and it was there that the first idea of my Zeppelins came to me.*

After returning to Germany he served in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71 and retired in 1891 with the rank of brigadier general and devoted nearly all his time to steerable airships. By the end of the nineteenth century Zeppelin had plans for a steerable, rigid airship with an aluminum frame covered in a fabric envelope. It consisted of multiple internal cells filled with a gas (helium or hydrogen) and powered by engines. The first zeppelin, LZ1 was airborne on July 2, 1900, in a twenty minute flight over southern Germany. The use of airships for transatlantic passenger service reached its peak during the 1930s mainly due to the LZ127 *Graf Zeppelin* and LZ129 *Hindenburg Zeppelin*. The *Graf Zeppelin* was built between 1926 and 1928 and made its first intercontinental trip in October 1928 between Friedrichshafen, Germany and Lakehurst, New Jersey. Because of the tremendous success of the *Graf Zeppelin* for long range passenger service, the Zeppelin Company began construction of an even larger airship in the fall of 1931, the LZ129 *Hindenburg*, named after Paul von Hindenburg (1847–1934), second president of Germany (1925–1934). The *Hindenburg* was 803.8 feet in length and 135.1 feet in width and had its first test flight on March 4, 1936 from the Zeppelin dockyards at Friedrichshafen. On May 6, 1936, *Hindenburg* left the Frankfurt airfield for its first transatlantic crossing. It landed at the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, New Jersey, on May 9 after a flight of sixty-one hours and forty minutes.

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**The Westfield Stamp Club**

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Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

**For information visit  
our website**

**[www.westfieldstampclub.org](http://www.westfieldstampclub.org)**

or call

Nick Lombardi

908-233-3045

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Westfield Stamp Club Meeting**

**President Lombardi Opens the Meeting**



**Members are Ready for Rod's 65-Lot Auction**



**Steidley Knocks Down Another Lot**





# Westfield Stamp Club Trip to American Philatelic Society Headquarters October 3, 2013



*Photos courtesy of Ken Martin and Marion Rollings*



## *Answers – September/October Philatelic Quiz, cont.*

United States. The Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolutionary War was ratified on January 14, 1784, in the Old Senate Chamber in this building. The state capital building seen right in the 1988 stamp was completed in 1779 with the present dome completed in 1788. Today, the governor of Maryland and his staff have their offices on the second floor of the capital while the senators and members of the House of Delegates meet in the chambers of a large extension added in 1905. Also seen on the stamp is St. Anne's Church on the left and in the foreground, a skipjack on the Chesapeake Bay.

## 🍁 Answers – September/October Philatelic Quiz 🍁

Q1. What two presidents of the United States took their oath of office in New York City?

Ans. **George Washington (Scott 1952) & Chester A. Arthur (Scott 826)**

On the balcony of the Senate Chamber in Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Nassau Streets in New York City, George Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789.

On September 20, 1881, Chester A. Arthur took his oath of office as president



at his home on Lexington Avenue in New York City one day after the death of James Garfield. President Arthur later repeated the oath in the vice-president's room in the United States Capital building.



Q2. What German emigrant became a United States senator and appeared on a West Germany stamp commemorating the American Bicentennial?

Ans. **Carl Schurz (1829–1906)**

Carl Schurz was born in Cologne, Germany and migrated to the United States in 1852 where he became a political reformer opposing slavery, political corruption, battled for civil reform and opposing overseas expansion. In 1861 he was appointed minister to Spain by President Lincoln and later fought in the American Civil War. Following the war he served as editor of several newspapers including the *New York Evening Post*. From 1869 to 1875 he served as United States senator from Missouri.



United States 1983 (Scott 1847)  
Germany 1976 (Scott 1216)



Q3. What is the Ribault Column and on what United States stamp does it appear?

Ans. **A replica of a monument erected in 1562 in Florida. It can be seen on the 1924 5¢ stamp of the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary issue (Scott 616).**

Jean Ribault, with a group of Huguenot colonists, left France in February 1562 to establish a Huguenot colony in the Americas. They landed near Jacksonville, Florida

and erected a stone column near the mouth of the St. John's River claiming the land for Charles IX of France, although this area had been previously claimed by Spain.

Ribault's attempted colonization was eventually unsuccessful as the colonists were killed by Spanish troops in 1565. The original column erected by Ribault has never been found. The one depicted on the stamp is a replica commissioned by the Florida Daughters of the American Revolution as part of the 1924 Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary commemoration. The replica, after several moves, now resides on St. John's Bluff in the Fort Caroline National Memorial.



Q4. What famous bunny was created by author Joel Chandler Harris (Scott 980) and on what stamp does the bunny appear?

Ans. **Br'er Rabbit (Scott 3502g)**

Joel Chandler Harris (1848–1908), born in Eatonton, Georgia, was a humorist and writer of dialect who wrote for a number of southern newspapers including the *Atlanta Constitution*. It was in that newspaper that his first Uncle Remus story "Tar-Baby Story" appeared in 1879. In these tales Uncle Remus tells animal stories to a little boy, son of a plantation owner. *Uncle Remus and Br'er Rabbit* was published in 1906.



In 2001 the USPS issued a sheet of twenty stamps honoring American Illustrators. One of those stamps shows a watercolor of Br'er Rabbit by Arthur Burdett Frost (1851–1928), an American illustrator best known for his illustrations of the Uncle Remus stories.



Q5. What is the oldest American state capital building in continuous legislative use and on what United States stamp is it depicted?

Ans. **Maryland State House (Scott 2342)**

The Maryland state capital building is located in Annapolis, the first peacetime capital city of the United States (November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784). The building was used as the meeting place of the Continental Congress of the



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