

THE CARD – Vol. 33, No. 3, Issue 372, March 2022

A Publication of the Lancaster County Postcard Club, Lancaster, PA

Enjoying postcards through education and entertainment.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2022, Farm & Home Center, Buy, Sell & Trade from 5:00. Meeting - 7 PM

Like us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/LCPClub.

<http://www.lcpc-stamps.org/newsletter-archive/the-card/>

FEBRUARY MEETING

President Susan Glass opened the meeting with trivia about Presidents' Day. Thirty-five people signed including guests, Debbie Thomas; Maria's Schurz's daughter, Maria; and Carol Welsh who left postcards.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$4,082.76. In committee reports, it was decided that this year dues would be collected next month. The cost will be \$15 for a single person and \$20 for two.

Jere Greider and Gordon Smith will have more Expo information in the coming months. It was decided that there would be no board competition at the Expo. Members may display boards to show attendees the variety of postcard topics.

At the Club Table, Ruth Frankhouser was giving out door prize tickets and selling 50-50 tickets.

Mark Arbogast will be heading the March meeting, which will be a Members Market.

During the break, members were invited to enjoy our 30th anniversary cake, baked by Rebecca Mowrer (Sweet Treats of Florinel).

The postcard competition included last month's and this month's topics. Next month's competition topic will be "Advertising."

The 50-50 prize of \$21 went to Annetta Buettner and the Door Prize vouchers went to Maria Schurz and Mahlon Campbell. Betty Beck gave a presentation about the building of McCaskey High School. After the presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Beck

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Wow, what a crazy weather month this has been so far. March may have come in like a lamb but it is a "frisky one" - beautiful days, rain, snow and wind. Let's hope it doesn't go out like a lion! Are you ready for the Members Market this month? Maybe there will be cards to add to a collection or a chance to sell some you are willing to let go.

I'm headed to New Orleans so Mark Arbogast will head the brief business meeting. Be sure to bring along a Advertising Card for the competition.

I'll have a beignet for you!

Susan Glass

FUTURE SHOWS

March 25-26 – 45th Annual Postcard Show, Morlatton Post Card Club Inc., Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, PA, Fri. – 10-6, Sat. 10-4, Admission \$2.50

April 30 – May 1 – Allentown Spring Paper Show, Allentown, PA, Sat. 9-5, Sun 9-3, Admission \$10

MARCH PROGRAM

Join us for the Member's Market, any member of the club may set up and sell postcards, books, local historical items, and paper ephemera. There will be a brief business meeting as well as the monthly card competition.

2022 PROGRAMS

April – Mark Arbogast, "The Trolley to Strasburg and Early Strasburg Views"

May – Dede Schaeffer

June - Bud Heim, 1913 Old Home Week in Columbia

July - Picnic

August - Expo

September – Leighton Stover, Lebanon County

October – Paul Smoker

November –

December – Holiday Party

JANUARY & FEBRUARY POSTCARD COMPETITIONS

JANUARY – "The Number 22"

First: Annetta Buettner – "George's Birthday"

Second: Kerry Mohn -- A card mailed December 22.

FEBRUARY – "Education."

First: Brian Frankhouser – "Vocational Work Room in Upper Leacock"

Second: Paul Smoker – "A One-Room Schoolhouse"

Third: Gisela Withers – "Plein Air Classroom"

Honorable Mention: Annetta Buettner "Learning to Bake Bread"; Gordon Smith "School Room (real photo PC)"; Kerry Mohn "One-Room School with a 46 Star Flag."

2022 POSTCARD COMPETITION SUBJECTS

March - Advertising

April - Children

May - Flowers

June – Parade Bands

July - Picnics

August - Expo

September – State Fairs

October – Farm Animals

November – Foreign



** MEMBERSHIP REMINDER – TIME TO PAY DUES

It's March again and now is the time to pay your dues. **Individual dues are \$15.00 or \$20.00 for two people residing at the same address.**

Dick Pendergrast will happily take your money at the meeting or you may send a check to:

Richard Pendergrast

950 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, I-506

Willow Street, PA 17584

The History of the Ill-Fated Dirigible Akron and the Discovery of a Scarce “Souvenir of Balloon Akron” Fabric Postcard from 1912.

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

In early December 2021, a colleague dropped off at my home a large box of well over 500 letters, postal cards and postcards from the Coleman and Gaskill families, longtime residents of Hammonton, New Jersey and the surrounding hamlets (e.g., Egg Harbor, Atlantic City). He was in the process of moving and found these items abandoned in an old barn and did not want to see them end up in a landfill without first being examined. Knowing my penchant for postal history and my affiliations with numerous philatelic Societies', he made sure they ended up in my care. The correspondence spanned from the early 1880s to the late 1960's. Much of this archive contained familial content: holiday cards; birth and wedding announcements; mourning covers; family photographs; as well as tax receipts, advertising and travel brochures, etc. There were also hundreds of postal cards and postcards from all across the country.

As with any archive that crosses my desk, I take my time sorting and organizing by object type, content and eventually chronologically. I also examine each and every envelope for contents, as well as their postal significance (rates, routes, cancellations, adhered stamps, etc.). After many hours over a few weeks, my efforts paid off with the discovery of a very scarce Souvenir of Balloon “Akron” postcard from 1912 (Figure 1).

As denoted on the postcard front, “This sample of fabric was cut from the Balloon Akron.” It further reads “which is to carry, Melvin Vaniman and party of six to Europe in October. “Akron” was made by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. at Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., in 12 weeks. The Balloon is 258 feet long and 45 feet in diameter, contains 6,000 square yards of fabric; has greatest net lifting power of any dirigible ever made – 80 people. The expedition is being financed by Mr. F.A. Seiberling, president, The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.”

So how and when were these fabric postcards created? As my friend Cheryl Ganz, FRPSL, Curator of Philately Emerita at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, shared with me in a personal communication, the cards were created by an unidentified publisher after the 1911 crash of the Akron. Tourists, who were eager for postcards and souvenirs, purchased the entire stock of the first printing. A second printing was later created with only the image side and required the attachment of a white paper backing mimicking the reverse shown in Figure 2. According to Cheryl, my example is thought to be only the fifth or sixth now known from the first printing.

It is in exceptional condition and the note on the reverse shown in Figure 3 gives us a clue as to why. It reads: “I will send this in the letter so you will get it all right. They often steal card like this out of the mail, Mom.” This postcard was not sent through the mails, but found in a 1913-dated envelope to a Coleman family member. A firm reminder to check the contents of any covers we encounter – you never know what lies within.

So what of the expedition to Europe by Vaniman and his crew? Sadly, as reported by the Western Newspaper Union News Service on July 5, 1912, while “sailing out over the Atlantic ocean under perfect control and in view of several thousand interested persons, the great airship AKRON, in command of MELVILLE VANIMAN, with a crew of four men, exploded while more than 500 feet in the air and, shot down into the water a tangled mass, carrying to their death the daring aviator and his companions. Death is believed to have come instantly to the five men. In all the tragic history of disasters to airships or aeroplanes probably none was as sensational as that which brought to an end the greatest and most costly air craft ever constructed in the western hemisphere. Built to withstand the storms of the Atlantic, and to carry at least a dozen men across the ocean to Europe, the AKRON went to her doom in calm weather.”

Shown in Figure 4 is a 1911 drawing of the Akron airship. In the middle, a Real Picture Postcard (RPPC) of the Air Ship Akron on the day of its final flight on July 2, 1912 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. On the right is a picture of Melvin Vaniman and his feline companion.

In closing, one has to wonder if members of the Coleman and/or Gaskill family were on the beach that day to witness the tragedy of the Akron. It could explain why they set aside the souvenir postcard as a remembrance in their family archive, which I am fortunate to be able to share with the philatelic community. ■

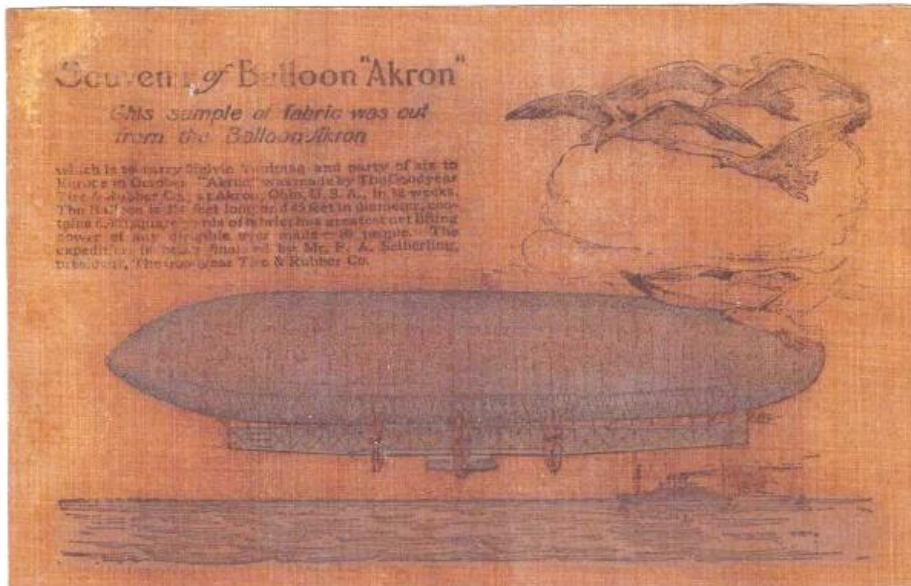


Figure 1. Souvenir of Balloon "Akron", unidentified publisher, ca. 1912, divided back printed postcard on fabric that was cut from Akron after a crash during a test flight, 1911.



Figure 2. Reverse of the Souvenir of Balloon "Akron" fabric postcard, with printed, divided back. There is a blank space at left for a message; lines at right for the addressee; "Private Post Card" at top, and a framed-box at upper right for postage.

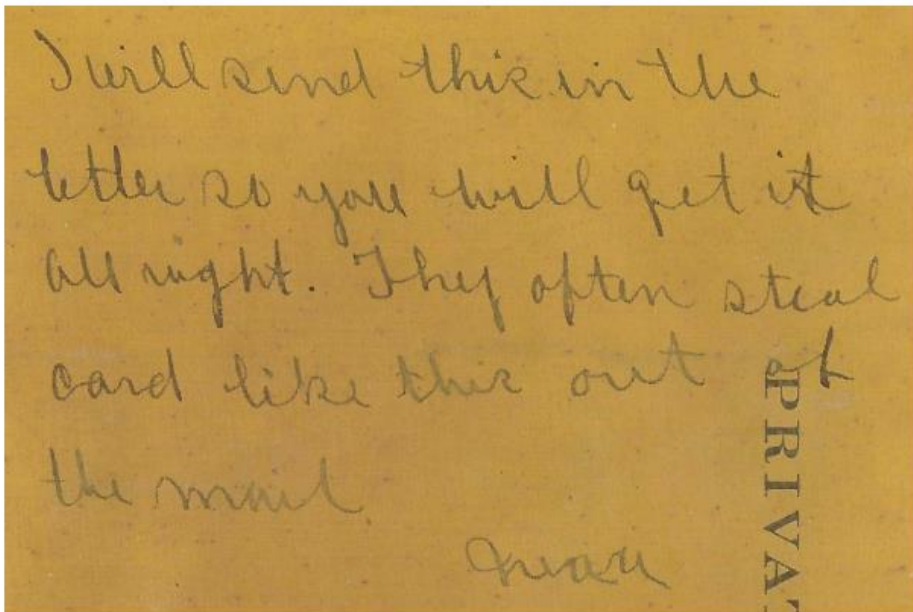


Figure 3. Reverse of "Akron" fabric postcard rotated ninety degrees clockwise to show the note the sender wrote to the Coleman family, transcribed as follows: "I will send this in the letter so you will get it all right. They often steal card like this out of the mail, Mom."



Figure 4. Left: 1911 drawing of the Akron. Middle: Real Picture Postcard (RPPC) of Air Ship Akron on the day of its final flight, July 2, 1912, Atlantic City, NJ. Right: Melvin Vaniman and his feline.

References

1. <http://www.gendisasters.com/new-jersey/703/atlantic-city%2C-nj-airship-akron-explosion%2C-jul-1912> (last viewed January 6, 2022), Airship AKRON Explosion - Airship Hurlled to the Sea. Submitted by Stu Beitler, Atlantic City, NJ, published in the Eagle Valley Enterprise Colorado, July 5, 1912.

Charles is a lifelong philatelist, postal historian & award-winning author. He enjoys researching, restoring, writing, publishing, & presenting on a broad array of philatelic & postal history topics. He is President of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (PA); President of the Empire State Postal History Society, Editor-in-Chief of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society's The Chairman's Chatter and Life Member, on the Board of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society and an emeritus member of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. A native New Yorker, he currently resides in Lancaster, PA with his wife Kathleen and their two daughters, McKenna and Mia.

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STAR SPANGLED

By Jim Ward



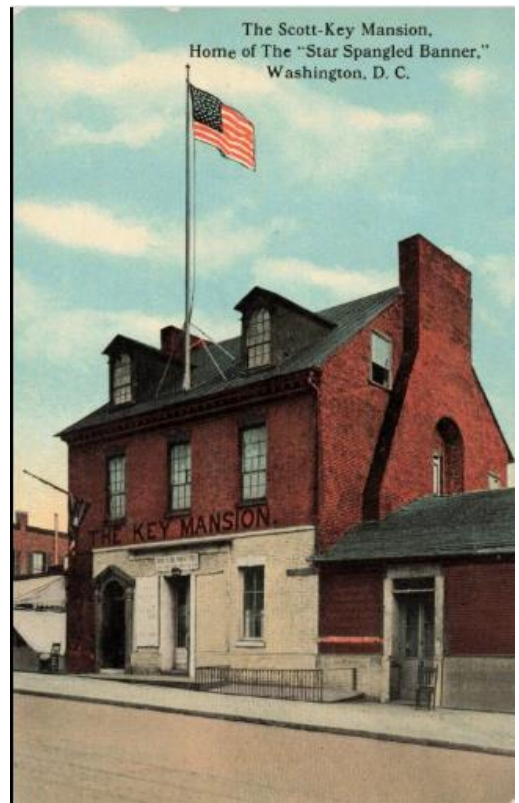
The 15 star, 15 stripe "Star Spangled" that inspired the poem.



Mary Pickersgill, a widow skilled at making ship flags, opened a flag shop and catered to a military clientele in Baltimore. In 1813, Major George Armistead, the commander at Fort McHenry, wanted to order a flag. He called for an ensign "so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance." She was commissioned to make two flags: a 30 by 42 foot garrison flag and a 17 by 25 foot flag for inclement weather.

Francis Scott Key was a prominent lawyer in Frederick, Maryland and Washington, D.C. He served as an advisor to Andrew Jackson and served as the District Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1833 to 1841.

At the time of the 1814 Battle of Baltimore he found himself on a British ship try to negotiate the release of a physician who had been captured by the British prior to the Battle of Baltimore



The Star-Spangled Banner.

Oh say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
That so many a gallant warrior sat
By the flag's side, availing their lives
To their country's honor, through the bloody fight,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, as our heroes' day
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

From the shore darkly watch'd thro' the smoke of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that light which comes from the burning serais,
As its bright flames far extend, and its light
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected thro' every stream,
Till the Star-Spangled Banner, O' long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band that so valiantly swore
That the honor of war and the nation's obligation
Their blood has wash'd with their red footsteps' pollution,
By whose sword we press'd to the foe's surrender,
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved lives and their ever-remember'd land, |

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

**GRAVE AND MONUMENT OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY
FREDERICK, MD.**

HOME OF KEY — WASHINGTON, D. C.

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On the night of September 13-14, not only could the British see Pickersgill's flag, so could Francis Scott Key. He was inspired upon seeing the American flag still flying over the fort at dawn and wrote the poem "Defence of Fort M'Henry". Within a week with the suggested tune of the popular song "To Anacreon in Heaven" the song with Key's lyrics became known as "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Key practiced law until just before his death of pleurisy on January 11, 1843. Key is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on **March 3, 1931** (46 Stat. 1508, codified at 36 U.S.C. § 301), which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

Following the September 11th attacks on our nation Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, broke tradition and allowed the Band of Coldstream Guards to perform the anthem at Buckingham Palace. The following day she joined in the singing of our anthem at the St. Paul's memorial service



Francis Scott Key Monument as it stood in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco until it was illegally toppled in June 2020.



Library of Congress Title

The star spangled banner

Contributor Names

[Smith, John Stafford] -- 1750-1836 (composer)

Voss, Ch. (arranger)

[Key, Francis Scott] -- 1779-1843 (lyricist)

Created / Published

G. Andre and Co., Philadelphia, PA, 1862.