

THE CARD – Vol. 36, No. 2, Issue 407, February 2025

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

Enjoying postcards through education and entertainment.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2025 Farm & Home Center, Buy, Sell & Trade from 2:00 PM, Meeting – 3:30 PM

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

JANUARY MEETING CANCELED

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy February!!

Most Ground Hogs have predicted six more weeks of winter so I'm going with Octoraro Orphie's prediction of an early spring. Let's hope we will feel that spring is on the way for our next meeting.

Since we didn't meet in January there will be two postcard competitions this month – Couples and Birds.

If you look at the programs scheduled for this year, you can see that there are many opportunities for members to help fill the calendar. If you volunteered and I forgot to put you on the calendar please remind me. What is your favorite subject? Why not pick out some cards to share with other members. Please consider doing this.

Hope to see you on February 17th.
Susan

OFFICERS & BOARD for 2025

President – Susan Glass

Vice President – Pam Tronsor

Secretary – Jean Schopf

Treasurer – Barabra Mowrer

Board of Directors – Robert Kramer, Annetta Buettner,

Gisela Withers, Anthony Iezzi

Membership Chairman – Richard Pendergrast

Newsletter Editor – Susan Glass

FEBRUARY MEETING

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.

2025 PROGRAMS

February: Members Market

March: Don Wert

April:

May:

June:

July: Picnic

August: Expo

September:

October:

November:

December – Holiday Party



2025 POSTCARD COMPETITION SUBJECTS

February: Couples & Birds (no chickens)

March: Waterfalls

April: Easter Peeps

May: Springtime on the Farm

June: Humor, People/Animals

July: Fireworks

August: Expo

September: Toys with Wheels

October: Advertising

November: Rivers

FUTURE SHOWS 2024

March 28-29 – 48th Annual Postcard Show, Morlatton Post Card Club Inc., Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, PA, Fri. – 10-6, Sat. - 10-4, Admission \$3.00 (2.00 with card)

April 26-27 – Allentown Spring Paper Show, Allentown Fairgrounds, Allentown, PA, Sat. 9-5, Sun 9-3, Admission \$10 (with ad \$9.00)



Bamforth Hymns and Songs

By Brian Frankhouser

Many years ago, when I first starting collecting postcards and was thirsty for knowledge, I often visited John Klein's shop, off Route 272 near the turnpike exit. I would pick through the boxes of 10 cent cards, and listen to the old timers talk about the hobby. For \$8.00, I could walk away with 80 postcards and \$50.00 worth of education. Those boxes held common cards, but some were very interesting and entertaining. One topic I frequently bought was Bamforth Hymns and Songs.

Bamforth and Co. was started by James Bamforth in Holmfirth, England. He began in 1870 as a portrait photographer and painted his own backdrops. He used these backdrops to create lantern slides, and his success encouraged him to create more backdrops and props. This led him into cinema, and in 1899, he became one of the first film makers in the world. Always the entrepreneur, James began publishing postcards in 1903. One of his most popular subjects was song and hymn cards, eventually producing over 5,000 sets. If you take a closer look at many of these postcards, you'll see the same backdrops that were used for his slides and films!

Profiled in this article is "The Volunteer Organist". This song was written by William B. Gray (pseudonym: W. B. Glenroy) and George Spaulding (pseudonym: Henry Lamb), and was first published in 1893. Gray's lyrics were based on a folk tale and a Sam Walter Foss poem. Some sources say that it may have been inspired by a true story that occurred at the Christian Herald Bowery Mission in New York City. The song was immediately popular and sold hundreds of thousands of copies, even before 1904 when Peter Smith Dawson recorded it and made it a lasting favorite. The Volunteer Organist:

(1) *The preacher in the village church one Sunday morning said:*

"Our organist is ill today, will someone play instead?"

An anxious look crept o'er the face of every person there,

As eagerly they watched to see who'd fill the vacant chair.

A man then staggered down the aisle whose clothes were old and torn.

How strange a drunkard seemed to me, in church on Sunday morn;

But as he touched the organ keys, without a single word,

The melody that followed was the sweetest ever heard.

(2) Refrain: *The scene was one I'll ne'er forget as long as I may live,*

And just to see it o'er again, all earthly wealth I'd give;

The congregation all amazed, the preacher old and grey,

The organ, and the organist who volunteered to play.

(3) *Each eye shed tears within that church, the strongest men grew pale;*

The organist in melody had told his own life's tale;

The sermon of the preacher was no lesson to compare

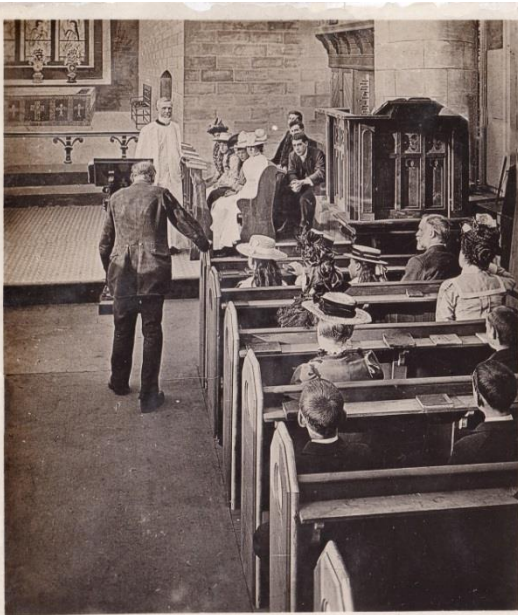
With that of life's example who sat in the organ chair.

(4) *And when the service ended, not a soul had left a seat,*

Except the poor old organist, who started toward the street;

Along the aisle and out the door he slowly walked away;

The preacher rose and softly said: "Good brethren, let us pray."



134. THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST (1).

The preacher in the village church one Sunday morning said:
"Our organist is ill to-day, will someone play instead?"
An anxious look crept o'er the face of every person there,
As eagerly they watched to see who'd fill the vacant chair.
A man then staggered down the aisle whose clothes were old and torn.
How strange a drunkard seemed to me in Church on Sunday morn;
But as he touched the organ keys, without a single word,
The melody that followed was the sweetest ever heard.



134. THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST (2).

The scene was one I'll ne'er forget
As long as I may live,
And just to see it o'er again
All earthly wealth I'd give;
The congregation all amazed,
The preacher—old and grey,
The organ, and the organist
Who volunteered to play.



134. THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST (3).

Each eye shed tears within that church,
The strongest men grew pale:
The organist in melody
Had told his own life's tale;
The sermon of the preacher
Was no lesson to compare
With that of life's example
Who sat in the organ chair.



134. THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST (4).

And when the service ended,
Not a soul had left a seat,
Except the poor old organist,
Who started toward the street:
Along the aisle and out the door
He slowly walked away;
The preacher rose and softly said:
"Good brethren, let us pray!"



Valentine's Day originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine.



Some view the holiday as a special opportunity to express the love they have for the ones they cherish.



The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer is credited with connecting St. Valentine's Day to the idea of romance.

