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WINDING TRAILS MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

To Elevate Cachet and Cover Collecting From the Ordinary, Commonplace and Mediocre to the Beautiful and Artistic—To Appropriately Commemorate Epochal and Important Events in the History of the United States—To Explore the Winding Trails in the Whole Wide Range of Hobbydom.



THE U. S. BRIG NIAGARA
PERRY'S OLD FLAGSHIP

EUGENE C. LAIRD, PUBLISHER

Post Office Box 1043, - - Erie, Pennsylvania

OCTOBER - - - 1935

C THE POSTAGE ON A BEAUTIFUL AND ARTISTIC CACHET COSTS NO MORE THAN ON ONE OF THE HAND-STAMP VARIETY. SEE THE POINT?

**IF YOU WANT TO HELP IN SPONSORING BEAUTIFUL
AND ARTISTIC HISTORIC CACHETS**

—JOIN—



—THE—

American Historical Cover Society

THE SOCIETY WITH A REAL OBJECTIVE

C HIS SOCIETY was organized to elevate the cachet and cover collecting hobby from the mediocre and commonplace to the beautiful and artistic; to honor those patriots and statesmen who have dedicated their services to the upbuilding of the Nation; to appropriately commemorate many important events in American History; to assist collectors in devising unique and valuable combinations of stamps on cacheted covers, which may prove to be the only ones of their kind in existence; to gather and disseminate useful and helpful information; to promote and foster friendship and good-will among collectors; to invite co-operation; to advance the interests of cachet and cover collecting in every legitimate way possible.

Benefits of Membership in the Society.

First—Every member has the privilege of suggesting subjects for new historic cachets, which will be adopted whenever practicable.

Second—Whenever there are sufficient surplus funds in the treasury, Special Free Cachets will be sponsored by the Society, and one of each of these Special Free Cachets will be sent, **absolutely free of charge**, to every member in good standing. **But only these Special Cachets will be sent free.** Owing to the cost of materials, engravings and workmanship, it is necessary to make a small charge for all other cachets sponsored by the Society.

Third—Every member in good standing will receive **Winding Trails Magazine**, the official organ of the Society, free of charge during the period of his or her membership.

Every sincere and honorable stamp, cachet, cover, cancellation and postmark collector is eligible to membership in this Society, and all collectors included in this class are cordially invited to affiliate. To finance the activities of the Society, a small fee of **one dollar (\$1.00) per year** will be charged. If you are in harmony with the aims and objects of the **American Historical Cover Society**, send application to **Eugene C. Laird**, Cachet Director and Business Manager, **Box 1043, Erie, Penna.** Make remittances payable to Mr. Laird **personally**. The Society will greatly appreciate your courtesy and co-operation, if you will kindly send the names and addresses of your cachet and cover collecting friends and acquaintances to the Cachet Director, so that sample copies and literature may be sent to them. We thank you for your courtesy.

EUGENE C. LAIRD, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Pa.

Winding Trails Magazine

Little Journeys Into the Realm of Hobbydom

VOL. I

ERIE, PENNA., OCTOBER, 1935.

No. 10

STORY OF THE NIAGARA

Perry's Flagship at the Battle of Lake Erie, Told in Commemoration of Navy Day on October 28.

SPRINGTIME in the little frontier village of Presque Isle, now the thriving city of Erie, located on the banks of Presque Isle Bay, in the northwestern corner of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the Year of Our Lord 1813. All was bustle and activity. Grim little wardogs were hastily constructed, and glided down the ways to their baptism in the sunlit waters of Presque Isle Bay. The threat of invasion by Captain Barclay and his British tars hung like a pall of gloom over the little village. Shipwrights worked with feverish energy, and the virgin forest which surrounded the village was ravished of its mightiest oaks to feed the God of War. Many a tall and stately tree, whose towering branches were uplifted in the morning breeze, had, at the setting of the sun, become a part of the little fleet destined to wrest the supremacy of the Great Lakes from domination by Great Britain. Steel was rushed from Meadville; powder was hurried across the mountains from Philadelphia; heavy guns and small arms were hastily secured at Buffalo and other points. A new leaf in American history was in the making.

One historian writes that no naval engagement in the history of the United States had such a far-reaching influence upon the whole country as that of Perry's Victory on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813, and surely no more appropriate event could be selected for commemoration on Navy Day than that momentous engagement. It was the first time in history that an entire British fleet surrendered to an enemy, and in that epochal struggle the Brig Niagara played a leading part.

On February 17, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry, an intrepid young naval officer of Rhode Island, was ordered by the Navy Department to proceed to Presque Isle and take charge of the building of a squadron of war vessels to oppose the British on Lake Erie, and to assume command of the fleet when completed. Within 24 hours Perry rushed a detachment of 50 carpenters to Presque Isle, by way of Philadelphia, and four days later, accompanied by a younger brother, he was on his way to undying fame. They traveled chiefly by sleighs, and were five weeks in making the journey, arriving at Presque Isle on March 27, 1813.

From the forest which surrounded the village green timber was cut, and the keels of the little squadron quickly laid. Of the vessels composing the fleet but two—the Lawrence and the Niagara—could be classed as ships. These two brigs each were 110 feet in length, 30 feet beam and 9 feet hold. Each carried 20 guns, two of them being 12-pounder carronades. The other vessels (*Continued on page 5*)

Winding Trails Magazine

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Eugene C. Laird Editor and Publisher

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VOL. I ERIE, PA., OCTOBER, 1935. No. 10

A NAVY DAY STAMP?

 IT IS rumored that the Post Office Department will spring another surprise in the form of a Navy Day stamp. It seems to be the policy of the Department to give but scant notice of the issue of new commemoratives—a policy to be both regretted and condemned. Should a Navy Day stamp be issued in time for us to do so, we will sponsor both our Navy Day and Theodore Roosevelt cachets as first-day covers, mailing them from appropriate first-day-sale post offices, at the same rates as for our first-day Michigan cachet. Should no Navy Day stamp be issued, however, these two cachets will be mailed at the post offices that are specified as the mailing point of each of the cachets respectively.

JOTS AND JABS.

Rimmer sez: Inferior covers bot with cold cash aint so hot.

The color scheme on the Gen. Robert E. Lee cachet features the Confederate gray.

Loun E. Lawrence, AHCS No. 40, says: "Your covers are the best I have seen anywhere."

An official announcement from Washington states that the design adopted for the Michigan Centennial stamp shows the state seal in the center; at the left,

the National emblem, with a forest and lake scene between; at the right, the state flag, with a scene depicting commerce and industry between; across the top, 1835—Michigan Centennial—1935. The stamp will be a 3¢ denomination, horizontal, and printed in purple.

The Battle of King's Mountain cachet commemorates a double anniversary—the 155th of the battle and the 5th of the dedication of the Col. Ferguson memorial tablet.

A free cachet for A.H.C.S. members. We are happy to announce another free cachet for each member of our Society who requests one of these covers. See page 8.

Frank Wentworth, AHCS No. 10, says: "I know that the Revolutionary War covers will go over with a bang. The cachet for the 155th anniversary of the capture of Major Andre is simply wonderful."

"The Shenandoah covers are superb. I particularly like the news story and information printed in addition to the picture. This pair of covers are two of my most valued historical cachets."—Fred A. Nehr.

H. R. Stephenson, AHCS No. 28, comes through with a suggestion that is really worth while. He says: "No doubt, in those vicinities where an event has occurred there is someone who collects cachets and covers. If those collectors were known to one another, in my opinion, it could be made mutually profitable by the securing and selling or exchanging of photos or post cards to 'doll up' a collection. For example: As I live in Philadelphia, should a collector desire pictures of historical places, such as the Betsy Ross House, Liberty Bell, etc., I would be glad to get them for him or her. Now that you have started a Civil War series of cacheted covers, just 122 miles from here is Gettysburg. No collection of Civil War cachets would be complete without Gettysburg views." This is a splendid idea, and we feel sure that Mr. Stephenson (whose address is 4635 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia) will be glad to hear from collectors who wish views of his historical city. Other collectors who can supply views of places where we have sponsored cachets are invited to notify the Cachet Director, who would appreciate such information.

LEMLEY CURIO STORE

COVERS, stamps, coins, minerals, beadwork, photos, books, Indian relics, etc. Write your wants and mention Winding Trails Magazine.

VERNON LEMLEY, Northbranch, Kansas

STORY OF THE NIAGARA

(Continued from page 3) were of slight construction, and were without bulwarks. The vessels were staunchly built, however, and carried their crews to victory.

On April 15 the Tigress and Porcupine were launched, and on May 1 the Scorpion. There is some discrepancy between different authorities as to the exact dates on which the Lawrence and Niagara were launched. Mackenzie, the historian, gives May 24 as the date on which both of the vessels were launched, and many authors have accepted that date. But it does not seem probable the two largest vessels of the fleet were launched on the same day. Captain Dobbins, who was supervising the building of the vessels, wrote, "I make it that the Lawrence was launched on June 25, and the Niagara on July 4."

The Lawrence, Perry's flagship at the beginning of the battle, was named in honor of Captain James Lawrence, who sustained mortal wounds during the engagement between the Chesapeake and Shannon on June 1, 1813. His dying words, "Don't Give Up the Ship," were sewn, in white letters, on a dark blue battle-flag and presented to Perry by the ladies of Presque Isle. This flag was hoisted at the main yard of the Lawrence, as a signal for going into action, and is now reverently preserved in the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

We have told, in a previous issue, how for more than three hours the Lawrence sustained the fire of the entire British fleet; how 83 of the men composing the crew were killed or wounded; how the deck was slippery with blood, which ran down the sides of the brig; how the intrepid Perry gained the deck of the Niagara through a hurricane of destruction hurled from the British ships; how, in less than 20 minutes after taking command of the Niagara, Perry had pierced the British line with flaming broadsides, and wrested the supremacy of the Great Lakes from Great Britain, saving the Northwest Territory for the United States, and compelling an entire British fleet to surrender to an enemy for the first time in history.

After serving as Captain Sinclair's flagship against Mackinaw, the Niagara was sunk in Misery Bay, an arm of Presque Isle Harbor. For nearly 80 years she lay beneath the waters of the bay, until she was raised to participate in the ceremonies of the Centennial Celebration of Perry's Victory on Lake Erie. She was reconditioned and launched for the second time on June 7, 1913. She was refitted and participated in the many centennial celebrations of the battle held in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois, in all of which the historic old warship was the center of interest. At the end of her last cruise, the Niagara returned to Erie, where for many years thousands of tourists came each summer to view the relic of one of the greatest naval victories in the history of the United States.

And now the old Niagara—a grim phantom of the glory of yesterday—robbed of her ancient guns, yet with the halo of former victories still surrounding her—rests high and dry on the south shore of Presque Isle Peninsula (now a Pennsylvania State Park), about two miles west of the City of Erie.

COMING CACHETS

*New and Interesting Historical Anniversary Covers Sponsored by
the American Historical Cover Society.*

 **ATTENTION**—Prices quoted are for EACH COVER sponsored, and supersede all former prices. No deviation from these prices will be made, except as follows: If any purchaser sends special stamps with which to pay postage on the cachets, 3¢ may be deducted for every cover for which such stamps are sent.

Presidential Birth and Death Cachets.

All of the cachets in this classification are handsomely printed in three colors. Send **10¢ for each cover desired** to Eugene C. Laird, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Penna. This includes all postage and forwarding charges. *Do not send envelopes, as none of our cachets are hand-stamped.*

October 27—Cachet No. 1B—Anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. (See September issue.) October 27, the birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, has been designated as Navy Day. This year, however, October 27 falls on Sunday, and therefore Monday, October 28, has been selected for the official observance of Navy Day for 1935.

October 30—Cachet No. 34B—**200th** anniversary of the birth of John Adams, 2nd President of the United States. (See September issue.)

November 2—Cachet No. 25B—**140th** anniversary of the birth of James Knox Polk, 11th President of the United States. (See September issue.)

November 2—Cachet No. 46B—**70th** anniversary of the birth of Warren Gamaliel Harding, 29th President of the United States. (See September issue.)

November 18—Cachet No. 62D—Anniversary of the death of Chester Alan Arthur, 21st President of the United States. Arthur was born at Fairfield, Vermont, October 5, 1830, and died at New York City, November 18, 1886. He became President in 1881, upon the death of President Garfield, and served until succeeded by President Cleveland in 1885. During his term of office Robert T. Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln, was Secretary of War. This cachet will be mailed at New York City on November 18. Deadline date—November 11.

November 19—Cachet No. 52B—Anniversary of the birth of James Abram Garfield, 20th President of the United States. Garfield was born at Orange, Cuyahoga County (of which Cleveland is the county seat), Ohio, November 19, 1831, and died at Elberon, New Jersey, September 19, 1881. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and for gallantry at the Battle of Chickamauga was made major-general of volunteers. He was elected President in 1880, and four months after his inauguration he was shot and mortally wounded at the Baltimore & Potomac Railway station in Washington by Charles Guiteau, a disappointed office-seeker. This cachet will be mailed at Cleveland, Ohio, on November 19. Deadline date—November 12.

November 23—Cachet No. 63B—Anniversary of the birth of Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States. Pierce was born at Hillsborough, New Hampshire, November 23, 1804, and died at Concord, New Hampshire, October 8, 1869. He served in the Mexican War, and attained the rank of brigadier-general. He was elected President in 1852 by the electoral votes of all but four of the states, and served one term. During his administration the famous Japanese treaty was signed, opening the ports of Japan to American trade. Pierce was born, inaugurated and died on Friday. This cachet will be mailed at Hillsboro, New Hampshire, on November 23. Deadline date—November 16.

November 24—Cachet No. 2B—Anniversary of the birth of Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States. Taylor was born in Orange County (of which Orange is the county seat), Virginia, November 24, 1784, and died at Washington, July 9, 1850. He was one of the two great military leaders of the Mexican War—defeating much superior forces of Mexicans at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista. His last official act was the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument on July 4, 1850. This cachet will be mailed at Orange, Virginia, on November 24. Deadline date—November 17.

The Stars of the American Flag Cachets.

All of the cachets in this classification are handsomely printed in three colors. Send **10¢ for each cover desired** to Eugene C. Laird, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Penna. This includes all postage and forwarding charges. *Do not send envelopes, as none of our cachets are hand-stamped.*

October 31—Cachet No. 68—Anniversary of the entry of Nevada into the Union. (See September issue.)

November 2—Cachet No. 69—Anniversary of the entry of North Dakota into the Union. (See September issue.)

November 2—Cachet No. 70—Anniversary of the entry of South Dakota into the Union. (See September issue.)

November 8—Cachet No. 71—Anniversary of the entry of Montana into the Union. (See September issue.)

November 11—Cachet No. 76—Anniversary of the entry of Washington into the Union. Washington was admitted as a state on November 11, 1889, and is the 42nd Star of the Flag. This cachet will be mailed at Olympia, Washington, on November 11. Deadline date—November 4.

November 16—Cachet No. 77—Anniversary of the entry of Oklahoma into the Union. Oklahoma was admitted as a state on November 16, 1907, and is the 46th Star of the Flag. This cachet will be mailed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 16. Deadline date—November 9.

November 21—Cachet No. 78—Anniversary of the entry of North Carolina into the Union. North Carolina ratified the Constitution on November 21, 1789, and is the 12th Star of the Flag. This cachet will be mailed at Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 21. Deadline date—November 14.

December 3—Cachet No. 82—Anniversary of the entry of Illinois into the Union. Illinois was admitted as a state on December 3, 1818, and is the 21st Star of the Flag. This cachet will be mailed at Springfield, Illinois, on December 3. Deadline date—November 26.

Civil War Period Cachets.

All of the cachets in this classification are handsomely printed in three colors. Send **10¢ for each cover desired** to Eugene C. Laird, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Penna. This includes all postage and forwarding charges. *Do not send envelopes, as none of our cachets are hand-stamped.*

October 29—Cachet No. 72—**50th** anniversary of the death of General George Brinton McClellan, Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army from November 1, 1861, to March 11, 1862. (See September issue.)

November 6—Cachet No. 74—**75th** anniversary of the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. (See September issue.)

November 7—Cachet No. 79—**75th** anniversary of the first step leading to the formation of the Confederate States of America. The result of the Presidential election of 1860 was to precipitate the War of the Rebellion. On November 7, 1860, the Legislature of South Carolina called a State Convention to consider the propriety of seceding from the Union. This convention met at Charleston on December 17, and on the 20th passed "an ordinance to dissolve the

union between the State of South Carolina and other states united with her, under the compact entitled the Constitution of the United States of America," declaring that "the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the 23rd day of May, in the Year of Our Lord 1788, whereby the Constitution of the United States was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of the State ratifying amendments of the said Constitution are hereby repealed; and that the union now existing between South Carolina and other states, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved." This cachet will be mailed at Columbia, South Carolina, on November 7. Deadline date—October 31.

Unclassified Commemorative and Historical Cachets.

All of the cachets in this classification are handsomely printed in three colors. Send **10¢ for each cover desired** to Eugene C. Laird, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Penna. This includes all postage and forwarding charges. *Do not send envelopes, as none of cachets are hand-stamped.*

November 2—Cachet No. 46E—**15th** anniversary of the election of Warren Gamaliel Harding as President of the United States. (See September issue.)

November 4—Cachet No. 58—**40th** anniversary of the death of Eugene Field, American poet and newspaper writer. (See September issue.)

October 28 (Navy Day)—Cachet No. 75—In sponsoring our first Navy Day cachet we have adopted a new idea. On Navy Day of each year we shall select one of the most historical of the old warships of the United States Navy to honor in commemoration of Navy Day. This year we have selected the Brig Niagara, Perry's second flagship at the Battle of Lake Erie, as one of the old warships most deserving of honor. In making this selection we have been impelled by the following reasons: First, this brig was the decisive factor in winning the battle; second, while in command of it Perry saved the great Northwest Territory for the United States; third, it was constructed on the present site of the City of Erie, where the headquarters of the American Historical Cover Society is located. This cachet will be mailed at Erie, Pennsylvania, on October 28. Deadline date—October 24. This is another cachet which should be included in every collection. Remember that a different warship will be honored on Navy Day of each year.

November 11 (Armistice Day)—Cachet No. 80—Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice in the great World War, on November 11, 1918. This cachet will be another new idea in the historical covers sponsored by our Society. It will be both unique and very attractive. Nothing like it, in fact, has ever been sponsored, and no collector should neglect to secure at least one copy. It will be mailed at Arlington, Virginia, where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located, on November 11. Deadline date—November 4.

This Month's Free Cacheted Cover.

The cachet listed below (handsomely printed in three colors) is being sponsored from the funds of the American Historical Cover Society, and will be sent, **free of any cost**, to every member of the Society in good standing who sends a request for this cover to Eugene C. Laird, Cachet Director, Box 1043, Erie, Penna. A postal card will suffice for such request. Any collector who is not a member of the Society may **also** obtain one of these covers by remitting **5¢** (3¢ for first-class postage and 2¢ for forwarding and addressing costs). Do not send envelopes, as we furnish the envelope and printing complete, and none of our cachets are hand-stamped.

November 24—Cachet No. 81—**300th** anniversary of the settlement of Saybrook, Connecticut, by the English. In 1630 the Council of Plymouth granted a tract of land, which included within its confines the present State of Connecticut, to the Earl of Warwick, and in the following year he transferred his grant to Lord Saye and Sele and Lord Brooke. On November 24, 1635, Lyon Gardiner erected a palisade across a narrow neck of land which extended out into Long Island Sound at the mouth of the Connecticut River. He built a fort and planned a settlement, which he named Saybrook, in honor of the proprietors. This became the foundation of the Saybrook Colony, and completely prevented the Dutch from any further attempts to take possession of the river. This cachet will be mailed at Saybrook, Connecticut, on November 24. Deadline date—November 17.