

**GHSS  
Foundation,  
Inc.**

# THE PERFORATOR



**January  
February  
March  
2021**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
GHSS  
FOUNDATION,  
INC.**

**EDITOR - JAY STOTTS**

Copies of this newsletter are distributed to all Houston Philatelic Society members. Send articles for publication, classified advertising (Free !), news of members, exhibit award information or anything else of general interest to GHSS Foundation, Inc. members to:

Jay Stotts  
P.O. Box 690042  
Houston TX 77269-0042  
e-mail: stottsjd@swbell.net

## **It's Time to Pay Your 2021 HPS Dues Now**

Your 2021 Houston Philatelic Society Dues are due now, so take a few minutes to send them in to our treasurer, Larry Ballantyne. The annual dues remain the same as in past years. \$7 for an individual, \$10 for a family and \$1 for youths.

You can pay your dues by mailing a check made out to the Houston Philatelic Society and mailing it to: Larry Ballantyne, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.

The Officers and Board briefly discussed suspending dues this year based on the fact that we haven't been able to meet as a group at the church, but after reviewing our ordinary expenses, this is not a practical solution.

We added the cost of paying a fee to Zoom so those members who choose to meet on Monday nights can continue to enjoy this substitute for the church meetings of the past.

We continue to print and mail a quarterly newsletter which accounts for more than half of each member's dues. Before the pandemic, we distributed approximately 25% of the newsletters directly to meeting attendees, eliminating some of the postage costs, but now we must mail 100% of the newsletters, so that cost has actually increased as a result of the pandemic.

If any current member feels the \$7 individual membership fee is a hardship in 2021, please contact a Board member or Officer so that we can make arrangements to continue to be an HPS member. We don't want to lose any members through covid hardship.

## ***John Germann Recognized for Service***

John Germann, Vice-President of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society (USCS) was recognized during the organization's annual meeting on September 26, 2020, for his work in leading the USCS toward a more functional website. John received the society's York Briddell Award for his efforts.

The society conducted their Board meeting through Zoom. John report that website development was delayed by No. California fires that disrupted the developer.

**Houston Philatelic Web Site:  
<http://www.houstonstampclub.org/>**

# Dick Dowling

by John Germann

An Irish immigrant, whose family fled the potato famine, arrived in Houston in 1857 at the age of 19 and quickly established a very successful saloon business. Then, at age 23, Richard William "Dick" Dowling went off to fight for the Confederacy.

In 1863 he became a hero at the Battle of Sabine Pass where, in one of the few Civil War engagements fought on Texas soil, he routed a far superior Union force without a single casualty. He died in Houston of yellow fever not long thereafter. But he was enshrined in Houston's memories.

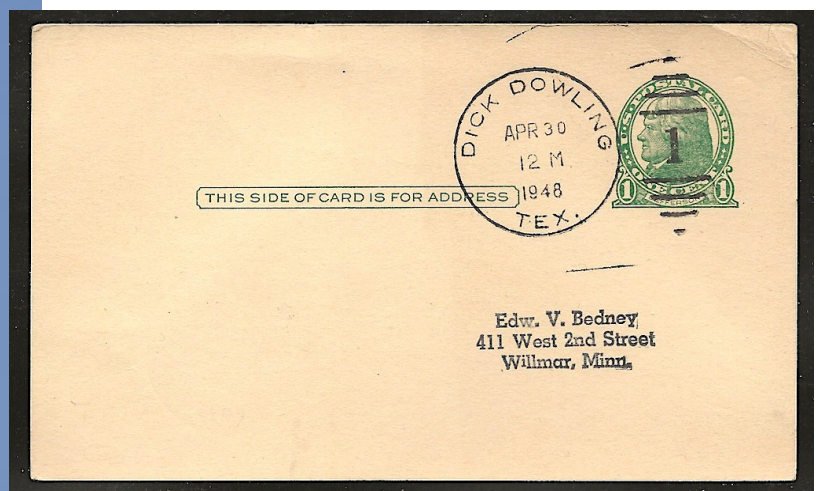
In fact, in 1905 Houstonians erected the city's first public monument and dedicated the statue not to Sam Houston, but to Dick Dowling. His fame and name recognition, however, have begun to fade rapidly.



In 2017, during a rising tide of anti-Confederacy sentiment, Dowling Street in Houston was renamed Emancipation Avenue - a move which received a lot of publicity. Unknown to most Houstonians, Dowling's name had been expunged some seventy years earlier in an incident related to matters postal, not political.

The postmark on the card below speaks to that. It puzzles most viewers at first sight. Even Texas historians have likely never encountered it, and if they went to traditional Texas history books or post office listings they would come up empty. The reason? The Dick Dowling postmark represents, not an independent post office, but rather, a **branch** of the Houston Post Office. Most branches have the word "Branch" or more likely the abbreviation "Br." in their cancel. But this one does not.

To make the puzzle even more difficult to solve, the name "Dick Dowling" was used by this branch in eastern Harris County for only 3 1/2 years, 1 Nov 1944 - 30 Apr 1948 (the card shown is a last day cancel). Houston postmaster Granville Elder submitted a 500-signature petition, backed by the Houston Chamber of Commerce and various service clubs, to change the name to the Greens Bayou Branch. Why? Because, as a spokesman explained: "Nobody knew where Dick Dowling Branch was. Now everybody will be able to find Greens Bayou Branch." His first sentence is more true than ever today.



## Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses ....

*Editor's Note: For the time being, as the world-wide Pandemic is ongoing and sheltering in place guidelines are in effect in many areas, this list is void of any upcoming stamp shows, however .....*

### ***Texas Stamp Dealers' Association Bourse Schedule***

The Texas Stamp Dealers' Association (TSDA) has posted a full compliment of Houston area bourses on their web site for 2021.

The bourses will all be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (Interstate 10, just west of the Interstate 610 loop), Houston, TX 77024.

The four weekend dates are listed below:

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| January  | 15-16 |
| May      | 21-22 |
| July     | 9-10  |
| November | 5-6   |

Theses are Friday and Saturday show dates. The bourse will not operate on Sundays. Hours are 10-5 on Fridays and 9-4 on Saturdays.

The TSDA web site is currently void of any visitor instructions for the January 15-16 bourse, but we anticipate that, before the show, the web site will be udated or there will be an email blast about details.

The November Houston TSDA bourse was held at the Crowne Plaza the weekend before the Mid-Cities Stamp Club Expo, so they have one pandemic era bourse under their belt. The November bourse saw a smaller number of dealers than previous bourses, but the dealer tables were suitably socially distanced.

During our visit to the bourse, the customers were responsible. All were masked-up as were the dealers. It seems that the stamp collecting community, at least here in Houston, perhaps because we are an older, more responsible group, are taking appropriate precautions to participate in the bourse.

Since the TSDA is giving us an opportunity to shop stamps in January, consider attending the Bourse, but mask-up and socially distance.

## Join HPS Weekly Virtual Meetings

by Steve Stewart

*Editor's Note: This article written by Steve Stewart originally appeared in our June– August issue, but is repeated so that members have the information on how to join the Zoom meetings.*

COVID-19 has made our regular in-person HPS meetings impossible, but many of us have continued to meet virtually using the Zoom application every Monday at 7:00 p.m. We keep the format informal with a question and answer session, a general discussion of club business and several members providing “mini-presentations”. If you have not joined a meeting in the past you are welcomed and encouraged to join us in the future.

Some members have had concerns about joining a meeting using the Zoom application because of security flaws reported in the media and others because of poor Internet connections at home. Regarding security, the issues that were reported early on regarding the Zoom application were actually the same issues we faced in an in-person meeting. There is a concern that anyone could “crash” a meeting, and for example, display inappropriate materials.

This is a risk we also faced when meeting at the church, anyone could walk in that door. There were other more technical concerns also. However, these issues have since been addressed by Zoom and while we keep our meeting open to the public, a person who wants to join the meeting must have a link to join.

A poor Internet connection is a bit more difficult to address. You do however, have options, if your home Internet speed is below 20 mps. Option one is to join the meeting on your computer but turn off your web cam so that you can see what is happening, but do not waste bandwidth broadcasting video from your computer. Another option is to join with your phone using your data plan to see and send video (assuming you have a smart phone). A third option is to call into the meeting using audio only. This last option will allow you to hear what is going on, but you will not be able to see the presentations.

If you have not received an invitation to our meetings and would like to attend, please send an email to Steve Stewart, Paula Pedrick or Jonathon Topper.



# The Bissell Letters

by Ardy Callender



One of philately's most important correspondences went up for auction in 1912 after the daughters of an Indian missionary decided to sell some of their father's inherited letters.

Born in Connecticut, Lemuel Bissell (1822-1891) graduated from Western Reserve College (1845) and the Seminary in 1848. Ordained on April 3, 1851, Dr. Bissell and his new wife left Boston sailing around Cape of Good Hope arriving in Bombay, India on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Bissell was stationed at Sirur, a small town east of Bombay where he worked for fourteen years. In 1861 he moved to Ahmednagar some 35 miles north-east of Sirur where he oversaw a school for catechists. In 1865 he was appointed secretary of the American Marathi Mission in Ahmednagar.

The Bissell correspondence consists of 100 covers, most of which were franked by higher values of Bank Note Issues. It includes five pairs of grilled 30¢ values which up until the time of the dispersal, only a few examples on cover were known. Over half of the covers were franked by 24¢ adhesives which were also quite uncommon on cover. The large numbers of 24¢ adhesives made up multiples of the 22¢ and 28¢ rates. There were three mail services to India (via Southampton, via Marseilles and via Brindisi) with rates as follows:

- January, 1870 to June, 1875  
22¢ per ½ ounce via Southampton
- January, 1870 to November, 1870  
30¢ per ½ ounce via Marseille

- November, 1870 to January, 1871  
36¢ per ½ ounce via Brindisi
- January, 1870 to July, 1875 (UPU)  
28¢ per ½ ounce via Brindisi
- July, 1875 to July 1876  
21¢ per ½ ounce via Southampton
- July, 1875 to July 1876  
27¢ per ½ ounce via Brindisi

One of the most uncommon rates found in the correspondence is the 27¢ rate via Brindisi. This rate was in effect for only a year and letters posted to Dr. Bissell ended in 1876. The example shown here is a double (27¢ x 2) 54¢ rate via Brindisi. The attractive craft paper cover is franked by a pair of 12¢ and single 30¢ Continental Bank Note Issue adhesives. Each is tied by a strike of a mute cork cancel with the Boston datestamp struck at center. Dated 25 January 1876, it is addressed to Rev. Lemuel Bissell, D.D., Ahmednagar, Western India. Docketed "via Brindisi" at upper left, it arrived in London 5 February 1876 as noted by the double strike of the London Paid at lower left. The large red manuscript "2" indicates 2d, the continental service credit. Underneath the two London Paid markings is a manuscript "220", which is the British credit in decimes (= 44¢) as the US retains 10¢ (double the 5¢ UPU rate). On the reverse are two backstamps: an Ahmednagar receiving dated 9 March (1876) and Brindisi transit (Sea Post Office) dated 8 February (1876).

## The Julia Lore Correspondence

by Ardy Callender

On the previous page, I wrote about an important correspondence addressed to Rev. Lemuel Bissell in Ahmednagar, India. A similar but less documented accumulation has appeared on the market but was dispersed slowly (privately?) over a number of years. The correspondence is all addressed to Miss Julia Lore and as the Bissell letters, sent to various cities within India.

Anna Julia Lore was born on 17 June 1849 in Buenos Aires to her missionary parents posted in Brazil. After returning to Auburn, New York, she left for preparatory work at Clifton Springs and medical college in Philadelphia. She attended the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor Michigan, receiving her medical degree in 1873. After spending a year refining her skills in Boston at the New England Hospital, she was accepted by the Woman Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church as a medical missionary to India in the spring of 1874. She sailed out of New York City on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1874 arriving at Mooradabad in December. Mooradabad is located in the northern part of India, close to the borders with Nepal and Tibet. It had a population of 62,417 in 1871.

The exact number of Lore covers is unknown to me but they appear somewhat frequently at auction due to their mix of high value or multiple stamps, unusual frankings and interesting usages (supplementary uses are known). Many were sent from Auburn, New York, assumingly from her parents, although others were posted from various Northeast towns. Most of the correspondence dates between 1874 and 1876, prior to her marriage to fellow missionary, Dr. George Harrison McGrew in 1876.

Two mail British services to India were available during the 1874/76 time period with rates as follows:

January, 1870 to June, 1875

22¢ per ½ ounce via Southampton

January, 1870 to July, 1875 (UPU)

28¢ per ½ ounce via Brindisi

July, 1875 to July 1876

21¢ per ½ ounce via Southampton

July, 1875 to July 1876

27¢ per ½ ounce via Brindisi

Much of the correspondence was sent to Mooradabad although Dr. Lore frequently visited other outlying villages. One such cover forwarded to Pindri Glacier is shown as Figure 1. The Pindri Glacier is located in the Kumaon Himilayas, close to the border with Nepal. Numerous small villages are located around the area and the letter which left Auburn, New York on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1875, apparently bounced around until locating her a month and a half later. Backstamps (see Figure 2) indicate after transiting Mooradabad on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, it arrived in Nainital the 25<sup>th</sup> (45 miles to the northeast), ending up in Almora on the 26<sup>th</sup> some 75 miles to the northeast at the foot of the Pindri Glacier.

The cover is franked by four 7¢ Continental Bank Note adhesives each canceled by a thick 3 ring target cancel. The Auburn, N.Y. datestamp struck at left is dated 17 August (1875). It is addressed to Miss Julia Lore, Mooradabad N.W.P. India. The sender docketed the envelope "American Mission" at upper left and "via Brindisi" at lower left.

It arrived at the NYPO foreign mail office the next day and received an 18 Aug. datestamp (with credit of 110 decimes) struck in red. Placed aboard an out-bound steamer, upon reaching London, a very weak, illegible London paid was struck just below the adhesives and a red "1d" representing the continental service credit (to Britain). In Mooradabad, the address was crossed off and forwarded to "Pindri Glacier via Almora & Bageswar, Kumaon".

The British contract mail service rate to India via Brindisi was 27¢. The cover is franked with 28¢ postage indicating a 1¢ overpayment. Consulting the rates shown above, it can be observed that the via Brindisi rate decreased by 1¢ on 1 July 1875. This was due to the implementation of the GPU (UPU) which set the international rate at 5¢, a penny cheaper than the previous British Treaty rate at 6¢. Apparently the Auburn postmaster (or Julia's parents) was unaware of the change, thus the overpayment. Britain was credited 22¢ of the total postage as indicated by the 110 (decimes) in the datestamp and the U.S portion was 5¢ (international GPU rate).

*(Illustrations shown on page 6.)*



### The Julia Lore Correspondence (continued)



Figure 1. Front side of letter posted to Dr. Julia Lore.

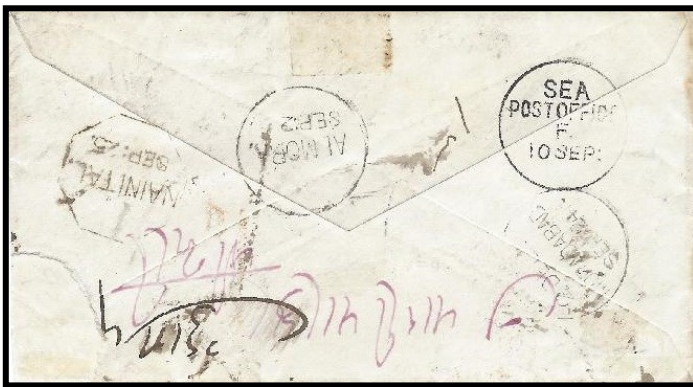


Figure 2. Reverse side of the letter posted to Dr. Julia Lore and shown above.

### Classified Ads:

Members may place philatelically related Buy, Sell, or Trade ads in *The Perforator* free of charge. HPS Dealer-Members may place free classified or feature ads in *The Perforator* at no charge as well. Member ads will run indefinitely until the advertiser requests a change or cancellation. Send copy to the editor.

**Wanted:** U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large banknote issue, 10¢ through 15¢ Washington/Franklin issues. Also, U.S. 19th century green cancels. David Willig, Houston, TX. 713-201-2042. [cbhz3@hotmail.com](mailto:cbhz3@hotmail.com)

**Buy/Sell/Trade:** Texas Postal History. Email John Germann or phone him at 281-493-3938. [jghist@comcast.net](mailto:jghist@comcast.net)

**U.S. FACE VALUE POSTAGE** - Offered at 50% of face. Order any amount from \$25 to \$300 Face Value and receive a mixture of 5¢ to 30¢ values. Clean and fresh material. Send order with payment to: Jonathan Topper, 10480 Grant Road, Suite 117, Houston, TX 77070. Stamps can be mailed to you or delivered at the next stamp club meeting.

**WANTED: Return Reply Envelopes** - with stamps, unused or used. Building my collection of Return Reply Envelopes with the objective of a presentation, display or exhibit on their use. These are the pre-addressed return envelopes usually enclosed with solicitations for donations, contributions, subscription renewals, etc., and usually included multiples or thematic stamps. Interested in all types, of any period. No reasonable asking price will be refused. Please contact: [RBajenski@Hotmail.com](mailto:RBajenski@Hotmail.com)

### A Word About The Houston Philatelic Society...

Enjoy the fun of stamp collecting by sharing your interests with fellow collectors at an upcoming HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY meeting.

When : **First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM**

Where : **West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd., Houston, TX**

Visitors and new stamp collectors are always welcome.

Officers: President: Paula Pedrick  
Vice-President: Rick Barrett  
Secretary: Jay Stotts  
Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne  
Past President: David Willig

GHSS Show Chairman: Ron Strawser  
Editor: Jay Stotts  
Webmaster: Jonathan Topper  
Program Chairman: Tom Herbert

Board of Directors: Richard Fruth    Ralph Chaiet    John Germann    Frank Senz  
Dave Nickson    Chuck Bianchi    Denise Stotts