

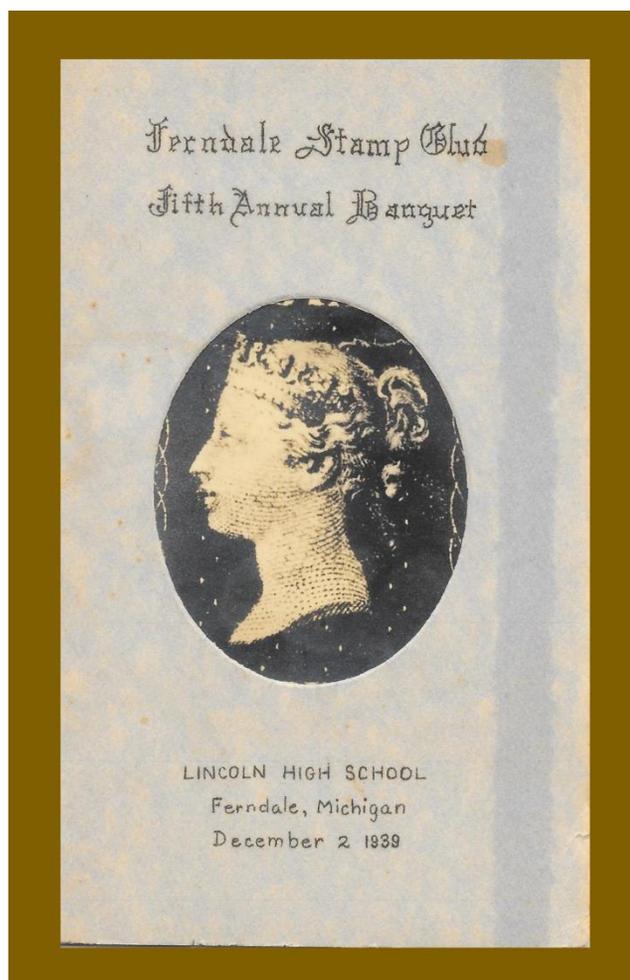


BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

April 2022

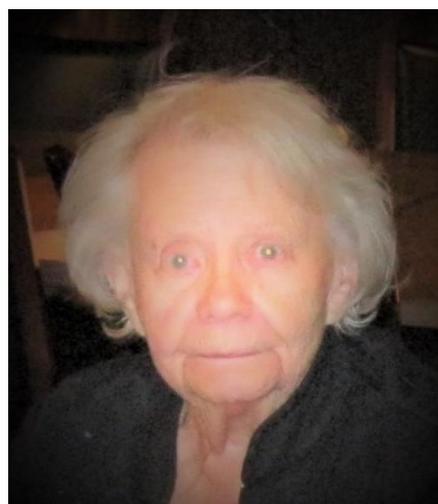
West Palm Beach, Florida, February 5, 2022:

1939 Ferndale Stamp Club document discovered at 25th annual West Palm Beach Antiques Festival in the South Florida Fairgrounds -



This Ferndale Stamp Club Fifth Annual Banquet program is a ten-page document that also celebrates 100th anniversary of first adhesive postage stamp, the "Penny Black".

The complete document is available at www.birminghamstamp.club in the "About Us" section.



***Remembering – Mathilda Archer
1929-2022***

Our Club made a small profit in February at FERNPEX 2022, despite a late opening issue. Thanks to Dana Markey and Tom Goldner for their March 15th presentations. The Club voted to donate \$25 to the APS "Mighty Buck Club".

Upcoming Events:

Club Meetings – April 5th & 19th at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham.

Modern Stamps Sale #500, April 9th at its Oak Park facility.

Plymouth Stamp Show, April 9th and 10th, at Hellenic Cultural Center, Westland.

BIRTH OF THE US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

BY DAN MADDALINO

Figure 1 is another one of my “by chance” finds. If one is not afraid to invest a lot of time scanning auctions and auction catalogs, plundering dealer dollar boxes and rummaging through “the cheap stuff”, one may, at times, acquire a nifty philatelic item “by chance”! This item is the front plate of a Mourning (Death) Telegram sent by the United States Military Telegraph Corps (USMT). It was used only during the US Civil War (1861-1865). Telegrams are a form of mail. They are found without postage (early usage) and with postage (later usage).



Figure 1: *Rare Mourning Telegram sent to Buckhannon, Upshur County, West Virginia during US Civil War. (Author's collection)*

During the Civil War, the practice of the Union Army regarding soldier deaths was to bury enlisted men wherever they fell and try to locate family after the war. Regarding commissioned officers, their families were notified of the death immediately by using a mourning telegram. Then their bodies were shipped back to their families as soon as possible after the death occurred.

The US Military Telegraph Corps was formed in October 1861 following the outbreak of the US Civil War. During the war, they were charged with maintaining communications between the federal government in Washington and the commanding officers in the field. During battles, the USMT had the dangerous job of building telegraph lines. Thus, the orders could be sent back and forth between general headquarters and the battlefield, and what happened during battles could be sent back to the USMT office in Washington, D.C.

The USMT took heavy casualties during the conflicts and once the war ended they were disbanded (February 17, 1865). For the next five years, various units and command centers maintained their own communications personnel. Their responsibilities also included weather observations. The Federal government took notice and decided to re-assemble this service.

Reborn in 1870 as the US Army Signal Corps (Figure 2), they followed the railroads westward and installed over 4,000 miles of telegraph lines. They then went on to distinguish themselves in every military action that the US Army participated in.

Thus, was born the United States Army Signal Corps (Figure 2)

Figure 2: *Fairport/NY/Jan 1 1885 War Department/ Signal Service (Author's collection)*

