



The Signevierist

Issue Number 2024-1

The Official Newsletter of the Fire Mark Circle of the Americas

President's Message

As you all know it is supposed to be Spring as of today March 19th, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring, but his prediction is off a bit I think, it has been cold and windy here in Arkansas the last couple of weeks in the upper 20's at night and only in the low 50's during the day with Northwest winds coming in around the 20-mph range with gusts a little higher. So, looking forward to warmer weather!!

Our Convention master Tom Hewitt has been working hard to get a convention off the ground for some time. He has chosen Baltimore, which should be good as many of our members live on the East coast. He is busy trying to get the Embassy Suites at the BWI airport who has agreed to a room rate of ONLY \$139.00 per night, good for three days prior and 3 days after the convention for anyone wanting to stay awhile and see the sites of the area. What we need now is for **ALL** members to let Bill Pope know if you are 90% sure you will come, please contact him by email, phone or text and let him know. The membership will determine if this convention happens or not. We must have a minimum of 25 members to keep the food and beverage covered. If in the next month or less if we can't get a solid commitment the convention will probably will not happen in 2024. **The convention dates are Oct. 10 to 12. with the banquet on Sat. night as always, so save the date.** The more people that commit makes the individual registration fee lower, we would like to keep it at \$200 to \$250, but that takes members committing and coming.

The last two years we have been doing bi-monthly board meetings by Zoom instead of only one board meeting per year held at the convention, which had been done since the founding of the FMCA. These have worked out very well. The board plans on continuing this for this year also. If you as a regular FMCA member, have anything you would like the board to consider or discuss please let a board member know or contact me to have it added to the agenda and there may also be a possibility we will invite you to sit in on a meeting to discuss your agenda item. The more members that participate the better it is for the organization.

Sincerely,
Dave Oldham, President



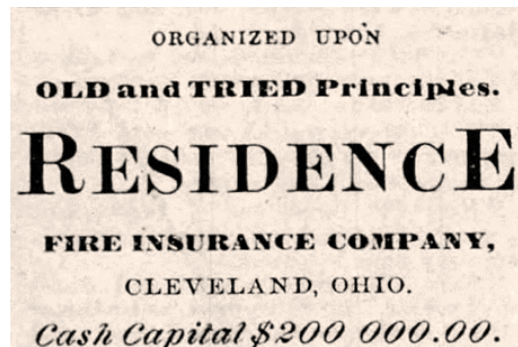
THE ABCs of AMERICAN FIRE MARKS

R is for the Residence Fire Insurance Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Bulau 444

The Residence Fire Insurance Company was chartered on August 8, 1873 and commenced business on December 17, 1873. Backed by \$200,000 of paid in capital, the Residence Fire signed up agencies in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

With the memories of the many insurance company failures from the Chicago and Boston fires still fresh, the Residence Fire's advertising used a variation of the "Old and Tried" motto of the Glens Falls Insurance Company and stressed that they operated under "Old and Tried Principles." That is, the \$200,000 capital of the Residence Fire wouldn't be subject to outside influences not contemplated by the policyholder. The Residence Fire only wrote fire and lightning and not windstorm or tornado. They did not provide any special policy forms, only basic insurance on farms and dwellings, and their contents. They did not write insurance on hazardous risks, risks in cities or transportation risks that were subject to losses caused by a ship sinking.

At a time when many mutual insurance companies were including premium notes as capital, the Residence Fire boasted its \$200,000 cash capital provided security for claims. In addition, as a stock company, unlike a mutual, there were no assessments to policyholders should there not be enough to pay losses.



It was a sound plan, not subject to catastrophic loss, and effective advertising. However, dwelling and farm risks were an overall profitable class of business and competition was intensive and dominated by large Eastern and foreign insurers. After three full years of moderate success, its assets on December 31, 1876 were \$245,500 with \$10,400 added to surplus, but its premium growth was declining.

In May 1877 the Residence Fire Insurance Company retired and reinsured in the Scottish Commercial Fire & Life Insurance Company of Glasgow, Scotland.

The Old Underwriter


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GOT BLOTTERS?

The following insurance agent ad is from page 4 of the December 16, 1910 Syracuse Journal and Republican-News:

I wonder if the blotters at their office looked like these blotters from my collection.

IN SUCCESSFUL OPERATION
FOR OVER A QUARTER
OF A CENTURY.



TECUMSEH
CHIEF OF THE SHAWNEES.

ASSETS
\$ 1,500,000.00.
LOSSES PAID OVER
\$ 2,500,000.00.

THE SHAWNEE FIRE INSURANCE CO
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

R. D. TOWLE, Agent,
WESTFIELD, MASS.



CAPITAL \$ 3,000,000.00

**NATIONAL
FIRE INS. COMPANY
OF HARTFORD, CONN.**

Shepherd & Haun, Agts., County Court House, Staunton, Va.

Since both companies issued fire marks, perhaps the agent had some old fire marks lying around the office?

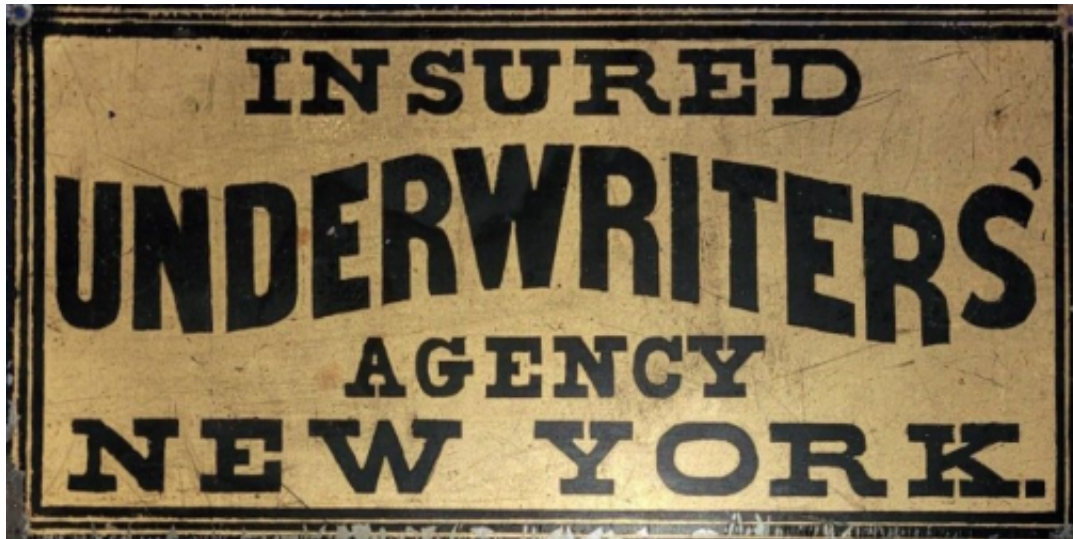
Bob Shea

MORE BLOTTER FUN!

A Black Draught.
A lady of Oakland last night administered a dose of writing ink to her sick husband in the dark through mistake, instead of a prescribed medicine, and he has been vomiting ever since. The only antidote we can recommend is about a bushel of insurance blotters.

FINALLY, A NEW VARIANT SURFACES!

We have not been able to add any new marks to the addendum for quite some time, so it is nice to add the following mark. It will be classified as US-NC-2 and differs from US-NC-1 in the border, size, and slight differences in font.



The addendum page will be attached for anyone wishing to print it out and add it to their book.

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Speaking of new fire marks, a new British mark has just surfaced. This is something that certainly doesn't happen often, so it is very exciting. Brian Wright, the author of "The British Fire Mark" is currently doing some research and will be sharing an article so keep an eye out as a future newsletter will have more information. Oh, and the mark recently sold here in the states for a whopping \$2,700!!

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SAVE THE DATE:

**2024 FMCA ANNUAL
CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN
BALTIMORE**

OCTOBER 10TH-12TH

