



# The Signevierist

Issue Number 2019 – 3

The Official Newsletter of the Fire Mark Circle of the Americas

## MORE THIS AND THAT

Over my years of research I have accumulated a number of fire mark and/or insurance facts that I have shared with the members. Below are a few more that I hope you will find interesting.

From *The American Exchange and Review*, Volume XXVIII, No. 6, February, 1876, p. 284. *Google Book Search*. Web.:

The Philadelphia underwriters insuring Independence Hall (other underwriters concurring) have protested against the proposition to reopen the steeple to visitors, such access to the steeple being an unnecessary increase of the fire hazard. Not only professionally, but as citizens, the underwriters ask that the honored and renowned edifice may not be fire-endangered beyond its normal degree. That the representatives of the Franklin, Insurance Company of North America, Pennsylvania, and Delaware Mutual ask the exclusion, will be accepted by intelligent people as satisfactory evidence of its necessity.

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From *The Chronicle*, Volume XI, No. 1, January 2, 1873, p. 10. *Google Book Search*. Web.:

The Springfield *Daily Republican* says that the prompt action of the directors of the Springfield Fire and Marine Ins. Co., immediately after the Boston fire, in calling for assessments sufficient to make the capital and insurance premiums good, was ratified in the most thorough manner by the stockholders. The assessment of 30 percent was voted unanimously, 3,590 shares out of 5,000 being represented. This action, coming so hard upon the Chicago assessment of 60 per cent, is a noble exhibition of New England pluck and commercial honor. The continued and increasing confidence of the public will be sure to reward this twice-proven determination of the company to maintain its soundness and integrity at all hazards. The indefatigable energy of this corporation is a matter of just state and local pride.

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From *The United States Insurance Gazette and Magazine*, Volume XII, No. LXII, January, 1861, p. 180. Hathitrust Digital Library. Web:

Hope Mutual Insurance Company of Philadelphia.—  
This Company have decided upon closing their business  
and are now paying back their unearned premiums, and  
cancelling their policies—the business not being a paying  
one. The action of the Officers and Directors of the  
Company is highly proper under the circumstances, and  
what the community should expect from all honorable  
Companies so situated.—*Tuckett's Ins. Journal*.

From *The United States Insurance Gazette and Magazine*, Volume XVIII, No. CIII, November, 1863,  
p. 39. Hathitrust Digital Library. Web:

**DUPLICATE POLICIES AND RENEWALS REQUIRE STAMPS**

Office of the Howard Ins. Co.

September 18, 1863

Hon. Joseph J. Lewis, Com of Internal Revenue

Sir,---- It is the custom among Fire Insurance  
Companies to issue duplicates of policies and renewals  
where the originals have been lost, or are held by  
mortgagees or assignees. Will you please to inform us  
whether such duplicates require the same stamps as the  
original policies or newewals have, and oblige

Your obedient servant,  
Henry A. Oakley, Sec.

**ANSWER**

Treasury Department, Office of Internal Revenue

Washington, September 22, 1863

Sir,--- Your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> instant has been received.  
In reply, I have the honor to state that duplicates of  
policies and renewals, where the originals have been lost  
or are held by mortgagees or assignees, are subject to  
the same stamp duty as original policies.

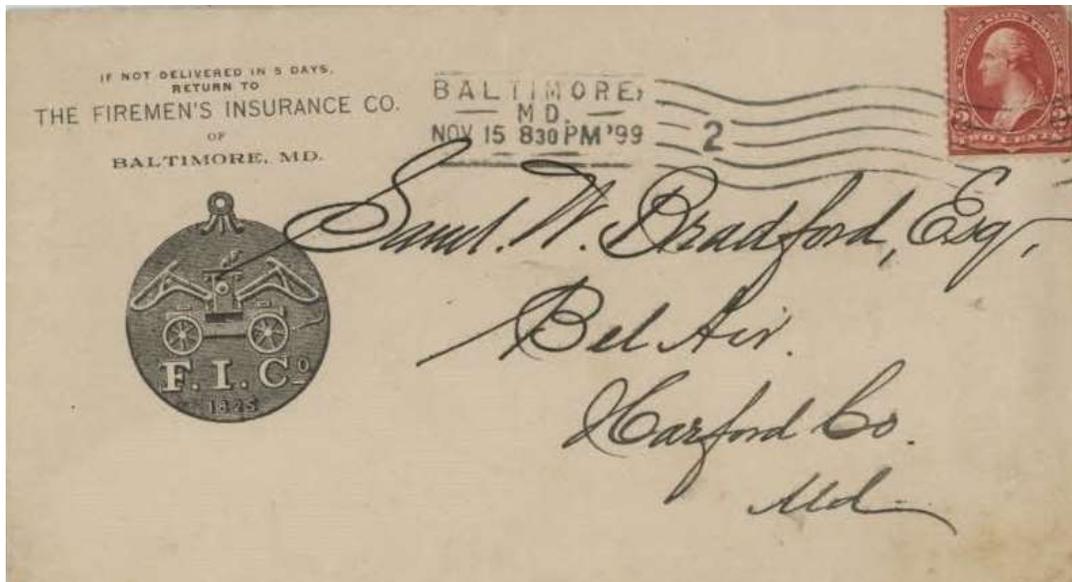
Very respectfully,  
E. McPherson, Acting Com.

To Henry A. Oakley, Secretary Howard Ins. Co., New York City

[At the time, fire policies required a stamp where the premium was \$10 or less of	.10
If the premium was over \$10 and not over \$50,	.25
Over \$50,	.50]

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## A NEW VARIANT?



The above envelope from the Firemen's Insurance Company of Baltimore pictures one of the companies fire marks, B117. What's different about this mark from Bulau's is that the mark on the envelope has the date "1825," on the bottom, which is the organizational date of the company. Is this a here-to-for unfound variant or the creation of an illustrator? Time will tell.

Bob Shea

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## 2019 CONVENTION - ALEXANDRIA, VA/WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 17 - 20<sup>TH</sup>

By now you should have received the registration form for our annual convention in Old Town Alexandria, VA, in the Washington, DC area, on October 17-20, 2019. If for some reason you have not received it yet, please contact Michael Brankowitz via email at [mbranko24@mac.com](mailto:mbranko24@mac.com) or phone at 302-562-9776.

Plans are under way to make this a memorable event for the members with activities such as:

- A short visit to the Friendship Fire Company Museum
- A private viewing of some of the Smithsonian's best fire marks! Be sure to bring a copy of INA's *American Fire Marks* to see some of the actual marks in the book. More information will be sent to attendees to enhance your visit.
- A private tour of the Washington D.C. Fire and EMS Museum.
- And of course, Linda Anderberg has already put together an amazing selection of items for the annual Auction including many fire marks that have never come up for auction before.

Since there is so much to do in Alexandria, many of us have already decided to arrive a day earlier on the 16<sup>th</sup> to take part in a guided walking tour of the area.

**Note-First time attendees: your registration fee is half-price!**

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# AFTERMATH OF THE CHICAGO FIRE

## To Policy Holders

At the Agency of

**J. C. Miller & Son,**

No. 12 Exchange Place,

*Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1871.*

Of the eight Insurance Companies represented by us, three, viz:—Security of New York, Charter Oak of Hartford, and Albany City, have suspended for the present at least, and our customers should no longer rely upon their protection.

Parties holding policies in the above Companies should immediately attend to their transfer into other good Companies which we represent viz:

|                                            |                     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Continental Insurance Co., New York, -     | Assets, \$1,900,000 |
| Phenix Insurance Co., New York, - -        | " 1,508,755         |
| International Insurance Co., New York, - - | " 919,151           |
| Enterprise Insurance Co., Philadelphia, -  | " 490,000           |

The above Companies are sound and worthy of confidence, as the figures above show their present condition after paying Chicago losses.

Please call at our office and bring your Policies.

J. C. MILLER & SON,  
*Agents.*

*We have insured you in another Co by order of Bank.*