

March 2020

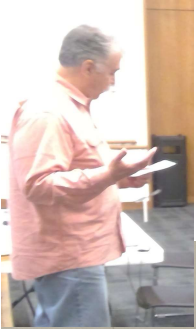
Volume 20 Number 03

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



Last month, Dave Schenkel gave a talk on **"Philately in Florida."** It appears that the Florida stamp clubs operate much the same way as the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs as to show location and dates.

We also discussed the possibilities of an auction and some future show participation.

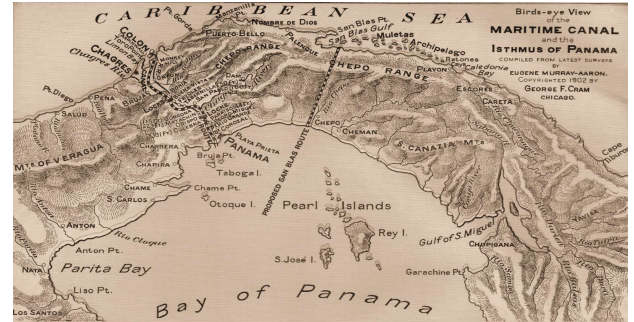
This month, the meeting has been cancelled due to health concerns related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency.



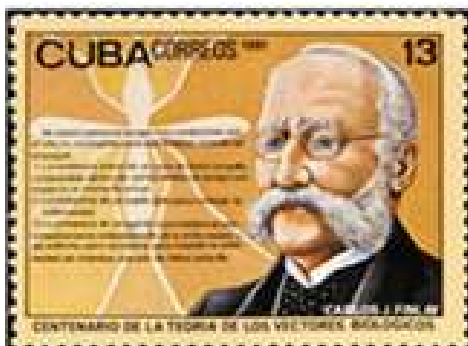
The April and May meetings are currently scheduled at the Grays Lake Library. On 28 April, we will hear about **"Errors"** by Bill Schultz and on 26 May, Jerry Dachs will present **"Youtube - a Philatelic Adventure."**

Disease and the Panama Canal — The Panama Canal is an artificial 82 km/51-mile waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.

France began work on the canal in 1881, but stopped because of engineering problems and a high worker mortality rate due to **yellow fever (virus)**, malaria (plasmodium parasite), and other tropical diseases, which killed thousands of workers; by 1884, the death rate was over 200 per month. Public health measures were ineffective because the role of the mosquito as a disease vector was then unknown.



At this point, three individuals entered the task to find the cause and eradicate the disease that had stopped work on this critical economic project, **Doctor Juan Carlos Finlay (1833-1915)**, **US Army Doctor Walter Reed (1851-1902)** and **US Army Contract Nurse Clara Maass (1876-1901)**.



Cuban born **Doctor Finlay** began his epidemiology studies in the 1870s, finally came to prominence in 1900. He was the first to theorize, in 1881, that a mosquito was a carrier, now known as a disease vector, of the organism causing yellow fever: a mosquito that bites a victim of the disease could subsequently bite and thereby infect a healthy person.

He presented this theory at the 1881 International Sanitary Conference, where it was well received.

A year later Doctor Finlay identified a mosquito of the genus **Aedes** as the organism transmitting yellow fever. His theory was followed by the recommendation to control the mosquito population to control the spread of the disease.

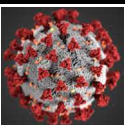
Treasures' Report: Total – \$3,383.82

Local Stamp Shows

ASDA Show
Holiday Inn Chicago Oakbrook
17 W. 350 22nd St.
Oakbrook Terrace IL
March 20 – 22 **Cancelled**

Rockford Stamp / Cover Show
Forest Hills Lodge Banquet
1601 West Lane Rd
Loves Park
21 - 22 Mar 2020 **Cancelled**

MSDA Milwaukee Stamp Show
Crowne Plaza Hotel Milwaukee Airport
6401 S. 13th St
Milwaukee WI
May 16 - 17



Next meeting:
CANCELLED

at the Warren-Newport Library
100 Library Lane - Grayslake IL 60030



Officers:

Dave Schenkel – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer



In 1896, **Major Reed** first distinguished himself as a medical investigator. He proved that yellow fever among enlisted men stationed near the Potomac River was not a result of drinking the river water. He showed officials that the enlisted men who got yellow fever had a habit of taking trails through the local swampy woods at night. Their yellow fever-free fellow officers did not do so. Reed also proved that the local civilians drinking from the Potomac River had no relation to the incidence of the disease.

Reed traveled to Cuba to study diseases in US Army encampments there during the Spanish–American War. Appointed chairman of a panel formed in 1898 to investigate an epidemic of typhoid fever, Reed and his colleagues showed that contact with fecal matter and food or drink contaminated by flies caused that epidemic. Yellow fever also became a problem for the Army during this time, felling thousands of soldiers in Cuba.

In May 1900, Major Reed returned to Cuba when he was appointed head of the Army board charged by Surgeon General George Miller Sternberg to examine tropical diseases, including yellow fever. Sternberg was one of the founders of bacteriology during this time of great advances in medicine due to widespread acceptance of Louis Pasteur's germ theory of disease, as well as the methods of studying bacteria developed by Robert Koch.

Yellow fever studies — Clara Maass (who served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War) went to Cuba in October 1900 after being summoned by William Gorgas, who was working with the U.S. Army's Yellow Fever Commission. The commission, headed by Major Walter Reed, was established during the post-war occupation of Cuba in order to investigate yellow fever, which was endemic in Cuba. One of the commission's goals was to determine how the disease was spread: by mosquito bites or by contact with contaminated objects.

The commission recruited human subjects because they did not know of any animals that could contract yellow fever. In the first recorded instance of informed consent in human experiments, volunteers were told that participation in the studies might cause their deaths. As an incentive, volunteers were paid \$100 (\$3,000 today), with an additional \$100 if the volunteer became ill (the British are now offering \$4,000 to individuals to help study the current Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic).

In March 1901, Clara Maass volunteered to be bitten by an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that had been allowed to feed on yellow fever patients. By this time, the researchers were certain that mosquitoes were the route of transmission but lacked the scientific evidence to prove it because some volunteers who were bitten remained healthy. Maass continued to volunteer for experiments.

On 1901 August 14, Maass allowed herself to be bitten by infected mosquitoes for the second time. Researchers were hoping to show that her earlier case of yellow fever was enough to immunize her against the disease. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Maass once again became ill with yellow fever on August 18 and died on August 24. Her death roused public sentiment and put an end to yellow fever experiments on human beings.



The risky but fruitful research work was done with human volunteers, including some of the medical personnel, who allowed themselves to be deliberately infected. The research work with the disease under Reed's leadership was largely responsible for stemming the mortality rates from yellow fever during the building of the Panama Canal, something that had confounded the French attempts in that region only 20 years earlier.

Although Doctor Reed received much of the credit in history books for "beating" yellow fever, Reed himself credited Carlos Finlay with the discovery of the yellow fever vector, and thus how it might be controlled. Reed often cited Finlay's papers in his own articles and gave him credit for the discovery, even in his personal correspondence.



The United States took over the project in 1904 and opened the canal on 1914 August 15. One of the largest and most difficult engineering projects ever undertaken, the Panama Canal shortcut greatly reduced the time for ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, enabling them to avoid the lengthy, hazardous Cape Horn route around the southernmost tip of South America via the Drake Passage or Strait of Magellan and the even less popular route through the Arctic Archipelago and the Bering Strait. — Source: Wikipedia



For more information stamp show/event cancellation, the APS website has a page:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/news/post/cancelled-shows-march-2020-update>



**Stay Updated:
Show
Cancellations**