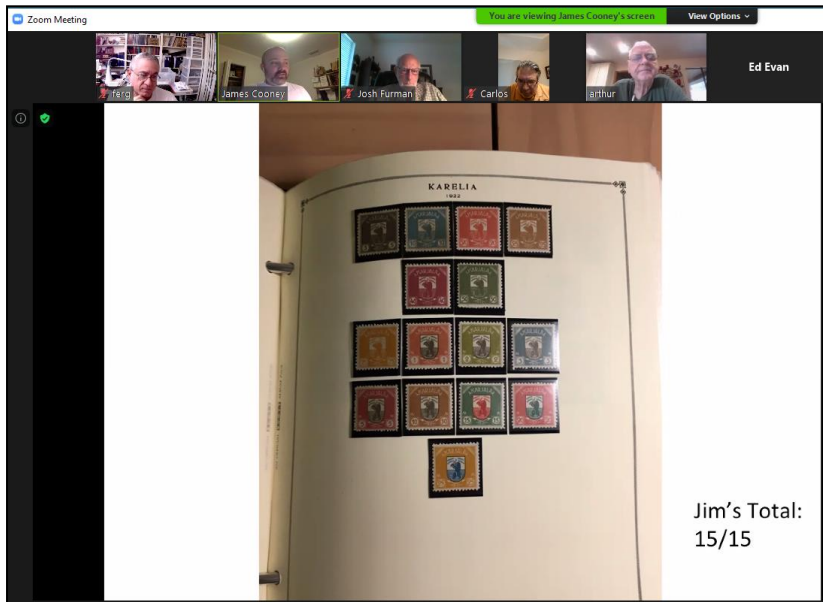


# September Meeting Reports

## Zoom It Is – For Now

by A. Stephen Patrick



There were 27 members at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Zoom meeting. **Gerald Freisinger** guessed the winner for the door prize with 92 (#99). Because Steve Patrick had an unstable internet, **Jim Cooney** had a substitute program ready on “One Page Countries.” From the first 100 years of stamps, there are many dead countries that fit on one album page. He showed 36 countries heavy on Italian and German states and long-ago colonies. Figure to left, Karelia, 1922; a very short lived postal issuing entity. Pretty looking stamps.

The September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was to be show and tell, but few members sent in items. We had 27 participants and **Gerald**

**Freisinger** won again guessing 55 on the nose. With few offerings, **Jim Cooney** issued a challenge for attendees to go to their collections and show one stamp that has many multiple examples. Within a few minutes, several members came forward. There was **Newt** with his 20 cent fire pumper stamps, **Josh** with hundreds of three cent Washington’s from 1932, **Steve** with thousands of Franco heads, **Henry** with loads of three cent Statue of Liberty heads, and **Dave Z** with numerous Queen Victorian stamps from 1864 to 1869 that he is trying to get a full plate. The challenge was met in a very interesting way.



## You Never Know.....

The Editor



When the newsletter was started in the spring of 2006, it was a tough job to get writers to submit material. Two of my first writers were Bruce McPherson and Stuart Bernstein, who faithfully provided material for most every issue. I have always appreciated their contributions during that rough start. Fast forward to early September of 2020, and I receive an e-mail from David Selig who lives outside of Paris, France. It seems that an article the Bruce McPherson wrote for the May 2007 issue was about his friend Danny Blumnethal. Danny was David’s great-uncle. David Selig was interested in communicating with Bruce to get more details about Danny’s great-uncle. Sadly, I had to inform him that Bruce died some years ago. The power of indexing of information available on the world wide web is truly stunning at times. I find the interaction with David self-affirming in my belief that accurate information is important. From across the Atlantic Ocean the CFSC has made a connection. To quote Mr. Spock, from *Star Trek* -- “Fascinating.” Danny Blumenthal is pictured to the left, provided by David Selig.

# Bellamy Letter

by Phil Eschbach

This folded letter was written from Charleston, SC on Dec. 2, 1831 and postmarked December 3, 1831 to my ancestor Abram Bellamy in Monticello, Florida. It was addressed to Tallahassee (scratched through) and forwarded (Tallahassee postmark type IVa) to Monticello on Dec. 13, 1831 - collect 25 cents for over 400 miles to Tallahassee, then collect 6¼ cents for not over 30 miles to Monticello. This is the earliest recorded 6¼ cent emergency rate from this office. The letter concerns cotton prices.



The letter was written by Richard Carnochan a merchant, who lived on East Bay directly across from Charleston's North Commercial Wharf. His store was located at 1 Crafts' South Wharf. He was born in Scotland in July 1783, immigrated to Charleston in 1813 at the age of 30, remained in Charleston as a shipping merchant, died in Charleston in July 1841, and is buried at First Scots Presbyterian Church Cemetery on Meeting Street. His tombstone at First Scots says, "born at Gate House of Fleet Galloway Scotland." His brother William operated a sugar mill and rum distillery at Darien, Georgia. Richard also had brothers in Savannah and Charleston.

Richard Carnochan's company was called CARNOCHAN & MITCHELL, with offices in Savannah and Charleston. The partnership consisted of Richard, his brothers John and William Carnochan, and merchant Colin Mitchell and his brothers. The partnership had a trade presence in Charleston, Savannah, and Cuba. Richard regularly advertised goods for sale in the Charleston newspapers from 1815 until a few years before his death in 1841. He sold a sundry of goods from London, the Bahamas, and Florida.

Among the items he advertised for sale over two decades were: hardware, sheet copper, kegs of refined London saltpeter, barrels of roman cement, linen gauze, baltic hemp gabbing, silk hats, cotton bagging, lots of madeira wine, high-proof Darien rum, brandy, Florida molasses, and a newly invented still (for making spirits) invented by John Sutherland in Liverpool and tested throughout the West Indies.

Either Richard or one of his brothers owned thousands of acres on the coastal Georgia/Florida border, part of what was known as the Forbes Purchase which stretched from Apalachicola eastward to the coast. Carnochan & Mitchell purchased the Forbes Purchase tracts in 1819 and 1820 then spent 16 years in legal battles to confirm their title, taking the fight all the way to the Supreme Court (Mitchell v. the United States), winning in 1835. Richard Carnochan advertised a 2,000-acre cotton, sugar and rice plantation for sale in 1825 and again in 1834 described as White Oak Plantation, with 70 slaves thereon and cattle and a sugar mill, located near St. Mary's (where the modern-day White Oak Conservation Center is located, in Yulee, Florida, just inland from Amelia Island). He also advertised in 1831, coastal Colonel's Island for sale just south of Brunswick, Georgia (just inland from Jekyll Island).

Abram Bellamy was the son of John Bellamy who built the Bellamy Road from St. Augustine to Tallahassee in 1826. Abram, an attorney, was married to Eliza Williams, my great-great-great aunt. In 1827, they settled on a 1,600-acre plantation called Nacoosa in Monticello which was given to them as a wedding present from Abram's father. Abram died in 1839. He had been selected several times to represent Jefferson County in the Territorial Legislature and was the only man to serve as president of the Council four times between 1825 and 1832. He and Eliza had seven children before he died in 1839, only 39 years old. He died from wounds inflicted from an earlier duel. Two of his daughters married two brothers who were great grandsons of Thomas Jefferson named John and Thomas Jefferson Eppes. They both fought for the Confederacy at the Battle of Olustee. John was a medic. After Eliza's father died, her mother remarried General Joseph Hernandez who was the first Territorial president. Eliza's brother became the first sheriff of Orange County and also the first lighthouse keeper at Ponce Inlet.