

CONNECTICUT POSTCARD CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2012

Board of Directors for 2012 are:

President – Morgan Hassenmayer 203-387-2877 email postcardlady@comcast.net

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Membership Secretary – Joanne Coykendall 860-828-5252

Show Chairman –

Newsletter Editor/Publisher – John Quimby 203-248-1556 email: pcjohn01@hotmail.com

Advertising – Open

The club meets 5 times a year on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the K of C Hall, 2630 Whitney Avenue in Hamden from 10am – 3pm.

The Remaining Meetings for 2012 are Apr. 15 Show at Holiday Inn,
June 17
Sept. 16
Oct. 21
Dec. 16 Christmas Meeting

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETINGS

Merrit/Wilbur Cross Parkway (Rt. 15) Exit 61 – North on Whitney Ave (Rt. 10) about 1 mile to K of C hall on the left.

I-91 to Exit 10 (Mt. Carmel/Whitney Ave.). Left (south) on Whitney Ave. (Rt. 10) about 1/2 mile to K of C hall on the right.

I-95 to either I-91 or Merritt/Wilbur Cross Parkway and then follow above directions.

Club fees were due on January 1st.

\$12.00 per person / \$18.00 for Family membership at the same address.

Your mailing label will indicate the year you are paid up through.

Send dues to: Joanne Coykendall / 344 Tollgate Rd./ Berlin, CT 06037.

Your prompt payments help to keep our costs down therefore anyone renewing before March 31st will be given a discount of \$2.00 making individual renewals \$10.00 and family renewals \$16.00. Thank you in advance for being a good customer

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings Connecticut Postcard Club Members.....Flowers are blooming, trees are budding and the signs of spring are everywhere. The onset of warmer weather also heralds in a multitude of postcard fairs and bourses and the **CPCC Annual Spring Show** is one of those highly anticipated events. This is our club's biggest event every year and I am encouraging each and everyone of you to mark your calendars for Sunday, April 15th and I hope to see you at the Holiday Inn North Haven for a fun day of collecting and camaraderie. We have an impressive slate of dealers scheduled to be on hand -----from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey as well as from our own state of Connecticut --- all eager to help you find postcard treasures to add to your collection. Bring a friend --- this is a terrific opportunity to introduce someone to our hobby in a positive and educational manner. Most importantly, this is our club --- so let's support this year's show with the kind of attendance that keeps everyone happy and coming back year after year. Your President, Morgan Hassenmayer

**Connecticut Postcard Club
31st Annual Spring Post Card Show**

Sunday, April 15th, 2012

**Holiday Inn – North Haven
201 Washington Ave., Route 5
North Haven, Connecticut
(Exit 12, off of I-91)**

**Free Entry for Club members 9:00 to 10:00 am
(memberships and renewals available at the door)**

General Public Hours 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

25+ Dealers * Plenty of Free Parking * Food on Premises

**For general Info & Dealer Inquiries Call Morgan Hassenmayer
860-319-4022 or 203-387-2877
postcardlady@comcast.net**

Admission \$3.00

With Ad or Flyer \$2.00

Gary Smith, a CPCC member for several years has written a biographical article on Arthur E. Albee, a long-time Torrington, CT studio photographer who briefly published postcards in the 1904/05 period. Gary, who was born and raised in Torrington and is a semi-retired college professor collects postcards of Torrington, both printed and real photo published between 1901 and 1914. Here is his article on Arthur E. Albee which will be printed in this and the next newsletter.

The Editor

ARTHUR ERVING ALBEE

11-28-2011

Arthur Erwing Albee was born July 2, 1851, in Hopkinton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, the son of Abner Albee, Jr. and Elizabeth Ann Walker.¹ His father, a native of Holliston, Massachusetts, was a home based boot manufacturer in Hopkinton, a town which by mid-nineteenth century emerged as the largest boot and shoe making center in the United States.² His mother, a native of Needham, Massachusetts, also had family involved in that craft.³ His paternal grandfather, Abner Albee, Sr. was an Hopkinton boot maker, born in 1788 at Medway, Massachusetts.⁴ In 1834, Abner Albee, Sr. was one of twelve jurors seated at the notorious trial of John R. Buzzell, indicted on charges of burglarizing and burning down the Ursuline Catholic Convent, at Charlestown, Massachusetts.⁵ In his book *Albee Family Records*, Robert Albee traced this family's American genealogy back to one Benjamin Albee who owned lots in Boston in 1640, became a freeman at Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1641, and removed to Medfield, Massachusetts, around 1655.⁶

In 1855, two years after grandfather Albee's death, Arthur E. Albee's parents moved the family from Hopkinton to Warwick, Massachusetts, where his father became foreman of a boot factory owned by Nahum Jones. Abner Albee, Jr. was appointed postmaster at Warwick in 1861 and served in that capacity until 1885. He purchased a sawmill there in 1870, and in 1874, together with his brother Asa, bought Captain Arlon Atherton's village store, a dry goods and grocery establishment, renaming it "Albee Brothers." The post office was soon moved to the store. Arthur E. Albee, then a boot factory employee, began to learn the retail trade. His brothers Alvan and Myron who also worked at the boot factory in Warwick, continued by 1900 the shoe and boot making craft at Orange, Massachusetts.⁷ In 1882, the Albee store, including the post office, was completely destroyed by fire. Like his father who served as a trustee of the Warwick library in 1874, Arthur E. Albee was a Warwick library trustee from 1877 to 1883. According to Charles A. Morse, *Warwick, Massachusetts: Biography of a Town 1763-1963*, "the Albee family, including Abner's sons Alvin [sic], Arthur, and Myron, played a prominent role in village life until after 1885."⁸

Arthur E. Albee and Eva Luanna Conant were married January 13, 1874, in Warwick, Massachusetts.⁹ The daughter of James A. and Mary E. (Adams) Conant, local farmers, she was born November 11, 1854, in Warwick, where the Conant line had resided since her great grandfather Josiah Conant came to Warwick in 1789.¹⁰ The Albee's only child, a male, was born and died at Warwick on April 25, 1878.¹¹ Arthur E. Albee was enumerated in the 1880 *U.S. Census of Warwick, Franklin County, Massachusetts*, as a "dry goods and grocery merchant," residing with his wife Eva, in her parent's household.

Not long after grandmother Hepzibah (Perry) Albee's death at Warwick in January 1886, Arthur E. Albee and his wife moved to Athol, Massachusetts. He bought out photographer

Alvin B. Harlow in 1888 and set up a photography studio at 45 Exchange Street, relocating to 422 Main Street in 1895.¹² He routinely advertised on the covers of the *Athol Directory*: “Albee, Photographer, Athol, Mass.” While at Athol, Albee was an officer in the Star Lodge F. & A.M., and a member of the Union Royal Arch Chapter. During the late 1880s and most of the 1890s his major business competitors were Albert E. Dunklee and Henry F. Preston.¹³ With three photography studios operating on Main Street in the same small town, Albee eventually sought out more promising geographical locations. The beginning and end of his Athol years were punctuated by the deaths at Warwick of his father, in November 1888, and his mother, in October 1899.¹⁴

On June 15, 1898, Albee purchased the camera equipment, negatives, and supplies of retiring long-time Torrington, Connecticut, photographer Frederick O. Hills, whose studio was located at 45 Water Street.¹⁵ During the next several months he continued to operate his photography studio in Athol while preparing his new Torrington studio for business at Hills’ former Water Street address. Albee sold his Athol studio in November 1898.¹⁶ His wife never made the move to Torrington. Arthur and Eva L. Albee were permanently separated shortly after the turn of the century.¹⁷

Albee’s selection of Torrington, Connecticut, for his photography business proved to be well chosen. In 1890, Athol and Torrington had populations of just over six-thousand. Both towns had experienced rapid growth during the previous decade; both were important centers of commerce and industry. But by 1900, Athol’s population was just slightly over seven-thousand, while Torrington’s escalated to more than twelve thousand. By 1910, increased immigration (foreign and domestic), fed by a growing national importance of its diverse industries, boosted Torrington’s population (town and borough) to the short side of seventeen thousand, nearly twice the then population of Athol.¹⁸

Throughout the 1880s and into the late 1890s, Frederick O. Hill was the most prominent studio photographer in Torrington. Other professionals, such as F. B. Mason, at 109 Water Street, and Albert H. Whitman, proprietor of the Bristol Photo Company, who followed, at 180 Main Street, came and went before the mid-1890s. In 1896, William T. Noad and William G. Brown established the Noad & Brown Studio at the same Main Street address as the former Bristol Photo Company. In taking over Frederick O. Hill’s photography studio in 1898, Albee was well positioned, with the Noad & Brown firm his only major professional competitor in Torrington until Noad’s death in December 1909. A month after Noad died, Albert B. Ford, a stationary engineer for the Torrington-Winchester Street Railroad Company, and a part-time home based photographer, purchased Noad’s photographic equipment and business, and established his studio at 129 Main Street, in Torrington, across from City Hall. There was another studio photographer who came to Torrington during the early Albee period, at the turn of the century. Gustave J. Knabe, a young German-born photographer in Jacksonville, Florida, established a photography business at 8 Water Street. Listed in the *Torrington Directory* in 1901, he departed almost as quickly as he arrived, as the 1902 *Torrington Directory* simply stated that he had “removed to Florida.”

A well respected portrait photographer, Arthur E. Albee was one of the earliest postcard publishers in Torrington, although his interest in postcards was short lived and coincided with initial public enthusiasm for the new medium of communication. The themes of the known postcards published by the Albee Studio curiously centered on animals, not with identifiable Torrington landmarks. In 1902, he and his young associate, Jeanne Bertrand, copyrighted six studio photographs, each exhibiting from one to three kittens in various poses. These black and white pictures, photographed by Miss Bertrand, were published no later than 1905 as unnumbered, undivided- back printed postcards. Their titles reveal either the name of the kitten, *Teddy*, or reflect the intended disposition of the group pose: *The Alarm; Besieged; On Guard; Sworn Friends; and We Is Brothers*. On the front of the postcards “Published by Albee Studio, Torrington, Conn.” is printed. The copyright notice (not commonly

seen on most early postcards) appears on the lower left side of each postcard picture, and reads: "copyright 1902 Albee & Bertrand." On the undivided-back side the words POST CARD are printed in plain style. Many of these postcards were saved in special albums as collector's items, most never posted by their enthusiastic purchasers. Around 1916, Frank W.K. Reed, of Bangor, Maine, used the undivided-backs of Albee and Bertrand's kitten postcards to advertise Reed's gift shops on Columbia Street and Cross Street, featuring postcards, novelties, and stationery. The printed advertisement boasted "the greatest line of Valentines ever displayed in Bangor with prices ranging from one cent to two dollars each." A former traveling salesman of picture frames, Reed started his firm in 1912, publicizing himself as "Maine's Leading Post Card Dealer, Wholesale and Retail," and labeling his enterprise "The Unique Store of the State."¹⁹ He went out of business in 1918 and moved to Portland, Maine, the following year, where, according to the *1920 U.S. Census of Portland, Cumberland County, Maine*, he worked as a "commercial traveler" [and vendor of] "gentleman's furnishings."

Another photograph published around 1905 as a printed postcard by the Albee Studio, was copyrighted in 1903 by Lewis F. Hull, then a Torrington policeman and Albee associate. Titled *'Tis Home Still*, this black and white postcard features a tribe of goats and a dog foraging inside the ground level foundation of what once was a house. Neither the partial structure, nor its location, is identified. As with the kitten postcards, the copyright notice appears in the lower left frame of the photograph. The credit line, "Published by Albee Studio, Torrington, Conn.," is located on the lower left corner of the postcard, below the photograph. The font of the letters forming the words Post Card on the reverse, is identical to the font utilized on the kitten postcards.

In 1909, Albee moved his studio to 34 Water Street. That May, he was granted a patent from the United States Patent Office for inventing a device for attaching pictures to walls.²⁰ But new horizons were stirring. Anticipating an alternative career opportunity, he sold his photographic equipment to Eugene Kaufmann on September 20, 1910. Charles A. Taschner, an assistant photographer at Albee Studio, then leased the equipment from Kaufmann that same day and took over the studio.²¹ The following March, Albee became manager of a Main Street, Torrington, brokerage office in the Meara block, an agent for the Wall Street firm of G. Edward Graff.²² His detour into stocks and bonds, however, was brief, and in June 1912 he repurchased all of his photographic equipment from Kaufman and resumed his business at the same Water Street address.²³ Taschner soon left Torrington and returned to Brooklyn, New York, later relocating in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he established the Colonial Studio.

Albee grew roots in the Torrington community as a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church and Seneca Lodge #55 F.M. & A.M. He took an interest in community affairs and was never timid about expressing his opinions on salient national and local issues. On June 17, 1916, the *Torrington Register* reprinted a letter to the editor, published a day earlier in the *New York Tribune*, in which Albee announced he was no longer opposed to the Republican Party presidential candidacy of Charles Evans Hughes because he "expressed himself in clear, understandable language after his nomination." "Being an ultra-American is good enough for me," Albee noted. Writing against the background of World War I, Albee additionally observed that he did not "see the necessity of the *Tribune* to antagonize all Americans of German descent." To do so, he mused, would drive many of them away from their inclination toward the Republican Party. In another letter to the editor of the *Torrington Register*, published on July 13, 1920, Albee, with tongue-in-cheek, congratulated Torrington politicians for deviating from a national trend toward improving the aesthetic appearance of public parks, and embracing crass profit motives by considering approval of commercial advertising on park benches and fixtures inside Coe Park. With this in mind, Albee then requested that the Board of Wardens and Burgesses grant him a permit to construct a thirty seat capacity circular bench near the center of Coe Park. In the middle of the circle a pole fifteen feet high would

rise. Atop the pole a circular banner would fly, containing the legend in eighteen inch letters, "Albee, Photographer." Above the legend would appear the figures of the (then) popular cartoon characters, Mutt and Jeff.

On the evening of February 28, 1915, a fire that originated inside the Albee Studio consumed the wooden frame upper stories of the Butler Block on Water Street. The Torrington National Bank and several nearby businesses were slightly damaged as well. At the Albee Studio everything was in ashes, including many "irreplaceable photographs" and "fifteen thousand negatives."²⁴ Albee had been photographing a series of portraits of Torrington's professionals. He had just finished his portfolio of town physicians when the fire erupted and consumed his work. Within a period of four months Albee reestablished his business at South Prospect Street Extension (south of Water Street), on land and in buildings leased to him by the George L. Lilley Company. In July 1915, notice of his new studio was published in the *Bulletin of Photography*, a weekly professional magazine.²⁵ The *Torrington Evening Register* noted that he had built "a modern, fully equipped photography studio there, with complete photo developing and finishing services in the basement," adding: "His ability as an artist is well known."²⁶ Albee's first assignment in his new quarters was to photograph a group portrait of the members of the Board of Wardens and Burgesses. His studio address from 1921 to 1928 was listed in the *Torrington Directory* as 24 South Prospect Street.

Arthur E. Albee enjoyed a long and distinguished career in portrait photography. His later years, however, were pitted with setbacks and disappointment. In 1915, his sister, Manilla H. Albee, came from Warwick, Massachusetts, to live with him, and died in Torrington in April 1917.²⁷ In December 1923, the interior of his studio was damaged by a chemical fire.²⁸ Walking across Main Street, near the center of town, he was struck and injured in June 1926 by an automobile driven by Judge Frank Buonocore, and he failed to prevail in his subsequent lawsuit.²⁹ In 1930 he was forced by financial circumstances to sell his mortgaged buildings.³⁰ In May of that year the U.S. Bond Company, in a *lis pendens* action, foreclosed on his Daycoeton Place property.³¹

Albee was last listed as a photographer in the *1929 Torrington Directory*, the same year that he moved to 148 Prospect Street. Caught in the onslaught of the Great Depression, he struggled to earn a living in 1931, at the age of eighty, as a "canvasser"- a door-to-door salesman, peddling made-to-order men's clothing. Daily, in all seasons, he covered the streets of Torrington selling his goods. In late December 1935, Albee, still going from house to house, caught cold. A week later, on January 5, 1936, he died at his residence.³² Albee received a Masonic funeral and was buried in an unmarked grave at Hillside Cemetery. He was survived by his youngest brother, Myron A. Albee, of Orange, Massachusetts. In September 2007, concerned Masons placed a marker on his plot. It reads: "Arthur E. Albee 1851-1936, Torrington Photographer." Following the installation of the plaque, members of Torrington's Seneca Lodge #55 performed a Masonic ceremony at the gravesite.³³

NOTES

1. Robert S. Albee, *Albee Family Records* (1920; repr., Salem, Mass.: Higgenson, 199?) 70.

2. *Vital Records of Holliston, Massachusetts to 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1908), 17. The boundaries between Hopkinton and Holliston were not established until 1835. See also, the *1850 U.S. Census of Hopkinton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts* (separate household enumerations for Abner Albee, Jr., and his father, Abner Albee, Sr.).

3. Albee, *Albee Family Records*, 69.

4. *Vital Records of Hopkinton, Massachusetts to 1850* (Boston: New England Historical Genealogical Society, 1911), 20. Much of the Albee information in this volume is based on family records in the possession at that time (1911) of Manilla H. Albee, of Warwick,

Massachusetts. The code [PR 102] that appears with some Albee entries, references Public Record 102, on page 12 in the above cited volume, which credits Manilla H. Albee and her "Abner Albee" records as the source of the coded information. Manilla H. Albee was Arthur E. Albee's sister.

5. *Trial of John Buzzell Before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts for Arson and Burglary in the Ursuline Convent at Charleston* (Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Medcalf, 1834), 2 (verbatim transcript of court record, *Commonwealth v. John Buzzell*, Middlesex [October Term 1834] at Cambridge) For a contemporary account and analysis, see Nancy L. Schultz, *Fire and Roses: The Burning of the Charleston Convent, 1834* (Boston: Northeastern Press, 2000). The trial of John Buzzell, brick mason and leader of the rioters, exemplified from start to finish both procedural and substantive anti-Catholic bias. Increased immigration to the United States, especially Irish and German Catholics, led to an early anti-Catholic backlash that soon coexisted with a growing nativist movement.

6. Albee, *Albee Family Records*, 1-2.

7. Abner Albee, Jr. and Elizabeth Ann Walker had four children: Manilla H., Alvan L., Arthur E., and Myron A. Albee. Members of this family were enumerated together in Warwick, Franklin County, Massachusetts, in both the 1855 and 1865 *Massachusetts State Censuses* (FamilySearch.org, database on-line) and in the 1870 U.S. Census of the same. For reasons unknown, the family was not listed there in the 1860 U.S. Census. In the 1865 *Massachusetts State census*, Manilla, the eldest child, was enumerated as a "postmistress." Alvan, the second eldest, was listed as a "bootmaker." Arthur and Myron were still "at home." In the 1870 U.S. Census, both Alvin and Arthur were listed as working at the "boot factory." Myron, the youngest child, who was born at Warwick, was still in school. By 1880, Myron was married and had his own household in Warwick, where he was enumerated in the U.S. Census for Warwick that year as a "boot factory" worker. By 1900, both Alvan and Myron Albee were married and living with their wives and children in separate households in Orange, Massachusetts. In the 1900 U.S. Census of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, Alvan Albee was enumerated as a "shoe cutter," and Myron Albee as a "shoe shop" laborer.

8. Charles A. Morse. *The Town of Warwick, Massachusetts- Biography of a Town 1763-1963* (Cambridge, Mass. : Dresser, Chapman, & Grimes, 1963), 163-164; see also, 170-171, 173, 239, and 275 for references to the Albee family in Athol.

9. Town of Warwick, Marriage Record; *Gazette and Courier* (Greenfield, Mass.), January 19, 1874.

10. Town of Warwick, Birth Record; Marilyn Allred, comp., *The Town of Warwick, Franklin County, Massachusetts- Genealogical Records 1739-1900, Births, Marriages, Deaths* (Cloverland, Calif.: By the author, 2000), 67,69.

11. Town of Warwick, Death Record; Albee, *Albee Family Records*, 70.

12. Dick Chiasson [unofficial Athol town historian], "Early Photographers of Athol and Vicinity" (1980), p. 2. Unpublished typewritten summary of information on local photographers, extracted from early newspapers housed at the Athol Public Library.

As a young man, Alvin B. Harlow worked at a photography gallery in his native Randolph, Vermont. Before coming to Athol, Massachusetts, in the mid-1880s, he was a photographer at Bristol, New Hampshire. After leaving Athol in 1888 he established a photography studio at Ware, Massachusetts, and moved to Marborough, Massachusetts in 1906. By 1910 he was proprietor of a steam laundry business in Southbridge, Massachusetts, and was still in the laundry business at Charlton, Massachusetts in 1920. Harlow died at Charlton in December 1929 (Town of Charlton, Deaths, December 12, 1929).

THE CONNECTICUT POST CARD CLUB

Our 58th year

2012 CPCC MTG. DATES

Mar. 18 - Club Meet at K of C

Apr. 15 - Show at Holiday Inn


June 17 - Club Meet at K of C

Sep. 16 - Club Meet at K of C

Oct. 21 - Club Meet at K of C

Dec. 16 - Christmas Meet at K of C

We're looking forward to seeing you on **Apr. 15th** at the Holiday Inn for the Show



**POST CARD
& Ephemera Center** at Brimfield Acres North
BRIMFIELD PAPER & POST CARD MARATHON
❖ **THREE GREAT SHOW WEEKS IN 2012** ❖
MAY 4 TO MAY 12
JULY 6 TO JULY 14
AUGUST 31 TO SEPT 8
NEW OPENING TIME **10 A.M.** CLOSING **6 P.M.** DAILY
FREE ADMISSION (Except on Tuesday)
(On Tuesday Field Show Day- WE OPEN AT 1PM)
THE POST CARD & EPHEMERA CENTER
BRIMFIELD ACRES NORTH FIELD on Rte. 20
West end of Brimfield, Mass. toward Palmer
Modern Indoor Space (Heated & Air Conditioned)
Featuring Supplies for Dealers & Collectors, Price Guides, Postcards, Trade
Cards, Old Books, Stamps & Postal History, Maps, Magazines, Posters &
Prints, Advertising Items, Antique Smalls and All types of Printed Ephemera
For more info, directions, dealer inquiries, etc.
Phone (203) 592-0192 E-mail: cartophilians@sbcglobal.net
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