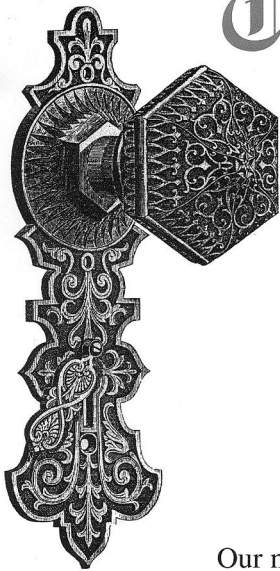


# The Doorknob Collector



Number 118

March-April 2003

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

## New Jersey Visited

By Maud Eastwood

Our newsletter editors need look no further than their own state to document evidence arguably proving New Jersey to have been, historically, the most involved state in the Union, per square mile, to engage in industry directly or indirectly related to all phases of builders hardware trade.

Or, for that matter, in literally any endeavor going on, or 'front-line' on the East Coast, be it political, social, or industrial.

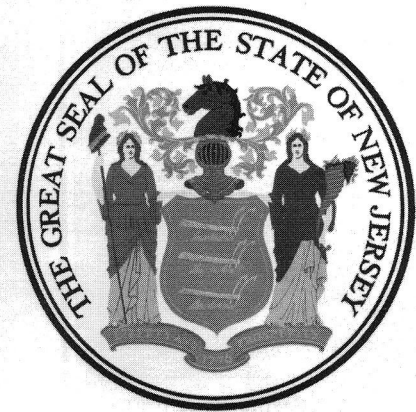
For hard to impress readers, review the material in The Smithsonian Guide to Historic America, The Mid-Atlantic States and the Messages and Paper of the Presidents.

New Jersey, the fourth smallest state in size, was also the heaviest traveled-through state in the Union, hemmed in as it was between Philadelphia and New York City. On the good side, nature had endowed her with a wealth of raw materials enabling her to become characterized as 'the heart of the industrialized eastern seaboard.'

The Duke of York 'created' New Jersey in 1664. In 1787 it became the third state to ratify the Constitution. Ultimately provided battlegrounds for both Revolutionary and Civil War. No sir, this was not just any state. It was the home of events and of stamping grounds for personalities who would shape the future of the state and their country, entrepreneurs who gave the world the unheard of, the undreamed of, the likes of Edison and Einstein.

George Washington shuttled back and forth across the state, Joseph Bonaparte, exiled King of Spain, established himself in magnificence in Bordentown when Pennsylvania refused him land ownership. World famous Water Scott Lenox of Trenton was the first American potter to produce china deemed worthy of gracing an American president's mansion. Thus, the 1,700-piece service presented to Woodrow Wilson in 1918.

To drop a few more names, this was the state of Paul Robeson, Walt Whitman, Arron Burr, Thomas Paine, Joyce Kilmer, and Alexander Hamilton. Princeton was founded in 1746.



### Newsletter Deadline - Friday, April 18, 2003

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## New Jersey Visited

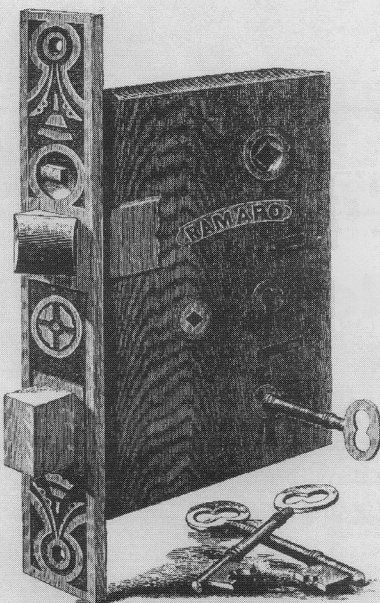
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New Jersey Firsts: 1825, the first American made steam wagon. One hundred four years later, the state boasted the nation's first cloverleaf. It is the home of the first motion picture studio. The Newark Museum, one of the country's most prestigious is open to the public. All of this is well and good - very impressive. However, what of involvement and records regarding ADCA's primary interest, door hardware in all its forms and mediums? Glass, pottery, wood, composition and metal? They were not slack. Caspar Wistar opened the first successful glass factory in America in 1739 in Salem county, New Jersey. The South Jersey tradition in glass refers to hand blown glass.

Let other states' glass houses mechanize their processes, New Jersey gaffers valued the artists touch. Also, from South Jersey came glass of color: aquamarine, amber, green and opaque white. The Jersey Glass Company of Jersey City, making glass from early 1800 and the Whitney Glass Works of Glassboro were among the important factories of long record among the dozens of smaller establishment. Blown glass knobs, small and footed, to large, hand-cut beauties from this state are found in collections.

The first New Jersey pottery was made at Burlington in 1688. Pottery had been made in Trenton from the time of the Civil War. By 1879 Trenton listed 29 sepa-

rate plant operating an aggregate of 153 kilns. Considered to be one of the two leading



pottery centers in the country at the time, the two were credited with producing half of all pottery used in the U.S. Significant potters at Trenton included the Greenwood, New Jersey, and Trenton Potteries. South Amboy was also the home of multiple factories.

New Jersey was a state of inventors and developers. Celluloid was important following the civil War. Yes, doorknobs were made of celluloid. By 1910 New Jersey was the largest iron producing state in the country. In the 1740s the iron mines around Ringwood in this state's Ramapo Mountains began producing. Eventually, this venture became the Trenton Iron Co. (The Lock Museum displays a lock bearing this company's name and the patent date of 1866.)

Note: The name, Ramapo, in the previous paragraph was of special significance to one

our members, Charles Bednar, a collector for all the right reasons. Finding Ramapo embossed on the face of one of his locks started a non-productive search. Finally, he offered his two meager clues for others to follow. The clues? The name had graced the bow of the USS RAMAPO, a Navy ship, as pictured in a National Geographic issue, and it was the name of a mountain range in northern New Jersey.

The key to unlocking the puzzle was the mountain range, its iron ore mines, and the setting up of a company foundry on the Ramapo River flowing out of that range. In time, that company became the celebrated, high-quality Hopkins & Dickenson Manufacturing Company with works at Darlington and its

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Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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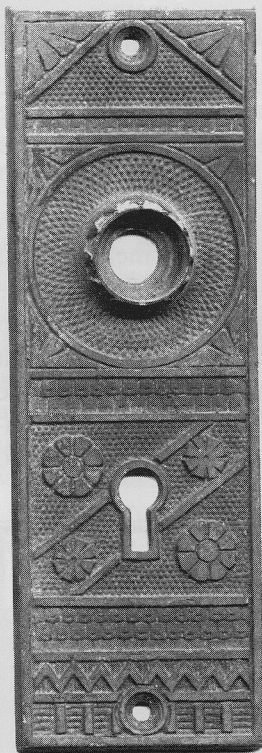
office and showroom on Reade Street in New York City. This is a company whose hand-made locks and trims graced federal and other important buildings nationwide.

The Ramapo name and lock first appeared in the 1897 catalog of this famed company as an addition to their line of hand-made locks. Described as being in no way inferior for their stated use, then were the top-line locks they joined for their use. The Ramapo was designed for inside doors of no more than 1-1/2 inch thickness. What is the significance of the use of the name, Ramapo? Apparently it is because of the use of iron (a first for H&D) in the lock works, 'Iron Bolt and Latch with Bronze Head'. Problem solved.

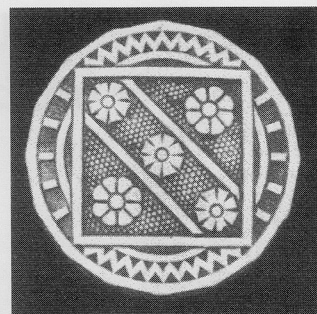
Among New Jersey's inventors was lockmaker, Henry C. Jones, who according to Thomas Hennessy of the Lock Museum, patented a number of smaller, varied use locks during a 20 year period during the 1830s to the 1850s. The H.C. Jones Co. was located at Newark. Of interest, then, was Steve Menchhofer's noting that one of his Rockingham glazed knobs with a metal shell shank was inscribed on the underside with the initials H.C. Jones. The dates of lockmaker Jones' involvement coincide with the production dates of Rockingham glaze knobs with metal shanks, known to have been made by a number of potteries. Was H.C. Jones the patentee (or assignor) of a patent for that particular type of shell shank?

Later New Jersey-based hardware manufacturers (1870 - 1880s) largely featured specialty type door hardware or innovative types of door fastenings. Consider the Gilbert knob and its lock, manufactured in Newark, also Joseph Bardsley and his ornamental wooden knobs. In 1865, Skillman Hardware Manufacturing Company was listed simply as Skillman Lock Co. in 1892 and they also offered wooden knobs.

William H. Dibble manufactured his composition knobs at Elizabeth, 1875-1877. The Trenton Lock & Hardware Co. in 1887 offered a large assortment of drop escutcheons, hinges and knobs.



Also at Newark were the "J.H.W." Climax Co., Lancaster & Co., and Phoenix Lock Works. F.C. Linde was located at Creskill. The knob and plate shown here were made by F.C. Linde Co.



For the reader who may wish to follow other leads, consider contacting the Allentown Historical Society, Box 328, Allentown, NJ and the New Jersey Bureau of Archives and History State Library 18 SW State Street, Trenton.

## Corrections and Clarifications

The following is a correction to the article, *The Latest Word on Bennington Knobs and Their Look-a-Likes*, in the last TDC (#117). On page 2, the right column, the date was listed as post-1885 rather than post-1858 as corrected below.

Was there a possibility metal-shanked Rockingham knobs were all products of **post-1858** production, and thus potted elsewhere?

### Fenton Flint Enamelware Clarification

Additionally, on page 1 under the illustration a clarification of Flint Enamelware needs to be made.

Characteristically, Fenton's Flint Enamel Glazed knob designs were rich in color from flowing metallic salts, giving the appearance of mottled agate or clouds as they covered the surface of the white body to a greater or lesser de-

gree. These colors have sometimes been applied to a Rockingham glazed knob in a second firing

## Attend a Convention!

By Cheryl Blam

Ever Thought, "Why Should I Attend a Convention?"

I wonder if there are many of you members out there, that have said, "I wonder whether I should attend one of these conventions?" and then didn't for whatever reason. Well, I can only tell you from my perspective, getting to know so many other doorknob collectors, has given my hobby more depth and meaning that would not otherwise be there.

I remember my first convention, and how welcome everyone made us feel. I was so anxious to trade with anyone who would talk to me. Charlie Wardell and I could not put a trade together, as I certainly didn't have anything of value that he wanted. He offered instead to purchase my knob, and said, "I'm sure you have second one, right?" I said, "No, but I can always find another one", very naively. I was so new at this hobby, I was sure I could. Well, Charlie and I still laugh when we see each other at how cavalier I was, but you know, he was the first person I ever traded with, and he has been the dearest friend because of that trade. Every Christmas, we get a card made from paper he has made

himself, and inquiries on how my hobby is progressing.

Ed and Flicka Thrall and Win and Carol Applegate worked along with Norm and I to host a convention here in the East one year. Because of that experience, Ed sent me through the mail a wonderful bird nest in the trunk of the tree because he knew I am also a bird lover. They don't get any better than that in my book. At some point of any convention the Applegate's and Blams try to have dinner together because of that experience. Poor health has kept the Thralls from attending the last few conventions and they are missed by all.

How can anyone in this club not say something about Maude Eastwood? Her friendship has been a "Treasure" to me, and all of us have wonderful memories because of her.

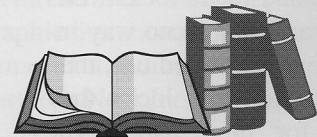
I wish I could go through each and every member that has enriched my life because of going to that first doorknob convention. I hope all that know me because of these conventions realizes how important their friendship is to

### In Memoriam

Gunilla Joslyn (#542), wife of Allen Joslyn, died on January 25, 2003. She has been an active member of the ADCA for many years, having attended many conventions. We extend our condolences to the family.

me. I appreciate your knowledge, and friendship and all that we share when together.

I only want to encourage all of you who may be thinking about going to a convention, to take that first step, and attend. Your life will change, I promise you. Why? Because of the wonderful people you will meet.



## From the Archives

Now that we've settled into our routines again, we thought we might tell our new members what an asset our Archives catalog copies are. We offer to sell these copies to our membership once a year to aid collectors in educating themselves about their hardware.

Identifying the manufacturer of the door hardware is a big plus. Most members like to know who made their hardware and when it was offered for sale. Some members like to know how many related pieces were made in the same design, or what sizes the doorknobs came in or what type of finishes were available. The catalog copies can help in all of the areas.

We had a good response to our 2002 order campaign. A lot of new members ordered catalog copies and we know they will benefit from doing so. Thanks to all who placed orders.

*Barb and Steve Menchhofer,  
Co-Archivists*

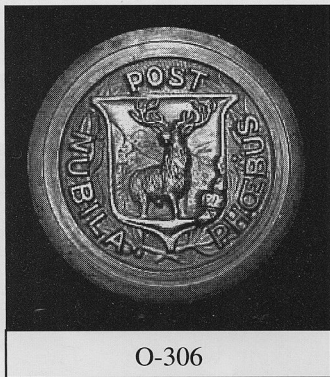


# Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

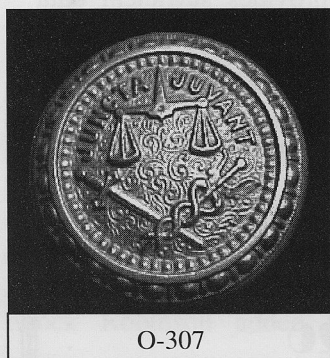
## Identification Information

By Len Blumin

Issue #117 of *The Doorknob Collector* featured ten knob designs in the Emblematic or "O" series. We requested help from the ADCA membership in identifying certain of the patterns shown. I'm happy to report that we received a number of replies, and I want to particularly thank Steve Menchhofer, Charles Bednar and Lincoln Charles.



Steve identified O-306 as the seal of the City of Hartford, Connecticut and O-307 as representing the seal of the



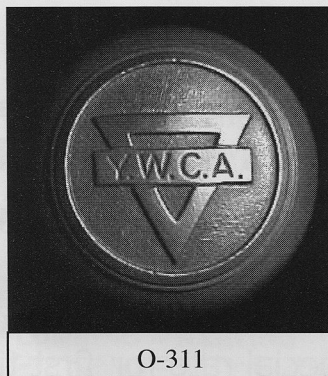
City of Cincinnati. Steve also pointed out, as did several others, that O-311 does not contain the YMCA motto be-

cause it is not a YMCA knob, but rather the emblem of the YWCA, who we guess chose not to show their motto on their emblem, or at least not on this doorknob!

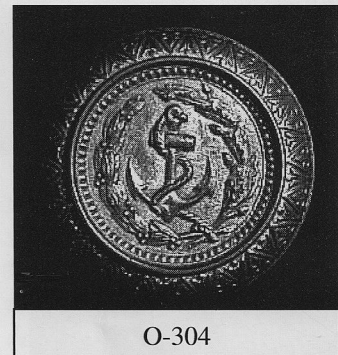
Charles (Chuck) Bednar wrote a note taking us way back.



He once found a pair of the O-309 No.1 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. knobs and shared them with Jim and Lee Kaiser. The Kaisers wrote to a friend in New York, who researched the building with the help of the N.Y. Historical Society and wrote back to the Kaisers. It seems that the building was the "No. 1 Fifth Avenue Hotel" and was built in 1928 on property owned by Sailors Snug Harbor. The



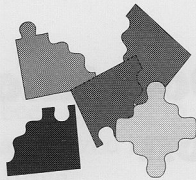
building was apparently sold to New York University in 1975 for use in university functions and as housing for visiting professors. A developer acquired the property around 1980 and converted it into exclusive condominiums. We might speculate that the beautiful doorknobs were liberated during the conversion. Thanks Chuck for passing on the info, and to Lee Kaiser for initiating the search over 20 years ago.



Lincoln Charles not only wrote about O-304, attributing the origin to a U.S. Navy building, but he sent along a bronze reproduction of the knob made by his company, which specializes in making fine reproduction hardware for historical buildings and restoration projects. The knob is now a paperweight on my desk.

Victorian Decorative Art has always been a product of the work of many individuals, and the latest input carries on that tradition. Thanks again to all who responded to the article.

# Bits and Pieces



By Win Applegate

Work has begun on the updates to the "Revised Victorian Decorative Art. After a new camera and lighting stand and approval of the results from our graphics person who composes the pages, we are underway.

Much thanks for their patience goes to early contributors the Harry Parkhursts, David Sherk, and Joe Mueller. We expect to offer fairly fast turnaround on knobs shipped to us. Our goal; is 200 knobs, currently not shown in the initial publication.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have often heard "It is not like the 'old days'. It is harder and harder to find great knobs." Well, I suspect that this has always been true. In



A-203  
Mallory Wheeler 1882

this day and age the Internet is the source of choice. During recent months, knobs that have appeared on the Internet (EBAY) have included a pristine "Standing Indian" – A-203, several different 'Lions' and a footed Lion (Web Wilson auction).

Recently a very rare 'Lion' with a unique, but familiar foot was obtained because the buyer was known and traced though an EBAY transaction. More on this at another time.

Personally, I prefer the open-air Antique show because the atmosphere is tough to beat.



A-209 (walnut)  
Mallory Wheeler 1882

Recently, we have heard of a brass "Steamship" A-209 being acquired in a trade for a doll (\$100). While it is known that at least one is in the possession of an ADCA member, this knob is so rare that the VDA shows a wooden carved knob, not a brass one.

\* \* \* \* \*

Is the Internet "The cat's Meow" today? Well, maybe! One thing has not changed over the years; dishonesty is still in abundance. Being one who is a rather frequent participant in EBAY auctions, I was rather alarmed when I received a notice from them that my 'credit file' was not in order. The email went on to offer a "click here" opportunity to go directly to a site where I could correct the information. Checking the return addresses, I found that they appeared to be EBAY sites and addresses.

Beginning the process, I reviewed the information requested. I could not remember ever providing the credit card information. Soon, the very official form asked for Social Security Number, date of birth and finally, state driver's license number. Without entering any information, I contacted EBAY through their web site. The answer? It goes by the tame name of "spoofing". This is a poor moniker for a felonious act. These are not real EBAY addresses and, obviously, the ploy provides sufficient data to steal your identity.



**CAUTION IS THE WORD**

## 2003 ADCA Convention San Antonio, TX – July 16-20

Consider attending even if you haven't come before!  
This year there is a special rate for first-time attendees.



# Dorine Van De Putte and the Argillo Doorknob

By Maud Eastwood

Dorine Van De Putte of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania was delighted we doorknob collectors scheduled our 2001 convention in her town. Interestingly, Dorine was not an ADCA member, much less an aspiring member. Nevertheless, she arrived at the convention on visitor's day carrying a doorknob in hopeful anticipation, wishing to gain information about the one and only knob for which she bore sentimental attachment. This knob had been resting in her house for nearly twenty years.

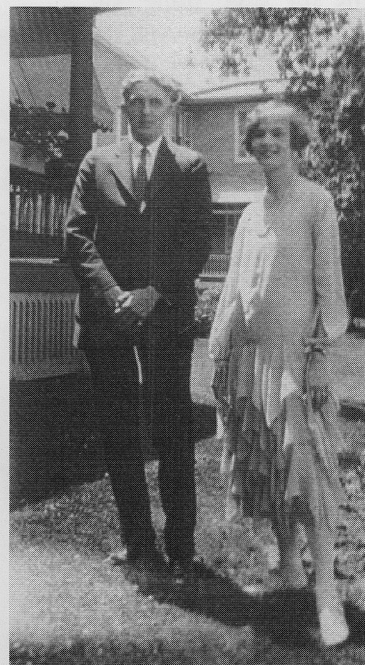


The knob's identification? Argillo Stone. Thus named by patentee John Paige Pepper. This was a knob of glass body, hard for a layman to recognize, and produced for a limited number of years around 1850. Though of comparatively short life, the Argillo was highly touted. Enock Robinson added the

Argillo to his line, filling an order of 26 octagon pair for the U.S. Treasury building in 1864.

The knob's origin? The knob came from the hardware store built in 1927 at Pillow, PA by Dorine's parents, Arlie and John Witmer (posing here in 1925). Sixty-two years later it was closing through a public auction and the knob was included in the items to be sold. It is not that the knob had been mounted in the store for use, for that was not the case. This particular knob had been one among a few antique hardware items that Dorine had fancied when the store's contents were auctioned off. Note the store's letterhead below, especially the phone number in the 1930s.

Dorine saved her treasures as mementos of the days she and her sister clerked in this typical small town hardware store. The customers could find everything from kegs of nails to appliances, to antiques. Antiques? Yes, in the 1930s and 1940s Dorine's father would sometimes trade with customers for partial payment on modern merchandise or wiring services. Her parent would also attend auctions and buy items to add to



the store inventory. She envisioned her stash to ultimately be labeled and displayed for their children and grandchildren as a visible link with the past.

What Dorine was unaware of in coming for information to our convention was the gift that she was giving to us. Her search for information and her subsequent sharing of the knob's source benefits those of us attempting to chronicle the manufacture, distribution and use of such 'blips' on the doorknob scene. It is information like this that fills in the blanks in our knowledge.

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## The Doorknob Exchange

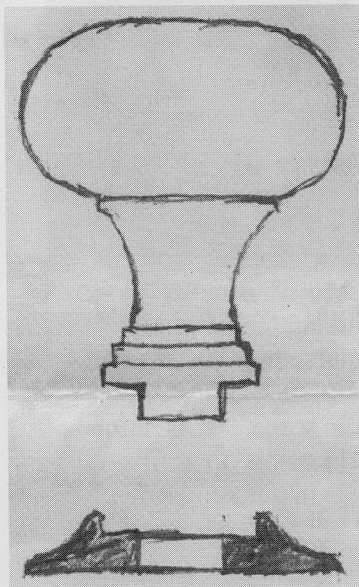
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

### Wanted:

Victorian Interior Speaking Tube with Porcelain Mouth-piece.

A Cremona Bolt, a door bolt that slides into the floor or concrete; any length from 6 to 8 FEET, can open from either the left or right side. It would be a plus if it included a striker. Victorian style preferred.

Small brass doorknob and rose pictured below. Knob is 1 5/8 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches projection. Yale X#320 is marked on the back of the rosette.



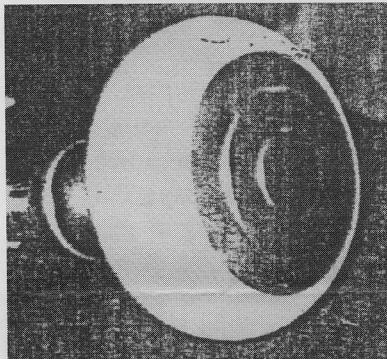
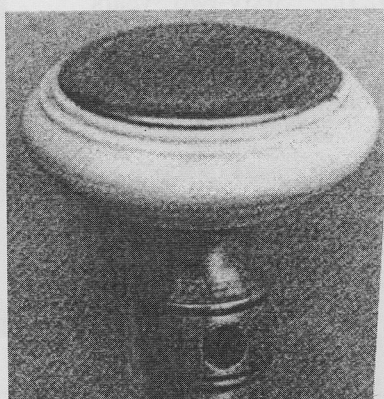
Need 4 Cast Iron Victorian Window Lock Keepers. 2 1/8" long x 1/4" wide. (shown at right)

Need 4 Cast Iron Drawer Pulls – 3" screw hole to screw hole.

Need many Japanned finish single gang push button switch plates.

Need many Japanned finish electrical outlets.

Plastic (composition or celluloid) ivory knob – brass center, either flat face or concentric circles, brass shank. Need many, either pairs or singles (shown below)



Vicky Berol (#450)  
2527 Gough Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 771-9899  
sfgofer@yahoo.com



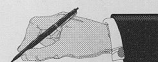
## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined the ADCA since our last newsletter.

696	Alphonse Pieper	Homer, NY
703	Barbara Ridenour	Livingston, AL
704	Edward Friedman	Tarzana, CA
705	Scott Larmay	Oconto, WI
706	Jill Gonzalez	Bellaire, TX
707	Kitt Brown	Troutman, NC
708	Nancy Ketchman	Milwaukee, WI
709	Peter Downey	Berkeley, CA

## Keep in Touch

Mail:



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(973) 635-6993

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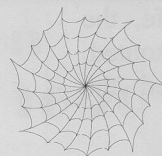
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**News**