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# The American Peace Society

FOUNDED IN 1828

WAS INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS IN 1848.

## PURPOSE

“To advance in every proper way the general use of conciliation, arbitration, judicial methods, and other peaceful means of avoiding and adjusting differences between nations, to the end that right shall rule might in a law-governed world.”—  
*From the Constitution of the Society.*

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Largely through the efforts of one man, William Ladd of Minot, Maine, the American Peace Society was organized May 8, 1828 at the home of David Low Dodge in New York City. It united some fifty local peace societies which had been organized in several states. Headquarters of the American Peace Society, first located in Boston, Massachusetts, were moved to Washington, D. C. in 1911.

Mr. Ladd was the first to advocate a Congress of Nations and a World Court. In the 1830's the Society offered a cash prize for the best essay on “A Congress of Nations,” which resulted in a large volume, published by the Society in 1840, and circulated widely here and abroad. In 1873 the International Law Association resulted from the efforts of the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Miles, assisted by David Dudley Field and others, travelling in Europe.

In the 1880's the Society was instrumental in promoting the movement for convening the first International Conference of American States, which laid the foundation for the Pan American Union.

Since 1895 the Society has organized many large congresses at which leading statesmen and scholars have given addresses.

Through its representatives it has cooperated with other like-minded organizations, and since 1920 its Secretary has been also Permanent Executive Secretary of the United States Group of the Interparliamentary Union.

## LITERATURE

Much of the best literature of the Peace Movement was originally produced for meetings of the Society, -e.g. addresses by William Ellery Channing, William Ladd, Ralph Waldo Emerson (Essay on War), Charles Sumner, William Jay, Elihu Burritt, Norman Angell, as well as Foreign Ambassadors and our own Senators and Congressmen.

The Society has circulated many pamphlets from the beginning, and it has published at least four times a year, since 1828, a magazine, now called WORLD AFFAIRS, to inform and move public opinion toward the “tranquillity of order” among nations. WORLD AFFAIRS welcomes constructive comments and proposals for world order and peace. It neither sponsors nor censors any of the views expressed by its writers.

The Society owns and maintains a special collection of five thousand books on international relations now in the custody of the American University, and open to persons who wish to use the books on the premises.

The American Peace Society, under the terms of its charter, is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit-making organization, free from motives of private gain—the first of its kind in the world.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

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BENJAMIN H. WILLIAMS

VOL. 122, No. 2

SUMMER, 1959

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Founded 1828

1307 New Hampshire Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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### THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE ARCH

Dedicated to Everlasting Peace Between Two Nations, this Arch of Peace in contrast to the Victory Arches to commemorate wars, was erected in 1921 on the United States-Canadian boundary at Blaine, Washington. It commemorated over a century of peace. At present the Peace Arch is the only monument of its kind in the world.

Above its peak are two flagstuffs, one flying the Stars and Stripes, and the other the flag of Canada. Engraved at the top of the structure, on the United States side, are the words, "Children of a Common Mother"; on the other, facing Canada, "Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity." On the inside walls are two open iron gates bearing the inscription, "May These Gates Never Be Closed."

In the base are bronze tablets depicting the Pilgrim ship "Mayflower" and the "Beaver," the first steam vessel to navigate the Pacific, and metal caskets containing a piece of the Mayflower itself as well as historic documents and film describing the friendship between the United States and Canada. During the years of association there has been neither fort nor soldier guarding the 3000-mile boundary from Atlantic to Pacific!