

MUTUAL AID SOCIETY RIBBON



What is this ribbon?

This ribbon was worn by a member of the Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique, which was a club in New Hampshire for French-Canadian immigrants and their families.

The club was a mutual aid society, which means it offered help and support for French-Canadian immigrants in New Hampshire who were struggling, maybe because a family member had gotten sick or lost a job.

The group also hosted events like parades, concerts, and festivals. These events helped French-Canadians preserve their heritage so their children wouldn't forget their traditions. The club also helped new immigrant arrivals get settled in New Hampshire. And the club was very social, helping French-Canadians make friends and feel part of a community.



Notice & Wonder

- Look closely at the detailed image, showing the center of the badge. Describe what you see in this detail. Are there American symbols and French-Canadian symbols on the badge?
- What clubs are in your town? Who joins them? What do they do? Why do you think people form clubs?