

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

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Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER FIFTEEN YEARS OLD

This is issue No. 45 of this newsletter. Since we go to press three times each year, this completes this newsletter's fifteenth year.

The format and content have not changed much. These columns provide news of the Society and occasional news of community developments of interest to history buffs. We continue to reproduce selections from diaries, journals, letters, minutes of organizations, and newspaper articles. The editor writes short articles on local historical topics.

Please contact the editor if you have suggestions for changes or additions to the style or content. We also urge you to provide items for publication, either selections that you have found interesting or short articles on local history that you have written.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 24th went very well with Charles Plummer acting the part of Solon Chase in "Them Steers and the Greenback Party."

All officers were re-elected, except that Susan Sturgis became an honorary director and the position of recording secretary remains vacant. If you are interested in serving as a director or as recording secretary, please contact Michael Lord or David Young.

MUSEUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

President David Young has appointed a committee to plan the Society's needs for museum, library, and archival space if it joins a proposed co-operative venture to establish a museum-art-cultural facility in Lewiston-Auburn. This was described in our February newsletter.

The committee members are Douglas Hodgkin, David Kolb, Douglas Hall, Hazel Wightman, and Dennis Stires.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECOGNITION

On May 6, Maine Preservation, a statewide advocacy organization, announced Historic Preservation Honor Awards to the City of Auburn for restoration and rehabilitation of **Auburn Hall** for use as the city building and to **Day/Garcelon/Johnson House** in Auburn for historic preservation and stewardship. Of the only eleven awards, two were in Auburn.

On May 19, the Lewiston Historic Preservation Review Board issued certificates of recognition to the Maine Court System for the renovation of the **Music Hall/Frye Block** (71-87 Lisbon St.) as a new District Court building, to the legal firm Hardy, Wolf, & Downing for façade work on **Odd Fellows Block** (186 Lisbon), and to Paul Poliquin for façade work on the **Jacques Cartier Building** (277 Lisbon).

NEW BOOK: FRACTURED FAMILY

Douglas I. Hodgkin has published a new book entitled *Fractured Family: Fighting in the Maine Courts*. It is an account of the case *Brackenbury v. Hodgkin*, which was decided by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in 1917.

The case concerned an intra-family dispute about ownership of the family homestead in South Lewiston. Several other local court appearances grew out of the family feud.

The book describes the incidents in the feud and analyzes issues of the "unilateral contract," elder care at the time, and the difficulties that courts face in dealing with family disputes. This is placed in the context of Lewiston's history in the early twentieth century.

The book is registered as a part of the Androscoggin Historical Society's publication list. If purchased from the Society, the organization receives two dollars for each book.

The book is available for \$12.00 plus sixty cents tax at the Society's office, the Book Burrow, and Mr. Paperback, as well as from Hodgkin. If you need to have it shipped, please send a total of \$15.00 to Hodgkin, 9 Sutton Place, Lewiston, ME 04240.

CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC

“The Free Will Baptist Sabbath School at South Lewiston, with several Schools from Lisbon, Sabbattsville and this place [Lewiston], with a large number of their friends, held a social picnic in the grove near the ‘Clough Meeting House,’ Thursday last. By request of Capt. J. S. Garcelon, Marshal, the Auburn artillery was present to escort the procession to the grounds which had been fitted up beautifully for the occasion. The tables were loaded with the good things of life for which the ladies in that place are proverbial for providing. The gathering was a perfect success – everything passed off to the satisfaction of all present. The speaking was appropriate, and singing excellent; in short, the South Lewiston people are hard to beat. They return their thanks to the officers and members of Auburn Artillery for the interest they added to the entertainment.” [Source: “Picnic at South Lewiston,” *Lewiston Falls Journal*, 19 Aug. 1859, 2.]

LEEVE AT AUBURN HALL

“There will be a social levee at Auburn Hall next Saturday evening, Feb. 21st. Music will be furnished by Johnson’s Cornet Band. Oysters will be served in the gallery, and will doubtless be found extra palatable, as Cook is caterer on the occasion. Ice creams, fruit and confectionary will likewise be furnished. Tickets only fifteen cents. “Come and be merry,” say the posters, and if a fine promenade with a pleasant company and delicious music make us not merry, what will?” [Source: “Levee at Auburn Hall,” *Lewiston Daily Evening Journal*, 18 Feb. 1863, 3.]

STARS AND STRIPES FLYING

At news of the firing on Fort Sumter, there was a great outpouring of patriotism reflected in local news stories:

“We, this morning, threw out the ‘Stars and Stripes’ from the window of our office. Major Frye also displayed them from the Post Office; and the Selectmen of Lewiston from their office. The Lewiston Light Infantry and the Auburn Artillery both fly the flag of our union from their flag staffs. The flag is also flying from a staff on the Academy ground. Nearly all our places of business have flung out the Stars and Stripes and the ‘red, white and blue.’ Everything is alive with excitement and men on all sides are hurrying to enlist. Major Frye [age 58], Postmaster of Lewiston and a leading Breckinridge democrat, says he will send a son, and would go forward himself, did not illness in his family forbid. Get the blood

of Maine up and she will cling to the old flag through all the battles the Fates shall decree. The news of this morning has excited our people to the utmost. We have never witnessed anything like it. The whispering pines are roaring for war like a thunderbolt.

[Source: “Stars and Stripes Flying,” *Lewiston Daily Evening Journal*, 20 April 1861, 2.]

LEWISTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

This is a continuation of the list commenced in the February newsletter of Lewiston residents who were members of the Lewiston, Danville and East Minot Temperance Society:

Male Members	Female Members
Nov ^r 13. 1828.	November 13. 1828.
William Hatch	Abigail Pettengill
James A. Field	Jane Field
Enoch Emerson, removed	Agness Anderson
Isaac C Thompson	Julia Ann Gorham
Joseph Frye	Betsey Reynolds
Isaiah Stanford removed	Caroline Frye. now Tobie
Benjamin Ford D ^o	Mary Frye -
Benjamin Graffam	Susan Farnham
David Davis 2 ^d expelled	Sarah Gorham
Elbridge Mooar	Elizabeth Thompson
William R. Frye	Anna B. Ham
January 9 th 1829.	December 15. 1828
Jona. Mccorinson expelled	Laura C. Thorn
March 1. 1829	March 1. AD 1829
Henry Davis	Anna Davis
Amos Davis 2 ^d	Salley Golder
James L. Trufant	Olive Thorn, now Turner
Levi C. Randall	Alice Thorn. now Given
Samuel Turner Expelled	Anna Golder -
James Turner expelled	Jerusha Davis. now Merrill
David Tarr - D ^o	Anna Wilkins
James Field remoovd	Ruth Davis deceased
David Harris	Sarah Field
Joseph Ford removed	Alice Turner
Stephen Lake	Laura Randell
Benjamin H. Thorn removed	Lydia Lake
Noah Litchfield	Mehitable Davis
Barzilla Rand remoovd	Mehitable Wilkins
Samuel D. Rand	Feb ^r 1830
Feb - 1830	Harriet Coombs
Charles Parshley removed	Martha Keen
P. T. Coombs D ^o	Dorothy Golder, decesd
Joseph F Read D ^o	Susannah Manning
Jacob Barker 2 ^d	

GOINGS-ON AT THE SOCIETY

By Michael C. Lord, Executive Secretary

1) Fiscal Year 2004-05 business totals are as follows: Telephone calls - 666; Museum visits - 295; Library visits - 262; Correspondence - 711; Programs sent - 179; Meeting attendance - 156; Meeting Notices sent - 648; Board & Committee Meeting attendance - 77; Newsletters sent - 486; Great Falls Balloon Festival attendance - 9+; Annual Dinner attendance - 35; Book advertisements - 265; Emails - 1,922.

2) On Monday, April 25, 2005, I attended a Maine Archives & Museums conference on textile storage and organic exhibits put on by Ron Harvey of Tuckerbrook Conservation, who did our Conservation Assessment Program for Collections back in 1997. It was worth the trip. It was held on the campus of the Good Will-Hinckley Homes for Children in Hinckley, Maine, just south of Skowhegan. Their L. C. Bates Museum was a splendid end to the day; they have a natural history collection that is absolutely phenomenal. Visit if you are ever in the area.

3) The two sets of our books that we donated to the MPBN Great TV Auction sold on Sunday, May 1, the last day of the auction. They were listed as Item #A4 on the Aqua Board at about 11:45 P.M., with the bidding closing at midnight. The initial bid was \$18, and then it went up to \$23, then finally \$24. As a multiple listing, the two top bidders got the sets. This means that two sets went for \$47 total. They later sent us a Certificate of Appreciation.

4) Maine National History Day was celebrated at the Buker School in Augusta on April 7, 2005, with Jim Henderson of the Maine State Archives leading out. Dennis Stires, wishing to recognize the best project related to Maine, gave copies of *Alnôbak* to four students from Gorham High School for their project that used Maine postcards.

5) On May 9, Betty Young and I attended a Maine Archives & Museums seminar on Collections Cataloging held at the Maine State Museum. It went well, and the museum tour afterward was very nice; the tour of the state museum's storage facility was

even better. We saw many things related to our county.

6) We have begun to sell surplus items on eBay through our Seller's Account; we have already made our first sale. We also have a Paypal account, which enables buyers to pay electronically with a credit card. We are known as androscoggin123. This should bring in a little money for the Society.

7) On May 5, 2005, I was a panelist at Bates College on "The Current State of the Androscoggin," as the guest of Beverly Johnson of the Geology Department there. A state environmentalist and a representative from Maine Fisheries & Wildlife were on the panel as well. WCSH Channel 6 and a couple of articles or so in the Lewiston *Sun Journal* covered it, and I was interviewed by WCNN 1240 radio also. There were many positive comments from Beverly Johnson and those in attendance.

8) We've sent out our Annual Corporate Membership letters; if you or anyone you know would like to become corporate donors, please contact me at the Society. Chapman Trucking donated \$100; Bonnie Lounsbury, \$50; total thus far: \$150.00. (I hope more comes in than this; it is down from previous years.)

9) MPBN broadcast "Home: The Story of Maine," Episodes 13: "Land of Liberty" and 14: "The Struggle for Identity" in May. You may remember that Dr. Alan Taylor of the University of California at Davis was interviewed for these episodes here at the AHS.

Acquisitions: We have acquired the following items recently:

Donations

- Five photos and Red Cross card of Mabel and Maud Goodwin of Lewiston, 1918-22. Given by Richard Fraser of Poland.
- *The Game of Androscoggin-opoly*, published by The Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, Lewiston, and Unique Promotions, Elizabethtown, PA, 2003. Donated by the Chamber. This is a board game similar to Monopoly that uses local landmarks and businesses on its playing board.
- An empty six-pack of Lewiston Bicentennial Coca-Cola Classic with bottle caps and cardboard holder. Given by Lois Rousseau of Lewiston.

- Representative collection of Probate Registry envelopes and fasteners, and also some obituaries from the same. From John Cleveland, Registrar of Probate. (He is redoing the Probate Registry in an archival manner; the envelopes are being tossed, and the obits are being copied onto acid-free paper, hence we are getting a number of the originals.)
- *The Torch is Passed.* by the Associated Press, 1963; it is on the assassination of President Kennedy. Given by Carmen D. Cook.
- Letters to Chase & Munroe, et al. in Auburn (w/o stamps), ca. 1890-1910. Given by Chester Walas of Moosup, CT.
- First Auburn Trust Co. passbook of Delmar R. Sylvester, 1937-38. Given by Leo Camire of Danville.
- *Fractured Family - Fighting in the Maine Courts*, by Douglas I. Hodgkin, pub. by (technically) ourselves, 2005. Given by the author.
- *The Birth, Being and Burning of Worumbo Mill*, by Ambra Watkins, pub. by The Oxford Group, 1987. Given by Chris Beam, Muskie Archives, Bates College.
- *The Moosehead Lake Region, 1900 - 1950*, by Everett L. Parker, pub. by Arcadia Publishing, 2004. (Given as a sales sample from the publisher.)
- Three large boxes of printing plates and related items made by Hoods Mailing and Printing of Lewiston for Bates Manufacturing of Lewiston. Anonymous donor.
- *Here's to Hoops!*, by Will Anderson, pub. by Anderson & Sons Publishing Company, Bath, Maine, 2005. Given for our help with research; signed by author.
- *Samuel Gompers and The American Federation of Labor vs. Maine's Congressman Charles E. Littlefield, 1900 - 1913*, by Charles A. Scontras, pub. by The

Bureau of Labor Education, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, 1998. Donated and signed by the author.

- Two color copies of an 1857 colored woodcut of Lewiston Falls drawn by A. Hill; donated by Douglas S. Rogers of Auburn.
- *Little Merchants Newsie*, published by what is now the Lewiston *Sun Journal*, Vol. 5, Nos. 3-5 incl., Nov. 1955 - Jan. 1956 incl. Given by Richard A. Fraser of Poland. These were newsletters for newspaper delivery boys.

Purchases

- *The Poorhouse - America's Forgotten Institution*, by David Wagner, pub. by Rowman & Littlefield, New York, 2005. Lewiston, Maine, is one of the cases included.
- *Seed of Sarah*, by Judith Magyar Isaacson, University of Illinois Press, 1991. She is a local author who survived Auschwitz and married Irving Isaacson, a Lewiston lawyer who was serving in the military in Europe where they met. A very memorable book indeed.
- *Bent Offerings - a trilogy*, Poems by Robert M. Chute, Boxed set, consisting of *Bent Harbor - A Narrative* set somewhere on the coast of New England in the year 1610; *Bending Reed's Story - A fable of fate and halves rejoining*; and *The Crooked Place* (Lovewell's Fight: 1725), Sheltering Pines Press, 2003. He is a local author living in Poland, where he owns and operates a used bookstore.
- *Lest We Forget, Band Stands of Maine, An Illustrated History*, by Barbara Merrill Fox, by Foxrun Associates, 2003. Signed by the Author.
- *The Necrology of St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery, 1977 - 1992*, Lewiston, Maine, Vol. III, by Youville Labonte, MAfr, of Auburn, ME, 1992.

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