

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

October 2005

Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~meandrhs>

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MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

Two buildings in Androscoggin County were among the six that Maine Preservation cited as among those most endangered in 2005. Source of the following:

<http://www.maine Preservation.org/Endangered/index.shtml>

The 1852 Bates Mill Office Building located in Lewiston is situated front and center of Bates Mills No. 1 and No. 2, and is visually prominent from the descent west down Pine Street. This brick and granite two-story structure with a hip roof and dormer provides a pedestrian scaled introduction to the massive facades of the mill buildings behind. ... The Bates Mill Office Building represents an important aspect of the company's social and cultural history that cannot be fully told by the towering mill buildings alone.

...The greatest threat ... is the proposal by the current owner/developer to demolish the building to improve traffic circulation and to expose the clock tower façade, which figures prominently in a newly designed entrance.

The Bates Manufacturing Company, incorporated in 1850, was part of the complex of mills that defined Lewiston's economy as a textile-manufacturing center. Mill No. 1 was constructed in 1850 and the Bates Mill Office Building was constructed in 1852 at the same time Mill No. 2 was being built. Initially one-story high, the office building was the center of the Bates Manufacturing Company's administrative functions. Designed by David Whitman and Albert H. Kelsey and built by the contractor Thomas D. Thorne, it obtained its second story and Colonial Revival style appearance in 1902 at the hands of the well-known Lewiston architectural firm of Coombs and Gibbs. Classical styling combined with its strategic position between the end of the Pine Street Bridge and the Bates Mill clock tower (which provides a substantial visual backdrop) emphasizes the office building's historic importance. Contact Douglas Hodgkin, 9 Sutton Pl, Lewiston, ME, 04240, (207) 782-3072 or dhodgkin@bates.edu.

Tenney's General Store and Post Office (c.1855) once thrived in the village of North Livermore. This vernacular structure with attached barn also served as the residence for the store's proprietor and postmaster. Operated by the Tenney family for many decades, the interior still retains many architectural features and character of the 1920s. Very few changes have been made to the building since this time Contact Dennis Stires, 19 Crash Road, Livermore, Maine, 04253-3014, (207) 897-4222 or stires@megalink.net .

SOCIETY BUDGET IN DEFICIT

The Board of Directors of the Androscoggin Historical Society has adopted a budget of \$32,866 for our fiscal year 2005-2006. About half of this is drawn from principle in the endowment. In the long run, this is not sustainable, as eventually the endowment would disappear. The Board therefore has adopted a more aggressive program to increase our income.

Member Donations. We ask that members of the Society consider contributions to the Society above your annual dues. We would very much appreciate your adding us to your annual, tax-deductible, charitable giving list. Please send your check to the Society at County Building, 2 Turner Street, Auburn, ME 04210.

Group and Business Solicitation. President David Young is organizing a committee of solicitors to ask for donations from community groups and businesses. If you are a member of a group or in a business that gives to local nonprofits, please call the Society office at (207) 784-0586. We shall be pleased to talk about the Society with your organization or business. We also welcome volunteers to help make solicitations.

Sales of Collectibles. Look around your home and attic for any small items, books, paper ephemera, etc., that we might sell on eBay, the Internet auction site. Almost anything *in good condition* might be collectible. Bring your items to the Society office. Our Executive Secretary will determine whether they might be appropriate for our own exhibits; otherwise he can list them on eBay as he has time, and the revenue will help the Society.

MEETING NOTICE

October Meeting: Oxford County Bicentennial

On Tuesday, October 25 at 7 P.M., Mr. **Larry Glatz**, Chairman of the Oxford County Bicentennial Commission, will speak at our museum in the County Building on the topic, **"Oxford County's 200 Years."**

BOOK PRICES REDUCED

Sales of our books have slowed to a trickle. The Board has decided to reduce the prices in order to move our inventory more quickly. Ongoing interest and storage costs make this advisable. *Alnôbak* now is \$13.50 plus 68 cents tax, *Androscoggin County, Maine* is \$20.00 plus one dollar tax, and the set of two books is \$30.00 plus \$1.50 tax. Please add \$5.00 S&H for mail order. Now is the time to give these to family and friends. They are available at the Society, the Book Burrow, Mr. Paperback, Rÿsen, Republic Coin & Jewelry, Bates College Store, The Page Turner, and many town offices. Please browse these two web pages:

http://www.avcnet.org/ne-do-ba/ad_book1.html

http://www.avcnet.org/ne-do-ba/ad_book2.html

BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

David Wagner. *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

This is a study of six New England poorhouses/poor farms, including the one in Lewiston, Maine. "While the poorhouse's mission was character reform and 'repressing pauperism,' these goals were gradually undermined by poor people themselves, who often learned to use the poorhouse for their own benefit, as well as by staff and officials of the houses, who had agendas sometimes at odds with the purposes for which the poorhouse was invented." Wagner is Professor of Social Work and Sociology at the University of Southern Maine.

David Richards. *Poland Spring: A Tale of the Gilded Age, 1860-1900*. University Press of New Hampshire, 2005.

This story of the Ricker family's transformation of a rustic frontier farm into the summer community of Poland Spring, Maine, is a cultural study of "upper-middle-class patrons and their urban values of status, leisure, and consumption By successfully linking its fortunes to the railroad and tourism, Poland Spring became home to both a classic manifestation of the magnificent Victorian summer hotel culture of the Northeast ... and to the legendary business that originated one of the most popular and enduring brands in the mineral water marketplace." Richards is Assistant Director of the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, Maine, and a former executive secretary of Androscoggin Historical Society.

GOINGS-ON AT THE SOCIETY

By Michael C. Lord, Executive Secretary

1) This past summer **Thomas Burian, our Bates College summer intern** (and currently a Sophomore), cataloged our entire library in MS Access software. It is now on disc as well as in our computer. Each member of the board has been given a copy of the disc in order to safeguard the information stored. Author/editor, title, publisher, copyright date, number of pages, and similar information have all been recorded. Although the data are stored in raw form over several different files, hopefully someday we can acquire user-friendly library software to make it available to the general public.

Toward the end of the summer, our intern also posted several of our items for sale on eBay.

Our thanks go to Thomas for his excellent and conscientious work, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

2) **We are selling surplus items and our books on eBay**; we have raised well over \$1,000 already. We have an eBay Seller's Account (User ID: androscoggin123) and a Paypal account, which allows us to receive funds electronically.

3) We've sent out our **Annual Corporate Membership** letters; if you or anyone you know would like to become corporate donors, then please contact me at the Society. Thanks to recent donors, Cote Crane Corporation (Crane-Rigging) of Auburn, \$100; Jacqueline Laskoff of Laskoff Associates, \$25; Total thus far: \$275.00.

4) On July 14 we had an **Androscoggin Round Table on Publishing**. Eleven were in attendance, and much good information was had. Walch Publishing of Portland, Mark Silber of Sumner, Doug Hodgkin of Lewiston, Islandport Press of New Gloucester, Penmor Lithographers of Lewiston, Tilbury House of Gardiner, artist David Footer of Lewiston, and others were in attendance. It was an excellent meeting, except that so few showed up. Perhaps it was the summer heat, but it was a great learning experience for those who attended.

5) Our guide *Cultural Resources of Androscoggin County, Maine* is still available. This provides a handy listing and contact information for libraries, museums, genealogical collections, print media, and publishers in our county, in the State of Maine, and beyond.

EDWARD LITTLE'S NEW HOUSE

Edward Little represented the interests of the Little family in the area of the old Pejepscot Claim. He wrote regularly from Goff's Corner (now downtown Auburn) to report to his father Col. Josiah Little in Newburyport. On 24 November 1826, Edward Little wrote to his father about his new house, the address of which is now identified as 217 Main Street, Auburn.

I have stoned the cellar of the projected Porch excepting the end which according to the original plan was to under with the cellar under the main projected house. + the Porch is raised. Thus far I have been unable to go + can finish the present small building as a house of itself or make answer the intended part of the whole according to my original plan. But I can go but a little further without shaping for a building by itself or to be connected with a front as proposed. From your enquiring whether I needed so large a house I have been led to hesitate + pause lest I should build more extensively than was to please you. I shall do nothing more than board the building put up + some little affairs about it till there is time for you to express yourself decidedly whether you are willing I should pursue my original plan and if not shall finish the present building 18 by 31 from inside to outside in the most commodious manner I can devise for a building by itself. It will not however be one I shall want to live in or which will be quite large enough or convenient alone for my family unless we exclude our selves from Company, which would not be pleasant, sociable or friendly. I wish to hear from you on the subject early but if I do not I shall conclude you assent to my original plan + proceed accordingly.

Three years later, on 23 November 1829, the house became a bone of contention again:

Bro Josiah, since his return, has written me a letter, manifesting no small share of dissatisfaction, of the manner in which I have conducted your business + with reflections which seem not calculated to conciliate or promote the best feelings. As his remarks were general + no distinct case named except relative to the house I have no opportunity to give any reasons for my procedure. When he was here he made some general remarks respecting the house. I live in + when desired to mention some particular that he disapproved he mentioned the portico which I alluded to in one of my letters to you & which it seems he [illegible] + from what he wrote he dislikes. I was free to discuss the subject of extravagance in building or any other subject relating to my doings. But in order to make it profitable, something distinct must be suggested that it may be discussed + the reasons for and against it bro't forwarded. But where nothing but a general opinion is mentioned, nothing seems to be gained.

For what to one would seem extravagance to another would appear to be economy. I have no doubt that with the same aim + intentions, we should make a wide difference in the way or mode of attaining the same object; + each would be persuaded his mode was the best. If Bro Josiah is disposed to exchange situations with me, I shall be contented or, if he will take mine without my taking his + it should be agreeable [to] you, to I shall be contented.

LEWISTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY MEMBERS

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

July 1830
William Garcelon
Marshall M. Ford dismissed
Samuel Manning expelled
Elder Benjamin Thorn
Ames Litchfield.
Dec^r 22. 1832.
John M. Frye.
Amos Davis
Samuel Pickard
John March
John C. Jepson
Feb 26 – 1833.
Samuel G. Phillips
Warren Ham
Cephas Wright.
Josiah L. Pickard
Rev. Abiezer Bridges
April 28. 1833.
Alfred Forsaith
Nelson B. Reynolds
James Lowell Jr.
Simeon Murray
Octavus Wright.
Daniel Holland.
Ham Brooks
David Fuller Jr.
Alsome Garcelon
Charles Fuller
Wm G Litchfield.
Winslow Litchfield
George W. Ham

Female Members

December 22. 1832
Alice M. Frye
Sarah C. Davis
Apl 28. 1833
Mary G. Fuller
Mary Ann Ames
Margaret Brooks
Jane Fuller
Lucy Garcelon
Sabina N. Hinkley
April 13. 1833.
Elizabeth Litchfield
Sarah Totman
Betsey Litchfield
Salley Moody -
Lucy Ann Bridges
May 4th 1833
Merry Jordan
Mary Ann Jordan
Salley Jordan
Eleanor Jones
Mary Stanford
Elizabeth Hamlington
Synthia Stanford
Asenath Clough
Elizabeth Merrill
Nancy Jordan
Keziah Robinson
Mary Robinson
Rebecca C. Hatch
Phebe S. Bridges
Jane Barker
Annah Jordan
Sophronia Woodard

HISTORICAL ACQUISITIONS

Donations

- *The Fireside*, Vol. 1, Num. 1, February 1935, Walton Junior High School. Donated by Libby Goldman of Auburn via Grace Keene also of Auburn.
- Tel-O-Index, ca. 1930s or '40s. Donated by Kat Stefko of the Bates College Muskie Archives and Special Collections.
- O. A. Horr Medical Club Papers, 1897 - 1903. Donated by Lawrence E. Gobrecht of North Chatham, NY.
- Several hundred contemporary pages of Chandler genealogical material with CD-ROM. Donated by Marcia Loudon of Durham, NC.
- Section of rope used by suicide John T. Randall to hang himself in the basement of his shoe factory in Auburn. Circa nineteenth century. Given by Nicholas P. Picerno of Bridgewater, VA.
- Fragment of Auburn Fire Alarm Box broken in 1886 by an insane woman who thought her child was inside. Given by Nicholas P. Picerno of Bridgewater, VA.
- Eddie Cantor "Texaco Town" radio poster of the Columbia Network. Circa 1940s or '50s. Given by anonymous.
- *Anniversary Album 1917 - 1967 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Lewiston, Maine*, donated by David Ruttenburg of Auburn.
- Two S. A. Pollister store photos, inside and outside, Pollister marriage certificate, and one Sturgis home (Beech Hill Road) photo. Given by Joyce Savage Snay of Yuma, AZ.
- Local Civil War letters, GAR materials, and old deeds. Given by Barbara Langway of Turner. Letters have to do with the Merrill family.
- Davis Cemetery Corp., Lisbon, two books of minutes, two books of treasurer's records, miscellaneous papers, and a gavel. Given by Lena D. Sherman of Wales, via Doug Hodgkin.
- Two stereo cards of Lewiston with enlargements thereof. Given by Glenn Gagne of Lewiston.

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- *Poland Spring: A Tale of the Gilded Age, 1860 - 1900*, by Dr. David L. Richards. Given and signed by the author of Skowhegan. This is the edited and published version of his doctoral dissertation.
- Scrapbook of Agnes Shearer's 1933 trip to Europe, copy of O. R. Cummings's *Portland-Lewiston Interurban*, copy of *Portland*, by Martin Dibner of Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc., several issues of Historic Preservation and Maine Historical Society publications, *The Knight House People*, by Ralph Skinner, and *The Cumberland and Oxford Canal and The Canal Bank*, by Philip I. Milliken. These items were left outside our office. If you donated these, please let us know in order that we may record their source in our acquisitions records.
- Newspaper clippings, Merrill Hill Class photo of 1933, E.L.H.S. Graduation program from 1904, and various early notes of the A.H.S. Again, we'd like the donor to let us know who you are!
- Shepherd & Downing, Inc. Laundry, Auburn, Maine, laundry bag. Given by Andrea Metayer of Lisbon Falls via Lisbon Historical Society.
- Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society's 25th Anniversary Booklet, 1980-2005.
- Bit of granite from Auburn Public Library.

Purchases

- *Early Vital Records of Minot, Maine*, published by the Maine Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 47, compiled by Joseph Crook Anderson II, CG, FASG, 2005. Printed by Picton Press.
- *Maine Bottlers and Their Bottles*, written and published by Sam Fuller Jr.
- *A Maine Family Index 1900-1912*, Vols. 1-14, 2nd ed., CD compiled by Wayne Gilman of Middletown, CT. (Replacement of defective original sent free.)
- *When Towns Had [Baseball] Teams*, by Jim Baumer, pub. by RiverVision Press of Freeport, 2005.