

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

February 2006

Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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WASHBURN HUMANITIES SEMINAR ON NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

The Washburn Humanities Center in association with the University of Maine at Farmington has issued a call for papers on "Northern New England: Seen from Within and from Without." The papers should be comparative, that is, the paper should concern some aspect of "the history and culture of the region via contrasts with other regions." There may also be panels that include a paper that concerns only Northern New England and one or two papers that deal with other regions. No material should have been published previously.

The conference will be held at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center in Livermore, Maine, June 8 to 10, 2006. If you wish to propose a paper or panel, submit a 150-word abstract and one-page vita by 15 March 2006 to Billie Gammon, 42 Hathaway Hill Road, Livermore, ME 04253. You may contact her at (207) 897-2236 or egammon@exploremaine.com.

You are also encouraged to participate as an audience member in any portions of the program that you are able to attend.

THE BOOK BURROW

Laurie and Dan St. Pierre have announced the closing of The Book Burrow at the end of February 2006. This is not only a loss to our communities, but a loss to our Historical Society as well. Laurie is part of our family of historians as author of the chapter on Auburn in our book, *Androscoggin County, Maine: A Pictorial Sesquicentennial History, 1854 - 2004*, edited by Michael C. Lord & W. Dennis Stires. She hosted at the store book-production meetings and book signings. The store also gave prominent display to both our books, the other being *Alnôbak: A Story of Indigenous People in Androscoggin County*, by Canyon Wolf, aka Nancy Lecompte. Furthermore, we must now seek another venue for the storage of our supply of books. (Please contact us if you have a suggestion.) We thank Laurie and Dan and wish them well in their future endeavors.

GOINGS-ON AT THE SOCIETY By Michael C. Lord, Executive Secretary

1) **Calendar Year 2005 business totals** are as follows: telephone calls - 570; museum visits - 134; library visits - 283; correspondence - 764; programs sent - 173; meeting attendance - 132; meeting notices sent - 650; Board & committee meeting attendance - 63; newsletters sent - 496; Great Falls Balloon Festival attendance - 8; annual dinner attendance - 35; emails - 3,295; book ad mailings - 265; Androscoggin Round Table meeting notice sent - 75; ART meeting - 11.

2) If you or anyone you know would like to become **Corporate Members**, then please contact me at the Society. Last year we raised \$1,275.00 this way.

Since our last newsletter in October we have had the following donors: Mechanics Savings Bank, courtesy of Pres. John J. Kannegieser, \$500; Attorney Irving Isaacson of the law firm Brann & Isaacson, \$250; Prof. Douglas I. Hodgkin, \$200; Barbara B. Lounsbury \$50.

3) We have had some **Aztec scalpels** in our collection. Our Board voted to donate them to the Hudson Museum on the University of Maine campus in Orono, where they now reside. The transfer process was rather complicated, with my having to consult our accession records to find evidence they were given to us prior to November 1970, the date of the UNESCO Convention governing such things. At any rate, they are now at arguably the best ethnographic museum in the state of Maine, where we presume they will do more good than they would have in remaining here.

MEETING NOTICE

February Meeting: The Poorhouse

On February 28 at 7 P.M. **Prof. David Wagner**, Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern Maine, will speak at our museum on the topic of "**The Poorhouse.**"

He is the author of a book by the same name; it studies the Lewiston City Farm, among other places.

EDWARD LITTLE: THE DEATH OF EBENEZER MORRILL AND OTHER BUSINESS

Edward Little made regular reports to his father concerning the status of his business concerns in the vicinity. One letter reported a disaster in great detail, and then smoothly moved to a report on other matters.

Danville Oct 25th. 1829 Sabbath eve.

Dear Parent.

We have followed to the grave, this afternoon the remains of Eben^r Morrill, Son of the late Jedidiah Morrill, who was killed yesterday. while blasting rocks for the Mills, – Just before Sunset. There were a number of hands at work + two rock blasters, who made their blasts near together, to make the least interruption. We were surprised by a blast without notice, which at first struck us with astonishment + we were disposed to complain of carelessness, but on looking, we perceived Morrill sitting by the rock blasted + hastened to him + found him most dreadfully wounded in the head + the blood gushing out copiously. We could not judge of the extent of the wound but feared it was fatal. There was breathing but no muscular motion otherwise. We carried him into the mill + had Drs Gorham + Purinton to him, one in about 5 the other about 8 minutes. They thought were no hopes of life + so it proved; for in about 2 hours he ceased breathing, which was all the signs of life exhibited. Upon a more thorough examination it appeared that part of both jaws + his cheek bone were gone + the skull below the brain broken + that or some other bones on the charge was driven into his brains. It was a horrible ghastly wound leaving not half his face + no eye. The last that was seen of him before the blast he was sitting + had a small bar through the eye of the priming wire which was iron (+ not greased as it had usually been before) + one end resting on his knee + one hand holding the other striking it with the hammer to draw it. After ramming down a part of the brick they usually started the priming wire so that it should come easier when fully filed. We suppose at this first starting it ignited the powder + caused the fatal accident. The rock was was [sic] split in several pieces but none moved far. I suppose he was moved about 3 feet + left sitting upright as we found his back against a log + his head hanging forward his hat was about 2 rods distant + his mittins [sic] + a knife not so far The priming wire was broken + bent + about 2 feet distant the bar + hammer were very near The hole was slanting towards him + from appearance I suppose it was the charge which inflicted the wound. He was a single man. No spirits had been used by any of the hands employed to my knowledge + I presume not in fact had been. The rock was a single one + very hard + the object was to break it in pieces so that we might handle it. I think it probable our

blasting will cease now – for the present. We have not sufficient stones yet to complete the walls but enough for the greater part + today shall doub[t]less complete the foundation for the fulling mill. The wall for the Dye house + enlargement of the Mill yard are so far advanced as to be secure and leave the completion easy – And I hope to complete them this week. The dams are finished + hope secure except stopping some leaks. I have contracted for a frame to be put up next month. I have boards I hope have sufficient to cover it + then we can make the geer [sic] in the building + in Season – I enclose only ten dollars being what I have on hand. Money comes in slowly + in very small parcels. Next month I trust there will be more + larger payments. We are as well as usual. I recd. a line from Bro Josiah who says you will not probably come here this fall + are busy at Turkey Hill + may remain there. I hope you will find it pleasant + agreeable to do so - + that some arrangement will be made agreeable to you + Bro + Sister Atkinson for them — I have a new blaster offered + being good weather have set him to work.

Your obt + affectionate Son

E Little

Historical Acquisitions Donations

- *Pictorial History: Rumford-Mexico, 1779 to the 1940's* [sic], pub. by the Rumford Area Historical Society, 1995. Donated by Dennis Stires.
- *A Rising Sun: Maine Commemorates the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution*, pub. by the Maine Commission to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, 1988. Donated by Dennis Stires.
- A) Public relations letters from The National Shoe & Leather Bank, Auburn, 1913-14, with history of Panama Canal construction in installments. B) *Station E.L.H.S.*, high school newspaper, issues in 1938, 1944, and 1946. C) Maine State Fair Program and Premium List, 1952-61, 1974-75. D) *Webster News*, grammar school newspaper, issues in 1934, 1939, 1940. E) *The Leavitt Angelus*, an alumni magazine with class notes, March 1923. F) Lewiston-Auburn-Lisbon-Mechanic Falls-Poland-Webster (Sabattus) Directory of Streets and Information, ca. 1955. G) Sunrise Easter Service programs, Lewiston Commandery No. Six Knights Templar, 1970 & '71. H) Mt. Olivet Chapter No. 29, Order of the Eastern Star, Installation of Officers programs, 1970 & '71. I) Pine Street Congregational Church, Lewiston, Sunday Service, 17 November 1918. J) Sun Gold Participating Merchants Directory, Sun-Journal Sunday, 1994. K) Program for performance of The United States Air Force Band and the

Singing Sergeants at the Memorial Armory, Lewiston, ME, 11 April 1970. Given by Laura M. Hodgkin of Lewiston.

- A) Official program of Annual Convention of Maine State Grange, 1989, 1991, 1992. B) Program and Yearbook of Androscoggin Pomona Grange No. One, 1976, 1982, 1985-2001. C) Program and Year Book, Auburn Grange No. 4, 1933, 1934, 1939, 1940. D) Program of Pine Tree Grange No. 3, 1981 E) 100th Anniversary, Pine Tree Grange No. 3, a history of this grange, 1874-1974. F) United Baptist Church, Constitution and By-Laws, 1946 G) By-Laws of Ashlar Lodge No. 105 of Free and Accepted Masons, Lewiston, ME, includes officers, past masters, and list of members, 1953. H) *Annual Report*, Lewiston, ME, 1953.
- D) City Map of Lewiston and Auburn, Maine, mid-1950s: two by Twin-City Printery and one by Guilmette Real Estate. J) Chamber of Commerce, Lewiston & Auburn Map and Guide, 1979 K) Chamber of Commerce brochure, "Let's Look at Lewiston," 1940s? L) Bus Route maps and schedules, 1973, 1977, and ? M) Bates College, A Guide to the College, map, no date. N) Government of the City of Lewiston, 1970, list of officials. Items donated by Laura M. Hodgkin, 19 October 2005.
- A Durham Bicentennial mug (1789-1989), depicting the 1835 Union Church. Given by the Lisbon Historical Society (it was a spare) via Gary Girouard, President of the Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society; he is involved with both organizations.
- A) Portrait photograph of "Chester Palmer's mother" taken by Harry L. Plummer of Lewiston, and another one of an unknown woman taken by Hammond Bros., also of Lewiston, early 20th century. B) A copy of a patent given to J. A. Mitchell & W. C. Rand of Lewiston for a Tellurian, 26 June 1900. (A tellurian is a revolving representation of the solar system.) C) Leighton's Groceries and Service Station calendar backing, ca.1970. D) Copy of a steam engine patent of S. N. Silver & L. S. Chandler, both of Auburn, dated 1880. E) Copy of photo of R. S. Whitney Mfg. Co. ca. 1920s. F) Ten photographs related to Whitney Co. and its products. G) Four photocopies of patents issued or held by persons of this county; H) a table knife, a steam engine, a combined door-plate and letter receiver, and a boot tree. Given by Richard Fraser of Poland.
- *Explore Maine's Oxford Hills, 2005-2006* Chamber of Commerce Magazine, Oxford County 1805-2005 Bicentennial Edition. Given by Larry Glatz, Chairman of the Oxford County Bicentennial Commission.
- Framed Art of the Great Falls Balloon Festival. Given by Edith J. Merrill (Humphrey) of Harpswell.
- A) Wooden pegs for shoes B) Graduating Exercises, Leavitt Institute, 1912 C) Graduation Exercises, Greene Grammar School, 1917 and 1918 D) Graduating Exercises, Monmouth Academy, 1932 E) Edward Little High School Handbook, 1945-1946 F) Edward Little High School Courses of Study, 1933 G) DeWitt Hotel Centennial Open

House brochure, 1957 H) Court Square Restaurant menu I) Lot map for Lisbon St. Gardens, No. 2, Lewiston, Maine, 1917 J) *The Leavitt Angelus* (student magazine), June 1912 K) Eric Sloane, *A Museum of Early American Tools, 1964* [a duplicate, which we sold on eBay] L) Marvin and Helen Davis, *Bottles and Relics, 1969* M) *Harris Postage Stamp Catalog, 1980-1981*. Given by Laura M. Hodgkin of Lewiston, 10 November 2005.

- A) Ephemera of Bates Street & First Baptist Churches in Lewiston, ca. 1905 B) Twaddle-Mitchell Oil Company ad cards C) two bank pocket calendars, ca. 1970s. D) A folder of Bliss College material from around the time of its closing, 1960s-'70s. Given by Laura M. Hodgkin of Lewiston.
- Androscoggin Valley Chapter #4 - American Gold Star Mothers records, ca. 1940s - 1980s. Given by Laura M. Hodgkin of Lewiston.
- *The Beans of Egypt, Maine*, by Carolyn Chute, published by Ticknor & Fields, New York, 1985. Bonus from Artios Books; see third item under purchases below.
- Ricker Hill Orchards Apple Cider McIntosh Blend ½ gallon container, Turner, given by Anonymous.
- Lewiston *Sun-Journal* 9/4/91, G. H. W. Bush visits Lewiston; Journal 3/8/69, *Auburn's First Hundred Years as a City*; Lewiston *Sunday* insert 5/5/87, Flood of 1987. Also E.L.H.S. *Oracles* from 1931, 1932, & 1935. Given by Carmen Cook from the estate of her parents Blanchet & Del Bouvier.
- Long photo - "Sixth Annual Encampment of Service Co. 103rd Inf. Lewiston, Me 7-30-8-15-1925. Evelyn Washburn photo Lewiston Me" Given by Nate Cheever of Poland. (He rescued this from the recycling facility where he works.)

Purchases

- Photo of the Muhammad Ali vs. Sonny Liston Lewiston boxing match, 25th May 1965, about 4"x6" and matted. Bought at Mr. Paperback in Lewiston for about \$7.00.
- *Maine Register*, Tower Publishing, Standish, ME, 2006 - our annual subscription.
- *Spillin' the Beans - Behind the Scenes at L.L. Bean*, by Carlene Griffin. Published by the author, 1992. Knowlton & McLeary Printing, Farmington, ME. Horse-traded from Artios Books, Auburn, for a half box of old books the Board voted to de-accession.
- Livermore Falls Bird's Eye View map of 1889, or rather a 2006 copy thereof, copied from the Library of Congress collection by Zazzle.com, about \$14.00.
- Fanfare Ste. Cecile Band postcard, Lewiston, Maine, via eBay for \$3.00.
- *The Humor of George L. "Shavey" Noyes, 1863-1945*, Oxford County's great Sidehill Philosopher, compiled and edited by Peter A. Lenz, Nickel & Dime Publications, Norway, Maine, \$10.00, from the compiler.

LEWISTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY MEMBERS

This is the final installment of the list commenced in the February 2005 newsletter of Lewiston residents who were members of the Lewiston, Danville and East Minot Temperance Society:

Male Members

April 13th 1833.

Daniel I. Jones

Aaron Davis

John Crowley

William Jones 2^d

David B. Jones

Noah Litchfield Jr.

Rufus Davis –

Sewall Merrill

May 4th 1833

William Robinson

Isaac Williams

Ebenezer Ham

Ezekiel Jones

Seth Fuller expelled

Samuel Robinson

Joseph Stanford

Henry Carvill

Holmon Foss.

James Aris

May 19, 1833

Luther Litchfield

Nathaniel Litchfield.

James L. Herrick

Lang C. Wright.

David Barker

Cyrus Barker Jr.

Alonzo Garcelon

Nelson P. Barker

Female Members

May 19th 1833.

Nancy Pettengill

Sarah Tebbets

Lydia Howe

Mary Ann Garcelon

Mary Barker

Elvira P. Herrick

Joanna Frye

Jane Wright

Casandana Barker

Mary Jane Barker

Priscilla Barker

Marilla Barker

Loisa Barker

Nov^r 1833

Betsey Davis

Eliza Ham

Mary Ham

Almira Garcelon

Salley Maria Ham

Male Members

May 1833

Jabez Murray

Joseph Pickard

Joseph Ham

Benjamin Litchfield

Hosea Fuller

Otis W. Bridges

Douglas I. Hodgkin, Editor

Androscoggin Historical Society

County Building, 2 Turner Street

Auburn, ME 04210-5978

SMELLED THE WHISKEY

Sturgis Men use Their Noses and Locate

Clever Hide at Pat Kilroy's.

After many ineffectual searches of the place run by Pat Kilroy on the west side of Lincoln street, Lewiston, near the big bill board, the Sturgis men Tuesday morning used their smellers to good effect and discovered a pretty hide with many kegs in it.

The Kilroy place has been a baffler. The deputies suspected there was rum there but could not seem to locate it. Tuesday morning about half past eleven Deputies Beaulieu and Howard swooped down as unexpectedly as possible and conducted another of their periodical searches while the Kilroys looked on, anticipating discomforture for the deputies.

But the deputies smelled whiskey and they made their way from one room to another seeking the place where the odor was most noticeable. Evidently some had been accidentally spilled. Upstairs there was a cupboard, and the upper part of the cupboard finally gave them the clue which led to the discovery of the hide, for the whiskey smell was here most apparent.

In another room they found an ingenious arrangement with key and wire which unlocked the cupboard, and when this opened up, thru the top part of it was an opening into the hide in the attic. The only way to get in was by climbing up on a chair and hence into the hole.

The deputies captured twelve five-gallon kegs and two kegs partly filled with whiskey and rum. In one of them was a rubber hose used to draw off liquor. There were several empty bottles. Kilroy was placed under arrest and gave bonds for his appearance.

[Source: *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 29 Oct. 1907, 10. Note: Sen. H. Herbert Sturgis sponsored a 1905 law for State liquor enforcement agents where local officials failed to enforce the laws.]

December 3d 1833

Archibald M. Wakefield

James Jordan 2d

David Graffam