

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

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Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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STIRES ELECTED NEW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of the Society on 23 May 2006, W. Dennis Stires was elected as the new President. He succeeds David C. Young, who had served for four years.

As assistant editor of our book, *Androscoggin County, Maine: A Pictorial Sesquicentennial History 1854-2004*, Dennis contributed mightily to the project. He also wrote the chapters on Livermore and Livermore Falls, as well as co-wrote the chapter on Mechanic Falls. He compiled the color photo section.

A retired educator and local historian from Livermore, he is currently leading a local effort to encourage alive learning. Two current projects include development of Tenney's Store and Post Office in North Livermore, where the goal is to open "America's Historic 1930s Store." The second project is "Main Street, USA" in Livermore Falls and Jay, which seeks to remember America's Main Streets of the 1960s.

In 1994 Dennis was chairman of the Livermore Photo Book Committee, which published *Past Views of Livermore, ME*, and he served as chairman of the Five-Town Bicentennial Commission, which coordinated celebrations in Canton, Fayette, Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls in 1995.

He received his B.S. from Rutgers University, NJ, in 1961, and his M.Ed. from Northeastern University, Boston, in 1967.

Other officers elected or re-elected were the following:

Vice President	Barbara V. Randall
Executive Secretary	Michael C. Lord
Recording Secretary	Douglas I. Hodgkin
Membership Secretary	Bruce A. Hall
Treasurer	Michael G. Spaulding
Newsletter Editor	Douglas I. Hodgkin
Attorney	Richard L. Trafton

The new Board of Directors includes Franklin H. Goss, Bernice Y. Hodgkin, Edward C. Hodgkin, Bonnie B. Lounsbury, Mary M. Riley, Lois F. Rousseau, David C. Young, and Elizabeth K. Young. Marti A. Chabot and Gail E. Fickett have been nominated for election to the Board at the Board's next meeting.

SALES ON EBAY

We have been selling surplus items on the Internet auction site eBay. This includes postcards for which we have many duplicate copies, as well as items that have no relevance to Androscoggin or even Maine history. Some items are donated to us explicitly for resale to help our budget. If you have any items that may have resale value, please bring them in to our office. If they are not appropriate for retention in our collection, we can sell them to help our finances.

Michael Lord places a picture and description of the item on the eBay site through our eBay account, androscoggin123. Items are put up for sale either for immediate purchase or in an auction, usually lasting seven days. Payment may be sent by mail or electronically into our Paypal account.

So far, within the last 14 months, Michael has sold almost \$1800 worth of goods, so this is a significant addition to our budget. Please bring us more items!!

MUSEUM L-A GRANT

Museum L-A has received a grant of \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program. This is another step toward creating the museum cluster of several local historical organizations. The Androscoggin Historical Society has been participating in the discussions concerning this project.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter. If you pay dues annually and you have paid for the coming year, the note "an 06-7" should appear after your name. Corporate members should have "corp 06-7." Life members have the notation "life." If the notation indicates an earlier year, your dues are now due! The amount is \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family, and \$150.00 for a life membership. Corporate dues are indicated on page three. Please send to Bruce A. Hall, 389 College Street, Lewiston, ME 04240 or to the Society office.

LEWISTON CITY HOSPITAL

By Douglas I. Hodgkin

Generally, St. Mary's Hospital and Central Maine General Hospital are considered the first hospitals in Lewiston. However, there were earlier medical institutions that bore the label of "hospital."

The Town of Lewiston had a "hospital" in 1856, but this appears to have been a temporary pest house in which to isolate victims of Small Pox. [Annual Report (AR), 1857, 4.] In the 1865 report, City Physician Peal Martin reported on cases of small pox, including one fatality at the Pest House, which probably was an ad hoc, temporary facility. Martin recommended that the city government and manufacturing corporations establish a permanent Pest House or Hospital [AR, 1865, 65].

On 1 February 1866 the City of Lewiston bought from former Mayor Jacob B. Ham 38 acres (according to the deed) or 37 acres (according to city records) on the corner of River Road and Mount Hope Avenue for \$3,500 [Andro. Deed,42:517]. The City hired S. Chandler & Co. to build the hospital for \$1,890 [AR, 1867, 22]. The Androscoggin County Atlas of 1873 does show a "City Hospital" across from the intersection of River Road and South Avenue.

The city arranged that a couple could reside there rent free if they cared for the sick referred to them by the Overseers of the Poor. The initial caretakers were Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ham [AR, 1870, 47; 1872, 91-92]. Mr. and Mrs. George Dow succeeded them in October 1872 [AR, 1873, 82].

The hospital was intended for the poor. The City also used it for small pox cases, although at the same time there appears to have been a separate pest house. The City Physician reported no deaths at the almshouse or hospital for 1872-73, but two deaths at the pest house [AR, 1873, 111]. It apparently developed a negative reputation, for City Physician O. A. Horr wrote, "I have found a notion quite prevalent among the poor that the City Hospital is a place to be dreaded." He saw no good reason for this, for it was in "a healthy location, supplied with good water," and the Dows gave "good care and kind attention" [AR, 1875, 104].

Through 1875, the Hospital and land were valued on the schedule of city property at \$4,300. In the 1876 report, the value rose to \$5,000 [AR, 1876, 60]. However, the Overseers of the Poor deemed the buildings "unfit for hospital purposes" and urged that they be enlarged. However, the Committee on City Property recommended that the building be sold for

one thousand dollars, if possible. If not, the City could keep it and use it for a pest house "in case of contagious diseases." They also recommended that a new hospital be built where any citizen may be treated "without having the name of pauper applied to them" [AR, 1876, 85-87].

On 1 December 1875, the Overseers placed the Hospital under the direction of the Superintendent of the Almshouse, Haven L. Scott, without additional compensation. This was done "for several reasons ... the principal one being that by direct management, the expense of running it can be very much curtailed, as the produce from the farm can be utilized in the same manner as on the farm" [AR, 1876, 85, 87, 88].

On 1 June 1876, the Hospital closed and the patients were moved to the City Farm. The Overseers estimated "the amount saved by this change to be \$2,000, aside from the fact that the sick have a much healthier accommodation and are better cared for in every way" [AR, 1877, 66]. City Physician R. R. Ricker approved this as a wise move for "economy and the comfort of the sick" [AR, 1878, 72].

In 1881, Mayor Mandeville T. Ludden and the Aldermen, who under an 1878 law had become the Overseers, recommended construction of an additional wing to the Poor House with the possibility of housing some of Lewiston's residents then at the Maine Insane Asylum at Augusta, for "they would be kept at one-half the cost now paid, and be just as well cared for" [AR, 1881, 11-2, 101]. The City did construct a large brick annex with thirty-eight rooms in 1881. The Overseers believed, "In the upper story there can be provided, at small expense, rooms for those insane persons who are quiet and easily controlled, now supported by the city at the State Insane Hospital." This would save much of the cost of \$2.50 per week per patient then paid to the State [AR, 1882, 84]. The payment to the State for board at the Insane Hospital had been \$782.42 in 1880 [AR, 1881, 20].

The almshouse and hospital continued as a merged institution at the City Farm. City Physician O. A. Horr recommended "that some suitable part of the building be fitted up and furnished as a hospital department" [AR, 1883, 34]. However, the institution became a catch-all for the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the insane.

The hospital property on River Road remained on the City's schedule of property at \$5,000 until 1915 [AR, 1915, 152], when it was sold for \$2,500 to Thomas W. Kerrigan, who immediately transferred it to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland [Andro. Deeds, 263:59, 262:551].

GOINGS-ON AT THE SOCIETY

By Michael C. Lord, Executive Secretary

1) **Fiscal Year 2005-06 business totals** are as follows: Telephone calls - 556; Museum visits - 177; Library visits - 279; Correspondence - 830; Programs sent - 173; Meeting attendance - 137; Meeting Notices sent - 501; Board & Committee Meeting attendance - 56; Newsletters sent - 496; Great Falls Balloon Festival attendance - 8; Annual Dinner attendance - 34; Emails - 4,086; Androscoggin Round Table Mtg. Notices Sent - 75; ART Mtg. - 11. The fiscal year ends May 31.

2) **NOTICE!!** The United States Postal Service has announced a change in our **society's mailing address**. It shall be henceforth as follows:

Androscoggin Historical Society
2 Turner St., Unit 8
Auburn ME 04210-5978

This is to easily distinguish our mail repository (notice I did NOT use the term "box") from the other repositories in the Androscoggin County Treasurer's Office. All other contact information remains the same.

3) If you or anyone you know would like to become **Corporate Members**, we have four levels (Corporate Patron I - \$50.00; Corporate Patron II - \$100.00; Corporate Sponsor - \$150.00; Corporate Sustaining - \$250.00), although we accept any amount. Our Corporate Membership drive is taking place now, but we gratefully accept donations any time of year.

4) On March 16, I spoke to a group of thirty-six **Bates College students and their professor**, Peter J. Rogers, who had a field trip to our society that afternoon. Professor Rogers is teaching a class on U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy, and my speech on the environmental history of the Androscoggin River was their kick-off to their study of the environmental issues of the Androscoggin River Valley.

5) MPBN has given us a Certificate of Appreciation for donating two sets of our books to their 35th **MPBN Great TV Auction**.

Historical Acquisitions Donations

- Dedicatory Booklet, The Elm Street Universalist Church, 1876-1939, Auburn, Maine, given by Douglas I. Hodgkin.
- Copy of an 1880 patent held by Frank A. Bowdoin of Lewiston of a "Nut Warmer and Preserver," given by Richard Fraser of Poland.
- Copies of papers relating to our acquisition of our 1849 Hunneman fire engine, given by Charlie Chapman, Auburn

Fire Department retiree, now manager of Reid's guns

- Thirty-five documents from Robert D. Eveleth of Bar Harbor, Maine, consisting of nineteen deeds of this county, eleven letters to the Overseers of the Poor or Assessors of the town of Danville, and five miscellaneous ones.
 - The *Jordan Booster* of 11/1/29 & 12/18/29 and one *Androscoggin County The Grange News Monthly*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2/5/35, given by Douglas I. Hodgkin of Lewiston.
 - A copy of the April 2006 *Downeast Magazine*, from the publisher, that has a Silas Morse photo taken in Livermore around the turn of the century (1900). Thanks to Dennis Stires for helping this to get published.
 - Postcard of Moose Hill Pond near Livermore Falls, ca. 1960, given by Mary Bussell of Lewiston.
 - An 8mm roll of color movie film of the aftermath of the Auburn Armory fire of 3 November 1956, given by Eileen J. Paine of Auburn.
 - A 5x7 B&W aerial photograph of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp #132, Lewiston, Maine, taken on 1 September 1933, with a Captain Fuller in charge. Given by Anonymous.
 - Copy of a patent for a Saw-Gage, held by Stephen Lonergan of Lewiston, 1880; also one for a Bench for Wringing-Machines, assigned to Brackett and Archie L. Talbot of Lewiston, 1880; also a laser-copy of a Maine Baking Co. truck of Auburn, ca, 1920s. Given by Richard Fraser of Poland.
 - The 1907 will of Marinda Maria Briggs of Lewiston and the 1927 First & Final Account of her estate. Given by Mike Talafuse of San Antonio, TX.
 - *Our Patriot Ancestors*, by Nancy Lecompte of Lewiston. This is a history of the Native American Coffin family in the American Revolution. She also donated a copy of S. B. & A. B. Hutchins material (they were born in Minot) compiled by Karen Christofferson of South Haven, MN.
 - *Tantalizing Quest 04240*, by John Collings, pub. by BAGM Ministries, Burlington, IA, 2006. Donated by the author.
 - Eight programs of the Lewiston State Fair, dated 1965-78; also a cattle measuring chain used before the advent of weighing scales. Donated by Mrs. Ivan Wallingford.
- ### Purchases
- *Commemorative Medals, Pins and other Collectables of the State of Maine and the Cities & Towns There-In, Collected by Robert C. Hamlyn*. Published by the author, 2004
 - *Maine Families in 1790*, Vol. 9, Ed. by Joseph C. Anderson II, pub. by Picton Press, Rockport, Maine, 2005
 - 23 photos of the E.L.H.S. graduating class of 1902, 21 with names. Purchased from Tom Nelson of Kennebunk.
 - *"No Flies on Bill,"* by Darcy Wakefield, pub. by Northeast Folklore XXXIX, Orono, Maine, 2006. This is a biography of Billie Gammon written by her late granddaughter.
 - *Bath Iron Works: The First Hundred Years*. By Ralph Linwood Snow, sold by Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, Maine, 1987. (Published by John G. Morse, Jr.) Purchased from Auburn Public Library, used.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LEWISTON

The Society has in our safe two record books from the church that built the oldest existing church building in Lewiston, now known as the Clough Meeting House. One appears to be the record of membership and worship concerns, while the other is the business record.

The first contains an entry that notes the founding: "The Second Free Will Baptist Church in Lewiston was organized on the 26th day of July A.D. 1826 By Eld. Ward Locke and Eld. Abiger Bridges. A Sermon was delivered on the occasion by Eld Locke from I Tim. 3-14 After which twenty Six persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship + agreed to walk to gether in Christian union. Taking the Scriptures of divine truth for their rule of faith + practice"

Transcribed at the front of this book is the Church's Covenant, which included the following pledges:

2nd: "... we will take the Scriptures as our only rule of Faith and Practice ..."

3rd They promised to attend faithfully.

4th "... we will Chearfully Contribute of our property for the Support of the Poor and the maintainance of a faithful Minister of the Gospel amoung us ..."

5th They would worship at home and bring up their children in the faith.

6th They promised to promote the Freewill Baptist Denomination at large.

7th "That we will Strive to promote the Benevolent Enterprises of the Day, Such as the Cause of Temperance, Sabath Schools Missions" and others.

8th "That we will not use ardent Spirits ourselves nor Suffer them to be used in our Families, or furnish them for persons in our impolymet" and use only as medicines "cautiously" and "when no Substitute can be convinantly found" and "that we will do all we can to Discourage the use, purchase and Sale of it in the Community."

It was signed by Noah Litchfield, Church Clerk, and

adopted 13 January 1838.

Until 1846, the church members had met in Amos Davis's barn, in the Clough Schoolhouse, and in members' homes. (See Ralph Skinner, *Historically Speaking on Lewiston-Auburn Maine Churches*, page 10.) In the book concerning their business affairs, we note their steps toward construction of their own meeting house. First they needed to incorporate.

On 12 March 1846, William Woodard, James Garcelon 2d, Nathaniel Jordan, John H. Pettengill, Henry M. Garcelon, Samuel Robinson, and William Robinson, "desirous of becoming an incorporated a religious society under the name of the second Freewill Baptist church and society in the town of Lewiston," petitioned William Garcelon, J.P., to call a meeting of the applicants to be held at Clough school house on Saturday, 21 March 1846, at one o'clock in the afternoon. William Garcelon directed William Woodard to notify the applicants of the meeting and to post a notice at Clough Schoolhouse and at Garcelon Ferry schoolhouse. [To be continued.]

EDWARD LITTLE: A MISHAP

Edward Little made regular reports to his father, Josiah Little, concerning the status of his business concerns in the vicinity. On 24 November 1826, he reported a personal mishap:

We have made rather slow progress with the clapboard machine but are about putting it up now hope to see it running this week. In looking about it this morning I stepped upon a rotten plank + fell through into the grist mill floom [sic] + had rather a cold bath + found the agitation of the water rather unfavourable to swimming. Although [sic] the Grist mill was not going yet the water being quite high in the river over the side of the floom. I was carried half way the floom before I was able to paddle myself to one side to get hold of the plank. I do not find it has given me any cold or hurt me. I assisted afterwards at raising.

Douglas I. Hodgkin, Editor
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