

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

October 2007

Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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LEWISTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Lewiston Historic Preservation Review Board honored four preservation projects at a ceremony on 3 May 2007. The work on Lyceum Hall, 49 Lisbon Street, has been noted in the June 2007 newsletter.

The second project is the renovation of the Maine Auto Supply Building, Maine's first structure specifically designed as a commercial automobile garage. It successively housed agricultural supply companies, a Pontiac dealership, LA United Grocers, and Good Shepherd Food Bank. (We detailed its history in our June 2003 newsletter.) It now is known as the Business Service Center at KeyBank Plaza, containing the offices of the Lewiston Auburn Economic Growth Council, the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, the Maine International Trade Center and Coastal Enterprises. This renovation of this building was also recognized by Maine Preservation with an honor award.

The third honor went to Bates Mill No. 6, at 70 Lincoln Street, built in 1892 to hold Jacquard looms. It then was used as a packing and shipping center. Platz Associates renovated the building, which now contains Fish Bones Restaurant and offices of Androscoggin Bank, a dermatologist, and local AAA.

Finally, Lewiston's Youth Advisory Council was honored for their fundraising to pay for booths to display the city of Lewiston's 1891 E. Howard clock, which now is visible to the public, while continuing to operate the dials in the City Building tower.

VACUUM CLEANER NEEDED

We need a new canister (not upright) **vacuum cleaner**, as our old one is underpowered. If anyone has a serviceable old one they would like to donate, then we would be most appreciative. Otherwise, we'll have to buy one. If you can help with this, please contact the Society at 207-784-0586 or androhs@verizon.net as soon as possible.

AHS LECTURE: HISTORY OF CANDY

At 7 P.M. on Tuesday, October 23, just eight days before Halloween, our President Dennis Stires will speak in the County Building on "The History of Candy," especially old-time favorites and present-day best sellers.

Today, shoppers can continue to see candy made by hand in the Lewiston/Auburn area at Mary's Candy Shop in Lewiston, and Wilbur's of Maine in Freeport.

Members of the audience will be encouraged to remember past locations of candy shops in Lewiston and Auburn. Years ago county residents in the rural villages selected their favorites at the corner or general store. Many children on farms selected one-penny candy from the food delivery man who made his weekly rounds.

LOCAL MAINE PRESERVATION NEWS

Maine Preservation, a private educational and lobbying organization, has announced various listings and awards that relate to local properties. (See www.maine-preservation.org.) They, too, have recognized Lewiston's Supply Company Building and Lyceum Hall for excellence in rehabilitation and restoration.

Auburn Public Library received a civic award "for excellence in preservation, restoration and compatible new addition design."

On the other hand, the 1914 Bates Mill #5 Weave Shed in Lewiston was designated as one of the six structures in Maine added to the "most endangered" list this year. It is vacant and the owner, the City of Lewiston, has included its demolition in a capital expenditure plan. However, the mayor has appointed a task force to seek an alternative. Designed by nationally recognized architect Albert Kahn, the 350,000+ square foot building "has a distinctive north-facing saw-tooth roof which provided light and ventilation to workers while minimizing solar heating."

LEWISTON SECOND FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH – MONITORING THE MEMBERS

The surviving record book records the incorporation of the church and its construction in 1846, but the first church meeting recorded was a regular quarterly church meeting on 26 February 1852. Brother William Woodard was given further time to visit Brother William T. Plaisted. Brother Robinson “reported he had visited Sister Poly Jordan + found her rather low in Religion. Attended Meeting some at ‘Sebattus.’” It was voted that Woodard should visit Brother Amos Hodgkin. Finally, it was “Voted to paint the Meeting House out Side this Comming [sic] Spring.”

The meeting of 8 May 1852 decided to engage and pay a preacher. N. Jordan, H. M. Garcelon, and S. Robinson were the search committee. S. Robinson, William Woodard, and H. G. Garcelon were appointed to solicit pledges to pay the preacher.

On 10 June 1852, William Woodard reported that he “had not had an opportunity of conversing with Br. Plaisted.” He was excused from further efforts and the Clerk was “requested by vote to write to Br. Plaisted + inform him of his Situation in church affairs here + request an answer.” The Church Covenant was read and several members made comments. On 9 June 1853, they voted to drop William T. Plaisted’s name from the church book.

Woodard also reported on 10 June 1852 that he had “conversed with Br. Amos Hodgkins + found him not much interested in Religion. no particular trouble further than a lack of interest in the cause.” On 16 October 1852, S. Robinson was instructed to visit the Hodgkin family. He finally reported on 24 February 1853 that “he had visited the Hodgkins family + found a part of them. Saw Moses + Jane. thought Jane was doing tolerable well – Amos left before he could talk with him.”

On 7 January 1854, the church “voted to exclude Lois Hodgkin from the church for immoral conduct voted to request Eld Libby to read on the following Sabbath in the Publick Meeting that Lois Hodgkin is no more a Member of this church having been excluded for immorall conduct.” On 16 January 1854, the meeting chose Deacon Woodard to visit Brothers Amos and Moses Hodgkin.

The next entry concerning the family was on 6 June 1872, when they voted “to exclude Moses Hodgekins [sic] from the Church at the next Church meeting if he does not Shew more interest in the

cause of Christianity.” Brother Woodard was delegated to notify him. On 12 December 1872, they “voted to exclude Moses Hodgkins from the church.”

Meanwhile, the church was wrestling with the case of William Crowley. It was postponed at the meetings of 22 May and 30 December 1858. On 24 February 1859, it was voted to appoint a committee of five to investigate and report. Two appointed by the church were A. W. Purrington and J. S. Burgess. Crowley would appoint two, and the four would appoint a fifth member. The committee report follows:

South Lewiston March 10th / 59.

The committee chosen by the Free W Baptist in South Lewiston church on one part, and Br Wm Crowley on the other after patient and prayful hearing of your respective grevances, came to the following conclusions.

1. That in our opinion both the chh and Br Crowley have been in fault. Br C. in some hasty and imprudent remarks, and in his course, as to public worship and some of the members; the chh on their part in not more promptly answering to his confession, which we think was quite sincere; and if immediately attended to, would probably have prevented further difficulties.
2. It is also our unanimous opinion that the chh should forgive the past faults of Br C. and restore him to full fellowship; and that he in return do the same to them, and in future come up and fill the obligations of a chh member; and we also recommend, that friends of the respective parties, endeavour to drop and forget all former difficulties, by closing the ear to rumor, and cherishing the best of feelings towards each other.
3. And dear brethren believing, “The liberal hand shall be fed with liberal things,” in supporting the gospel of Christ, we earnestly hope that in this department as in others, you will show yourselves more liberal in the support of the gospel among you.
4. In regard to the difficulty of Br Clough and Crowley, we affectionately advise the parties to forgive each other; and endeavor to forget said trouble, as we can discover no intentional purpos of injury on the part of either.

And now dear brethren, our state of trial in this world will soon be over; and we have no time or Strength to worry each other. Let us seek for those things that make for peace, and forgive as we hope to be forgiven. And may the Great head of the chh bless you in all your efforts to build up Zion and Save perishing sinners.

All of which is respectfully submitted –
W. W. Burlingame Gideon Perkins
J. S. Burgess A. W. Purington

E. J. Fogg

DeWitt Hotel Residents – 1860 Census, Pages 162-163

Name	Age	Occupation	Birth
Carr, Isaac J.	35	hotelkeeper	Maine
Carr, Fannie C.	28	none	Maine
Carr, Rufus	25	clerk	Maine
Carr, Narcissa	43	none	Maine
Boston, Gibson	20	waiter	Maine
Hodges, Walter	15	waiter	Maine
Moody, Chas	15	waiter	Maine
Davis, Isaac	17	porter	Mass.
Shattuck, John	25	hostler	Maine
Butler, Nancy	40	cook	Maine
Mason, Jane	25	pantry	Maine
Haggerton, Kate	25	washerwoman	Ireland
Haggerton, Mary	25	washerwoman	Ireland
Harrington, Hannah	25	chambermaid	Ireland
Harrington, Joan	27	chambermaid	Ireland
Gainsey, Kate	20	kitchen maid	Ireland
Brown, Josiah	40	none	Mass.
Randall, Foster	22	bookkeeper	Maine
Bradley, Chas	60	corn & flour dealer	Mass.
Leeds, Benj I.	57	agent Franklin Co	Mass.
Leeds, Mary	55	none	Mass.
Welch, Oliver	25	merchant tailor	Maine
Gill, J.P.	40	agent gas co	New Jersey
Goodenow, H.C.	25	attorney at law	Maine
Austin, Henry	25	carriage trimmer	Maine
Garcelon, Octavia	35	dressmaker	Maine
Pulverman, W.	26	clothing dealer	England
Jenkins, W.	25	mason	Mass.
Ludlum, M.F.	25	Epis. clergyman	New York
Ludlum, Mrs.	20	none	N. Hamp.
Cilley, H.G.	44	attorney at law	N. Hamp.
Cilley, Frank	18	none	N. Hamp.
Nudd, Carlus	22	asst. engineer	Mass.
Studley, E.B.	45	master mason	Mass.
Fox, Chas A.	22	mason	Mass.
Brown, Clovis	23	machinist	Mass.
Braley, James	35	machinist	Mass.
Littlefield, E.L.	25	harness maker	Maine
Fox, Geo E.	18	mason apprentice	Mass.
Kelsey, A.W.	20	clerk	Mass.
Norwood, H.W.	21	harness maker	Maine

WISH LIST

In order to make our library more accessible, we need **library catalog software**. Although most of us don't own this, maybe you could donate the cost.

We are making room for more storage. We need a **file cabinet** and **book cases** or **shelving units**.

Goings-On at the Society By Michael C. Lord

- **The Program Committee**, consisting of Douglas Hodgkin, Barbara Randall, Dennis Stires, and Michael Lord, with Keith Brann as a guest, has planned the lecture program. The seven lectures are published in a brochure sent to all members and available at the Society.

- Members of the **Deaccessioning Committee** include Barbara Randall, Marti Chabot, and Michael Lord. The Board has approved many of its recommendations concerning items that have no connection with our county's history, but are taking up valuable space. The Board has asked the Committee to develop guidelines for the deaccessioning process.

- **The Future of the AHS Committee** met for the first time on October 4 at the Auburn Public Library. Present were Keith Brann (who was elected chairman), Michael Lord, Bruce Hall, and Gail Fickett. We decided to investigate levels of membership, meeting attendance, museum visitors, and library visitors over the last five years. We will also study fundraising, fiscal status, website ads for major donors, and many other things.

- A large **display case** has been **moved** from the small museum to the hall at the top of the stairs in order to provide more storage space.

- **Donations Report:** Mechanics Savings Bank, Auburn, \$500; Custom Masonry, Inc., Wales, \$150; The Cote Corporation, Auburn, \$100; Bonnie Lounsbury, \$85; Douglas Hodgkin, \$150; Total: \$985. We thank all donors.

Historical Acquisitions

Donations

- *Recreational Opportunities in Androscoggin County: A Resource Guide*, by Healthy Androscoggin, Androscoggin Land Trust, and LA Trails, Spring 2007. Donated by Healthy Androscoggin, Lewiston.

- Three scrapbooks of the National Secretaries Association, International, Lewiston-Auburn Chapter, Lewiston, Maine, 1956-60, 1960-63, & 1963-66. Also a 1926 Lowell (MA) High School yearbook, and a 1933 Cony (Augusta, ME) High School yearbook. From the Cassis family archive. Given by Philip N. Cassis and family of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. They had family who lived in Lewiston for over eighty years.

- *The Scroll*, Vol. 1, No. 1, November 1928, the student

newspaper of Lisbon Falls High School. Given by David C. Ryder of Rochester, NY.

- A modest collection of family photographs of Amy (Blake) Colson, and her daughter Alberta Colson Proske. This specific family line, originally from Lewiston, is now extinct. Given by Amy's Grandniece of Durham, NH.
- An eyeglasses case from Anson A. Cobb M.D., 243 Main St., Auburn, ca. 1920s. Possibly owned by Miss Helen K. Randall, last owner of the Harrington House, now home of Freeport Historical Society, from the same.
- *Currier Family Records of U.S.A. and Canada*, Vol. IV, by Philip Joseph Currier, Henniker, NH, 1990, donated by the author. This fits with the set he gave us.
- *Without a Scratch, Diary of Corporal William Holmes Morse, Color Bearer of the 5th Maine Infantry*, ed. by William L. Caynor Sr., pub. by and gift of the author, 2007. The subject of this book came home to Minot after the War Between the States "without a scratch" as the book title suggests. We contributed his photograph on page 234.
- Four-pound pail of kettle rendered lard, from E.W. Penley, Auburn, Maine. Given by Edward C. and Bernice Y. Hodgkin, board members.

Purchases

- Twelve-inch metal ruler from Sonotone of Lewiston, Maine (dealer in hearing aids and batteries), ca. 1950.
 - *Trackside Grand Trunk New England Lines* with John Ames, by George F. Melvin of Readfield, our September speaker.
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ARE YOUR DUES UP TO DATE?

Take a look at the mailing label on this newsletter. There it is indicated the most recent fiscal year for which we have a record of your dues payment. If it doesn't indicate "life" membership or "07-08," we'd very much appreciate a check for \$15.00 for an individual or \$25.00 for a family. This helps to pay

Douglas I. Hodgkin, Editor
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MARKETMEN'S BIG DAY OBSERVED WEDNESDAY

Annual Outing at Thomas Point, New Meadows River, Proved One of Best in Recent Years

The Lewiston-Auburn Marketmen hung the "away for the day" sign on their shops Wednesday and hurried down to Thomas Point for their annual outing. They started in automobiles and trucks from the Lewiston city park at 7 o'clock in the morning, 150 of them.

On arrival at the Point there was a general scrambling for the food, and an elaborate dinner comprising everything that is good to eat (and these men ought to know what is) was quickly taken care of, including quantities of steamed clams. There was a spirit of fun and jolity [*sic*] from the very beginning of the day which prevailed until the last song was sung on the homeward trip.

A vote is to be taken as to who won the baseball game between the Wholesalers and Retailers, altho temporarily it was believed the Retailers claim it was their game and the Wholesalers say it was theirs, but whoever won had a good time as well as furnishing amusement for the audience who at times wondered just what was going on.

There was no chance for an argument on the tug-o'-war for the Wholesalers did a regular chariot race stunt and hauled the other folks all over the lot. There were other sports and games; in fact, there was something doing every minute so that the party will never forget the 1925 get-together. The sport program was arranged by Conrad Labbee.

[Reproduced from *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 6 August 1925, page 12.]

for mailings and newsletters to you and for all the expenses associated with maintaining a museum and library. This allows us to serve the community in preserving our history and answering questions about our past. Please send the check to the address indicated below. Thank you for your support.