

BLAKE-HAM HOUSE ELIGIBLE

A house on the corner of Main and High Streets in Lewiston has been deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but the owner declines permission to list it. This house was built in 1885 for Lothrop L. Blake, a furniture maker and store owner. George M. Coombs designed the Queen Anne style house with Eastlake details. Blake's son-in-law Orland Ham, a flour, hay, and grain merchant on Main Street's



Haymarket Square, inherited the house. In 1913, he sold the house to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland for a convent for the Sisters of Mercy who taught at St. Joseph's Parochial School. In 1981 the Central Maine Medical Center purchased the house for administrative offices.

Source: National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form for Blake-Ham House.

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FRENCH IN LEWISTON

Rev. Father Hevey of St. Peter's Church, (French Catholic) [predecessor of St. Peter and Paul Basilica] in this city, is a very energetic pastor. From statistics recently obtained by him, we observe that the French Canadian population of Lewiston is at present 2700. There is one French doctor in the city, a graduate of Victoria College, Montreal; one General Life Insurance agent, (French); 3 French grocers, one French dry goods store; 2 French bakers, and four French shoe shops. Sixteen dry goods stores, one drug store and three grocery stores in Lewiston have French clerks. There are two French schools attended by 50 children. There is also a French Dramatic Club and a French Benevolent Society. St. Peter's Church, Lewiston, built at a cost of about \$50,000, was erected on funds obtained by a plan entirely new to us, which has proved very successful. Father Hevey instituted a French Church Savings Bank which he announced would receive deposits, paying 6 per cent. interest, and that funds of depositors could be withdrawn from it, as from any Savings Bank. The result has been, that since the church bank was organized, \$60,000 in all have been deposited by our French population, and the amount now on deposit is \$17,000. The plan has worked admirably and has greatly promoted the success of the church building effort. *Lewiston Evening Journal*, March 9, 1874.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? Please check your mailing label below, which indicates the last year for which your dues were paid. Annual memberships are \$15.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families.

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SOCIETY HIRES ASSISTANT

By Russell P. Burbank

The Androscoggin Historical Society has hired Diane M. Hesketh, of Minot, an experienced bookkeeper, as its administrative assistant.

She replaces Walter D. MacBain of Lewiston, who was hired for the post July 8 but was unable to accept it due to personal reasons.

Doug Hodgkin, who headed a search committee, said Hesketh was chosen from among five applicants for the new part-time position. She will be responsible for running the Society's office and museum, which are located on the third floor of the Androscoggin County Courthouse in Auburn.

Hesketh succeeds Michael C. Lord, executive secretary for 12 years, who continues to serve the Society as a board member.

She owns a bookkeeping service in Minot and is employed by the Auburn Savings Bank. She formerly was an accounts receivable clerk at Pineland Lumber Co. in Lewiston, office manager at Coastal Plantations International, Inc. in Poland, and administrative assistant at All Seasons Services, Inc. in Auburn. She is a graduate of Edward Little High School in Auburn, where she received a certificate of business studies.

BOOKS FOR GIFTS

Do you need an idea for Christmas presents? Consider giving books on local history such as *Alnôbak: A Story of Indigenous People in Androscoggin County*, by Canyon Wolf, aka Nancy Lecompte, for \$13.50 plus sales tax of 68 cents. We also have *Androscoggin County, Maine: A Pictorial Sesquicentennial History, 1854 – 2004*, edited by Michael C. Lord & W. Dennis Stires, for \$20.00 plus sales tax of \$1.00. If you want both, the cost is \$30.00 plus \$1.50 tax. For a mail order please add \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Available at the Society's office, Mr. Paperback in Lewiston, or Percy's Burrow in the Auburn Mall. Please browse our web pages for them: <http://www.androscogginhistorical.com/books.html>.

MEETING NOTICE: OCTOBER 27

Martha Elkin will discuss and demonstrate the ancient art of shearing, carding and spinning wool at a meeting of the Androscoggin Historical Society on Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Society's headquarters on the third floor of the County Courthouse at Court and Turner Streets in Auburn. The public is invited to attend without charge. She will show samples of wool and yarn that has been dyed with plants from her farm in Sumner.

Martha, a native and former resident of Danville, was a nursing educator for more than 20 years and is the author of a nursing textbook. She retired from teaching to farming and with her partner, Mary Ann Haxton, owns A Wrinkle in Thyme Farm, where they have 28 sheep, six Angora goats, 32 laying hens, and make maple syrup. The farm and the farm store are open the third weekend of the month and other times by appointment or chance. The farm web site is: www.awrinkleinthymefarm.com

Martha participates in the living history program at Morrill Farm in Sumner, for which she is the schoolmarm for an 1853 school day. She also organizes the fiber and sheep portion of the program, which involves fiber production similar to how it was done in the late 1800s.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Other programs planned at the AHS headquarters during the 2009-2010 season: Nov. 17, "Poland Spring: Hotels, Water and Community," by Jason Libby; Feb. 23, "Snowmobiling History: A Museum in Turner," by Paul Bernier; March 23, "Harriman Architects and Engineers; Its Architectural Legacy in Androscoggin County," by Mark Lee; April 27, "150 Years of Methodists and Court Street Baptists in Auburn," Betty Dexter and Douglas Hodgkin; May 25, "Gettysburg's Lost Battles; Civilian Struggle in 1863," by Prof. Margaret Creighton (annual dinner meeting, held in the High Street Congregational Church, Auburn).

KINDERGARTEN IN LEWISTON

We hear that kindergarten systems of primary instruction are being introduced in the primary schools of Lewiston. *Lewiston Evening Journal*, Apr. 1, 1874.

LOYAL BUT FRENCH

A new book of interest to Androscoggin readers is Mark Paul Richard's *Loyal but French: The Negotiation of Identity by French-Canadian Descendants in the United States*, published by Michigan State University Press, 2008. The book is based upon a particular ethnic group in Lewiston, Maine, but has wider implications for the participation of immigrants in their new home. Richard argues that Franco-Americans neither subscribed to survivance (maintaining their separateness) nor assimilation (erasing their heritage). They accomplished acculturation, becoming Americans, but retaining for a long time their identity. Among other sources, Richard uses local and Canadian archives, naturalization records, census data, newspapers (particularly *Le Messenger*), and interviews. The period covered is 1850 to 2007.

The book is published by Michigan State University Press at <http://msupress.msu.edu/bookTemplate.php?bookID=3503>

THE BAPTISTS OF COURT STREET

Local author Douglas I. Hodgkin has completed another book on local history. The Baptists of Court Street, Auburn, Maine is the story of two Baptist Churches founded in 1859 that merged in 1930 to become the Court Street Baptist Church.

The story is brought forward to 2009. Readers meet each pastor as well as many of the countless people who worshiped and who contributed time, talents and treasure to the support of their local church. They also learn about worship, the Sunday School, the music program and building renovations.

The work and sociability of women's organizations, youth groups, senior citizens and couple's clubs are detailed. The church's support of missions has been extraordinary over the years and includes the current local Food Cupboard, Clothes Closet and a jail ministry.

The 216-page paperback book includes 87 illustrations. Cost is \$10.50, including sales tax, plus \$3.00 for shipping. To order a book, call the church office at 784-6661, or it may be picked up at the church.

SUPPLY OF EGGS

Eggs are getting cheap and plenty, and the people begin happily to contemplate "am and heggs." *Lewiston Evening Journal*, Mar. 3, 1874.

Historical Acquisitions: Donations

- Jordan (Lewiston) High School Diploma and two track photos of Joseph John Murphy, ca. 1917–18. Given by his son Joseph J. Murphy Jr. of Moscow, VT.
- Newspaper articles and booklets on the Flood of '36, the Fire of '47, the Hurricane of '54, Cushman Shoe, and World War II. Donated by Anonymous.
- *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett; *Moving to Maine*, by Victoria Doudera; *A Seal Called Andre*, by Harry Goodridge and Lew Dietz; *A Collection of Maine Humor*, by Bill Sawyer; *The Great Controversy*, by Ellen White. (The latter was a Maine author and a founder of the Seventh-day Adventist church; this is one of her major books.) Received in trade from Artios Books of Auburn.
- *The Historic Androscoggin, From the Magalloway to Merrymeeting Bay*, by Bill Duffy. This is a 19"x25" map of the Androscoggin river shed.
- *Patriotic Sacrifices of Valor Remembered*, by E. Hamilton Brooks. This is a Maine related history of the Spanish-American War. Donated by Russ Burbank.
- Four soldering irons bought from the estate auction of the late Annie Woodbury of Danville in the summer of 1983, ca. nineteenth century. Donated by Michael Lord of Auburn.
- Lewiston High School Football Banner 1950 with a photograph of the team. Donated by pastor Joseph Murphy of Moscow, VT.
- Doorstop/Paperweight commemorating the service of Georges Rancourt as mayor of Lewiston 1956–1958. Donated by Dolly Grondin of Lewiston.
- *Lewiston Daily Sun & Lewiston Evening Journal* newspapers concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. Donated by The Baudo Family of Brunswick.
- *The Pine Tree Cook Book 1901–1911*, compiled by the Ladies of the Elm Street Universalist Parish. Donated by Joanne Wuschke of Dover, Mass.
- "Eagle Scout Project 2007–2008: Briggs Cemetery Refurbished," by Daniel Poulin and Friends; a portfolio of photographs and articles concerning Daniel's undertaking of the clean up and refurbishing of The Briggs Cemetery on Turner Street in Auburn
- Two photos: Taken Mar 15, 1909 of Moses William Hanson- born Jan 21, 1873, Sadie Dailey Hanson- born May 20, 1875 and a photo of Walter Perkins (no date of birth listed). Donated by the Kennebec Historical Society.
- *The Baptists of Court Street, Auburn, Maine*, by Douglas I. Hodgkin. Donated by the author.

DEMAND FOR BRICKS

The Lewiston Bleachery invites proposals for a new building. We learn that the structure will require about 600,000 bricks. *Lewiston Evening Journal*, Mar. 5, 1874.



PECK HOUSE ON NATIONAL REGISTER

The Bradford Peck House, built in 1893 at 506 Main Street, Lewiston, was listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places on February 12, 2009. It is significant because Bradford Peck (1853–1935) established Peck's Department Store, the largest department store in New England outside of Boston and because he promoted a utopian cooperative economic system. The house is a rambling, Colonial Revival house designed by George M. Coombs. The house now is owned and occupied for offices by Century 21 Advantage.

Source: http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=mhpc_recent_listings&id=71635&v=article

ADOPTION IN 1874

Friday evening at 9.15 o'clock the door bell of Mr. C. N. Crocker who resides on Chapel Street, Lewiston, was rung quite violently. Mr. C. answered the call and found no one there and no one in sight. On looking to the doorstep, a package was seen wrapped in blankets. On the outside was a note in a lady's hand, evidently, addressed to Mrs. Lizzie E. Crocker, which read as follows: "Kind lady, please take this little child and be a mother to it and God will reward you. It is about a week old" – only this and nothing more – until the package which was closely pinned had been opened, when a female infant, a lively little child, was discovered. The infant was clad in excellent clothing, and the bundle contained various articles for the child's comfort. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker have decided to adopt the child – having no children of their own. *Lewiston Evening Journal*, Jan. 10, 1874.

JAILED FOR DRUNKENNESS

About a month ago, two young men named Whitney and Nelson, came to this city, as they say to seek work, but be that as it may, they soon found some tangle-foot and got uproariously drunk, the very natural result of which was that they sobered off in the lock-up, and were the next day sent to the county jail for thirty days. Having served out their sentence, on Friday they were released, but experience had not taught them wisdom; they found more nosepaint the same day, and the second time sobered off behind grates. Saturday morning they were before Judge Knowlton, who sentenced them to imprisonment and labor for sixty days. *Lewiston Evening Journal*, Mar. 9, 1874.



POUND ON NATIONAL REGISTER

Erected in 1816, the Turner Cattle Pound was an open air shelter to control cattle, hogs, or sheep that had wandered away from their owners. This stone enclosure is at the corner of the intersection of General Turner Hill Road and Kennebec Trail. It is about thirty-seven feet on each side and shaped like a parallelogram. Source: http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=mhpc_recent_listings&id=78268&v=article