



# The SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society  
Volume 20, Number 1 Spring 2017

---

## The Warren Home



A visit to the Warren Ladies Home

### Inside This Issue

The Warren Home, by Mary Annis	1
Poetry – <i>Piscataquis Farmer (Observer)</i>	2
Time, Talent and Treasure	10
Our Sponsors	11
Items Available	11

## The Warren Home

By Mary Annis

Most of us who live in Dover-Foxcroft today know the Warren Home as the Police Station. But the building has a wonderful history. It is one of the oldest homes in Dover-Foxcroft. In 1890 Frank Guernsey purchased the building as his residence. Mr. Guernsey was one of the most prominent men in town, and one of the most respected lawyers in the State. He and his family lived there until his death in 1927. (He built the house just to the left of his home for his mother in law). His wife Josephine continued to live in the house until her death in 1948. In 1954 it was deeded to the Town of Dover-Foxcroft for the “Warren Home”, until in 1974 it was passed to a private owner who held it until 2002 when it passed again into the care of the Town of Dover-Foxcroft. Mary’s story captures the home at perhaps its finest period – as the “Warren Home for Old Ladies”

[editor]

Continued on Page 3

### The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

President	Mary I. Annis
Vice President	Dennis Lyford
Secretary	Priscilla Higgins
Treasurer	Jim Annis
Membership Sec.	Chris Maas
Directors	Sylvia Dean
	Andy MacDougall
	Chris Maas
	Dennis Lyford
	David Lockwood
	Sean Letarte
	Irene Thomas

Curator, Blacksmith	David Lockwood
Curator, Obs. Bldg.	Dennis Lyford
Editor, Conserver	Chris Maas
Webmaster	Chris Maas
Historic Advisor	Chris Maas

The Society's legal address is 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426. The *Shiretown Conserver* is published quarterly. Contact the editor at 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426 or e-mail [chrism@roadrunner.com](mailto:chrism@roadrunner.com), or by phone at 207-924-4553

Visit us on-line at  
[www.dover-foxcrothistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dover-foxcrothistoricalsociety.org)  
 and on Facebook




### From the *Piscataquis Farmer* (Observer)

**Requisite qualifications for a wife. She should be:**

Amiable, artless, affable and accomplished  
 Beautiful, benign, benevolent  
 Chaste, charming, candid, cheerful, complaisant,  
 charitable, civil, constant  
 Dutiful, dignified;  
 Easy, elegant, engaging, entertaining  
 Fond, faultless, free;  
 Good, graceful, generous, governable, gay, good-  
 humored;  
 Handsome, harmless, healthy;  
 Intelligent, interesting, industrious, ingenious;  
 Just;  
 Kind;  
 Lovely, liberal, lovely;  
 Modest, merciful, mannerly;  
 Neat, notable;  
 Obedient, obliging;  
 Pretty, peaceable, pure  
 Quiet;  
 Righteous;  
 Sensible, social, submissive;  
 Temperate, true;  
 Unchangeable, undisguised;  
 Virtuous;  
 Wise, well-informed;  
 'Xquisite, and  
 Young.

(December 9, 1945)

**REMOVAL.**



**Daniel L. Plumer,**  
**Manufacturer of Saddles,**  
**Harnesses and Trunks,**

**H**AS removed his Shop into Dover Village, near Bartlett's Store, where he would respectfully invite all those who want any thing in his line of business to give him a call.

Dover, Dec, 6, 1844. 1844

**Boy Wanted,**

**A**T the **BOOT & SHOE BUSINESS** about sixteen years of age, of good habits ; none other need apply.

**SYLVANUS DEARBORN.**  
 Foxcroft, Feb. 10, 1841. 29

(The Warren Home, continued from page 1)



The original Frank Guernsey House  
(The old Favor Tavern to the right, now the library)

We begin our tale with a little history of the major players involved in establishing the Warren Home for elderly ladies.

Victor Lisle Warren was the second of six children born to Alanson Mellon Warren (a veteran of the Civil War, serving in Company M of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry) and Ellen Maria Daggett. He was born on December 8, 1865 in Orneville. Victor graduated from Shaw's Business College. He served as postmaster at Milo Junction for three years and later owned and operated a hardware and grocery store on Merrick Square in Dover for many years. Mr. Warren served on the School Board for fifteen years, was a member of the Water Board for fifteen years, past president of the Piscataquis Loan and Building Association, a director of the Kineo Trust Company, trustee of the Piscataquis Savings Bank, Past Master of the Masonic Lodge, member of the Eastern Star and a member of the Library Association. A very committed citizen was Victor.

Mr. Warren married Laura Maybelle Doore, daughter of Cyrus Hall Doore and Sarah Jane Martin, on May 31, 1893 in Dover. Laura was born in East Dover on August 3, 1865 and graduated from Foxcroft Academy. She taught in the public schools for ten years. She was also very committed to her community, being past president of the Athena Club, Past Matron of the Eastern Star, Past District Deputy of O.E.S. Past Regent of the Dover-Foxcroft Chapter of DAR, Past State Regent of Maine DAR, Vice President General National Society DAR, Past President of Past State Officers Club DAR, member of the Daughters of Colonial Wars, president of Foxcroft Academy Scholarship Association, member of Wm. R Chapman Music Club, member of the Community Garden Club and member of Women's Guild of the Congregational Church.

Victor and Laura Warren celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on May 31, 1941 at their home on River Street.

Victor Warren passed away on February 2, 1952 in Dover-Foxcroft at the age of 86. His will contained a bequest to the town of \$25,000 for an "old ladies home" where elderly women could live out their remaining years in comfort. In February of 1954, the selectmen appointed a committee of Harold Hayes, Harriet Gray, Eva Ross, Ora Evans and Arnold Gellerson to study the proposal and scout out a home to purchase.

(continued on page 4)

(The Warren Home, continued from page 3)

The decision was made to purchase the Frank Guernsey home on East Main Street, one of the most beautiful and elegant houses in town, and turn it into the “Warren Home”, which, according to the *Observer*, had been “an ambition of Mrs. Warren for many years”. The voters accepted the Home in May of 1954, and three months later, an open house was held on August 12 when 400 citizens visited the Home where Mrs. Laura Warren, Victor’s widow, was the guest of honor. She and Maria Pratt were the first two residents, with the Home being managed by Jasper and Violet Austin. Nine rooms on the second floor were made into bedrooms. Applications were taken by the three trustees – Harold Gray, Harriet Gray and Eva Ross. We are fortunate at the museum to have been recently given an “application”.



The Warren Home

The requirements for admission to Warren Home included:

1. An applicant must not be less than 70 years of age, of sound mind and free from epilepsy or other disease.
2. Each applicant must furnish all information requested, a birth certificate, a medical form signed by a physician approved by the trustees.
3. People in need of nursing care cannot be admitted, but after admission, care is provided.
4. Financial requirements are based upon the fact that since the Home agrees to provide complete care during the lifetime of its members and to provide for burial, it is expected that all property and income shall go to the Home.
5. All persons whose applications for admission have been approved by the Trustees shall be received on a provisional basis for period of six months. The Trustees shall at the end of that period either confirm or reject the applicant.

General rules for the residents were:

- Friends of members may be entertained at meals, when conditions permit, by payment of a fee to cover the cost.
- Members who are able are required to keep their rooms in order, to be courteous and kind to the other members and to render such help in the Home as may be needed.
- Members, before coming to the home, shall provide suitable and sufficient clothing for at least one year, the clothing clearly marked with her name. After the year, necessary clothing shall be provided by the Home.
- The Home will not be responsible for debts contracted by any member, or for the care of a member when absent from the Home. Members may, at their own expense, visit family or friends.
- Arrangements for all members at decease shall be the same, the Home will try whenever possible, to carry out personal requests. These requests are agreed to at the time the member enters the Home.
- Money, furniture and all other personal property brought into the Home shall become the property of the Home, unless excepted by written agreement.

(Continued on Page 5)

(The Warren Home, continued from page 4)



The Warren Home first shows up at the town meeting held on March 14, 1955, when Warrant Article 9 asked the town to vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 in support of the Warren Home. No report was given on the state of the Home at that time, nor for the following year when the appropriated \$2,250 for the Home, however reports appear in subsequent town reports. These reports were written by Violet Austin, who was the Matron at the Home. Following is a synopsis of the reports by year –

Warren Home Ladies at supper, October 1964.

1956 – 8 residents - In the spring of 1954, Mrs. Laura M. Warren offered the gift of the Guernsey house to the town for the purpose of making it into a Home for aged women. This had been Mr. Warren's wish and was to take place after Mrs. Warren's death. But – Mrs. Warren wanted to see this in operation and on her own made provision for the setting up of the establishment known as the Warren Home. Our dwelling together has been enjoyable. We have the privilege of attending the church of our choice, entertaining the clubs to which we belong, entertaining friends who call and going out to social events. Last summer, together, we enjoyed many automobile trips which included several outdoor picnics. When the Flu hit town last winter, four of our ladies were cared for tenderly in the Home. We feel we are a very fortunate household. We are thankful for the comfort we enjoy. Besides having a Home – we each have our own room which is our home within a Home, privileged to bring into it our treasures of the years; those things precious to us.

1957 – 11 residents - Another year has passed; nearly uneventfully, except that our family has increased from eight to eleven. The increase was made possible by making three nice bedrooms, a reception hall and a bathroom from our former garage and storage space on the bottom floor of the once-upon-a-time stable. A happy, homey atmosphere pervades our Home; as expressed in the words of Sarah Lee, one of the oldest citizens of our town, when she returned from the hospital, after a minor operation, "It's so good to be home".

Continued on Page 6



(The Warren Home, Continued from Page 5)

1958 – 9 residents - Among our summer visitors was a young woman who is a nurse to a Geriatric Doctor. This person was so impressed with the homelike atmosphere, the happiness and contentment she found among the women, that upon her return home, she spoke of the Warren Home to the doctor. He wanted further information concerning the founding of just such a place in their section of the country, where he feels there's a great need among some of his patients, that a home of this type would meet. Upon his request, we have sent him a brochure for his consideration. We lost, by death, Leona Bickmore, and through her serious sickness and death, Sarah Lee, both aged 89. Nora Edgerly has joined our family and is a permanent member. Amazingly enough, our ladies are enjoying good health and are appreciative of all the comforts and privileges afforded them through the untiring efforts of the Trustees and the thoughtfulness of the many friends of the Home.

1959 – 9 residents - We find much to be thankful for. We have had hardly any sickness, no accidents and no tragedies of any kind. We have gained many new friends. The Home is definitely meeting a great need in our community. In the words of our beloved town poet, Fred Washburn:

“\_we who are about to die  
Salute the youth of tomorrow  
For a part of the price of freedom is paid  
In blood and sweat and sorrow \_”

And as we salute the present generation, we also ask them to remember that no new generation comes into being without a generation having been. Each generation owes much to the one which preceded it.



The Home with its grounds

1960 – 9 residents - Many things have happened since our last written report, but we are happy to say our Home “has weathered the storm” and with the kind help of many hands, we are able, again, to give our “family” all any home can offer – comfort, love and protection. We are fortunate that there has been very little sickness – with the exception of a broken shoulder suffered from a fall in the house by Maria Pratt, prior to the fire of July 12<sup>th</sup>. This has healed and Mrs. Pratt is around as usual, helping with Home chores.

For a number of weeks after the fire, our “family” had to be “farmed out” to friends and relatives, but as the repairs were made, we were able to take back those whose living quarters were made ready until, at present, we are again operating under normal conditions. On Oct 11<sup>th</sup> we held a Silver Tea and Open House, under the sponsorship of the Athena Club, that friends might visit the Home, see the repairs and the progress made in restoration.

(Continued on Page 7)

(The Warren Home, continued from page 6)

1961 – 9 residents - Greetings! The Warren Home is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. As I prepare this report, I am thinking of the difference there is between a house and a home. House: A structure for human habitation. Home: A place where individuals dwell together in domestic affections; a place where vital needs, for living, are met; a place where individuals, living together, contribute to its atmosphere. We, at the Warren Home, are very happy to have this fine structure, recently “done over” inside and newly painted outside. We have had very little sickness and have enjoyed many happy times together.

1962 – 9 residents - *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”* Psalm 133:1. Death has taken one of our members this past year. In her early life, Miss Maude Robinson contributed much to community life in Dover-Foxcroft. Serving as an accomplished organist in nearly every church at one time or another; serving as Librarian at the Thompson Free Library for a number of years, coming in contact with young and old in the pursuit of worship and knowledge, she made many friends. We miss her greatly and are glad we could contribute to her needs in her declining years. All of our ladies are in comparatively good health. Some are still enjoying club activities and church attendance in spite of physical handicaps. Some are confined.



Violet Austin – tall lady in back row

1963 – 9 residents - I quote from Fred Washburn’s poem, “Let Your Light So Shine”:

“How can we use the wisdom God has given

To make things more worthwhile whilst we are here?”

A question each should ponder. We believe our Home is a worthwhile project. It is making life more worthwhile for these fine women whom we are allowed to have in our trust. We have had a year quite free from sickness-one bout with the Flu bug, but all recovered. Many good times have been enjoyed together. True, many days are lonesome, but phone calls, mail and visits tend to brighten and lift spirits. We want all to feel welcome to come in to the Home at any time.

1964 – 9 residents - We are thankful for this haven-of-rest and for the feeling of security and togetherness which the Warren Home group enjoys, and thankful to those who have contributed in any way to make this possible. This past year, two of our members met with the misfortune of broken bones, otherwise we are enjoying comparative good health and many good times together.

1965 – 10 residents - We’ve all heard the expression, “Times have changed”. And they have – but more for some people than for others. This senior group at the Warren Home can remember days when there was no electricity, no radios, no telephones, no television, no super highways, no automobiles or trucks, no buses, no airplanes, no rockets-nor any number of other things which the younger generations take for granted. Yes, there were many things this older generation did not have in time gone by, but there were many things they did have which contributed to wholesome and happy living. Among fond memories often recounted are husking bees, sleigh rides and buggy rides, music schools, camp meetings, to mention a few, and a family relationship that was of necessity closer than most today, even if the woodshed was also the “house of correction”.

Here at the home we enjoy many anecdotes about days gone by – some are humorous, some are sad, but all are informative, for out of the old comes the new. We have had a good year with little sickness. We invite you to come and visit us. (In 1965, Mrs. Laura D. Warren observed her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Warren Home and gave the Warren Home \$10,000. She had lived at the Home for nearly 13 years and died at 101, at the time being the oldest living graduate of Foxcroft Academy.)

(Continued on Page 8)

(The Warren Home – Continued from Page 7)

1966 – 10 residents - Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103.2. At the age of 101 plus, death has taken Laura D. Warren from our midst. We are grateful for the pleasant memories our association with her, over these last nearly 13 years, has left us. She was very generous in the gift of the Home and later, in help for its maintenance. We will and do miss her greatly. All of our residents are in good health; three being in their 90's, six in their 80's and one in her 70's. All ladies enjoy callers and some are able to attend church and social activities and visits with friends or relatives away from the Home



Jasper Austin

W	omen	(for we are)
A	ged	H omey,
R	espected,	O bliging,
R	etired,	M inistrative (and)
E	ntitled (are)	E fficient
N	urtured	

With the Lord's help, may the Warren Home continue to be a blessing to those who come to us for shelter and love. ( In 1966, Maria Pratt, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Warren Home).

1967 – 10 residents – That fleet, winged-footed, mystical creature, Time, travels so rapidly! Next August we will have been in operation for fourteen years. It has been pleasant. There have been sorrows, but there have been comforts and blessings enjoyed by those who have resided under our roof. The great Richard Cecil once said, "There is a lodestone of unselfishness which, by its own power, not only attracts the particles of human existence to itself, but by this virtue unites them one to another." I like to think that the unselfishness that is in our midst makes for the unit we enjoy. Some of our residents are quite handicapped with the infirmities of age, while others attend church services and are still interested and active in social and civic affairs.

(Continued on Page 9)



(The Warren Home – Continued from Page 8)

1969 – 7 residents – This is the final report submitted to the Town Report. It was written by Bessie Bragdon, Matron and Milton Bragdon, Cook and Manager. We are very pleased with the results we have accomplished in the past six months. We try to make the Warren Home a pleasant place for our ladies. We have three rooms vacant which we would like to be taken. We had the misfortune of losing two of our ladies this year, Mrs. Blanche Brown and Mrs. Myrtle Batchelder. We had very little sickness and we escaped the Hong Kong flu. All are in very good health at present. Visitors are welcome at all times, also the different clubs of the town. We will have Church services starting in February. Different pastors will have afternoon services for the ladies.

At a special town meeting in May of 1969, the voters approved by 160 for and 5 against, an article to close the Home as the town had already raised about \$84,000 to support it over the years, and many felt it was too expensive to continue. What to do with the assets of the Home that amounted to about \$149,000? A judge ruled they should be used for the housing of the elderly, that the Home should be sold and the proceeds used for aid to elderly women. Later, the Superior Court ruled also that the Home had to be sold with the proceeds added to the Victor and Laura Warren fund “to assist elderly women of Dover-Foxcroft”. In July of 1972, a newly created Dover-Foxcroft Housing Corporation announced plans for a 20-unit project. After the project was completed, the Corporation would receive \$6,000 a year from the Warren Home Fund “to assist elderly ladies who qualify for reduced rent.”

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society recently received several photos and items from the estate of Hope Lacourciere, who passed away recently. She was the youngest daughter of Violet and Jasper Austin. Hope was a wonderful supporter of the Society and we miss her.



Laura Warren in 1961

## Annual Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their Historical Society dues for 2017. We really appreciate having you as a member. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do so now so you can continue to enjoy all of the benefits of membership in the Historical Society, including receiving copies of the *Conservator*.

---

### The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society – Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$10 per person and \$7.00 for senior memberships. Please make checks payable to: Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover January to December. If you are giving a gift membership, please include the name and address and we'll gladly notify the recipient of your gift.

---

## Time, Talent and Treasure

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society is fortunate to have approximately 250 dues paying members. Well over half of you have already contributed this year's dues. We are extremely grateful. Your contributions make it possible for all of us to continue to preserve and share our town's heritage. There are many ways to make contributions. If you have spare time, there are a number of projects just waiting in the wings. For instance, we are heavily involved in detailed planning for lighting, landscaping and facilities for the Central Hall project. If you have an interest and some time to spare to work with us, we would be delighted to have you join us.

We have over twenty two thousand items in our collections at the moment. New ones come in every week. You may be interested in helping us catalog and preserve all of these treasures. Come and help. Our Thursday workdays are a lot of fun. You will meet a bunch of really nice people – and you are likely to run across treasures from your past. What's not to like?

We are always on the lookout for items to add to our collections. Perhaps you are cleaning out mom and dad's attic and are wondering what to do with that old trunk or old photo albums. They will likely find a home with us. We are experts at preserving fragile memories. Better yet, there is no better way to share them with your friends and neighbors – and to pass those memories on to the next generation.

Finally, consider a planned gift to the Historical Society. That way, you can all be confident that the good work of the Historical Society will go on for generations to come. Contact Mary Annis, our president, or any board member, to discuss how you can enrich the community and add enjoyment to your own life by contributing your Time, Talent and Treasures to the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society.

## **Central Hall Progress**

### **A Brief Note**

Much is happening on the construction. The wainscoting is almost all built and up. The elevator is being installed and interior doors are about to be put up. You are always invited to learn more by contacting the editor, or, better yet, asking for a tour!



### **Our Corporate Sponsors**

A grateful thank you to the following businesses whose funds support the Society and its efforts to preserve our history. When you shop or see these folks, please tell them 'thank you' for their support!

Ellen Anderson, D.P.M.  
Family Eyecare  
Green Door Gallery  
Lary Funeral Home  
Maine Highlands Federal C/U  
Mallett Real Estate  
Pleasant River Lumber  
Rowell's Garage  
Steinke and Caruso  
Mark Stitham, M. D  
Sean Stitham, M.D.

**Thank you all!**

### **Items Available**

We thank Bob's Home and Garden on Lincoln Street for stocking our ornaments and DVD's. Please stop by their store and support this local business.

Glass Christmas ornaments: \$6.00 each (add \$4.00 for shipping)

2008 – Blacksmith Shop

2009 – Observer Building

2010 – Central Hall

2011 – Thompson Free Library

2012 – Foxcroft Academy

2013 – The Blethen House

2014 – Pleasant Street School

2015 – Mayo's Mill

2016 – Piscataquis County Court House

DVD's : Glimpses of Dover and Foxcroft - \$10.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Memories of Central Hall/Lou Stevens - \$15.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Dover-Foxcroft throws: \$40.00 (add \$8.00 for shipping)

**The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, Inc.**  
**28 Orchard Road**  
**Dover-Foxcroft, ME**  
**04426-3706**

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 57  
DOVER\_FOXCROFT  
ME.

