

THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Newsletter

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Autumn 2002

LYDIA'S MAGICAL ELIXIR

By Nancy Klimavicz Battick

"Oh, we'll sing of Lydia Pinkham
and her love for the human race
How she sells her Vegetable Compound
And the papers they publish her face"
College Glee Club Song

Lydia Estes Pinkham was America's first nationally successful businesswoman. Her vegetable compound sold internationally; her face became instantly recognizable (photos of her were often substituted for those of Queen Victoria in news stories). Her name became the object of thousands of jokes, and today her company still thrives and is riding the crest of modern women's search for "natural" products. Few people know that Lydia Pinkham's business was incorporated in Maine and that a corporate battle involving Pinkham heirs was played out with great scandal in Maine courts.

Lydia Estes was born to well-to-do New England Quakers in 1819 in Lynn, Massachusetts. Lydia's family was staunchly Abolitionist and progressive. Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and other noted reformers numbered among the family's friends. The Estes women believed in women's suffrage, equality, and education. A schoolteacher for many years, Lydia eventually married Isaac Pinkham, a widowed shoemaker with one daughter. He and Lydia had 4 children.



The face that launched an empire. Lydia E. Pinkham

Lydia Pinkham, along with many 19th century women, distrusted male doctors (female doctors were virtually unknown). To 21st century eyes this distrust is easy to understand. Most medical schools of the era were primitive, basic sanitation habits weren't expected of doctors and surgeons, germs unheard of;

laboratories ineffectual. Common medical techniques included bleeding, blistering, cupping, and leeching. Calomel (mercury compound) was widely prescribed - the more savage it damaged patients the more doctors believed it was working. Some medical schools taught that women were naturally less robust. Literature of the era celebrated the ideal woman as delicate and sickly. Much of the normal female reproductive system was considered morbid by many doctors and they (Lydia Pinkham continues on page 10)

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FA Football Team In 110th Year: has played at 8 locations By Louis Stevens

While the Foxcroft Academy football team is playing its 100th season - 60 of which have been at the present school complex - let's go back over the first 109 years since 1893 to remember where the teams have played their home games. Can you name four of the places to earn yourself a three-point field goal? Five for a touchdown? Seven for a TD and extra point? And all eight for a TD and a two-point conversion?

1. The first, for several years starting in 1893, was at GOULD FIELD, located on the large plateau (or Intervale) by the river on the East Dover Road. In recent years, the Gould farm was owned by John King, long-time custodian at the school, and who helped park cars at Oakes Field for many years. The team lost its first two games at Old Town against the high school there and a team from Maine State .

College, soon to become the University of Maine. After a win at Dexter, the team finally played its first home game ever also against Dexter late in the season on November 18. FA won 12-0. Over 500 curious fans attended.

2. Several years later - the exact date is rather vague from reports - the team played a few games one year on another field by the river, this time on land owned by DR. JAMES COCHRANE, located presumably from a report, behind the home now of Clair Hall on lower Lincoln Street.

3. For a few seasons there were no games against high school opponents just between the first and second teams. Why? There could have been several reasons: since the boys had to pay for their own train travel, they could not afford to take away games or their scheduled opponents could not come here; they had no money to pay officials; or possibly not enough boys for a team. But in 1899, we have (FA Football continues on page 5)



One of the players on the first FA football team of 1893 was Louis Oakes (front row, far left) who later paid for the construction of the field bearing his name, and which opened 50 years later in 1943. Note the many types of uniforms made by the team members' mothers, the oddly-shaped ball, and the primitive goal post. Exact location of the photo is uncertain.

**Intriguing Obits
from the Piscataquis Farmer,
Piscataquis Herald, & Piscataquis
Observer, 1838-1858**

**By Madelyn C. Betts & Celeste B.
Hyer**

In Northport, suddenly - MISS BETSEY LEAR, age 27 (post mortem found heart badly lacerated against the point of a darning needle sticking between ribs). She had a playful scuffle with a small boy 24 hours before her death, when needle was probably forced into her side.

In Rowley, Mass. - STEPHEN HARRIS, age 62 (He broke his neck in a fall while attempting to mount his horse from a fence).

In Pickaway County, Ohio - MRS. FRANCINIAH PETERS, age 80, leaving 234 children, grandchildren, great grandchildren of who 189 are now living in that state.

In Brooklyn, N.Y. by suicide, caused by arsenic - MISS ELIZABETH ROBEDEE, age 19 - she was engaged to be married soon but in a sudden fit of jealousy took fatal dose.

In Bangor, drowned - EPHRAIM G. COULLARD, formerly of Monroe, age 55 yrs. - he was a man of intemperate habits. He left a wife and 10 children.

In Bath - WILLIAM WRIGHT, Norridgewock, age 27, - Mr. Wright drank his tea in usual health, and returned to his business, was suddenly attacked, fell down, and in ten minutes was a corpse.

Drowned in Augusta - GREENLEAF HASKELL, - He fell in a mudhole and being intoxicated could not extricate himself.

In Hartwich, N.H. May 5 - widow RUTH IRONS, age 55 - suffered 9 years from dropsy of the chest and abdomen within 2-1/2 years. Dr. F.G. Thrall removed by operation a few gals. Over 6 barrels of water. She was a small woman when in health and weighed 90 lbs.

In Fryeburg, ME. - JONATHAN GAMAGE, 90, Revolutionary soldier at Bunker Hill, was present at the first Bunker Hill celebration and lost his reason from excitement produced by the occasion, in which state he died, without any other apparent disease.

In Abbot - Mrs. NANCY ELLA, wife of NATHAN BRAZIER about 20 yrs. Death caused by administration of arsenic by some person unknown to jury summoned by coroner because of circumstances of her death.

In Bucksport - WILLIAM LAWRENCE, native of Scotland, age 97. Was orderly sergeant in Royal Artillery, came to this country with British Army sometime before rupture with Great Britain.

In New York City - WILLIAM R. PRINCE, member of Theological Seminary Bangor (had operation for virulent tumor on his thigh, amputation performed, died in 18 hrs.).

In Monmouth - EBEZER L. STORER - drowned himself in pond near where he lived. He had been married but 6 weeks and his wife left him in consequence of a dispute about the disposition of her property.

In E. Sangerville, March 18 - JOHN W. STACEY, 2 yrs. Eldest son HIRIAM STACEY - an afflicted family. The 4th death since March 1st - a wife and 3 children from typhus fever.

(For more obits, see page 7)

The Demise & Rebirth of a Town Artifact

By Alfred H. Fortier

In summer 1927, my parents and I moved to Dover-Foxcroft from Farmington, Maine. The first house they rented was a neat little house at 113 Lincoln Street. One evening after we had settled in, my parents decided we would walk uptown to become familiar with our new hometown. It was just about dusk and a warm, but damp evening with thickening fog and a mist which was almost a fine rain.

We approached Monument Square and had just turned left in front of Hoyt's Drug Store (the front corner of the wedge-shaped brick Opera Block Building) when we heard a heavy metallic clank and thump sound followed immediately by the gushing sound of cascading water!

We looked toward the sound and saw that a Model T Ford stripped down Flivver had crashed into the cast iron horse watering fountain bowl in the center of the Square. The large bowl was pushed all the way down so the edge actually rested on the concrete pavement. The intact center iron light post with street sign and light on top fed from overhead wires was a rakish angle pointing generally westward toward West Main Street. The water pipes had been pulled at least two feet out of the ground. The "T" radiator was at an angle against the fan which was bent against the engine block.

We could hardly believe what happened next. The car had bounced back from the original impact position. The uninjured driver climbed down and walked up front to survey the damage. He grabbed the radiator with both hands and proceeded to yank it free after a few forceful tugs and threw it to the pavement. He then climbed back up into the seat, backed the car up, then drove it into the thickening fog up West Main Street toward the Guilford Road and to

who knows where.



"At the Fountain" from the D-F Historical Society collection.

Poor visibility was likely a factor in this accident and it was a week or more before the fountain was finally removed.

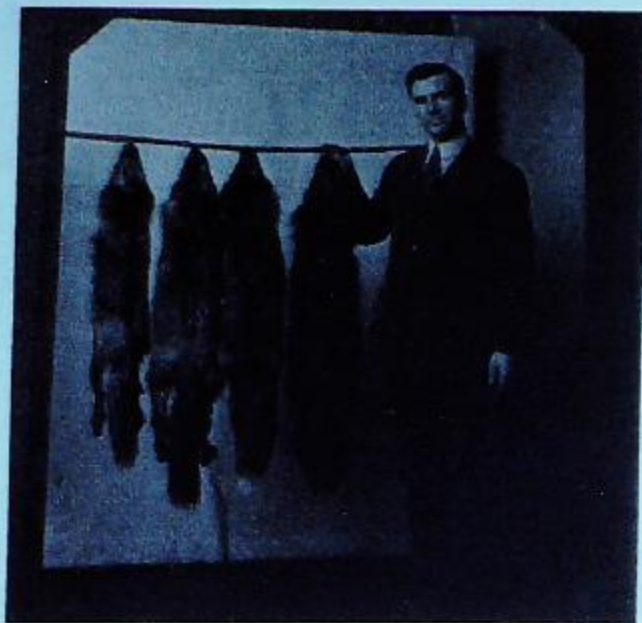
Many years later I was surprised to learn that the fountain bowl is still in existence. In 1996 my wife and I attended the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for our dear friends, Cliff and Wanda Wiley, at the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church Chapel. I was amazed to see the old cast iron bowl in splendid reincarnation serving as a flower planter and focal point by the historic markers showing the original Foxcroft Academy position.

Red Letters on Your Label?

They mean you're in arrears with your membership dues. Please send a check for \$3 for each year listed to: D-F Historical Society, 11 Harrison Avenue, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426.

Thanks for your support.

Raising Foxes for Milady



On June 5, Lou Stevens spoke to the Society on the fox breeding business run by his grandfather, Maurice Stevens and later by his father, Charles Stevens. The Stevens' family, members of the American Fox Breeders Association, raised foxes until the end of World War II when imports from Norway cut into the business. Maine winters were ideal for raising foxes whose pelts flourished in the cold weather and farms were located in several areas of the state.

Lou reminded the group that fashionable women of the early to mid 20th century draped furs around their shoulders routinely, a thing unheard of in today's more animal-conscious world.

The Stevens Fur Farm raised several types of foxes for the New York market: black, silver, and the delicate platinums. Platinum pelts were prized but were the result of inbreeding and those foxes were hemophiliacs who could bleed to death in the birth process without massive dosages of Vitamin K.

Lou told us the foxes were sheltered carefully, visited only by his grandfather or father to avoid frightening the vixens who react to fear by

destroying their kits. Typical litters ran to 4 kits. The foxes were fed ground horse meat, bought from a slaughterhouse in Bangor and received grain in their water.

All foxes were humanely killed. The pelts were shipped to New York by rail where they were auctioned. This meant the family's receipts depended on market conditions and the actual condition of the pelts themselves.

All foxes bore the identifying tattoo of MSF and carried the universal name Stevens followed by a name of a family member.

Several members recalled their grandmothers or other relatives owning fox drapes which were treasured fashion accessories.



***** Needlecraft Magazine, September 1927

FA Football, continued

the resumption of play with one game, 22-0, over Dexter at DOORE FIELD located where the future Grammar and Mayo Street Schools would stand. Why there? The owner of the field was George Doore who had a couple of sons playing so he let the team use his field which was also the place for circuses to set up their tents. The team played there three years. (Continued on page 13)

Obits, continued from page 2

In Stetson - Mrs. SUSAN wife of STEPHEN HURD, - part of an upstairs floor gave way where she was working precipitated her upon a chair below, when a knife she was holding entered her side and caused almost instantaneous death, left 9 children.

In Swanville - a man giving his name as ABEL JOHNSON, Vienna, Me. He appeared to be a kind of wandering Jew.

In Farmington, N.H. - Mrs. MARY FURBER, relict of Gen. RICHARD FURBER, 92 yrs., 9 mo. - one year after death of husband, both died on Town Meeting Day.

In Dover, - MELVIN, eldest son of JOSEPH S. & LUCY COLCORD, 9 yrs., 10 mo., 20 da. Cause of death attributed to too frequent bathing in the course of past summer, which brought on inflammation of the brain.

In Canaan - JONATHAN GOODRICH, 75 Yr. Of erysipelas - also same night from same disease, his wife about 74.

In Castine - EDMUND BRIDGES, 89, Rev. soldier born in Old York, also served 1 hr. with Great Britain.

In East Livermore - NATHAN NILES, 60 yr. Native of Turner, his weight at death 462 lbs. He died without any bodily disease.

In Parkman, - wife of THOMAS SEDBURY - this is 2nd wife that Mr. S. has been called upon to give back within 5 years.

In So. Thomaston - LT. JOSEPH BERRY, 92 yrs Rev. soldier & father of 20 children.

In Calif. July 11 - SIMEON B. MERRILL, son of BRADBURY MERRILL, Dover, Me. age 22 yrs - shot by Indians while transporting supplies to mines.

In Waterboro - PHEBE, wife of MOOS SMITH, age 75, she has had 5 husbands.

In New York, April 28 - JOSEPH BOUCHARD, 70, served in the army of the first Napoleon, bore scars from action.

In Dover, 14th - JANE, of consumption daughter of NIMROD & LYDIA HINDS, 19 yrs. Old, last survivor of 5 brothers and sisters.

In Abbot, Oct. 12 - Miss ADELA ANN, daughter JACOB & DOROTHY WITHAM, 12 yrs. Death caused by breaking a fluid lamp and igniting her clothing, her father was seriously burned & mother slightly.

NOTE: Jacob was a brother to Madelyn Betts' great-grandmother.

Other Last Words

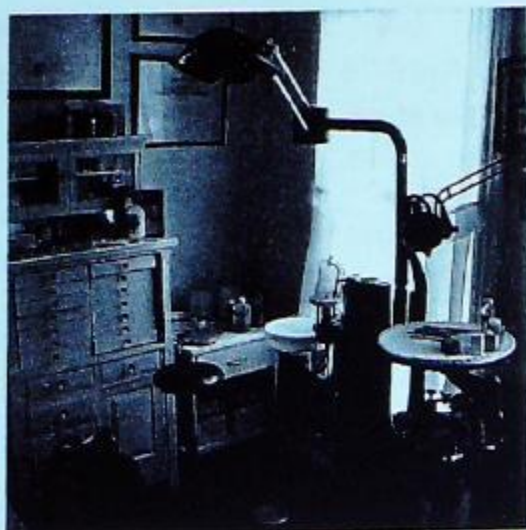
From the Zanesville (Ohio) Daily Courier, November 8, 1877

A Virginia Sheriff asked a murderer if he wanted to make a speech on the gallows, and he replied, "Guess not; it looks like rain, and I don't want to get wet. Go on with the hanging."

Miss Meachlowskschiocgz has disappeared from her home in Sing Sing, and her friends are in great uneasiness about her. It is feared she has shut herself up somewhere and is trying to pronounce her own name"

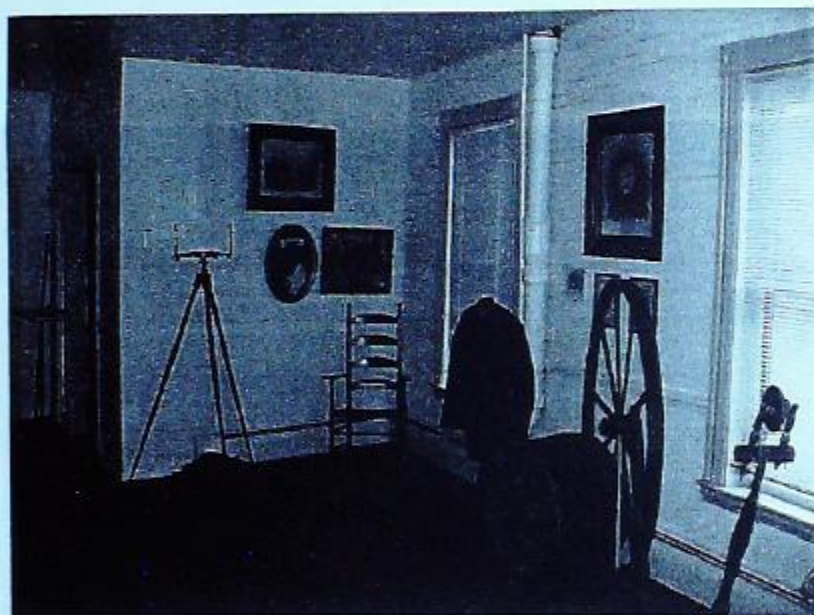
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What's New at the Historical Society Museum



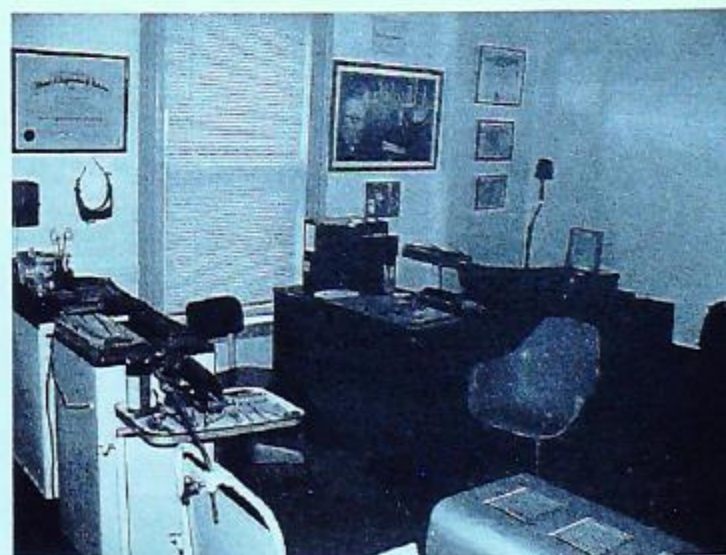
Dr. Robbins' dental office equipment & memorabilia

The Piscataquis Observer sign & printing machines



A portion of the newly renovated Back Room.

Dr. Stitham's office equipment, waiting room, & memorabilia.



A Message From Mary

I want to thank all the members who graciously hosted at the Observer Building this summer. We had many visitors from all over the country. Homecoming weekend was especially busy with all the FA alumni returning for the festivities.

We have the back room set up with a display for the *Piscataquis Observer*, Dr. Stitham's office, generously donated by his family, and many artifacts pertaining to the Dows. In the middle room we have set up Dr. Robbins' dentistry. These items had been stored for many years at the L.C. Bates Museum in Hinkley. Dave Lockwood and Jim Annis picked them up in August and the office was set up right away.

Thanks goes to Nancy and Jack Battick who helped with displays and made new laminated signs for many of the exhibits in the museum.

Many things happened this summer. We're open until the last Sunday in September on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Come see what we've done.

Upcoming Program

October 2. 7 p.m. Thayer Parkway

Walter MacDougal

Writing a Social History of the Railroads

Please bring photos to share.

OUR SPONSORS

The Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following individuals and businesses whose generosity allows us to continue our work.

DR. MARK STITHAM

LARY FUNERAL HOME

COLE'S AGWAY

NORTHEAST PUBLISHING

Lydia Pinkham, (Continued from pg. 1)

removed ovaries and other organs with no anesthesia. Doctors were even known to refuse chloroform to ease childbirth pain because of the Biblical injunction that women should suffer giving birth. In this climate, patent medicines flourished.

Lydia Pinkham made her own medicines including her compound which she gave free to any woman asking for it. Isaac was wealthy but overextended and in 1873 went bankrupt. The family lost mansion and business and was forced to move to a modest house. Legend says they were trying to decide how to survive when two Salem women came to the door begging Lydia for a bottle of her compound. One of Lydia's sons immediately asked, "Why don't we sell it?"

The Pinkhams sought to establish a national market for their product. Lydia's son began by standing on street corners in New York City handing pamphlets to women. He also persuaded druggists to carry the compound and came up with the idea of promoting the concoction as helping kidney disorders to broaden its appeal to men. Lydia brewed the compound in her kitchen. Another son suggested putting his mother's picture on the label. It was the first time a woman's picture was on a patent medicine label and the sweet-faced, highly respectable Lydia inspired trust. Though the infant company struggled at first, they soon hit upon advertising in newspapers and the response amazed them.

Lydia wrote much of the original advertising and her sometimes anti-male message struck a chord with women. Women took her up on her offer to "write to Mrs. Pinkham for advice". Letters to Lydia grew in volume and the

company hired women to answer letters with standard replies citing Lydia's diet and sanitation advice and touting use of the compound for the writer's physical problems.

Young Lady: "Oh, I've smashed my bottle of Lydia Pinkham's!"
Mother: "Aha! A Compound Fracture!"

In 1882 the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. was incorporated in Maine because of favorable tax laws and the company expanded sales to Canada. Lydia died in 1883 and the tone of the advertising changed as professionals took over this role. The company spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in ads in papers such as the *Piscataquis Observer*. Most ads featured testimonials from real women who, while unpaid, received free compound, money for a portrait, stationery and stamps, and annual silver souvenir spoons. The claims in these testimonials today read as absurd. Women credited the compound with curing infertility, cancer, kidney diseases. Typical was the testimonial in the *Observer* of January 14, 1897 called "A Cry of Warning" in which the writer claims "I suffered for years . . . with womb and kidney trouble in their worst forms . . . I cannot praise it [the compound] enough and cry aloud to all women that . . . suffering is unnecessary." Ads also encouraged women to stay away from doctors and reassured women that "Men Never See Your Letters". When the *Ladies' Home Journal* printed a photo of Lydia's tombstone and pointed out she couldn't be answering

letters, the company claimed Lydia's daughter-in-law (the other Mrs. Pinkham) handled letters.

But patent medicine excesses led to a call for regulation. In a

**Lydia E. Pinkham's vegetable compound,
the Great Remedy for Female Complaints.
Reliable: Bright's Disease. Angel of Mercy.
On sale at C.B. Kittredge, Dover, Maine.
Price One Dollar. *Piscataquis Observer*,
1880**

Author's note: Some of the sources used in preparing this article include: *Lydia Pinkham Is Her name* by Jean Burton; *Female Complaints: Lydia Pinkham and the Business of Women's Medicine* by Sarah Stage; "The Name That Launched a Million Bottles", Vanderbilt Medical Center; "The Great American Fraud" by Samuel Hopkins Adams (*Collier's Magazine*, October 7, 1905); and *American Self-Dosage Medicines: An Historical Perspective* by James Harvey Young.

What is History Anyway, Part II

(Continued from page 6)

democracy to emerge. In Athens all adult male citizens (not slaves or women) had an equal share in the rights and duties of governing. Another factor was the emergence of philosophy, the love of thought and reason. Between them, democracy and philosophy gradually led to a secular emphasis in the examination of human activity, that is, to the idea that human beings are responsible for their own actions and the results of that action, not the gods. And thus was laid the basis for the writings of the Father of History, Herodotus of Helicarnasus.

He was born around 484 B.C. in a colony in western Turkey, part of the world conquered by the Persians. In 500 B.C. the Greek colonists in Asia Minor revolted against Persian rule and Herodotus was forced to flee before Persian armies. Traveling widely, he formed the opinion that geography, climate, and tradition determines people's outlook and lifestyles and that all humans share the same traits, desires, and needs. In his historical writings, Herodotus brought this knowledge to bear on his analysis of the past and events in his time. Much of what we know of the ancient Middle East is indebted to Herodotus' descriptions.

His works deal with the war between the Greek city-states and the Persian empire. He saw this as a conflict of civilizations where the Greeks sought to preserve independence and the Persians sought to control the world. Herodotus' descriptions of the battles at Marathon and Salamis are based upon interviews with participants and from reading others' accounts. He also foresaw that the conservative Spartans who won at Marathon and the Athenians whose navy won at Salamis would inevitably struggle and eventually break up the unity of the Greeks against the Persians. While Herodotus paid lip service to the roles of the gods in history, he emphasized human choice and the role of chance. Later Cicero, Roman statesman and orator, bestowed on Herodotus the title Father of History, but it was the next great Greek historian who set the standard - Thucydides.

Born about 460 B.C. Thucydides wrote chiefly of the struggle between Sparta and Athens for dominance in the Greek world. (Peloponnesian War). Exiled from Athens, he was able to make contacts among Spartans which enabled him to write a more complete history of the war.



Thucydides

Thucydides confined his history to events that occurred in his own lifetime. He interviewed participants, compared versions of events, analyzed motives, and tried to determine the factors which brought about the final result. In his writings, gods play no part. History

is what people willingly, inadvertently, and mistakenly do or fail to do. He concluded it was overweening ambition of some Athenian leaders to control Greece that led to its defeat.

One practice of Thucydides has attracted

criticism and that is the speeches he put into the mouths of prominent persons in his text, most of which he could not have heard. The most famous of these is the speech of the Athenian general Pericles on the occasion of a burial ceremony for soldiers. Pericles supposedly summarized all that was great and noble about Athens, things worth dying for. In a way, it was the equivalent of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, although fifty times longer! No other text of this speech exists (no reporters then). If



Pericles

Thucydides was there is unknown, but he did combine others' impressions of the speech and added his conception of what was appropriate to the occasion and the points that Pericles

might emphasize. Later historians would copy this method, but not always from Thucydides' level of detachment.

The end of the war allowed Thucydides to return to Athens where he tried to bring his narrative to the peace of 404, but never finished. Possibly he died violently in the chaos and recrimination following Athens' defeat. His text was considered so accurate and reliable that other Greek writers took up the narrative where he left off.

Thus from ancient Egypt through the Greeks, history went from being the glorification of god/kings to the study of human motivation, action, and consequences in a secular sense. Next time, history as it developed in the period of the Roman Empire.

FA Football, continued from page 5

4. The fourth home field was to be more lasting as the team played on the infield of the race track on PARK STREET from 1912-22 with the first game, a 6-3 loss to Dexter, played at 10 a.m. and the last a 30-0 win over Guilford

High. Two of the oldest FA football records were set 82 years ago in 1920 when Willis Barrows scored six TDS for 36 points (years later he recalled that the 50-yard line was about where the Y stands today).

5. After the spool factory bought the race track grounds, the team had to find another location for home games. It was the outfield portion of the new baseball diamond at the new fairgrounds on FAIRVIEW AVENUE. Part of the field went the dirt infield which made for some extremely muddy conditions. Three of the school's undefeated teams (1937, 1939, 1940) played there. The last year was 1942. There were no official state champions at that time though the three teams were generally considered so.

6. Then came OAKES FIELD with the team playing its first game there in 1943, several years before any bleachers or radio booth, and nine before the school opened nearby in 1952. Four teams (1963, 1967, 1983, and 1996) that played on the field before it was rotated to be parallel with the road, won official state championships. Lights were added in 1993. It could readily be said that the most exciting play at this field was made by John Cornett whose 89-yard run for the winning TD for a 27-24 win over Messalonskee in 1989 in a play-off for the Eastern Maine championship came with 14 seconds left.

7. While the old Oakes Field was being moved, the team played just one year at its seventh location at the new SOCCER FIELD in all-daylight games.

8. And finally, its eighth home at the present rebuilt field which is now in its second year.

NOTE: Louis Stevens is the author of two books on FA football: *Foxcroft Academy's Five Undefeated Teams* and *100 Years of Foxcroft Academy Football*.

The Maine Memory Network

On September 17 members of the D-F Historical Society met with Ellen Dyer, Outreach Consultant of the Maine Memory Network. Ellen trained members so the Society can become a contributing partner to MMN in the future.

The MMN is a project of the Maine Historical Society and has as its goal placing historically significant documents, images, and recordings on the Internet for use by schools, researchers, and all interested in Maine history.

The MMN allows visitors to read rare documents, create slideshows or albums, download lesson plans, view images, and more. While the D-F Historical Society doesn't own equipment that will allow it to participate at this time, Ellen Dyer provided us with lists of software and hardware in the event funding ever becomes available to help us in purchasing computer, scanning, and camera equipment.

If you're on the Internet check out the Maine Memory Network (you must have Adobe Acrobat to view the images) at <http://www.mainememory.net>.

Storing Documents Tip

While we're on the topic of rare documents and other items, we'd like to offer the following tip for those of you who own historically or genealogically significant documents. If you find any old documents held together with paper clips, rubber bands, staples or similar fasteners, please remove them from your documents (scotch tape is another offender).

The materials in these items will cause your priceless artifacts to begin to deteriorate after 30

years and will actually eat into the original document causing blemishes and eventual ruin of the document. The damage worsens with time and after 200 years nothing will be left - a sad thought if you want to pass items down the generations in your family, a museum, library, or historical society.

Best bet: store your documents in archive-quality containers which are acid free (not shoe boxes!) and know that they'll be there for future generations.

We'll be bringing you more tips on preservation and restoration of other items in future issues of the *Conserver*.

Tumosa Story will appear in Dirigo Flyer

We're pleased to announce that a version of the story "To Be An Aviator: the story of Stanley William Tumosa" which appeared in the last issue of the *Conserver*, will be in an upcoming issue of the *Dirigo Flyer*. The *Flyer* is the newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society. The late George Green, nephew of Stanley, and one of the "flying Tumosas" was a member.

Boys In The Belfry

We were pleasantly surprised to receive a telephone call from the widow of Paul True regarding the "Boys In the Belfry" article in the last edition of the *Conserver*. She enjoyed Alfred Fortier's piece enormously and said Paul had never told her about that adventure! She made copies of the article for Paul's children and grandchildren.

Wassabec Still Going Strong

Readers may recall that the Society's joint project with the Thompson Free Library on genealogy last year caused the revitalization of the Wassabec Genealogical Society. Wassabec, whose name is a combination of Lakes Wassakeag and Sebec, is a chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society. The group meets bimonthly at the Penquis Higher Education Center. They met September 12 with Cheryl Patten from the Maine Genealogical Society speaking on "deciphering old handwriting." The group will meet again on November 14 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be given by *Bangor Daily News* columnist, Roxanne Moore Saucier on the 1930 census. If you've an interest in genealogy please plan on attending.

Business Sponsor Drive

The Society has initiated a drive to attract business patrons and sponsors to help with overhead costs at the two museums, underwrite conservation efforts, and allow us to continue our outreach activities including publication of the *Conservator*. Sponsors will be acknowledged at the Historical Society Museum, in each issue of the *Conservator*, and with additional copies of the *Conservator* if desired. If you know of a business or individual that might be interested in this program, please contact Nancy Battick at 564-3576.

Editor's Corner

Once again it's time to give thanks and a tip of the hat to . . . *Madelyn Betts, Alfred Fortier, Lou Stevens, Mary Annis, and Jack Battick*. Their work has helped create this issue of the *Conservator*.

I want to also thank all of you who have written, e-mailed, or called with comments on the *Conservator*. I do appreciate your input. I always try to have a variety of different items in each issue. Not everyone will care for every piece, but I want to keep you informed of what's happening in the Society, at the two museums, and hopefully help you learn something interesting about your community, state, and the world as it touched all of us.

And especially, thanks to those people who have suggested future articles or submitted material. We will be following up on your suggestions and will try to use all items submitted in future issues. Please keep sending us items.

If you have a photo you'd allow us to share with the Society's members or a memory of something that happened that you think the members would like to read about, please get in touch with me. If you live locally we can scan your photo and return it to you on the same day and we promise nothing will be damaged in the process.

You can reach me at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426; call me at 207-564-3576, or e-mail me at battick@midmaine.com.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick

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BRIDGE AND MAIN STREET, FOXCROFT, ME

Early Elmer Blethen postcard from the D-F Historical Society collection showing the watering fountain in the center of Monument Square. For a recollection of the night the fountain suffered damage in a car crash, see page 4.