

THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Newsletter

Volume IX, Number 2

Summer 2005

Civil War Day Celebration Coming July 2!! Don't Miss It!!



The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society is proud to sponsor a day-long celebration on Saturday, July 2. From speakers, reenactors, concerts, and exhibits, this will be a great day. Members of the Daniel Chaplin Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, and Sarah Elizabeth Palmer Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans, are helping to plan events to make this day a special one to honor our Civil War veterans and raise funds to help the Historical Society. Be sure to be part of it!

The tentative schedule as we go to press:

11:15 a.m. Rededication of the Civil War monument.

11:45 a.m. Lunch at the Congregational Church vestry (1/3 of the profits will go to the Historical Society)

12:30 p.m. The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society will open: special exhibits on the Civil War, Civil War re-enactors, with special speakers throughout the afternoon (all in costume):

1 p.m. Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin and Mrs. Hamlin (Lincoln's 1st vice-president) portrayed by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Newcomb.

2 p.m. Major and Mrs. William Cook will speak on the life of a Civil War surgeon and nurse (the surgeon's tent will be set up near the Museum).

3 p.m. John Battick (SUV) the 20th Maine and the Battle for Little Round Top, July 2, 1863.

4 p.m. Eric Boothroyd (SUV) the History of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and why (Continues Page 7)

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The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society
The Shiretown Conserver

The Shiretown Conserver is published quarterly by the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society which reserves all rights to its contents. Memberships in the Society which includes a subscription to the *Conserver* may be had by sending \$5.00 to: 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426.

Submissions to the *Conserver* should be sent to the editor at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Photo submissions will be returned unharmed. You can reach editor Nancy Battick by e-mail at battick@midmaine.com

Officers of the Society, 2005-6

Mary Annis	President
Jim Brown	Vice-President
James Annis	Treasurer
Nancy Battick	Secretary

Board of Directors, 2004-5

Leilani Stites	Jack Battick
Sharon Phillips	Sylvia Dean
Richard Stites	

Curators

David Lockwood	Blacksmith Shop Mus.
Jack & Nancy Battick	Observer Building Mus
Leilani Stites	Textiles & Costumes

The Shiretown Conserver

Nancy Battick	Editor
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Dr. Tom Pierce
Arlene Knight
Deborah Hillman
Miriam McArthur

Maine
Maine
Maine
Maine

**The Burgess Family of Dover, Maine,
Part III
By Ted Grant**

The Fourth Generation: Walter and Eva Burgess had 4 sons and 3 daughters: Herbert "Bert", Lizzie, Carroll, Myra, Hugh, Lauris, and Thelma. It appears that Walter may have been grooming Bert to take over the farm, but tragedy struck when Bert died 4 days before his 20th birthday in 1910, of leukemia.

Carroll Burgess married Eva Leland of Sangerville in 1917 connecting the Burgess



Carroll & Eva Leland Burgess.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society and hope they enjoy their memberships.

Muriel O'Brien	Arizona
Jeffrey Taylor	Virginia
Ed & Hilda Lankist	Maine
Lloyd & Althea Dickson	Maine
David & Sylvia Dean	Maine

family to other old Sangerville families. Their son, Lance Burgess and his children still reside in Sangerville.

Myra Burgess never married but instead elected to care for her aging father, Walter, until his death in 1964 at the age of 97.

Hugh Burgess married Clarice Towne (another
(Continues on Page 8)

What's In That Old Trunk?

At the Society's May program, Textile Curator Leilani Stites presented a program on items of ladies' clothing found in an old trunk donated to the Society by Peggy Meade. Leilani gave tips on handling and preserving vintage clothing and used some of the items in the Meade donation to demonstrate styles and construction techniques from the late Victorian era. At the right, Leilani is holding a lady's jacket. The white stripes are "pockets" that hold steel stays designed to keep its wearer looking slim and fashionable. This program was enjoyed by males and females alike. Photo by Jack Battick.



Familiar Exhibits Missing?

Many of you visiting the Observer Building Museum ask the hosts where a particular exhibit is. Rest assured that a familiar exhibit hasn't been lost, it's in storage. We have several fixed exhibits (such as Bick's Barbershop) which can't be moved. Other items on the walls, in cases, or free standing are being rotated so that our exhibits change from year to year. This is to attract new visitors and to allow us to put on display some of our objects that may not have been shown before or for a long time. If you have any questions about a particular item that isn't on display please feel free to contact the curators, Jack and Nancy Battick for information.

Raffle

The Society is holding a raffle. Grand prize is a family membership at the Y, second prize is \$200 in heating oil from A.E. Robinson. We also have gift certificates at Dave's Frame Shop and Mary Kay, a savings bond from Bangor Savings Bank, copies of books by Lou Stevens, a beautiful hand made afghan donated by Mary Annis, a copy of the Length and Breadth of Maine just re-released, as well as other prizes. Tickets cost \$1 each, 6 for \$5 and we'll draw our winners on August 7. You can purchase raffle tickets at the Museum and pick up books

to sell. Funds from the raffle will go toward repairs at the Blacksmith Shop & Observer Building Museums.

Blacksmith Shop Day

On Homecoming Day, August 6, the Blacksmith Shop Museum will host working blacksmiths with portable forges. This will take place in the afternoon following completion of the annual Homecoming Parade. Be sure to plan on adding a visit to the Blacksmith Shop Museum during Homecoming this year. Dave will need volunteers to help with parking and we'd like someone to collect donations and sell raffle tickets. If you can help, please let Dave know at 564-8618.

The Observer Building Cleaners

A super thank you to the valiant team who spent May 7 cleaning the Observer Building Museum preparing it for opening: Leilani and Rich Stites, Jim Brown, Dave Lockwood, Sharon Phillips, Steve Hildreth, and Jack and Nancy Battick. The building looks great and exhibits will be going in soon.

Corrections

Lest any of you think we never make mistakes in the *Conserver*, the Editor wishes to correct two items from our Spring 2005 edition.

First, in our piece on the donation of a MAC computer, we should have thanked Dr. and Mrs. **Richard Swett**. We apologize and again thank the Swett family for their generosity to the Society. The computer is being put to good use.

Second, we publish verbatim a letter from Society member Glen Wheaton correcting a mistake in our feature story on talking pictures.

"I am sincerely sorry that you had to spoil your very nice article on motion picture theatres in Dover-Foxcroft by stating the wrong year for the closing of the Center Theatre. This was in spite of the fact the Observer published the correct history of this theatre in their January 19, 2005 issue."

"I would appreciate it very much if you print the correct year closing of this theatre, November 1973 in your next newsletter. It is very upsetting for me to see the wrong dates published on the history of this theatre that means so much to me."

Memories of the Dover-Foxcroft Theaters

By Helen Hussey Deag

I have a vague recollection of seeing a Shirley Temple movie or two at the New Star Theater before it burned. Since I lived out of town on the East Dover Road and the news wasn't as instantaneous as it is today, we didn't know about the fire until after the fact. Center Theater, however, played a significant role in my growing up. My memories include the Saturday matinees when for ten cents (before they enacted the tax) would give you a serial,

cartoon, newsreels and sometimes a double feature to boot! Is any wonder that I really resent paying \$5 plus for a movie I may not like! At those matinees when there was a serial a card would be given out which was punched each episode you attended, with the last one free if you had seen all the previous ones. I also remember my niece and I going to the movies in the evening paid for by Roland and Julia Zwicker when they were unable to go, so we could get the free encyclopedia installment, or the free dishes offered. On one occasion I saw Max Terhune in person and was able to get an autograph. He was Alibi in some of the Westerns that we saw on Saturdays.

During the War there were bond rallies and talent contests. At one of the bond rallies I probably saw my future husband for the first time as Mountain's Music Makers, a teen band from Dexter was playing and he was one of the trumpet players. At one of the talent contests, Gloria Woodard and I won second prize for our duet of "Lili Marlene". Holidays and Sundays had continuous showings from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and it was possible to go to the first show and see as many subsequent ones as you wished. I remember my niece and I hustling to get the dishes washed after dinner so we could go to the movie.

During my freshmen year at F.A. I worked for the theater manager and his wife, the Blakes, taking care of their infant son. One of the perks of my job was going to any movie free when I wasn't working. In 1945 I took the job as cashier, a job I kept until my graduation in 1946. On one occasion during that time I arrived to work to discover my name on the marquee. It was a movie starring Ruth Hussey so it was tempting to the usher to substitute Helen for Ruth!

Thanks for giving me a chance to reminisce of my happy days at Center Theater. I am so glad it is being restored and hope to get to see it when I am in the area again.

More Theater Memories

Lynn B. Reamer sent us this note about her own special theater memory:

"The article about the dear old Center Theater brought back a strong memory. When I was eight rising nine, my mother dropped my sister Anne and me at the theater to see the Clifton Webb/Barbara Stanwyck film *Titanic* while she went to visit her dear friend Phyllis Hoyt Fairbrother. The impression of hopelessness, despair, and most importantly COLD has remained with me to this day and has made me a lifelong *Titanic* buff.

Keep up the good work!"

Our Wish List

It seems as if our "need" and "want" list never ends. Do you have any of the following you could donate? All gifts are tax deductible.

Hand held clothes steamer
Manequin or dress forms
Dehumidifier
Room air conditioner
Old sheets (for dust covers)

Thank You

We want to thank Eric Annis and the Lary Funeral Home for the donation of 8 fine chairs to the Museum. This helps fill a desperate need for chairs for use in our library, archives, and for volunteers. Thank you!

Book Sale

Saturday, August 6 during Homecoming, Observer Building Museum. If you have books to donate please call 564-0820 or 564-3576.

Annual Treasurer's Report April 1, 2004-March 31, 2005

Total Cash as of March 31, 2004: \$9,985.90

Cash Received

Dues	\$1,468.00
Donations	1,806.73
Interest	29.03
Gifts	4,195.00
Blanket Sales	200.00
Sustaining Membership	1,335.00
B/S Window Fund	2,400.00
Book Sale	305.10
Bad Check Remuneration	20.00
Advance Fund Return	.89
Shadow Box Sale	40.00
Total Cash Received	11,799.75

Disbursements

Memberships	70.00
Postage	617.03
Printing	655.68
Insurance	1,674.77
Electricity	307.28
Fuel/Service	2,603.40
Water/Sewer	367.28
Building Supplies	677.81
Phone	571.68
Programs	75.00
Flowers	31.29
Conference	436.06
Bldg Maint	1,113.35
Checks	31.50
Total Disbursements	9,232.37

Net Total Received:	2,567.38
Grand Total	12,553.28

Bangor Savings Account	
Checking	257.69
Savings	12 295.59

Grand Total	12,553.28
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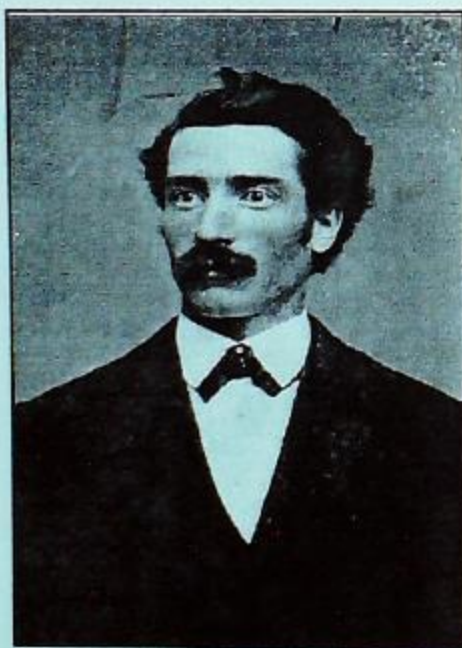
Respectfully Submitted,
James D. Annis, Treasurer

Our Last Unknown Identified

Thank you to Madelyn C. Betts for identifying our unknown.



Front Row, L-R: Everett Ham, Guy Messer, Alfred Bragg (on second step), Paul Warren, Arthur St. Onge, Emmons Davis (on second step), Arthur Howard, Percy Day, Albert Harvey, Herbert Hayford, Orris. Second Row, L-R: Nellie Waterhouse, Octavia Knowles, Harold Hayes, Clyde Tompkins, Bertram Pratt, Ivan Lunt, Frank Mayo, Marjory Hall, Laura Lary, Elizabeth Burgess, Ava Foster (Goff), between columns, Lena Burgess, Lora Pratt. Back Row, L-R: Frances Berry, Rowena Hathorn, Leila Horne, Sarah Smart, Mary Blethen (Neally), Hortense Chase (Bigelow), Inez Folsom (Brawn), Marion Arnold, Pauline Woodbury.



The Society's Unknown

This issue's unknown is scanned from one of the many tintypes in our collection. Do any of you recognize this man? Perhaps in your old albums you have a copy of this photo or a photo of his twin brother (We can always hope). Some of you might even recognize a family resemblance. If you think you know who he is, please let the editor know.

The Society has hundreds of unidentified photos, or partially unidentified photos. It's always sad to realize that once someone cherished an unknown image, now lost to time. The Society preserves all photos in its collection, known and unknown as remembrances of the past.

Civil War Day: there were rival posts in the Dover-Foxcroft area.

4:30 p.m. Leilani Stites (DUV) will re-enact Dover's own Civil War nurse, Sarah E. Palmer.

Also at the Museum will be the G.A.R. remembrance books on special loan from the Thompson Free Library. These books contain the memories of service written by some of the soldiers who survived and belonged to one of the two G.A.R. posts in the area.

There will be a Civil war encampment near the Museum and a musket drill.

A community band concert during the afternoon is in the works.

Also on tap in the afternoon, Lou Stevens will give 3 cemetery tours of the old Dover Cemetery, pointing out the graves of Union soldiers and telling their stories. The tours will run at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Cemetery maps will be available at the Museum for self-guided tours. It is hoped to have Civil War veterans graves in all cemeteries marked. Wagon rides with a team of Belgian horses will run between downtown near the Museum and the old section of the Dover Cemetery throughout the afternoon.

Mister Paperback will do a special window display.

The Museum gift shop will have special items for sale including Civil War hardtack made from the original recipe, by the same company that supplied Federal troops during the Civil War.

Information on the Sons & Daughters of Union veterans will be available throughout the day. If you have a Civil War ancestor this is a good chance to learn about these lineage societies and how to become a member.

A complete list of soldiers from Dover &

Foxcroft will be at the Museum for researchers.

A booklet, *Dover & Foxcroft in the Civil War* will be for sale at the Museum. The booklet will have brief sketches of the lives of several Civil war men and women from Dover & Foxcroft, information on the dedication of the Civil War monument in 1893, the complete list of veterans from the two towns, a general bibliography, and information on life in the Shiretown from 1861-65.

Evening Concert

A special benefit concert will be held at the newly-renovated Center Theatre, July 2 at 7 p.m.. On the program will be **Joe Bennett**, Civil War folk artist, and popular bluegrass band, **Midnight Flyer**. Refreshments will be available at intermission. Proceeds benefit the D-F Historical Society.

It promises to be an exciting day. To make it a success we'll need help. Please let us know if you can do any of the following:

Pass out flyers and information on the event

Help distribute p.r.

Help mark Civil War veteran graves in the town's cemeteries

Act as "wagon ride" wrangler, accept donations, and keep order. One needed for each end of the ride

Organize the refreshments for sale at the concert

Help sell refreshments at the concert

Guard for the encampment during the ceremonies & breaks

Photographer of all events

Assistant for Lou Stevens at Dover Cemetery

Ticket" takers at Center Theatre

Escorts for speakers, dignitaries during the day

General volunteers to work wherever needed and offer relief to other workers

(Final Word on Civil War Day, Page 11)

Burgess: old Dover name) and they eventually moved to Massachusetts.

Lauris Burgess married Rilla Webber and settled in Dover. Their only daughter still resides in the area.

Thelma Burgess married William MacAllen and they moved to Massachusetts.

Walter and Eva's second child, Lizzie, married Ray Grant of Sangerville on November 12, 1914 and they settled on a farm in Garland. Ray was the son of Smith Hopkins Grant and Lizzie Gray Grant. Smith is a direct descendent of Stephen Hopkins of Mayflower fame.

About 1927, when Walter became ill and needed dependable help on the farm, he offered a partnership to his daughter and son-in-law, Lizzie and Ray Grant. Ray would leave his farm in Garland and bring livestock and family and move into the family farm in Dover. They would work together and all proceeds would be split down the middle. (An arrangement which proved to be less than ideal considering that Walter lived to be 97 years old).

Here Ray and Lizzie continued to work the farm



Walter & Eva Burgess (left). Lizzie & Ray Grant (right), taken on the Burgess Farm.

and raise a family of 4 boys and 1 girl: Ken, Erlon, Herbert, Arlene and Lyle.

Ken Grant married Ruth Harrington of Dexter and their 3 children (Bill, Jim, and Nancy) still reside there along with some in the next two generations.



Herbert & Jane Washburn Grant.

Erlon married "Tillie" Nuite of Garland. They moved to Massachusetts and have since moved back to Maine and reside in Norway.

Herbert married Jane Washburn of Dover and farmed in Dover on the Board Eddy

Road. They raised a family of 8 boys and 1 girl: Bruce, Richard, Ted, Ken, Scott, Mark, Gary, Jeff, and Julie. Many of these and some of their children are still in the area. The author is one of these nine, and his daughter and her husband now reside on a part of the original Burgess farm. Their son, my grandson, Logan Russell Martin, born just 200 years after William Burgess, is the 8th generation on that land now.

Arlene Grant married Ray Knight and they now reside in Augusta.

Fifth Generation on the farm:

Lyle Burgess married Myra Haskell of Garland and they now reside in Dover on some of the property purchased by Walter Burgess when he expanded the farm. Lyle was the 5th generation owner of the farm. Most of his family, (Pg. 9)

including son Burgess Lyle Grant, still reside in the Dover-Foxcroft area.

In the 1980's, in these changing and challenging times, with farming becoming less and less attractive an option, still requiring 7 days a week and 12-14 plus hours/day, with slimmer and slimmer profit margins, the 6th generation elected to follow other paths.

Though farm life still appeals to me personally, the reality of the situation is that most of us, myself included, when faced with the choice, will choose a lifestyle more financially rewarding while less physically demanding in place of the rewards of the earth and the satisfaction of close-knit family at home working together. Sad, isn't it?

Though the farm fell out of family hands for a short while, it was reacquired in 1995 by this writer, Ted Grant, of the 6th generation in hopes that someone in the family would take an interest in the place. The buildings and much of the land have since been sold again, this time to Fred and Karen Cookson. The writer is much indebted to Fred and Karen for the work they have done to restore and maintain the buildings. On April 14, 1997, Fred and Karen had the buildings placed on the National Register of Historic Places in Maine as an example of an early 20th century farmstead in Maine.



Logan Russell Martin

A part of the original land purchased by William Burgess was withheld from the sale to the Cooksons. This piece and about 80-100 acres more, of Walter's purchases, have been sold

to Brent and Kandi (Grant) Martin. Their son, Logan, is the 8th generation to live on that land.


NOTE: All photos courtesy of the author. For further information on the Burgess or Grant families in Dover-Foxcroft, you can reach Ted Grant at 207-564-7242.

Our Sponsors



Once again we wish to thank our generous business sponsors.

Webber's Hardware & Building Supply
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The Green Door Gallery
Rowell's Garage
Lary Funeral Home
Drs. Daniel L. Steinke & Hillary F. Caruso
Finest Kind Tree Farm
Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union
Dr. David
P. Frasz

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**C. W. &
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Hayes,
P.A.**

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President's Report 2005

This past year was one of the busiest for the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. We began our year with an exhibit at the SPCCC show in Guilford. The business we presented was the Piscataquis Observer. Many people stopped by to share stories about our town.

Our formal public meeting were varied this year and well attended. We were open this past summer from July to October on Fridays as well as Sundays. Leilani Stites reenacted Mrs. Betsey Towne on Fridays. It was an excellent portrayal and our attendance was very good.

Homecoming found us very busy with our open house and book sale. We had hundreds of books to offer thanks to the generosity of members and friends. Once again official hosts for the day were Dot Greenlaw and Lou Stevens.

At Christmastime the Observer Building was once again adorned with white lights and we held an open house at the tree lighting celebration. We were also open several days during the holidays.

Cataloging still continues. Work continues upstairs in the new library. The room will soon be finished. Jim Brown donated new ceiling tiles and Moosehead has donated a table.

The Blacksmith Shop was busy with visitors, too. We replaced the shed roof of the building and have started a campaign to replace the windows. So far we have "sold" six windows.

The Shiretown Conserver continues to be the talk of the town. There are so many great comments we receive. The thanks go to Nancy and Jack Battick and all those who contribute articles and memories.

We received a facade grant which will allow us to reshingle half the roof on the Observer Building and do some repairs. The work should

begin this spring. Other grants have been received allowing us to assess our collection, and others have been applied for. These grants are due to the efforts of Nancy and Jack Battick.

We have some exciting plans for this year, including a Civil War Day on July 2nd, and working smithies coming to the Blacksmith Shop on August 6th. I think, as we forge ahead, the historical society has become a vital part of our town. It takes work, dedication, and an excited membership. We continue to be a safe depository for our town's history and we are able to do so much more now than 10 years ago. And all the thanks goes to our willing members.

Mary Annis, President

Editor's Corner

Spring work is underway at the Historical Society as we ready the Observer Building for opening June 3, plan special events at both museums, grants, fundraising, cataloging, and necessary repairs. We've also sent dues notices to those who haven't yet paid the 2005 membership dues. If you've received a notice, please take just a moment and get a check out to the Society. We don't want you to miss any of our articles, reports on activities, or plans for future events. The cost of printing and postage means we can no longer continue sending copies of the *Conserver* to those in arrears.

I hope all of you will be able to visit our museums this summer, especially Civil War Day, July 2 and Homecoming, Book Sale, and Blacksmith Shop Day, August 6. If you're living locally why not volunteer?

As always I owe a debt of thanks to all who contributed or assisted with this issue including Mary Annis, Jim Annis, Ted Grant, Madelyn C Betts, and Jack Battick.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick, Editor

Upcoming Programs

- June 1 Carlson Williams, "First Murder in Piscataquis County"
- September 7 Helen Kelly, *Piscataquis Landscapes* book project
- October 5 Roxanne Moore Saucier, "Cousins". Come and learn how to figure degree of cousinhood, removes, and other kinship puzzles

All programs held at 7 p.m. at Thayer Parkway. Call 564-0820 for directions.

Civil War Day

This event is planned as one of our major fund raisers for 2005. Please help us succeed. If you're willing to do any of the volunteer tasks (or help) please contact Jack or Nancy Battick at 564-3576 or Mary Annis at 564-0820.

Our President Sidelined

Society President Mary Annis pulled her Achilles tendon while playing wallyball at the Y and has been immobile for much of May. We hope to have her back on her feet and active again in the near future. We've cautioned her that exercise really is bad for your health!

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Membership Application & Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/City: _____

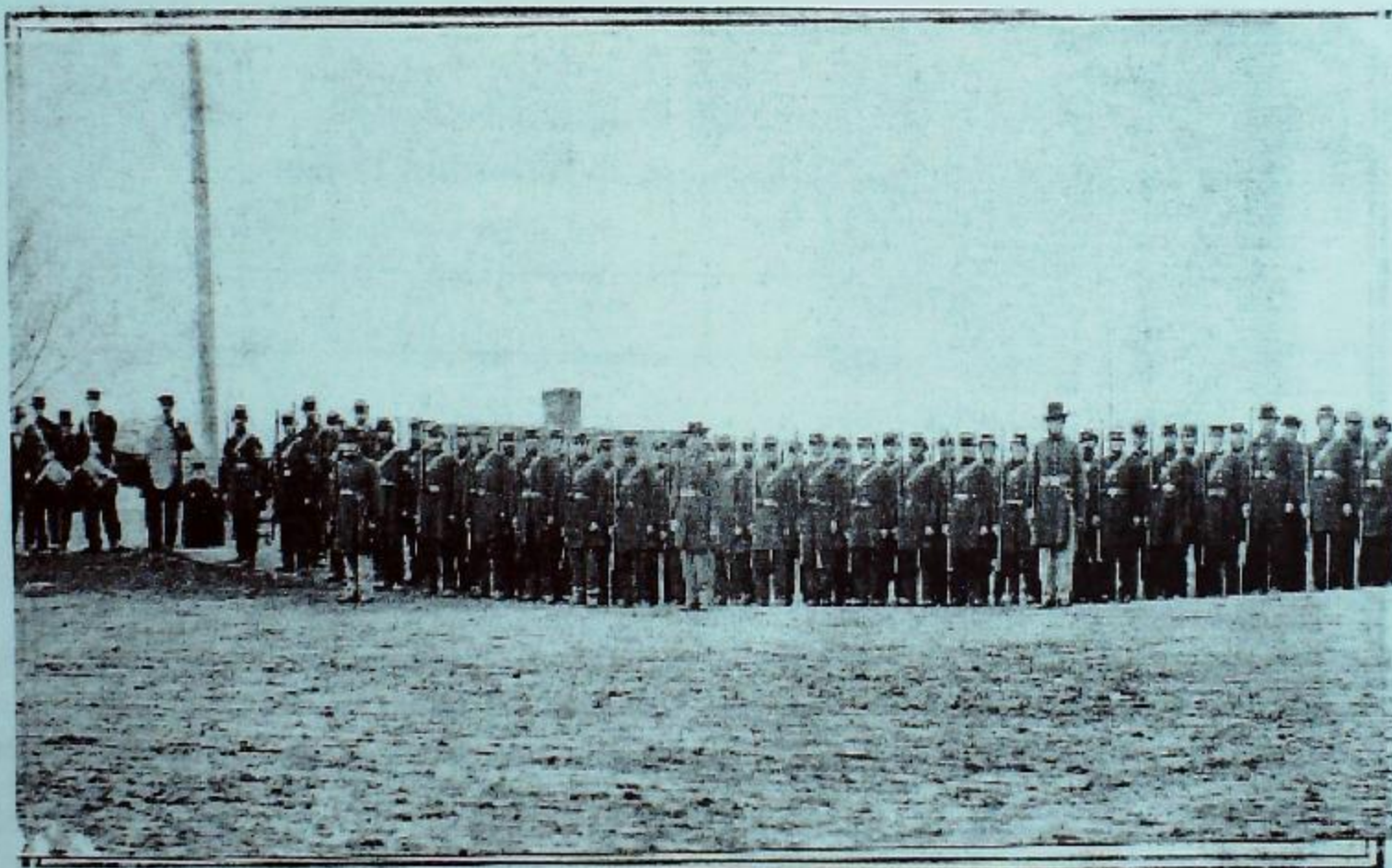
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Annual Dues (\$5.00 per person):\$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

Please make checks payable to: Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. Mail to: 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover April 2004-April 2005. Please enclose a list of gift memberships and we'll notify your recipients. The Society is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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

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The Home Guards, ca. 1862. Photo, Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society collection.