

THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Newsletter

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Autumn 2006

Making A Living in 1904 in Dover & Foxcroft By Lou Stevens

NOTE: The following article has been revised by the editor. The information in the article comes from the Town Register of 1904 published by H.E. Mitchell Company of Kent's Hill.

The 1900 Federal Census gives a total population for the towns of Dover and Foxcroft of 3,518 persons with slightly more than half of that number residing in Dover. Of all these, it is no wonder that the largest number of men were listed in the register as farmers, while the largest number of women listed were housewives. Though ten women were teachers (all of those for whom this occupation was given), the principals of the two high schools, Foxcroft Academy and Dover High School were men.



In 1904 many women found employment as school teachers. DFHS Photo Collection.

Women's occupations, some of which could be pursued in the home, also included dressmakers (4), tailors (4), milliners (3), musicians (4, probably piano teachers), one bookkeeper, two stenographers, one "china decorator", and four employed in printing establishments, either at the *Piscataquis Observer* or at Fred Barrow's printing shop. One of the former, Elisabeth Brown, was listed as editor of the *Piscataquis Observer*, a post which the author of the piece would hold sixty years later. Of the stenographers, one was Myrtice Oakes, sister of Louis Oakes and the later notorious Sir Harry.

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There were seven medical doctors in town and four lawyers, but no Indian Chiefs! There were also three dentists. Other professions (Making A Living continues on page 9)

Society Marks 10th Anniversary in Observer Building



Roger Trembley publisher of the *Piscataquis Observer* presents a check for \$1,500 to Mary Annis, president of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. The check marks the tenth year of financial support from Northeast Publishing to the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society since the Society assumed ownership of the Observer Building and converted it into a museum and the Society's offices. Photo by Nancy Battick.

Thank You

Thank you for the following donations of items to the Society: Jim Brown, a rug for the library; Lou Stevens, a clock, now in the front room downstairs at the Observer Building; members of the Page family for an ironing board and iron; Philip Cronin for a mirror which we installed in the bathroom at the Observer Building. Thanks so much for your help.

Homecoming at the Observer Building

On August 5, Homecoming Day, the Observer Building had over 100 visitors during the afternoon. It was a delight to see all the members and guests. We especially want to thank our Homecoming hosts for working that day and helping make the day a success: Lou Stevens, Jim and Mary Annis, Sylvia Dean, Carmen Smith, and Jack and Nancy Battick. You made the day special for our visitors. Here are some scenes from the day.



Lou Stevens gives visitors a tour and answers questions.



Jim Annis pausing with two guests by the Dr. Robbins' exhibit.



Jack Battick explains the WWI exhibit to an interested visitor.

All photos by Nancy Battick.

From Our Archives

In these days of a rent-an-anything, it may come as a surprise to learn our forefathers sometimes drew rental agreements for unusual objects. Below is a copy of a rental agreement from 1868 concerning a cow!

Dover Oct 25, 1868

Rec'd of E. R. Favor one red cow five years old known as the Rogue heifer for which I agree to pay the sum of five dollars for the use of her one year said cow to be returned in good order & condition with calf

It is also agreed that the undersigned may have the above cow by paying the sum of twenty five dollars with interest payable in April next - or return the said cow next spring in good condition free of expense to said Favor

Witness
Chas E. Kimball

Daniel Littlefield

Dover October 25, 1868

Rec'd of E.R. Favor one red cow five years old known as the Rogue heifer for which I agree to pay the sum of five dollars for the use of her one year said cow to be returned in good order & condition with calf

It is also agreed that the undersigned may have the above cow by paying the sum of twenty five dollars with interest payable in April next or return the said cow next spring in good condition free of expense to said Favor.

Daniel Littlefield

Witness: Chas E. Kimball

We don't know if Daniel Littlefield bought the cow or not. E.R. Favor was owner and operator of the Favor Tavern on the lot where the Thompson Free Library now stands.

The Society Welcomes New Members

Bill & Ardra Rayfield	Maine
Deborah Dunham	Maine
Ralph Gabarro	Maine
Pamela & Guy Pultz	Maine
Gary S. Sudsburg	Maine
Bob Moore	Maine
Bonnie G. Guyotte	Maine
Hoyt M. Fairbrother	Maine
Joyce Davis	Maine
Linda Tozier	Maine
Joyce Perry	Maine
Robert Washburn	NY
Margaret Rooks	Mass.
Lois Lopez	VA
John P. Danforth	Maine
Timothy & Susan Burleigh	Maine
Amy & Joshua Conner	Maine
Robyn Crabtree	Maine
Sharron Bennett	LA
Charlotte Webster	Maine
V. Jeanne Domuret	FL
Don & Jane Ambler	Maine
John & Barbara Glover	Maine
Mary Hartnett	NJ

We're delighted to have you as members.

And A Sad Goodbye

To members: Hap Gerrish, Art Hitchcock, and Beatrice Gellerson. Also, Dr. Ralph Monroe of the Milo Historical Society died in September. He will be sorely missed. The DFHS sends its deepest sympathy to all the families.

Jack Speaks To The Kiwanis

On August 22 Director Jack Battick spoke to the DF Kiwanis Club on the Historical Society and our ongoing efforts to preserve the town's history. Jack's talk was well received and

several new members joined that morning. Well done, Jack!

If you have a group who would like a speaker to tell you more about the Historical Society, please contact Jack at 564-3576.

Attic Sale #2

Our attic sale last June was such a great success the board of directors has decided to try a repeat in June 2007. We're accepting items from now through June. To donate or for more information please contact Sylvia Dean at 876-3663 or Sharon Phillips at 564-7251. Pickup of items can be arranged. Please help us make this annual fundraiser a success. All funds go toward maintenance costs on our two museums.

Thanks for your help.

Our New Website

Have you had a chance to visit the Society's new website? We've had some changes since our debut. Online now is a sample *Shiretown Conserver*, a group photo from Civil War Day in 2005, a selection of items about the Society appearing in area newspapers (with more to follow), a member-submitted photo in our photo gallery, interior shots of the Blacksmith Shop, some historic photos of the Observer Building, and much more. You can also find links to other DF sites, special event and program listings, and much more is being planned.

If you're online please check out our website and let us know what you think and any ideas you have on what we might do to make it better. Our webmaster is Dale Mower and on the site is contact info to Dale as well as to other officers. Check out our website at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs.

Members & Friends Ask For Help

Rod Nojek purchased this photo of a woman at an antique shop in Illinois. It's a D.C. Dinsmore photo indicating she was probably from the Dover-Foxcroft area. Do any of you recognize her or does she resemble someone in a family album?

If so, please get in touch with Rod at rodneynojek@comcast.net or e-mail the Society at dfhistory@yahoo.com and we'll pass your information on to Rod.



Debi Filmore would like to know if anyone recognizes any of the young people pictured above. If so you can contact Debi by writing her at 415 Stow Road, Marlboro, MA 01752 or e-mail the Society at dfhistory@yahoo.com and we'll pass the information on to Debi.

Thanks for any help you can offer. To have your unidentified photo in the *Conservator* please send a clear, sharp copy to the editor at 308 Foxcroft Center Rd. Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426 and be sure to tell us how you want members to contact you with information.

A First For Us: Summer Programs

In 2006 the Society offered two summer programs. Jack Battick spoke on the Legacy of World War I with particular emphasis on the Middle East. A small, but interested, group attended. Carlson Williams repeated his popular lecture on the First Murder in Piscataquis County and got to meet a woman who now lives where the murder took place! Last we knew Carlson had made arrangements to visit the site of the crime (in daylight!).

We hope to continue this tradition and offer a few programs during the summer for our seasonal guests and, of course, for our members.

If you have ideas on programs you'd like to see us present, old favorites you'd like brought back, or comments, please get in touch with Mary Annis (jmannis@midmaine.com) or Nancy Battick (battick@midmaine.com) or write DF Historical Society, 28 Orchard Road, DF.

Entry for Homecoming

More than one member has told us we should have a presence in the Homecoming Parade held in August of each year. In 2007 we hope to be able to do just that. Carmen Smith and Sharon Phillips have volunteered to head an effort to put together some sort of entry for the parade. Do you have ideas on what we might do? Could you help us assemble a float or entry? If so please get in touch with Carmen at 564-2178 or write her at 114 Orchard Road, DF.

Our Library

We're hard at work moving material into our library/research room. While not a conventional library as such, this will room will provide space



Jack & Mary moving a file cabinet into the library.

for board meetings, researchers, and our own volunteers. Many people have contributed to this room and we want to once again thank them by mentioning their names: Jim Brown, Jack Battick, Dave Lockwood, Edie Hussey, Mary Annis, Jim Annis, Sharon Phillips, Carmen Smith, Wayne Bennett, Steve Rainsford, the Moosehead Manufacturing Co., Lary Funeral Home, Madelyn C. Betts, Althea Dickson, and Nancy Battick. We sincerely hope we haven't forgotten any of you who worked on this room or donated items or materials. With the exception of the electrician, all work on this room was done by volunteer labor which just goes to show how great our members are.



Edie tackles dusting while Mary takes a break.

2007 Planning Underway

At the Historical Society we're hard at work on planning for 2007. The Board is looking at budget figures, preliminary exhibit planning is underway at the Observer Building, and as always we're thinking ahead to programs, means of financing our two museums, necessary repairs, and other duties.

Above all, we're always in need of volunteers. The work is varied so almost every interest can be met. Do you have time to spare? Want to help us leave a lasting legacy for the future? Then join us! A sample of volunteer jobs:

- Painting & some carpentry
- Helping to catalog artifacts
- Working on program planning
- Helping to schedule & organize hosts
- Assisting with publicity
- Helping to update brochures
- Cleaning
- Helping winterize our museums
- Working on exhibits
- Creating computer indexes and catalogs
- Library volunteers
- and others

If you think you'd like to be a part of our efforts please don't be shy, call Mary (564-0820) or Nancy (564-3576) today.

Our New PR Director

The Society is delighted to welcome Carmen Smith to our host of volunteers. In addition to hosting, helping catalog, and other tasks, Carmen has agreed to be the Society's publicity director. If you saw one of the brochures for either museum, a piece in a newspaper, or a poster about our exhibits this summer then you witnessed Carmen's tireless work.

Carmen is well known to residents of DF and

we still hear many people refer to her beauty shop or her skills as an equestrienne, but these days she's devoting her time to the Society and to her newly developed interest in art. Carmen just had her first one-woman show this summer.

The Society is delighted to have Carmen join us. If you'd like to help Carmen with PR just call her at 564-2178.



Our Business Sponsors

The Piscataquis Observer
The Green Door Gallery
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Dr. Ellen Anderson
Drs. Daniel Steinke & Hillary Caruso

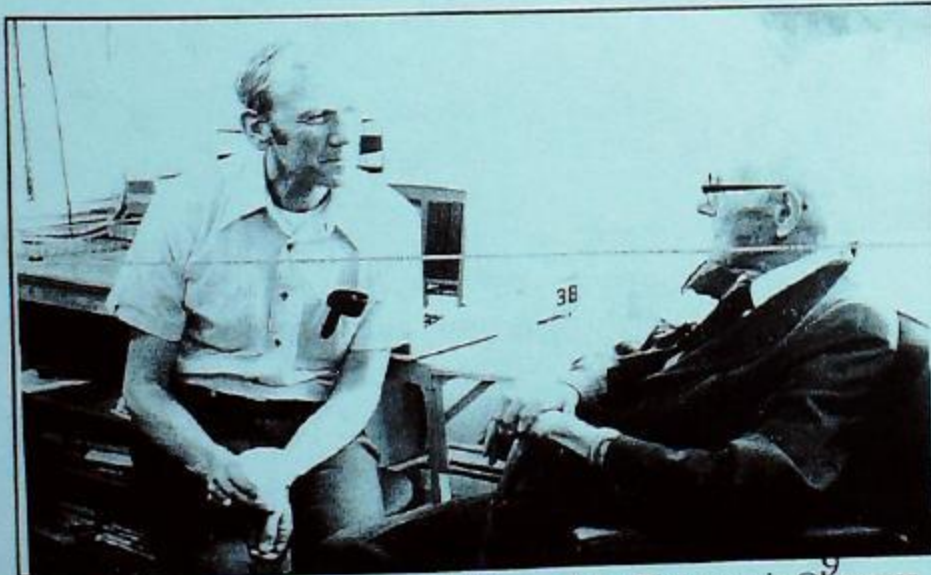
The funds donated by these generous businesses helps the Society maintain our museums, produce this *Conserver*, preserve our collections, and pay our bills. Please be sure to thank them when you patronize their businesses or meet them. **We couldn't continue to operate without their support.**

(Making a Living continues from page 1)

included clergyman, undertaker, druggist, and school superintendent. The largest occupational group in the towns were those who gave their occupations as mill workers, listing either Brown's Woolen Mill (later Maine Leathers) or the Mayo Woolen Mill (now Moosehead Manufacturing) as their places of employment. Both these mills were later acquired by the American Woolen company. Of skilled trades, the list is long: carpenter, blacksmith, mason, painter, plumber, printer, barber, truckman, lumberman, and builder. In the so-called service sector, we find postmaster, mail carrier, water works superintendent, merchant, grocer, real estate agent, and insurance agent. Of the latter, one was G.E. Howard whose descendants still operate the business under the family name.

Some occupations back then which we do not find anymore were carriage builder, dealer, repairer, and painter, brickmaker, granite cutter, fur dealer, baggage master, creamery worker, and driver (of horse carriages, not automobiles). The last named was Ved Ronco who worked for the Mayo family. There was even a shepherd, Hannah Lancaster.

Business establishments back then included Mrs. Knowlton's boot shop on Edes Avenue, the hardware store of Sawyer & Gifford on Merrick Square in the same building now occupied by



The author, with Ora Evans, publisher of the Piscataquis Observer.
Piscataquis Observer Photo Collection, DFHS

Webber Hardware, R.E. Henderson on North Street who handled groceries, candy, music, cigars, tobacco, rifles and shotguns, Runnals Brothers machinists and engineers, along with David Dinsmore's real estate and insurance agency, and H.L. Robinson civil engineer and surveyor, all on Union Square.

Large families of children were more common then than today. The largest number of children in one family listed were the thirteen of Moses Haskins, of which nine were either married (the females) or employed out of the home, the remaining four being listed as pupils. Mr. Haskins was a carpenter and resided on Union Street. Joseph and Rosie Lebelikiwicz of Foxcroft had eight girls (all pupils) and no boys. Joseph was a farmer. John and Nellie Miller on North Street had six children, all in school. John was employed at the spool factory. Oscar and May Shorey on Maple Street had five children in school and two infants at home. On the Dover side, Charles Merrill, lumberman at Brann's Mill hamlet, had six sons, all listed as mill workers and one daughter at home.

I found it fascinating that many of those then listed as pupils would, many years in the future, figure in my own life. Ava Foster later Gott, was my fifth grade teacher at Pleasant Street. Frank French would become my neighbor at Dover South Mills. Harry and Archie Cochran would run the sawmill on Bear Hill that I could hear from the one-room schoolhouse I attended while Clyde Judkins' small school van would carry me there. Charles Doore would marry my grandmother's sister and become the parents of our Doore relatives. And Ora Evans would start me on my career in journalism fifty years later.

Now, of course, they are all gone, yet their presence is still a part of me

Portions reprinted with permission of the *Eastern Gazette*.

Editor's Corner

Somehow it's fall already. I apologize that the *Conserver* is slightly late this time. Sometimes your editor needs a clone! I hope you enjoy this issue. As always I owe a debt of gratitude to those who contributed to the *Conserver* in many ways. A tip of the editor's hat goes out to the following: Lou Stevens, Mary Annis, Jack Battick, Celeste Hyer, and a special thank you to Sharon Phillips who prepares the *Conserver* for mailing and hand delivers copies to sponsors. Sharon has also donated mailing costs of these issues to help the Society's financial picture. Brava, Sharon. If any of you have comments, criticisms, questions, items you'd like to submit, or anything else to do with the *Conserver*, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at battick@midmaine.com, or by mailing me at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft 04426 or by telephone at 207-564-3576.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick

Emma B: Our September Program

The Society held its September meeting on the 6th. Clark Thompson presented the program on a famous racing mare, Emma B, bred in Foxcroft by

Phineas Jefferds. The mare went on to great glory when she was sold and renamed Police Gazette after her magazine owners. As Police Gazette the gray mare was chosen as a subject for a Currier & Ives painting. Mr. Thompson intends to place a memorial stone at the



Clark Thompson with photo of Emma B., later Police Gazette. Photo by Mary Annis

Blacksmith Shop honoring Emma B. and a copy of her Currier & Ives print will be on display at the shop.

Horse & Buggy Days

When motor cars are speeding
Up and down the avenue,
And overhead zoom, zooming
is an aeroplane or two,
Then I love to sit and listen
To tales of half forgotten ways,
And those I love the very best
Are horse and buggy days.

The buggy bright and shiny,
The whip so tall and straight,
A gay embroidered lap robe,
And a horse with speedy gait;
Oh it was happiness complete
To drive a spanking bay,
On a golden Sunday afternoon,
In the horse and buggy day.

There was music in the pit pat
Of the eager prancing feet,
There was a friendly greeting
From the people one would meet;
There was time to see the blossoms,
Time to hear the song bird's lay,
There was not so much of hurry
In the horse and buggy day.

Motors rushing, motors roaring,
On the earth and in the air,
And the old time mode of travel
Naught but a legend fair;
Still I love to sit and listen
Until I could almost pray,
For times like those to come again,
The horse and buggy day.

Note: Celeste Hyer found this poem in a book of clippings belonging to her grandmother, Grace Ballard, a devoted poetry buff.

Message From Mary

We now come to the time of the year when activities slow down for our Society. We will be open until the end of September. It's been a great year for both museums and we had many visitors at the Observer Building and the Blacksmith Shop.

After closing we will dismantle several exhibits. Then we will start archiving our textile collection, continuing work on the *Piscataquis Observer* photo collection, setting up our new library, and planning exhibits and programs for 2007. We do keep active. Anyone want to help? Just contact me (564-0820) or the Batticks (564-3576). Whatever your talents or interests we can probably find a job you'll enjoy doing. Even a few hours will be a great help.

Mary Annis
President, DF Historical Society

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

President	Mary Annis
Vice-President	James Brown
Secretary	Nancy Battick
Treasurer	James Annis
Directors:	Jack Battick
	Sylvia Dean
	Sharon Phillips
	Robert Ladd
	Wayne Bennett
Curator, Blacksmith Shop	David Lockwood
Curators, Observer Building	Jack & Nancy Battick
Publicity Director	Carmen Smith
Web Master	Dale Mower
Shiretown Conserver	Nancy Battick
Membership Assistant	Sharon Phillips

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of Dover-Foxcroft. The Shiretown Conserver is published quarterly by the Society. Back issues can be ordered by contacting the editor at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426. Back copies are \$5 per issue.

Submissions should be mailed to the same address or e-mailed to dfhistory@yahoo.com.

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society is on the web at www.rootsweb.com/~dfhs.

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A view of Brown's Woolen Mill ca. 1900, where many people named in the 1904 Town Register worked. For more on where people worked in 1904, see page 1.