

THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XI, Number 3

Autumn 2007

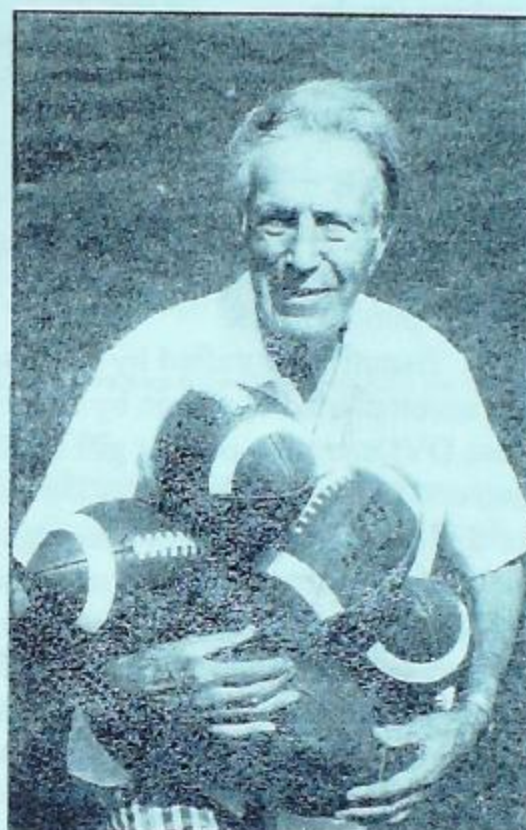
"Bump" Barrows' FA Touchdown Record by Lou Stevens

There were no football teams at Foxcroft Academy for the last two autumns of World War I in 1917 and 1918 because those who would have played were helping harvest the farm crops those years when school did not open at the Academy until late October.

But in the fall of the following year, 1919, a few boys who remembered playing with such pleasure and enthusiasm when freshmen in 1916 and others who had seen them and wished they could play also, joined together to start a team on their own initiative.

This was quite an undertaking for those teenagers. There were many reasons why this showed great determination on their part. The school at that time did not support athletic teams financially so the players had to gather enough money, either by soliciting or from admission fees, for train fares to Lincoln, Newport, and Milo that year; earn enough money to pay officials and purchase footballs; have their mothers make their uniforms; and find someone to coach them.

The easiest problem to solve was finding a field to play on. The field inside the old race track, unused for two years, on Park Street was still available and would remain so for 3 more years until the team started playing on the outfield portion of the baseball field at the new fairgrounds on Fairview Avenue in the fall of 1923.



Willis "Bump" Barrows, record holder for touchdowns and punts in a game for Foxcroft at the approximate site of the 50 yard line near the present PRYMCA. Photo courtesy Lou Stevens.

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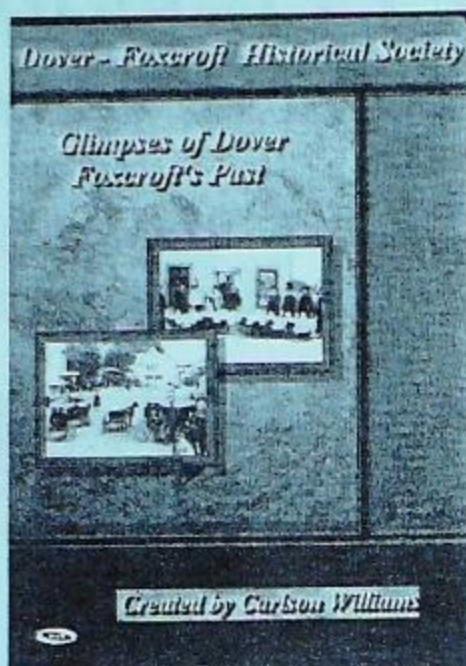
Fortunately, they were able to overcome all difficulties so they played the three away games and luckily these opponents had fare to come to Foxcroft. The mothers made various uniforms, all slightly different from each other as can be seen in the team photo, and Hugh Boyle, who had coached the 1906 team when he was captain (often the style then) agreed to instruct
(Continues on Page 8)

The Society's New DVD Available

170 Photos of Historic Dover & Foxcroft.

Order several now!

Looking for the perfect gift for your Dover-Foxcroft friends & family? The Society is now offering a 20 minute DVD featuring 170 historic photos of the town. Beautifully crafted by Carlson Williams and accompanied by music by Randy Wall, these DVDs are the perfect gift for those you love and for yourself. The DVDs are available for \$10 at Mr. Paperback or through the Historical Society at 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. *If you wish us to ship the DVD to you or to another address in the U.S. please enclose \$3 shipping and handling.* All proceeds from the sales of the DVDs benefit the DF Historical Society.



Another Way To Help

Like all small non-profits the Society is always trying to raise money to survive. If you shop online please consider registering at www.igive.com and designating the Society as your charity partner. Over 80 online merchants including giants such as Staples, e-bay, Lands' End and others will donate a portion of each purchase you make with them to the charity of your choice. You may have to start your shopping by going to igive.com but many of the merchants will automatically recognize your charity. It takes minutes to register and your purchases will help your Society survive. If you

need further info please contact either Mary Annis or Nancy Battick. Thanks for your support.

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Chris Maas	Maine
Tom Nieman	N. Carolina
Kevin, Liam, Bridid & Aine Casey	Maine
Jim Richard	Washington
Gloria Collins	Maine
Erik & Beth Stumprel	Maine
Richard Shepherd	Mass.
Mary Lou & Bobbi Bergmooser	Michigan
Kathleen & Duane Huff	Maine
Lynn Lubas	Maine
Phyllis Lyford	Maine
Tonya McLachlan	Colorado
Phyllis Moore	Maine
Angela & Toby Smitherman	Maine
Rhonda St. John & John Bacon	Maine
Holly Tasker	Maine
Anita Plourde Wilson	Virginia
Barbara Wilson	Maine
Lewis H. Dow, Jr.	Maine

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society	
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	Nancy Battick
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Blacksmith Shop Curator	David Lockwood
Observer Curator	Jack Battick
Shiretown Conserver Ed.	Nancy Battick

Contact the Society by e-mailing dfhistory@yahoo.com or at 28 Orchard Road, DF, ME 04426. The Shiretown Conserver is published quarterly. All copyrights, unless otherwise specified, remain with the Society. Quality back issues (ink jet caliber) are available by contacting the Society and enclosing \$5.

Our Busy, Busy Summer



Lou Stevens shares his personal memories on June 16th.
Photo by Jack Battick.

Lou's Bus Tour On June 16th a lucky group got to join Lou Stevens' for a guided tour of Old Dover (and a little bit of Old Foxcroft, too). Lou peppered historical facts with his personal reminiscences of times past and a typical comment was "I wish someone had recorded that!"

The Society is indebted to Lou and to Rowell's Garage. Lou has allowed he "may" do a second tour of old Foxcroft next year! Let us know if you're interested and we'll work it into our summer schedule for 2008.

Civil War Supper On July 7th the marvelous cooks of the Congregational Church joined forces with the Historical Society to offer a Civil War Supper complete with musical entertainment by Eric Boothroyd, great food, costumes, exhibits, and more! Below and on the next page, a small sampling of photos from the event. The Society netted over \$400 as its share of this fundraiser.

The Society would like to thank the following for their assistance in making the evening possible:

Richard & Sharon Newcomb
Eric Boothroyd
Daniel Chaplin Camp #3, SUV
Sarah E. Palmer Tent #23, DUV
Riverside Florist
Creative Printing
Dale Mower
Sylvia & David Dean
Mr. Paperback

There are more photos of the gala evening on our website at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs under Special Events.



Lovely ladies, handsome lads, wonderful costumes. The participants: back row, l-r: Jack Battick, Eric boothroyd, Wayne Bennett, Donna Runnels; 2nd row: Nancy Battick, Tootie Bennett, Carmen Smith, Mary Annis. Front row, Richard & Sharon Newcomb. Photo courtesy of the Piscataquis Observer.

Homecoming On August 4th the Society welcomed returning alumni and friends. For the first time ever the Society entered two units in the grand parade. Our thanks to John Pingree for sharing his vintage automobile and to Bert Boone and assistant Don Hutchinson for driving his team of horses (Cathy and Rusty) and wagon. Participating in the parade were: Bob Ladd, Edie Hussey, Mary Annis, Dave Lockwood, Carmen Smith, and Lois Lopez.

The Observer Building Museum opened at noon and was continually busy until it closed at 5 p.m. The exhausted hosts were delighted with the turnout and the compliments they received for the exhibits. Our farmer's wife was Edie Hussey, complete with costume and wig. Edie spoke with experience on coping with a life pre-electricity and pre-modern conveniences and especially enjoyed talking to children.. We are so grateful to her for sharing her memories and time with us.



Homecoming Parade participants, l-r: Lois Lopez, Dave Lockwood, Bob Ladd, John Pingree, Carmen Smith, Mary Annis, Edie Hussey. On wagon: Don Hutchinson and Bert Brawn. Photo by Doug Smith.



Proud owner Bert Brawn, sideman Don Hutchinson, Cathy and Rusty await the parade's start. Photo by Carmen Smith.



Mary Annis & Edie Hussey show off their farmwife duds. Photo, Carmen Smith.

The Fate of Central Hall



Will this historic treasure go the route of others in our town?
Photo by Lou Stevens, DFHS Collection.

Since 1882 Central Hall has been a focus of community life, first in the town of Dover, then in the joined towns of Dover-Foxcroft. Through the years it's witnessed plays, musicals, fundraisers, town meetings, high

school graduations, proms, scout meetings, basketball games, roller skating, political events, parties, and dozens of other activities. And it served as the municipal offices.

Now after 125 years of service this historic structure's fate is uncertain. Sometime this fall the municipal offices will relocate to the former Morton Avenue School leaving Central Hall vacant.

A committee composed of the selectmen has met at least once and will meet two more times to determine the fate of Central Hall. Some on the committee have expressed the view that the building cannot be renovated or made useful because it has no parking, and thus will have to be torn down.

The Historical Society is deeply concerned that the town not lose another historic structure. Through the years fire and demolition have cost us the Opera House, Blethen House, Exchange Hotel, the American House, the old Foxcroft Academy, the North and Pleasant Street

Schools, and others. The Society has voiced its concern that Central Hall not be allowed to join its sister structures either through neglect or the well-intentioned "let's tear it down and put up something new" mindset. One need only look at the City of Bangor's shortsighted desire to urban renew in the 1960's and the fate of Union Station to be well aware that historic structures must be constantly protected to survive.

While no one from the Society has been invited to join the committee, members of the Board of Directors have been attending these meetings and have spoken to town officials. Town Manager Jack Clukey is scheduled to meet with the Board of Directors on August 22nd too late to report in this issue of the *Conserver*.

We will keep you informed as to the fate of Central Hall and the selectmen's ultimate decisions on the matter. For those of you who care about the Hall I urge you to speak up and/or write to the town manager and to your representatives on the board of selectmen.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick, Editor
The Officers & Board of Directors of
the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

Volunteers Needed

Positions Available! No experience necessary! Pay non-existent, but tons of psychic rewards & the knowledge that you're leaving a priceless legacy to the citizens of this community.

PR Assistant. someone to assist Carmen Smith. Don't worry, you don't have to be a great writer, just be willing to help distribute brochures and posters, perhaps post events online if you're computer savvy, and deal with the public. If you're willing to give it a try please contact Carmen at 564-2178.

Attic Sale a Huge Success



Some of the crew pauses before the sale began: l-r: Sylvia Dean, Sharon Phillips, Mary Annis, Carmen Smith, Susan Burleigh, Jim Annis, Tim Burleigh (at rear). Edie Hussey and Dave Lockwood are behind Sharon. Photo by Jack Battick.

Thanks to the efforts of co-chairpersons Sylvia Dean and Sharon Phillips, all the volunteer workers, and those of you who so generously donated items, this year's attic sale earned over \$1300 for the Society's treasury (the funds were used to help pay the costs of the replacement sills and joists at the Blacksmith Shop Museum). Thanks goes out to the following who helped make the day a success: Sylvia & David Dean, Sharon & Scott Phillips, Carolyn & Carlson Williams, Mary & Jim Annis, Mary Lou Bergmooser, Carmen Smith, Jim Brown, Susan & Tim Burleigh, Edie Hussey, Dave Lockwood, Nancy & Jack Battick. Over 133 volunteer hours went into making the day a great success.

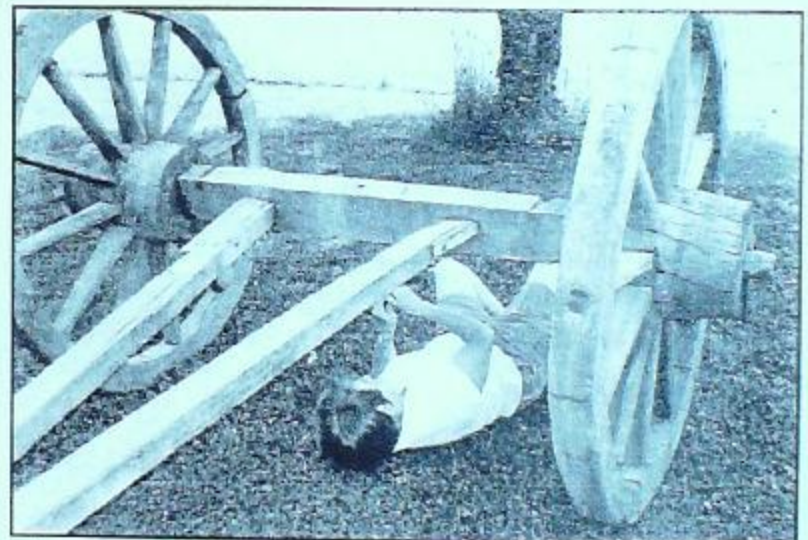
Blacksmith Shop Progress Update

No doubt about it, the Blacksmith Shop was a busy place this late spring and summer as crews worked on rotting sills and joists, and catalogers took the time to catalog the entire collection of artifacts.

In late August the south roof will be redone thanks to a crew from Mountainview and the generous donation of supplies from Stephen Jackman.

Those who helped catalog were: Sylvia Dean, Mary Annis, Carmen Smith, Jim Brown, Jack & Nancy Battick, Chris Maas, and curator Dave Lockwood. We want to thank each of you for giving up the time to help us undertake this necessary project. As you can see from the photo at right sometimes cataloging at the Blacksmith Shop could get you into some strange places!

The exhibits at the Shop will undergo a major restructuring before the museum reopens. Be sure to visit us in 2008 and see the changes.



That's Carmen Smith, folks, finding a spot to catalog the Shop's caisson. Luckily, not too many objects required crawling under them! Photo by Nancy Battick.

Deceased Member

The Society would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the family of member Dorothy Blanchard.

Requests From Our Readers

Valerie McClead asks if any member or reader might have attended the **Strand Theatre** in East Corinth while it operated from 1916-1932.

Valerie's grandfather, John H. McGraw was going to add sound after hearing sound-on disc at the Park Theatre, but the Strand burned in a fiery 4th of July accident that cost one man his life, another his leg. Valerie's grandmother, Ida Randall McGraw, began playing at the Strand while a student at East Corinth Academy. She could play by ear and adapt quickly to the action on the screen. Eventually she married John McGraw and became the full time pianist. Do any of you recall the Strand? Did you ever attend? Do you remember the McGraw family? Valerie is slowly working on a history project to preserve as much as she can of the Strand's history. You can contact Valerie by e-mailing her at McCLead@gwi.net or if you don't have e-mail you can send your information to the DFHS at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, DF 04426 and we'll forward it to Valerie.

New members Rhonda St. John and John Bacon are seeking information for the **Cushing/Mayo house** at 103 Lincoln Street. Items of interest are photographs of the home and Wainwright Cushing and Walter Mayo families, original lighting fixtures, original bookcases, rugs, and other furnishings, Cushing Perfection Dye memorabilia, contact information for former owners/residents, construction plans from Willard Cutter & Sons of Bangor, Robert Hall auction records from sale of home furnishings, and other related items. Please contact Rhonda at 564-8656 or write her at 103 Lincoln St, DF 04426.

Our Lovely Flowers

If you were in DF this summer you may have noticed the wonderful planter of flowers outside the Observer Building. Thanks to the efforts of Sharon Phillips and the donation of flowers from Carmen Smith we kept our museum

entrance looking wonderful all season long.

More on the Elevator Accident at Brown Mill

Mary Anne Whitten writes "I am the daughter of Thelma Trottier Stevens who also was in the elevator accident at Brown's Mill. She had three small children. I remember standing in my Grandmother's kitchen listening to one after another minister give us words of comfort because at that point we didn't know if she would live or die. Through the years I watched her struggle to walk (always in pain) but having three children to raise and then came Charlie. She went on to waitress at Kitchen's Restaurant and then to purchase and own/operate it, getting up at 4 a.m. to open at six with the smell of fresh bread rising and warm donuts for the early risers. My Hero! P.S. My brother, Maurice "Bud" Harrington also removed my mother from the elevator."

Our Spring Raffle Winners

The winners of the raffle held in conjunction with our annual attic sale are as follows:

Moosehead Mirror	Sue Burleigh
Sebec Lake Map	Mary Lou Bergmooser
Comforter	Hope Lacourciere
Bird Feeder/Seed	Cheryl Roberts

Congratulations to our winners and watch for our next Spring raffle in 2008!

Society Receives MHRAB Grant

The Society has received a Maine Historical Records Advisory Board Grant for \$1580 to help purchase a locking flat file for oversize archival items including maps and blueprints. Work recataloging and moving items to the new file will begin in September.

Bump Barrows, From Page 1.

agreed to instruct the team once more.¹

One of the boys in the team photo thankfully put the big letters FA and #19 with white paint on the large ball so we know it's the Academy team of that year.

A sophomore named Willis "Bump" Barrows one year later would set 2 FA football scoring records of 6 touchdowns for 36 points in one game which has been threatened several times but not broken in 87 years and about 720 games.

This occurred in his junior year in 1920 at home against Newport when the team scored the most points ever in a 63-9 romp over Newport on October 23 on a field located where the YMCA is now situated. About 70 years later in 1990 he visited the site of his and his team's scoring splurges.

His being there came about this way: after I had compiled the stats for my history of FA football from its start in 1893 through 1992 and I was certain of scoring feats, I learned that he was still living in New Jersey. I wrote him to inform him of his two records. He replied immediately, "I didn't know I was in the record book." Obviously, he was justifiably pleased as he had great reason to be. Later, in person, he smiled when he remarked that he now had proof of what he had always told

his family.

I was much pleased with his response and when I wrote him saying I would be in New Jersey to see friends in the spring, would it be possible to meet him, as his home town was just a short bus ride from NYC. He answered that we could meet and talk over his football days at FA.

He met me at the bus stop and my first impression was that he looked fit enough to still play a full game and lug the ball repeatedly for his T Ds. After lunch he showed me his scrapbook of his days playing sports not only at FA but at Maine as well.

Of course I asked him about his scoring feat. He explained by saying that the team earlier in the season had lost (21-0) to Lincoln there, but would be playing them again, as was often the case in those days, at home. So the coach and regular quarterback went to scout them the day of the Newport game. "Coach Danforth told the back-up QB, "You let Bump call the plays," he recalled, "so consequently I carried the ball every damned time I wanted." A smile showed how pleased he was to remember.

How did the scouting succeed? Most admirably as the team shut out Lincoln 7-0 with the one T D being scored by Barrows. In a previous report of a 19-0 win over Milo, the *Observer* reported how Barrows must have performed in all his games, "Barrows made many a spectacular run to suggest to the opponents how a tackle run should be made." The Lincoln Game was played on a Thursday afternoon before a large crowd. When I reminded "Bump" that the field was muddy that day, he recalled how it was also rocky as the grass had been worn away as they both practiced and played on the field.

When I asked him if he ever came to Dover-Foxcroft now, he said that he and his wife would be there around Memorial Day to place

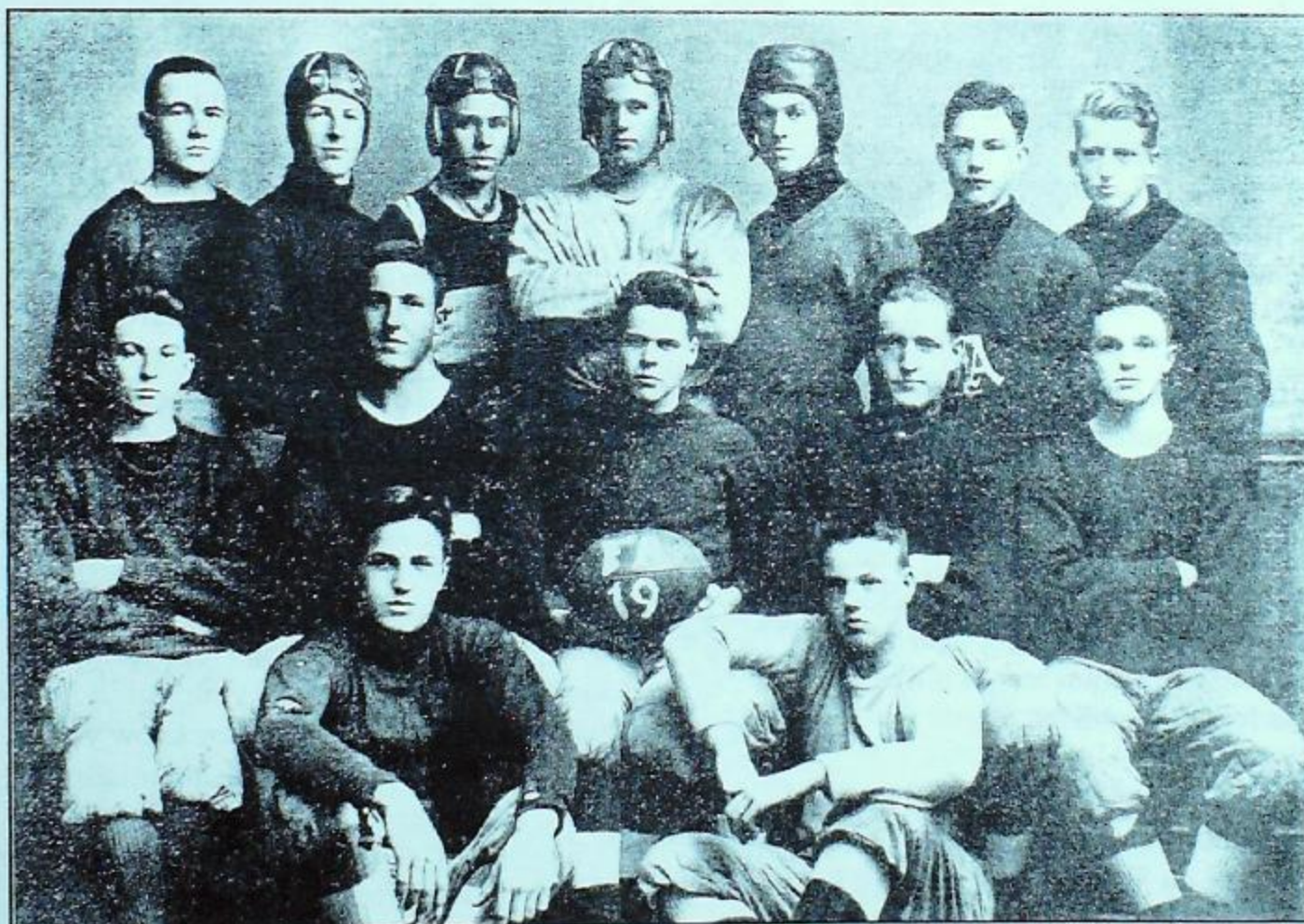
¹Hugh would coach again in 1921 and would be the last non-faculty member to coach football until Don Cornett in 1986. Hugh's brother, Claude, had coached the team back in 1908 and 1912.

flowers on family graves. His father was Fred Barrows, a part owner of *the Observer* at one time before starting a printing office of his own, and during his time of doing so, often printed booklets and pamphlets for the Academy.

When he arrived here, I greeted him holding 6 footballs I had borrowed from the Academy. I asked if he was willing to have his photo taken with them about where the 50-yard line was a the old field. Of course he agreed so off we went to Park Street. He said that midfield was about where the back corner of the YMCA stands. How easily, and with not a slightest fumble, his hands grasped the 6 balls. How easy it was to imagine his easily outracing the Newport defenders that day so many years ago even if he had been lugging all 6 and not just one.

Bump played basketball as well as football at FA and then at the University of Maine. He continued his football career all 4 years and added track to his athletic exploits. But he was equally as brilliant in the classrooms of the two schools as on the fields of play. At FA he was editor of *the Review*, and was valedictorian of his class of '41. Then at Maine he earned the highest rank in his electrical engineering class and would later work in New Jersey as an expert in calculating the power needs of building projects.

After several years of back and forth correspondence, his letters ceased when either sickness or death was the reason why. So, today I wonder who has his scrapbooks of an athletic teenager and young man who years later was so rightfully pleased he was in the record book of Foxcroft football with two of the oldest and best records that have not been equaled or surpassed in those hundreds of games since.



The 1919 FA football team. Note the leather helmets, the various uniforms, and the large ball. In front are Willis Barrows and Percy Wilkins; second row, Charles Diffin, Harold Noyes, Richard Lee, Aura Coburn, Clarence Libby; standing, Wayne Macomber, Laurence Blethen, Ivan Sherman, Earl Palmer, Carl Crane, Joe Fowler, Eugene Sawyer. Photo courtesy Lou Stevens.

Thank You to Our Summer Hosts

The following individuals are deserving of kudos for their volunteer hours this summer hosting at the Observer Building Museum. We love all of you!

Connie Chase	Lois Reynolds
Norma Harris	Edie Hussey
Martha Rollins	Lou Stevens
Miriam McArthur	Janice Boomsma
Lois Lopez	Angela Smitherman
Jim Brown	Julie Knowlton
Sylvia Dean	Sharon Phillips
Phyllis Weatherbee	Martha Schwarz
Phyllis Moore	Cliff Wiley
Betty Harvey	Bob Ladd
Mim Smith	Carlson & Carolyn Williams
Don & Jane Ambler	Carmen & Bill Smith
Althea & Lloyd Dickson	Mary & Jim Annis
Nancy & Jack Battick	

Editor's Corner

Where has this summer gone? I guess it is true that as we age time literally flies or is just that we've been so busy this summer with all our special events and programs? Whatever the cause it seems only yesterday I was putting together the June issue of the *Conserver* writing of what our summer plans were and now it's nearly fall.

I want to thank all of you who've been writing with article suggestions and telling me how much you enjoy *the Conserver*. While we can't act quickly on all suggestions please believe me when I tell you we have them on file and will work on them for future issues. And, we'd welcome submissions from you - articles, photos, letters, or whatever you'd like to share with your fellow members.

I'd like to give a tip of the editor's hat to the following who contributed one way or another to this issue: Lou Stevens, Mary Annis, Carmen

Smith, Sharon Phillips, and Jack Battick. I wish all of you a wonderful autumn.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick, Editor

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On The Website

There are new additions to the Society's website including new photos added to the photo gallery and Special Events sections, an updated issue of *the Conserver*, and more press coverage. We'll be adding to our site on a regular basis so be sure to keep checking back. We'd like your comments and suggestions for making the site more relevant to you and your family. Please let our webmaster, Dale Mower, know your thoughts or e-mail him with submissions for the site. You can reach Dale by e-mailing dale@mower-family.com or by writing him at 185 Norfolk Street, Bangor, Me 04401.

Message From Mary

We've had a wonderful summer at the museums. Our Blacksmith Shop has been closed but the sills are now replaced and everything inside has been cataloged. This cataloging was something that has needed to be done for years and it feels good to have it done. The second half of the roof will be shingled by September thanks to Mountainview and a generous donation of the materials from member Stephen Jackman.

Our new exhibits at the Observer Building have been well received and the comments from visitors are very flattering. Thanks to member Carlson Williams we now have a DVD running at the museum and it shows old photos of Dover & Foxcroft (see page 2).

Homecoming was a huge success and a very busy day for us. We marched in the parade, and then got back to the museum to folks knocking on the door for us to open. Edie Hussey played our "farmer's wife" and did an excellent job explaining what it was like to live on a farm with no electricity. She was dressed up in a "housedress" complete with a wig. And that was after riding in the parade in a wagon pulled by a team of horses! Way to go, Edie!

Thanks goes to all our hosts for the year. I think everyone had a good time. Fall is here, where did the summer go?

Upcoming Programs

September 5: "Disease, Death, and Doctors" Jack Battick tells us about medicine years ago and gives us a special glimpse at the Great Influenza pandemic at the end of World War I.

October 3: "Old Photos of Dover & Foxcroft". Earle Shettleworth, Jr. shares historic photos from the Maine State Archive collection.

All programs begin at 7 p.m. They are open to the public and are held at Thayer Parkway off Park Street.

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: 151 Lawrence Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover our calendar year of April to April. If you are giving a gift membership, please include the name and address and we'll gladly notify the recipient of your gift.

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Entries**

The Fate of Historic Central Hall Hangs In The Balance

Work on the Blacksmith Shop

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