

THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XI, Number 2

Summer 2007

Great Exhibits, Great Programs: Make Us Part of Your Summer Plans

Each year we try to outdo the previous year with better exhibits, special programs, events, and activities at the Historical Society. Without any attempt at modesty on our part we think we've succeeded in offering you a wonderful variety of fun things to see and do this summer.

Exhibits this year include, in addition to our regulars, a marvelous display called "Dressed In Their Best". If you love vintage clothing from 1880-1910 this one is for you. Among the items on display is a beautifully fitted black silk, beaded bodice accented with jet, and black silk skirt; a 3 piece blue lawn summer gown from 1902; a 3 piece heavy cotton striped green day dress complete with bustle, 2 priceless silk ball gowns that might have graced the dining room of the Titanic (one did go to the Governor's Ball), lovely period underwear, hats, and elaborate, lavish bodices. Don't miss this exhibit.

In our middle room we've a great display on the schools of Dover & Foxcroft ca 1882 complete with map locations and photos of the schools. In the case we're honoring Old Central Hall by highlighting movies, shows, and skating artifacts from when the Hall was the center of recreational activities in Dover.

Also, on display are reproductions from the original plans for construction of the Hall (the original plans on waxed linen are now in the Society's archives). A Memory Book is also on display and we urge visitors to write a few lines of their special memories of Central Hall (if you can't make it in, please send your memories to be added to the book). This Memory book will become a permanent part of our archives at the end of the season.



Harriet Drake Sherburne's wonderful beaded silk bodice and skirt are on display in the front room this summer.

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The back room offers a photo exhibit on 19th Century Childhood images. You can vote for your favorite picture and we'll print the winner in a future *Conserver*. We warn you, though, it's hard to choose just one since we guarantee you'll fall in love with at least a half dozen of these wonderful youngsters. From boys in skirts (not yet out of diapers) to Little Lord Fauntelroy types to sweet girls with ringlets and some of the cutest babies you've seen, come in and catch a glimpse of childhood as (Page 8)

On The Website

There are some changes to the Society's website including new photos added to the photo gallery online. Throughout the summer we'll be adding to the site 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.

Piscataquis Observer Grant

The Society has received a generous gift of \$1,000 to help defray costs of repointing and rebricking the front chimney on the Observer Building. Thanks to this wonderful gift the Society will have reduced its costs to around \$600 for the work.

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Susan & Ross Homes | Minnesota |
| Barbara Wilson | Maine |

Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping out at our museums? For the summer we can use hosts, cataloguers, handymen and women, and other assorted duties. If you can spare us a little of your time please give us a call - Mary at 564-0820 or Nancy at 564-3576. The Society needs your help in continuing our operations and we can tailor make a position just for you.

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Mary I. Annis |
| V. President | James Brown |
| Secretary | Wayne Bennett |
| Treasurer | James D. Annis |
| Directors: | Jack Battick |
| | Sylvia Dean |
| | Sharon Phillips |
| | Bob Ladd |
| | Carmen Smith |
| | Nancy Battick |
| Curator, Blacksmith Shop | Dave Lockwood |
| Curator, Observer Bldg. | Jack Battick |
| Webmaster | Dale Mower |
| Shiretown Conserver | Nancy Battick |

The Society is on the web at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs. You can contact us by e-mailing dfhistory@yahoo.com or by writing to 28 Orchard Road, DF 04426. The Shiretown Conserver is published quarterly by the Society and may be reproduced with permission. Quality back issues can be had for \$5 including postage and handling. Please send submissions for the Conserver to 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426.

Time To Pay Your Dues!

If there is a sticker on the front page of this issue of the *Conserver* that means your 2007 dues haven't been paid yet. We don't want to lose you as a member or have you miss out on all the Society's news and happenings. Please send your check for \$5 (per person) membership dues made out to the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society to: Sharon Phillips, 151 Lawrence Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Donations are always welcome and are fully tax deductible.

Each dues reminder we have to send first class costs the Society money. Please help us avoid these fees by sending your dues today.

Work on Blacksmith Shop Begins

Work to replace the rotting sills and joists at the Blacksmith Shop has begun in part due to a generous grant of \$2,000 from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation.

The first step toward the project began with the removal of all artifacts inside the museum. Jacking has begun and was halted temporarily while the chimney was strengthened with cement. The chimney, built over the years with a series of additions, had a noticeable bend in it due to the fact that the original roof of the Shop was much lower then it is today. The curve meant the chimney would most likely have collapsed when the building was finally raised.



Part of the volunteer crew which cleared the Shop. Front row, l-r, Jack Battick, Carmen Smith, Jim Brown, Tim Burleigh. Back row, l-r: Dave Lockwood, Mary Annis. Photo by Susan Burleigh who also worked.

So, to preserve the chimney it was necessary to use cement to hold it in place.

A big thank you goes out to our crew (see photo above) who helped clear the Shop. Artifacts are temporarily housed in a shipping container on the lawn of the shop and will remain there until work on the sills and joists is completed and all the artifacts have been catalogued.

Speaking of cataloguing would you consider giving us a morning or afternoon of your time to help with this effort? Cataloging isn't difficult and we'll train you on how to go about the work. It doesn't matter if you can't tell a thingamajig from a whatchamacall-it. Eventually all items catalogued will go into the Society's new computer system. If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to have you. Please get in touch with Mary Annis at 564-0820 to volunteer.



Work begins. Photo by Jack Battick

New Computer System

The Society recently bit the bullet and purchased a new computer system to help with cataloging and other tasks. Thanks to the efforts of Dan Smith (Dr. Dan) who helped us set it up and get it running correctly, we're now able to use the computer. We intend to eventually have all our catalogued items indexed and searchable.

Your 2007 Officers & Directors



The 2007 officers and directors of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society are as follows: front row, l-r: Sylvia Dean, David Lockwood, 2nd row: Mary Annis, Jack Battick, Carmen Smith, Sharon Phillips, Jim Brown, Bob Ladd. Absent: Jim Annis, Wayne Bennett, Dale Mower, Nancy Battick who took the photo.

Our Sponsors

A thousand blessings on the generous business sponsors and friends who help our Society survive:

Business Patron

Dover Auto Parts

Business Sponsors

Dr. Ellen Anderson

Brothers Chevrolet

Finest Kind Tree Farm

Foxcroft Veterinary Services

The Green Door Gallery

Lary Funeral Home

Maine Highlands Federal Credit
Union

Mallett Real Estate Agency

McKusick Petroleum

The Piscataquis Observer

Rowell Garage

Drs. Daniel Steinke & Hillary Caruso

Webber Hardware

Webber Oil

Business Friends (donation of services):

Bob's Hardware

Foxcroft Agway

Dan Smith ("Dr. Dan")

Riverside Florist

Thank you for your continuing support! For information on becoming a business patron or sponsor please contact Carmen Smith at 564-2178.

The Society's Unknown



Tom Diosy, author of the feature piece on Elias Hale in our last *Conservator* would like to know if anyone can confirm that the portrait above is Mrs. Hale or not. Her photo was found in an album facing one of Judge Hale so the assumption is that this *is* Mrs. Hale, but it's not proven. Please check your old albums and see if you have a copy of this photo identified with a name.

Also, Tom wrote correcting an error in his piece where he found he'd misnamed Elias Hale's second wife as Mary when her name was Emily Sarah Chandler. Tom apologizes for the error. You can contact Tom by e-mailing diosy@rochester.rr.com or by writing him at 400 Fishell Road, Rush, NY 14543.

More on the Elevator Accident

Society member, Joyce Cross, wrote that her mother, Grace Jenkins, was working at Brown Mill the day of the elevator accident. She didn't like elevators and decided to walk. She witnessed the entire accident and remained terrified of elevators the remainder of her life and was horrified when it was absolutely necessary to ride in one.

Barbara Brawn Pray wrote us, "Your article on the elevator accident brought back many memories for me concerning my mother, Gladys Brawn. I was in high school when it happened and I usually started getting things ready for our evening meal before my Mother got home from work. That night as it was getting later and later and she had not come home, I thought maybe she had stopped to do some shopping.

Our neighbor, Myra Nutting, was the one who came over to tell me there had been an accident at the mill which was so much worse than one would have thought possible. My father and I went to the hospital that night and it seemed as if ladies were everywhere, in beds, on gurneys, and on mattresses. Doctors, nurses, and aides were everywhere. I made trips to Bangor to see her and many trips to Boston leaving from Newport on the train. She was able to attend my graduation from MCI in 1948 using a wheelchair and crutches.

From December 11, 1946 her life was drastically changed. She never ever complained about her fate. My sister Betty Fowles, her sister Winnie Libby and I were with her when she died on July 2, 1972 at Mayo Memorial Hospital."

From Our Archives

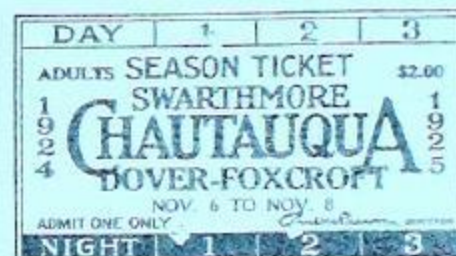
Newly added to our collection is this wonderful Chautauqua program for a three-act comedy "The Bubble", along with a seasons' ticket from Nov. 6-Nov. 8, 1924-1925 price \$2. The Chautauqua circuit featured plays, lecturers, and other forms of entertainment and was designed to bring cultural activities to rural areas.

TONIGHT at CHAUTAUQUA "The Bubble"

Three-Act Comedy

This three-act play by Edward Locke convulsed New Yorkers for a solid year. It was one of Louis Mann's greatest triumphs. It has been termed "A great laugh contest with everyone a candidate."

The Swarthmore Chautauqua presents "The Bubble" confident that it possesses characteristics that are typically Chautauquan.



THE CAST

GUSTAVE MUELLER, a delicatessen dealer....Charles Douglas
AMELIA MUELLER, his wife.....Paula Burns
ROSIE MUELLER, their daughter.....Alice Winters
DICK GRAHAM, a newspaperman.....Emerson Winters
JOSEPH MAHLEN, a stockbroker.....Wm. Wentworth

"THE BUBBLE"

As Viewed by Metropolitan Critics

"Cheerful and satisfying entertainment."—New York Times.
"An altogether wholesome and lovable play."—New York Journal.
"An effective play of dialect, humor and pathos."—New York Herald.
"A tried and tested comedy that cannot fail to appeal."
—New York Tribune.
"An artistic blending of light and shade, appealing to the sympathies."
—New York World.

W-B

(OVER)

The Society's Most Needed

We're asking if any member has any of the following he/she would care to donate to the Society (all donations are tax deductible):

working vacuum cleaner/metal shelves

Please call Mary at 564-0820 or Jack at 564-3576.

Editor's Corner

As I write this it's a warm day with temps in the high 80's, but this is Maine so we're surely going to have some cooler days and nights soon.

This *Conserver* focuses on all the activities going on at the Society's museums right now and all the planned special and regular programs over the summer. We hope you'll be able to visit us and attend some of our events. And, if you have photos or items for the *Conserver* please send them to me at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426 or e-mail them to nbattick@roadrunner.com.

Once more a tip of the editor's hat to all those who helped get this edition out: Mary and Jim Annis, Jack Battick, Sharon Phillips, and our wonderful volunteers: Carmen Smith, Edie Hussey, and Susan Burleigh.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick, Editor

Come and Join Us!

By Jack Battick

[Hum of voices from the next room] "No, a little more to the right - sorry, my right, your left - there!" "How's that look?" "Okay, just great - come see for yourself." What is it? It's volunteers setting up exhibits in the Observer Building Museum. For an hour they've been deciding which items to put in a display case for this year's exhibits on a certain theme.

[Chatter of voices coming down the stairs] "Anybody recognize this person? The date says March 1977." "I'll bet that's George Betson [fictitious name]" "No, that's too young for George, maybe it's his brother, Sam" "Well, can we say it's a Betson in the catalog?" "Yes, but put a question mark after the ID". What is it? It's volunteers in the museum identifying and cataloging some of the thousands of photos in the society's collection.

[Burst of laughter through the upstairs hallway] "Ha, ha! Did women really wear dresses with no waists, or was this one chubby?" "No, in the 1920's young women wore dresses that fell straight from the shoulders." "Wait, I remember seeing that dress in one of the photos we just catalogued." What is it? Volunteers conserving and cataloging the large collection of textiles in the museum.

Every week on Thursdays a group of volunteers works in the Observer Building organizing our collections, identifying, sorting, cataloging, and making plans for future displays from among the many thousands of photos, documents, artifacts, and textiles which belong to the society. It's fun work, as those who've done it know. They keep coming back, week after week, because you never know what treasure or curio will turn up as you open a box, trunk, or envelope someone has donated.

Won't you consider joining this happy crew? Just a few hours a week? It can be fun, it can be exhilarating, it can be really rewarding. Maybe it will remind you of that trunk in the attic that once belonged to your Granny. Who knows what will turn up as you dig into the old family belongings. Maybe you have just what will fit into next year's exhibit theme!

Like to try? Call Mary at 564-0820 or Nancy at 564-3576. Hours are flexible and sometimes we adjourn to Abel Blood's Tavern for lunch before getting back to work.

At the Museum

From Page 1, it once was. Our back room is also offering a great exhibit on the life of a rural farm wife from 1930-1950, living without electricity. Our exhibit items range from a crazy quilt ca. 1930, feedsack embroidered apron, wringer washer, vintage cooking utensils, butter and egg production, and encompasses all the



many chores that fell onto the housewife in this time period.

And, on Homecoming you can come and meet the Farmer's Wife who'll be our guest for the day (you can catch her in the parade before we open). Our Farm Wife remembers what it was like to live the hardworking farm life and accomplishing all that needed doing in a time before electricity and time saving appliances. Come and meet her, you'll be glad you did!

But the fun doesn't stop there. On June 16th we'll offer a historic tour of Old Dover with Lou Stevens as a guide. We have just 20 tickets available as this goes to press so if you want to learn the stories direct from the master himself be sure to get your tickets early. The Observer Museum will be open that day as well so you can combine your bus tour with a visit to the museum.

On July 7th we'll be offering a Civil War

Supper. In addition to a wonderful meal at the Congregational Church (you know how great those cooks are!), you'll get a chance to meet and greet Civil War dignitaries including Maine's own Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin and Mrs. Hamlin and perhaps President Lincoln himself will be able to spare time for a quick appearance. We'll offer two seatings for the supper with entertainment and exhibits between seatings. Then it's on to an evening of entertainment featuring Eric Boothroyd of Midnight Flyer leading us in a Civil War singalong.

Tickets for this event (limited to 98 each seating) will be on sale soon. To reserve yours call Mary at 564-0820.

And, this year the Society will have two entries in the Homecoming Parade. Watch for us and greet the Farmer's Wife, the Blacksmith, and the Farmer himself! The Homecoming entries have been worked on by Carmen Smith and Sharon Phillips and we hope you enjoy them as much as we have creating them.

All in all it should be a fun summer. The Observer Building will be open Thursdays and Fridays this summer and by special appointments. The Blacksmith Shop, while work is going on, will be closed temporarily.



President's Report 2007

As we look back on last year's activities at the Historical society, we find ourselves very busy indeed. We've received wonderful publicity thanks to the efforts of Carmen Smith, even TV coverage. And thanks to our collective efforts we helped our town achieve the distinction of a "Preserve America Community".

We held 5 regular meetings and the topics discussed varied. In April Wayne Bennett told us about Company F, 103rd Infantry in WWI. This was a National Guard unit from Dover & Foxcroft. Our May meeting was a talk by David Dean on the Henry Caleb Prentiss diaries which are in the Society's archives. June's meeting was held at the Observer Building where we shared our new exhibits. In September Clark Thompson joined us and told us about Emma B., a trotting mare born in Foxcroft, and our October meeting was presented by Jim and Mary Annis who explained about "big house, little house, back house, barn".

Thanks to our curators at the Observer Building, Nancy and Jack Battick, we had fantastic displays. The wedding gown exhibit was glorious and people traveled from far and wide to view it. We also had exhibits on outdoor activities, WWI, and the Great Whiskers of Dover and Foxcroft. We held two special lectures at the museum. Jack Battick talked about the Legacy of WWI and Carlson Williams returned with his tale of the First Murder in Piscataquis County. We also held a Civil War ancestor day in conjunction with the Daughters and Sons of Union Veterans.

In June, thanks to Sylvia Dean and Sharon Phillips and all their helpers, we held a very successful Attic Sale. It turned out to be a huge fundraiser and we decided it would be our FIRST annual attic sale.

The Blacksmith Shop was open again from May through September. Dave Lockwood deserves

many thanks for watching over the building day in and day out. Many visitors came this year and were very impressed.

The Society had its exhibit at the Southern Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce show again this year. The theme was WWII in area towns and our Society had a very impressive display thanks to Nancy and Jack Battick.

We were open two days a week at the Observer Building - Thursday and Friday. We gratefully thank all those who hosted. The feedback from the hosts was great. They all had a super time and, as we ask folks to host in pairs, many new friends were made.

Our library upstairs is complete and the furniture moved in along with the beautiful Moosehead table donated to us. We continue our archiving and have all the textiles numbered and in proper storage containers. We have some wonderful items. To help with the archiving the Society has purchased a new computer. We will put our archived items into the computer and this will allow to track and find things easily.

We have been publishing our *Shiretown Conserver* now for 10 years. It's a publication read by most in town and goes as far away as Hawaii. Comments are great and we thank Jack and Nancy and all who contribute in any way to its success.

We are making wonderful exciting plans for this coming year. Another attic sale, a Civil War Supper, a bus tour of part of the town led by Lou Stevens, and some very special things for Homecoming. Our Historical Society is alive and active. Our members are working with, dedicated to, and excited about our events. We continue to be a safe repository for our town's history and our collection grows every year. And all of this is possible because of our members.

Mary I. Annis, President

Annual Treasurer's Report For the Period April 1, 2006 Through March 31, 2007

Total Cash As of March 31, 2006:

\$4,4676.95

Cash Received

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Dues | \$1425.00 |
| Donations | 2664.50 |
| Interest | 23.08 |
| Gifts | 2717.50 |
| Society Sales | 224.00 |
| Corporate Gifts | 3120.00 |
| Grant | 2000.00 |
| Refund | 37.97 |
| Program | 35.00 |
| Attic Sale | 1312.75 |
| Greenlaw Donations | <u>80.00</u> |

Total

\$13,649.80

Disbursements

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Memberships | 95.00 |
| Postage | 124.08 |
| Printing | 786.37 |
| Insurance | 1105.00 |
| Electricity | 354.17 |
| Fuel/Service | 4411.20 |
| Water/Sewer | 409.20 |
| Building Supplies | 889.29 |
| Phone | 576.46 |
| Artifact Purchase | 50.00 |
| Bank Deposit Slips | 7.50 |
| Attic Sale Cash Advance | 150.00 |
| Computer Purchase | 833.85 |
| Building Maintenance | 451.25 |
| Road Signs | 60.00 |
| Rent | <u>125.00</u> |

Total

\$10,428.37

Total

\$3,211.43

Grand Total

\$7,888.38

Bangor Savings Account

Checking
Savings

\$ 300.04

\$ 7588.34

Grand Total

\$7,888.38

James D. Annis, Treasurer

A Message From Mary

We are all ready to embark on a very busy summer. Thanks to Nancy and Jack Battick and several volunteers our new displays are set up and will really WOW you this year. Try to set some time aside to check them out. We will be open Thursday from 1-5 and Friday from 10-1 and will need hosts. Please call me to volunteer at 564-0820. It's a lot of fun

As you can see from our schedule, we'll be busy. I hope you can join us at some or all of these events. And we will continue cataloging and setting up the Blacksmith Shop after the sills are done. We could sure use help here, too.

I hope you have an awesome summer and look forward to seeing you at the museums.

Mary Annis, President

Programs & Special Events

| | | | |
|---------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| June 6. | "Incidents at the Race Track" | Lou Stevens | |
| June 16 | Guided Bus Tour of Old Dover with Lou Stevens | | Fee \$5.00 |
| July 7 | Civil War Supper & Entertainment | | Fee \$10.00 |
| | Congregational Church | | |
| Sept. 5 | "Disease, Death, and Doctors" | Jack Battick | |
| Oct. 3 | "Old Photos of Dover & Foxcroft" | Earle Shettleworth, Jr. | |

All programs held at Thayer Parkway off Park Street unless otherwise indicated. Call 564-0820 for information or to purchase tickets.

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: 151 Lawrence Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover April 2007-April 2008. 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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ME.



Find out why this man is smiling on Page 3. Work on the Blacksmith Shop has begun.