



THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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Spring 2009

Foxcroft's Freeland Holmes & His Connection to the Washburn Family & 2 U.S. Presidents Part I - By Ted Grant

Dr. Holmes didn't have to die.

The American Civil War has to be one of the greatest tragedies of all time. It pitted brother against brother in a long, hellish, nightmare in which, in my opinion, neither side was the villain nor was either side victorious. I could easily argue for the rights of either side.

In 1860 seven states led by South Carolina dissolved their union under the Constitution of the United States of America. Other southern states quickly followed. All this occurred just as Lincoln was about to take office. At his inaugural address on March 4, 1861 Lincoln refused to acknowledge this broken union. He reminded the South of his pledge not to interfere with slavery but he firmly rejected secession.

I believe it is safe to say, and indeed it has been written, that neither side realized until it was too late that the other side was desperately in earnest. By April 14th after 34 hours of shelling, the Confederate flag was flying over Fort Sumpter. The only casualties were two U.S. soldiers killed when a powder charge exploded as the Union commander fired a final salute to the American flag. The South had now made its move and it was serious.

The next move was Lincoln's. He called on the states to place 75,000 militia at the service of the federal government. This call was for 90 days since he expected a short skirmish before the South would come to its senses.



Daguerreotype image of Freeland & Caroline Washburn Holmes courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation, Livermore, Maine.

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The aim of the two sides was simple: the Confederacy would fight for independence; the North to re-establish the union. It was Lincoln's explicit intention that slavery would not be the issue. He knew that if the war were about slavery he would not have
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The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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The Shiretown Conserver is published quarterly and remains the sole property of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. The Society is on the web at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs. The Society can be reached by e-mail at dfhistory@yahoo.com or through the mail at 28 Orchard Rd., Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Shaw's Receipts

I want to thank everyone for saving your Shaw's receipts. This program has brought over \$400 to the Society. It has been time consuming adding up the slips and getting them sent. I was recently notified that as of February 28th Shaw's is discontinuing this program and substituting another called "Neighborhood Rewards." This new program is both good and bad. It will mean no more saving slips and I won't be adding them up anymore. But the new program is a bit more restrictive and I've outlined it below.

You must now register your Shaw's Rewards Card (the orange card that is swiped at the beginning of the transaction) online or send in your information. The on-line registration is at www.albertsons.com. Click on "In the Community," then click on the Community Partners logo link. Once you log in, click on

"Sign me Up." It will ask for the organization name - Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society - and ask for the Community Partner ID # 001018739.

For those not on line you have to send your information to: Community Partners Program Headquarters, PO Box 193, Bethel Park, PA 15102-0193. Give the following information: Organization: Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Community Partner ID - 49001018739 Preferred Savings Card #: Found on back of your card. Your first and last name and phone number for verification purposes.

When you shop on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays only the total will be electronically sent to Shaw's and we will get quarterly checks. As with the previous program things like prescriptions, alcohol, tobacco, etc., are not eligible but all this is now handled by Shaw's. I hope you will continue to help us out.

Mary Annis, DFHS President

New Ornament Coming Soon

We still have a few of our 2008 collectible ornaments available and our 2009 ones will be coming soon. You can still order the silver glass one with the Blacksmith Shop Museum on it for \$6 plus \$4 shipping by contacting Mary Annis, 28 Orchard Rd., Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426 or e-mail her at mjannis@hughes.net.

Igive.com

Luckily, the Igive.com folks aren't altering their program yet. You can earn rewards for the Society by designating us your chosen charity at the Igive website. Then use their portal when you shop online. It's as easy as that and it doesn't cost you anything extra. Won't you register with Igive.com today and designate the DF Historical Society as your charity of choice?

Attic Sale

Our eagerly awaited 3rd annual Attic Sale will be held Saturday, June 13th at the Fire Station in Dover-Foxcroft from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're looking for items for the sale including books, household items, collectibles, counter top size working appliances, computers, (no clothing), etc. Once again you can arrange free pick up of items by contacting Sylvia Dean at 876-3663 or Sharon Phillips at 564-7251.

If you can help sort or price items ahead of time, put up posters, or work on the day (even a couple of hours is a big help to us) please let Sylvia know.

This year's sale should be bigger and better than last year's so be sure to join us for some great bargains and a fun time, and keep us in mind as you're doing your spring clean out and as a home for your items. All gifts to the Society are tax deductible.

As with all our other projects the proceeds from the attic sale support our two museums.

Annual Raffle

Also, on the 13th of June we'll be drawing the prize winners for this year's annual raffle. We have some really special prizes this year so be sure to get your tickets. You don't want to miss a chance at winning one of these:

1st Prize - 100 gallons of fuel oil courtesy of Webber Oil.

2nd Prize - \$25 gift certificate for Stutzman's Farm Stand courtesy of the Stutzman family.

3rd Prize - 2 framed color prints of the World Champion Boston Red Sox, for 2004 and 2007 courtesy of the Green Door Gallery. (See a copy of a portion of one photo on the back cover).

Tickets cost \$1 each or \$5 for a book of 6.

Carmen Smith handles our raffle and could use some help selling tickets, calling members, etc. If you can help Carmen please get in touch with her at 564-2178.

First Ever Shiretown Garden Tour July 18th

Mark your calendars now for the Historical Society's Shiretown Garden Tour on July 18th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. We have 11 beautiful area gardens lined up for your pleasure. Both our museums will be open that day as well and there will be lemonade and cookies at the Observer Building Museum. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the Society and help us operate both our museums.

Tickets go on sale June 1st at Rumbling Falls Gift Shop, Mr. Paperback, Riverside Florist, Stutzman's Farmstand; Carmen's Garden, and the Observer Building Museum. Price is \$10 each, \$8 for seniors over 65; children under 12 free, and on the day prices will be \$12. Special group prices can be arranged. For more information or to reserve a ticket now call Carmen Smith at 564-2178. We'll need ticket takers on the day of the tour at each garden. If you can give us a half day or a whole day please let Carmen know.



Painting courtesy of Carmen Smith.

Society Presents Plan for Historic Districts

At the January 26th meeting of the Dover-Foxcroft Board of Selectmen, representatives of the Historical Society publicly announced a plan to create three "Historic Districts" in the town. Jack Battick was the spokesman, accompanied by Mary Annis and Chris Maas. He explained that it was the goal of the project to assist in the preservation of structures noteworthy for their historical associations or architectural elements. Guidelines for preservation of such structures will be included in the revised zoning ordinance of the town. Adherence to these guidelines will be strictly voluntary - the town will not force property owners to conform to them.

The three proposed districts are 1) "Old Dover" consisting of East Main Street to Merrick Square, Pearl Street, and Pleasant Street back to and including Union Square; 2) "Lincoln Street" from North Street to Essex Street and including the Brown Mill on Vaughan Road, and 3) "Old Foxcroft - West Main Street" to the Academy and including Winter Street.

A property owner within these districts will, when a building permit is requested from the Code Enforcement Officer, be referred to the Society for consultation on preserving the character of the structure if in the Code Enforcement Officer's judgment the alterations planned would remove or change elements of the structure worthy of preservation. A committee of the Society would then meet with the owner to discuss the historic or architectural value of the structure and seek ways together to conserve that which has such value. The Select Board thanked the Society for its efforts in this matter and agreed to incorporate the guidelines in the zoning ordinance.

By establishing historic districts, the town may make it possible for owners to receive financial help in preserving their historic structures. And owners would be made aware that historic

associations or architectural elements of their buildings could potentially enhance their value to buyers.



The historic Wainwright Cushing House on Lincoln Street is among those that would be included in the Lincoln Street historic district. DFHS Photo Collection.

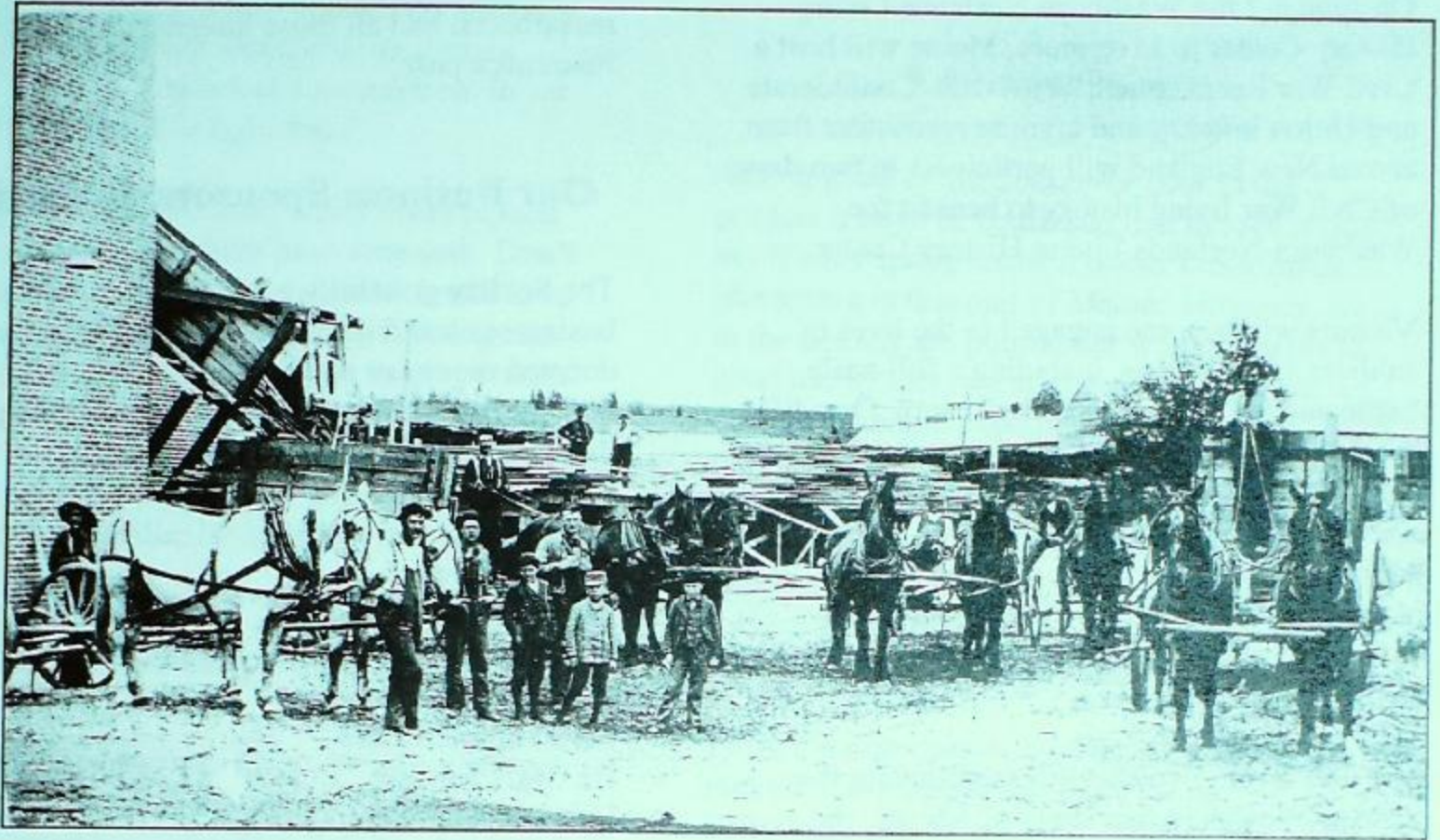
Society Plans Walking Tour Guides

In conjunction with its historic districts plan the Society will undertake to create a series of walking tours of the town. Self-guiding tour brochures will be created pointing out significant historical or architectural buildings or sites within a district. The format of these guides is still being developed but may include photographs of the buildings together with brief summaries of why they are significant and a keyed map of the district.

The guides will probably be given out free of charge and it is hoped that outside funding can be obtained to carry out what is in fact an educational project of merit.

NOTE: If you would like to help with the research of the walking tours please get in touch with Jack Battick at 564-3576 or e-mail him at jbattick@roadrunner.com. The tour guides will be prepared one at a time so any help you can offer will be appreciated.

The Society's Unknown



Does anyone know where this was taken? It appears to be a lumberyard in the country, but we're not sure where. If you can identify where this is or any of the individuals please get in touch with Nancy at nbattick@roadrunner.com or at 564-3576.

Cataloging Our Collection

Work continues on entering our collection into our new museum software. We're working on several fronts at once: photographing artifacts, entering information on books in our library, and transferring entries on our document and photo collections. We have thousands of items so as you can imagine this will take some time for us to complete this stage. In the meantime we can access our collection of photos and documents using our previous indexing system.

If you'd like to help with the cataloging and can keyboard on a computer please let Nancy know at 564-3576 or e-mail her at

nbattick@roadrunner.com. Even a couple of hours a week is a real help to us.

Also, we have some other volunteer needs and one of these might be of interest to you:

transcribers - produce a transcript of a document, diary, letter, etc.

walking tour research: see story page 5.

garden club tour ticket taker: see story page 3.

Host assistant: help Mary Annis out by calling and reminding hosts when they're working

Raffle: Help Carmen sell tickets or pin up posters, etc.

Scanning: scanning documents and photos for our website and software; we'll train you.

Civil War Reenactment Weekend

On June 6-7 the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center in Livermore, Maine will host a Civil War Reenactment Weekend. Confederate and Union infantry and civilian reenactors from across New England will participate in two days of Civil War living history to benefit the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center.

Visitors will become engaged in the lives of soldiers and civilians, including a full-scale battle and the "Town of Unity" camp, farm life scenarios, field music at militia camps, 19th century fashion show, formal tea party, old-time photos, sewing quilts for Norlands, a bean supper and country dance, tours of the Washburn Mansion, 1864 town ball game, raffles, good food, children's activities and family fun.

The 400 acres of rolling hill surrounding the historic Washburn mansion and library, the meeting house, saphouse and one-room schoolhouse make this an ideal place to experience the battles fought in similar communities to the south. Watch for more details on their website www.norlands.org or phone them at 897-4366.

Website Revamped

For some time our webmaster, Dale Mower, has wanted to revamp the Society's website to reflect the fact that we're growing. The Society's website started modestly, but we're adding more material all the time and plan to create new areas on the site including eventual listing of our catalog, an online archive, etc.

Dale is hard at work revamping the site and we expect to launch it in the next few weeks. Check it out at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs and let Dale know any comments or

suggestions.

The website is there for our members, researchers, and all those interested in Dover-Foxcroft's past.

Our Business Sponsors & Friends

The Society gratefully acknowledges those businesses and friends who have so generously donated money or services or goods to help the Society in our efforts. Please be sure to thank these businesses as you patronize them:

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Friends (not in alphabetical order)

Mr. Paperback
Nor'easter Restaurant
Stutzman's Farm Stand
Rumbling Falls Gift Shop
Riverside Florist
Carmen's Garden

Mattie Pinette

The article on Mattie Pinette appearing in the Autumn 2008 issue of *the Shiretown Conserver* was reproduced with permission in the newsletter of the Aroostook County Genealogical Society ("the County"). Mattie was a native of Aroostook County before her career took her to Washington, D.C., Europe, and other locations.

Dues & Memberships

It's that time again. Our membership year now runs January through December so if you haven't sent your renewal dues payment in yet please try to get it in right away.

Our membership secretary Chris Maas reports that to date 177 members have renewed. Don't miss an issue of the *Conservator* which will keep you abreast of what your Society is doing and planning as well as offering you feature stories about pieces of the town's past.

For your convenience a membership form is printed on page 11 of this issue.

Brown Fund

The Board of Directors have formally adopted placing donations in the name of Jim Brown into a special account which will be used to make capital repairs to both museums. Our current balance is \$1,385.63. We hope to add funds to that account each year as we make long term plans for necessary repairs such as reshingling roofs, painting the Observer Building, replacing the furnace when needed, and other projects. If you'd like to see a copy of the capital replacement schedule please get in touch with treasurer Jim Annis.

When you donate to the Society you can choose whether to donate to our current operating account or to the Jim Brown Fund. Both are fully tax deductible and all funds are used to keep our museums repaired, operating, produce our *Conservator*, preserve our artifacts, and other activities.

For those of you new to the Society it should be said that all work done at the museum with a very few exceptions (such as wiring) is done by volunteers. No hosts, cataloguers, cleaners, fundraisers, exhibit creators, etc. are paid. Rest

assured your dollars are not used for "administrative" costs in this Society.

Editor's Corner

As this issue of the *Conservator* goes to the printers it must be confessed that though it may say it's the spring issue, it doesn't look much like spring in this part of Maine. However, we in the Society are putting our winter months to good use by tackling all the necessary work for our organization: cataloguing, working on the proposed historic zoning ordinance, planning the walking tours, soliciting items for the annual raffle and attic sale, planning the new garden tour for July, as well as many other projects.

And among them is this issue of the *Conservator*.

I owe many people a tip of my editor's hat for making this issue possible: Ted Grant, Kathleen Beauregard, Phil Poirier (both from the Washburn-Norlands Foundation), Mary Annis, Carmen Smith, Jack Battick, Chris Maas, and all who will complete the process by helping fold, sort, label, and mail the newsletter.

Thank you all so much.

If you have something you'd like to share, whether it's an article, letter, photo, or idea for something we might use in the *Conservator* please feel free to contact me at nbattick@roadrunner.com, call me at 207-564-3576 or mail me at 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426.

Sometimes I can't make an idea work because of lack of material, illustrations, space, or time to pursue it, but I assure each of you who have suggested an article that I've made note of your suggestion and hope to use it at some point in the future.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick

HOLMES. sufficient support from the Democrats to go to war.

What Lincoln failed to recognize was the will of an individual to fight to the death to protect family and home from an invading force and a seemingly unjust government; and especially when that individual had the resolve of his entire state on his side.

It's true the North had the advantage of manpower, riches, and the commercial and industrial strength that supports armies. But the single advantage that brought the war to a close was the larger number of men the North could sacrifice. This was no more clearly exemplified than at Vicksburg where on that murderous plain Union soldiers were forming breastworks with the bodies of their fallen comrades



Caroline Ann Washburn Holmes. Photo Courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

But Dr. Freeland Holmes didn't have to be one of the fallen. He did after all have connections. So who was Freeland Holmes?

Perhaps you've heard of his uncle, James Stuart Holmes, Esq., the first to open a law office in Piscataquis County. Freeland was the son of Squire Holmes' brother, Salmon.

Salmon Holmes had come to Foxcroft about 1818 and James not too long after. It was largely due to the foresight and efforts of Squire Holmes that Foxcroft Academy came to be. According to Dr. Mary Chandler Lowell's *Old Foxcroft*, "Some time prior to 1822 the town had settled the Rev. Thomas Williams;" and "the advent of these two thoroughly educated men, both interested in education, hastened the planting of an Academy here. A small select school was taught by Mr. Holmes in the fall of 1822 as the first step toward obtaining a charter."

Now Squire Holmes isn't the subject of this story, but I firmly believe that Foxcroft Academy had a lot to do with Foxcroft's connection to the outside world and in the 1860's to the President of the United States. The presence of Foxcroft Academy and the reputation it held for "fitting up" for college was, I believe, largely responsible for drawing many to the area who had an appreciation for an understanding of the value of advanced education.

Subsequently, FA prepared and sent many students on to Bowdoin and Colby Colleges and beyond. It was inevitable that many of these scholars would meet and associate with, and in many cases become, men of influence and power. One of these students was J.S. Holmes' nephew, Freeland Salmon Holmes.

After his FA graduation, Freeland went to Bowdoin College, graduating in the class of 1850. He then went to Columbia College graduating in 1854. He returned to Maine and it was in Orono as a recent graduate of the medical school that he met and married Caroline Ann

Washburn. Freeland and Caroline were married in 1857 and they chose to settle in his native town of Foxcroft where he practiced medicine for 5 years prior to his Civil War enlistment.



Dr. Freeland & Caroline Holmes house, ca. 1907. The US Post Office now stands on this corner.

Perhaps you have heard of or maybe even visited the Washburn family homestead, Norlands, in Livermore, Maine, whose story was told in a PBS documentary. If you have, you should now know why Dr. Freeland Holmes didn't have to die in battle. He was very well connected.



The Norlands (Washburn) estate prior to 1900. Image courtesy of the Washburn-Norlands Foundation, Livermore, Maine.

According to the Hon. Wainwright Cushing of Sebec & Foxcroft, when President Lincoln issued that first call for 75,000 men there was a general uprising all over the loyal north. He says "I can give no better illustration of the patriotic fervor that animated the boys of '61 in the Piscataquis valley than by quoting from Col. Charles A. Clark's admirable paper entitled "Campaigning with the Sixth Maine." It says: "On the 24th of April 1861, I piled up

my Greek and Latin books and enlisted. My fellow students very generally did the same. The classes in the old Foxcroft Academy were broken up. For ten days our

recitations were a farce. When the news of the firing on Fort Sumpter came we went to Col. Paul's woods by night and felled two of his tallest pines.

We hauled them by hand to the Academy grounds and all night long we wrought to splice and raise them. This made a liberty pole for the town for the war, and with the first gleam of dawn in the east we run up the stars and stripes with hurrahs which awakened the sober citizens.

On that very spot stands a beautiful monument surmounted by a granite statue of an American soldier with arms at parade rest, forever telling of my comrades that night who sealed with death their devotion to the cause for which our hearts then throbbed so hotly."

That first company raised merged with the Brownville Rifles and became Co. A, 6th Maine Volunteers. The 6th Maine Regiment was mustered into service in July 1861 and formed a part of the Army of the Potomac and was in nearly every battle that Army fought. Among the first volunteers was Dr. Freeland Salmon Holmes.

Dr. Holmes was Chief Surgeon of the 6th Maine. His assistant was his hometown neighbor, Dr. William Buck and the hospital steward was Dr. Holmes' brother, George.

In the spring of 1863 the Northern grip on the Confederacy was slowly tightening. Lee tried and failed to invade Pennsylvania in 1862 and again in 1863. The Army of the Potomac was beaten at the battle of Chancellorsville. Dr. Holmes survived the battle at Chancellorsville but on June 23, 1863 about 12 miles from

Fredericksburg at Germanna, Virginia, he was killed during a skirmish while he was attending to the wounded.

In a *Sprague's Journal* article on "Doctors of Foxcroft" we read "Dr. Freeland Holmes was a native of this town, a son of Salmon Holmes. In 1858 he located here to practice his profession and ultimately bought and occupied the house of Dr. Jordan on North St. Dr. Holmes enlisted in the army, was made surgeon and was killed on the field in line of duty.



Israel Washburn, Jr. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

A diary kept by a Mr. Henry Prentiss of this town makes note of the sad occasion when Dr. Holmes' body was brought home from the front for burial. A Rev. Mr. Godfrey preached the funeral sermon and the interment was in the Foxcroft cemetery.

Dr. Holmes was a popular practitioner and a public-spirited and patriotic gentleman and his death was a sad blow to the community"

But why did I write that Dr. Holmes didn't have to die. Because he married Caroline Washburn.

At the time of Freeland's enlistment, Miss Washburn's



Algernon Washburn. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.



Major General Cadwallader Washburn. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

brother, Israel Washburn, Jr. was Governor of Maine and a prior member of the U.S. House. Israel was influential in forming the Republican party, the party of Lincoln.

Her brother, Algernon, was a wealthy influential merchant-banker and married Sarah Ann Moore from Dover in 1854.

Caroline's brother Cadwallader was U.S. Congressman

from Wisconsin and that state's delegate to Lincoln's peace convention in Washington, D.C. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, rising from colonel to major general by November 1862. His capture was one of the goals of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid on Memphis. Cadwallader escaped by fleeing to Fort Pickering in his nightshirt. He was later elected governor of Wisconsin. Cadwallader made his fortune by speculation in western timber and mining. He was an owner of the Minnesota Mill Co, which became Washburn/Crosby Flour Co, then Gold Medal Flour and then General Mills. He is the man after whom several towns were named in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas, as well as Washburn County, Wisconsin and the WWII attack cargo ship USS Washburn.

To Be Continued

The editor would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the Washburn-Norlands Foundation and its curator Kathleen Beauregard for permission to reproduce the Washburn family photos. The author's story of Dr. Freeland Holmes, and the amazing Washburn family and their connection to Foxcroft will continue in the summer issue. You can contact Ted at tedgrant@midmaine.com.

A Message From Mary

Here we are at the beginning of another year. We have been very busy at the historical society's Observer Building Museum with our Past Perfect Software and doing the cataloging. It is quite a daunting task with the thousands of items in our collection. Each of the artifacts is being photographed and entered into the proper record and the records updated with location, condition, measurements, etc., so eventually every item will have its own record. Several volunteers join us each Thursday: Jack and Nancy Battick, Sylvia Dean, Chris Maas, Susan Burlieigh, Barbara Wilson, Carmen Smith, Edie Hussey, and Sean Letarte. Their help is invaluable in accomplishing this work.

We have some good programs set for this year and some very special events. We hope you can join us for some or all. We're on our way to another busy, busy year. I'll be calling soon for hosts as we plan to open the Observer Building Museum on June 13th, the day of our 3rd annual attic sale. Dave Lockwood will probably open the Blacksmith Shop museum by the end of May as well.

Mary Annis, President

Program & Meeting Schedule for 2009

All Programs begin at 7 p.m. at Thayer Parkway

- April 1.** Annual Meeting. Program by Lou Stevens: "Dover & Foxcroft Water." Lou tells us about the beginning of the public water system, how we get water, and where it comes from.
- May 13.** Program by Jack Battick: "Finding your World War II Heroes." Jack tells us how to trace information on World War II service men and women.
- June 3.** Program by Chris Maas: "What's Happening at the Historical Society?" Chris tells us about our new Past Perfect Software cataloging system and demonstrates some of the activities going on.
- September 2.** Program by Nancy Battick: "Brothers in Arms: One Family's Tragedy in the Civil War." Nancy shares the illustrated story of the tragic tale of two of her ancestors.
- October 7.** Program by Estella Bennett. "Interviewing, Lots of Fun!" "Tootie" Bennett gives helpful hints on interviewing friends and relatives and preserving their stories.

Membership Application & Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/City: _____

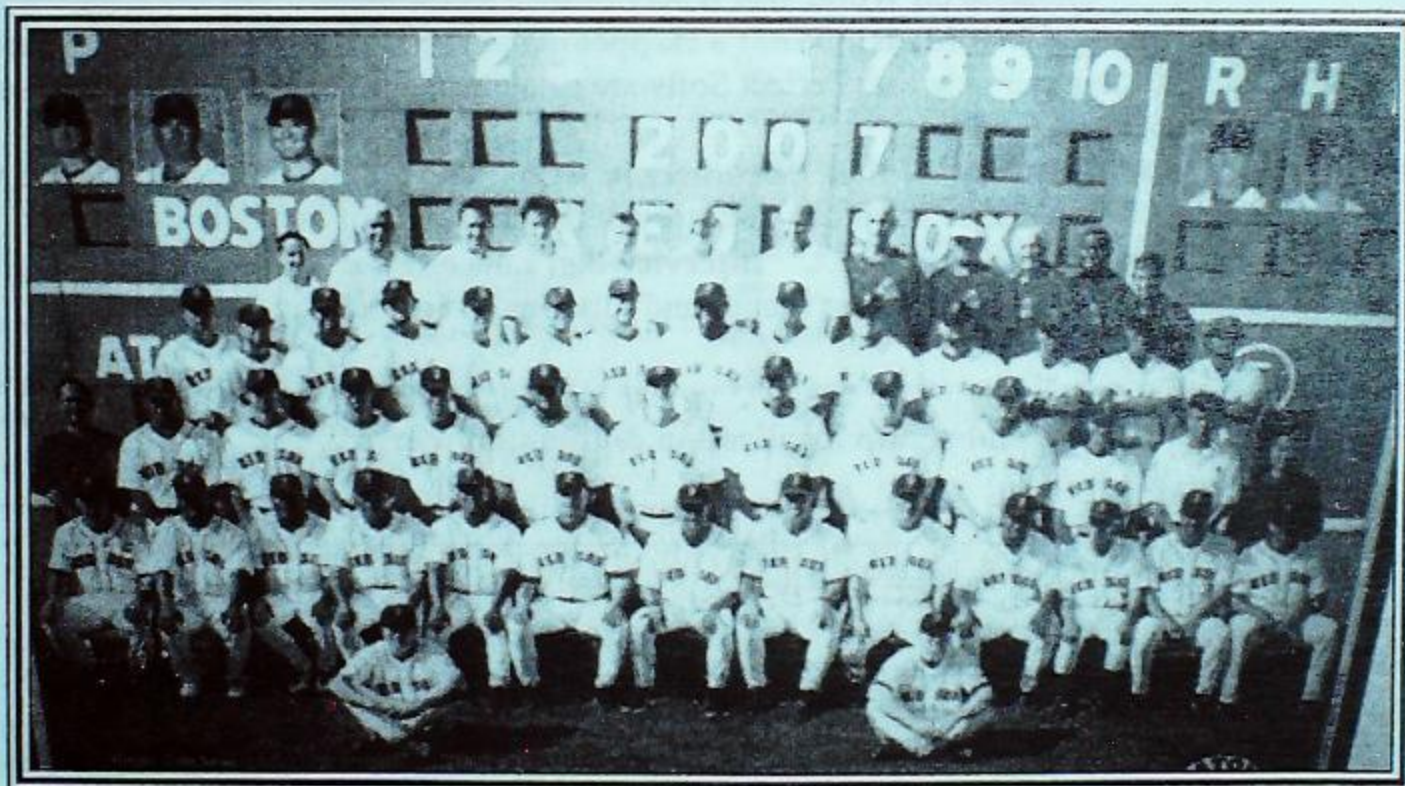
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Annual Dues (\$10.00 per person; \$7.00 senior membership):\$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

Please make checks payable to: Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society. Mail to: 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover the calendar year.

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