



THE SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

Volume XIII, Number 2

Summer 2009

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

Continued from Spring Issue 2009.

Caroline Washburn Holmes' brother, Charles, was an editor and publisher in California. He had served as presidential elector for that state and was later appointed by President Grant as U.S. Diplomatic Commissioner to Paraguay. Charles was also the inventor of "Washburn's typeograph" which became better known as the Remington typewriter.

Her brother, William, another lawyer, had recently been appointed by Lincoln as U.S. surveyor general of Minnesota, and had been elected to the Minnesota House. He was later elected to the U.S. Senate. William founded *the Minneapolis Tribune*. He was president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad and for many years served as managing agent of the Minneapolis Water Power Company. He was founder of the W.D. Washburn Flour Milling firm which later merged with the Pillsbury Flour Co. He was reputed to be one of the richest men in America.



Charles Washburn, one of the amazing Washburn family of Maine. Photo courtesy of the Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

But if all these relations weren't enough to have placed Dr. Holmes in some quiet out of the way and safe position during the war, Caroline's brother Elihu certainly could have arranged it. Elihu Washburn, lawyer, Congressman from Illinois (dubbed "watchdog of the US Treasury for his fiscal conservatism), Secretary of State under Grant and then Minister to France turned in an impressive resume.

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Imagine if you can at the home of Freeland and Caroline Holmes, what parlor talk might have been about in February 1863 when Caroline learned that her brother was the sole person to greet President-elect Lincoln upon his arrival in Washington, D.C. An assassination attempt was feared and it's said that other Republican party leaders were afraid to take on this duty. But Washburne, an Illinois man like Lincoln and noted for his courage assumed this responsibility and he had hidden the whereabouts of Lincoln by personally cutting telegraph wires in key locations. Caroline's brother Elihu had a close relationship with President Lincoln. (continues on page7).

Summer 2009 Special Events

Annual Attic Sale, June 13th

Once again we gather at the Fire Station for the Society's annual attic sale. Capably managed by board member Sylvia Dean and co-chair Sharon Phillips and a crew of willing helpers this is the Society's #1 fundraiser for the year.

The doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. Be there early to shop for your treasure. Who knows you may even find your own pot of gold! If you have items to donate please contact Sylvia at 876-3663. There's free pickup for items you can't deliver to us. All proceeds benefit the Historical Society.



Annual Raffle, Drawing June 13th

And, as always we draw for our annual raffle on the day of the attic sale. This year Carmen Smith has outdone herself with great prizes: 100 gallons of fuel oil courtesy of Webber Energy; 2 (yes, 2) color team photographs of the World Series winning Boston Red Sox - one for each year they've won and beautifully framed by Dave Lockwood, and a \$25 gift certificate to Stutzman's Farmstand. Chances are only \$1 each so be sure to get yours and take a chance for a great prize.

First Ever Shiretown Garden Tour July 18th

What are you doing July 18th? We hope you'll be enjoying some of the area's loveliest gardens and benefitting your Society at the same time. As one of our fundraisers this year we're sponsoring a local garden tour, the first ever for the Society. Carmen Smith & her capable committee of Karen Maas, Sharon Phillips, Jack Battick, Mary Annis, and Nancy Battick are offering you a chance to tour 11 lovely flower and vegetable gardens. The gardens include some of Dover-Foxcroft's prettiest. Two are located on the town lines of Guilford and nearby Sangerville. You will not need to drive all over the county on this tour!



Black and white doesn't do it justice. To see this gorgeous border of Carmen Smith's check out our website and see it in person on July 18th!

Tickets are now on sale at Rumbling Falls Gift Shop, Mr. Paperback, Carmen's Greenhouse (Orchard Road), Riverside Florist, Stutzman's Farmstand, and the Observer Building Museum. The tour will run from 9-4, rain or shine and tickets are priced at \$10 each; \$8 for seniors or \$12 purchased on the day.

Color photos of portions of two gardens on the tour are on the Society's website at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs. Don't miss this chance to view some of our best local gardens and meet and talk with the gardeners. For more information on the tour including group prices, contact Carmen at 564-2178 or Nancy at 564-3576 or Mary at 564-0820.

Celebrating Chandler's "Cinderella"



Phyllis Weatherbee & Mary Annis pose in front of the new sign. Photo by Chris Maas.

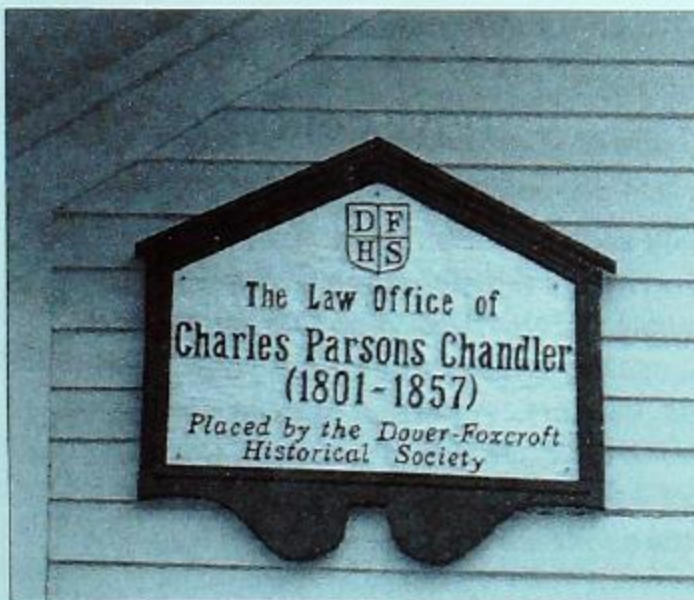
At a meeting of the Society in 2007 Madelyn C. Betts suggested DFHS place an historic site sign on the former law offices of Charles Parsons Chandler. Madelyn had celebrated the building's history in her piece in the summer 2000 issue of *the Shiretown Conserver* titled "A Cinderella On Lincoln Street."

On May 1, 2009 the Society placed a sign on the 1826 building recognizing its historic value. Charles P. Chandler was the first preceptor of Foxcroft Academy, a Justice of the Peace, town treasurer for Foxcroft, and representative to the Maine legislature, at the same time he conducted a busy legal practice.

Originally from New Gloucester, the Chandler family boasted many lawyers in its family tree, including Dr. Mary Chandler Lowell.



Mounting the sign: Chris Maas, Steve Rainsford place the sign while Sylvia Dean & Mary Annis steady the ladders. Photo by Jack Battick.



Closeup of the sign on the Chandler Building. Photo by Jack Battick.

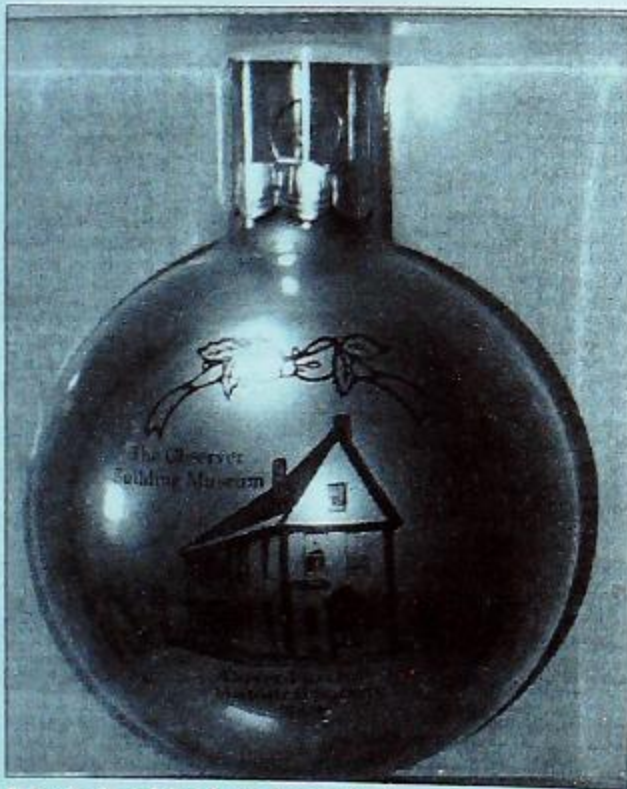
The Society is pleased to be able to recognize the historic value of this charming building, now located opposite the former A.W. Gilman Mill (Bob's Hardware). Our thanks to all who contributed to the day: Dave Lockwood (for the sign), Chris Maas for its frame; Steve Rainsford for historic display and remarks; Phyllis Weatherbee for permitting us to anchor the sign; and to all who were able to attend the unveiling.

2009 Ornament

It's here, our new 2009 collectible ornament. This one is in gold glass with green lettering and features our Observer Building museum sporting its restored original facade. You can see it in color on the Society's website at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs since black and white doesn't do it justice.

We're holding our price at \$6 per ornament plus \$4 shipping and handling. These are also for sale at Mr. Paperback in Dover-Foxcroft. You can order an ornament by mail by contacting Mary Annis at 564-0820, e-mail her at mjannis@hughes.net or by mail at 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft. We still have some of last year's ornaments (silver with the Blacksmith Shop on them) for the same price.

These items are unique and we will not be ordering others. They make great gifts at a reasonable price.



Black & white just doesn't show how handsome these collectible ornaments are. In gold with green lettering they make wonderful gifts. Photo by Nancy Battick.

Bathroom & Hall Wear New Faces

Many thank yous are due to the volunteers, Tim Burleigh and an anonymous friend who painted the Observer Building museum's bathroom and arranged the accumulated junk - er important items that had accumulated. Also, many thanks to the same two for painting the upstairs hallway connecting the library to the upstairs foyer and for installing a new overhead light in the hall. Both areas look 100% better!

Stevens Speaks to 5th Graders

For the second year Lou Stevens of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society has spoken to the four classes comprising the 5th grade at Sedomocha School on four topics about the history of the town and the race track; one room schools; the role of the Piscataquis River in the town's history; and the drinking water system. This is done with the excellent cooperation of their teacher, Mrs. Janice Ellis, and the use of materials from the Society's archives. Students were given booklets showing photographs and information about the subjects. Lou also spoke in May to the students at the Brownville Elementary School about March 11, 1967 when the Brownville Junction High School basketball team won the state class C championship, which he covered for *the Piscataquis Observer*.

Igive.com

Do you shop online as so many do today? Take a moment and register at igive.com and designate the DFHS as your charity of choice. Then use the Igive portal to visit your favorite online vendors. A portion of what you spend comes to the Society and it costs you nothing except a few moments. Every dollar helps us operate so please use this service. Thanks.

Walking Tours

Work is underway on creating the first of the planned historic walking tours of Dover-Foxcroft. The one in the works will cover Main Street. Owners of historic homes on the route will be contacted to alert them of this project and to ask if they have old photos of their homes or businesses they'd care to share.

If you have a home or business on Main Street and have information on the house, the former owners, or old photos and you're willing to share them with the Society please get in touch with Chris Maas at 564-2666.

It is hoped that the first of the self-guided tours will be ready in time for Homecoming in August. Plans are afoot to get the walking tours onto the Society's website in the future. For more information on this project or to volunteer to help, please get in touch with Chris at the above number.

2009 Officers

At the annual meeting in April members voted in the following slate of officers and directors for 2009:

President	Mary Annis
Vice-President	Carmen Smith
Secretary	Susan Burleigh
Treasurer	Jim Annis
Directors	Sylvia Dean Chris Maas Jack Battick Tim Burleigh Steve Rainsford Nancy Battick
Membership Secretary	Chris Maas
Webmaster	Dale Mower
Curator, Blk. Shop	Dave Lockwood
Curator, Obs. Bldg.	Jack Battick
Editor, <i>Conserver</i>	Nancy Battick

Editor's Corner

Spring is here at last and at the Society we're looking forward to a summer of special events and projects. As you glance through this issue you'll note the annual attic sale, raffle, a great garden tour, walking tour, and other projects and programs. I hope you can join us for some or all of our special efforts.

As always the editor wants to give a tip of the hat to all who contributed something to this edition of the *Conserver*: Ted Grant, Lou Stevens, Celeste Hyer, Chris Maas, Mary Annis, Jack Battick, and a special thank you to the curator of the Washburn-Norlands Foundation, Kathleen Beauregard.

Thank you to all of you who have written notes praising the *Conserver*. It makes your editor's day. Please send articles, photos, suggestions, comments, and criticisms to me at nbattick@roadrunner.com or to 308 Foxcroft Center Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426.

Nancy Klimavicz Battick

Society Website

Our Society website, at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs offers information on programs, upcoming events, photo gallery, map of the town, and other information as well as a convenient membership application. Our webmaster, Dale Mower, is in the process of revamping the site so check it out. We have plans to add much more content to the site to make it even more valuable to those interested in the DF area. If you have suggestions for items that might be of value that we could put online please let us know. Contact Dale at dale@mower-family.com or Nancy at nbattick@roadrunner.com. Keep checking the site for changes and let us know your thoughts.

The Society's Unknown



Shown at left is one-half of a Sumner Chase stereoptican card showing a late Victorian family gathering in a decorated room.

Does anyone recognize any of the individuals in the photo? Is there one like it in your collection or album? If so, please let Nancy know. You can contact her at 564-3576 or e-mail her at nbattick@roadrunner.com.

Tidbit from the Whig & Courier

Celeste Hyer sent the following items found in *the Bangor Whig and Courier*:

Saturday, Nov. 27, 1875, no. 281, col. A, From Foxcroft, Death of George V. Edes, the Veteran Printer.

Foxcroft, Nov. 26. George V. Edes, editor and publisher of *the Piscataquis Observer*, died this morning, aged 80 years. He was the oldest printer in the country, and set type without glasses until within the last three weeks.

And, from the Sat, June 14, 1879, no. 141, col A, issue: Mr. Thos. Daggett, of Foxcroft, has planted this season the largest field of corn of any farmer in town, five and a half acres. He has used over \$50 worth of artificial fertilizers. Maine at this rate may some day compete with the West in corn raising."

Thanks to Celeste for spotting these and sharing them with us.

Washburns. From page 1.



Friend to presidents; public servant; the most politically powerful of the Washburn (e) brothers, Elihu.

Elihu had left his boyhood home in Livermore at age 14. He worked as a printer's apprentice, then as assistant editor of *the Kennebec Journal* in Augusta before attending law school at Cambridge. He was accepted to the Maine bar in 1839 after which he moved and

opened a law practice in Galena, Illinois.

Galena is best known as the hometown of none other than Ulysses Simpson Grant. On April 13, 1861 when Grant heard the news of the fall of Ft. Sumpter he began assembling recruits and marched to Springfield carrying with him a letter from his congressman, Elihu Washburne.

Governor Yates of Illinois was not impressed with U.S. Grant. He wrote that "His appearance at first sight is not striking. He had no grand airs, no imposing appearance . . . plain, very plain. . . ." The governor assigned Grant a desk in the executive office, but not the battle command he wanted.

So Grant told his congressman about it. Washburne's second letter was much firmer and Grant was given a regiment to command. If this story is true then Elihu Washburne had been of

assistance in helping two future presidents into the White house. The Washburn(e) brothers were a force to be dealt with!

To sum it up, this family with roots in Maine made their marks in six different states. It includes two great businessmen, two state representatives, four in Congress at the same time, two governors, two foreign ministers, one Secretary of State and one U.S. Senator.

So, you see I don't think that Dr. Freeland Holmes had to die in battle. He could have furnished a substitute or easily have been assigned some position out of the line of fire. He certainly had the connections. But like so many others of that time and not at all unlike many thousands today he saw it as his duty to his country. He made the ultimate sacrifice.

After his death his widow, Caroline, moved back to the family home of Norlands in Livermore to care for her blind and aging father. She sold her home in Foxcroft to Fayette Holmes in 1869.

After her father's death in 1876, Caroline moved to Wisconsin and kept house for her brother, Cadwallader, who died in 1882.



The patriarch of the Washburn(e) family, Israel Washburn. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

(Continues, page 8)



Caroline Washburn as she appeared at the time of her marriage to Freeland Holmes. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

Caroline died in 1920 in Minneapolis where her brother William had lived until his death in 1912. She was the last of the 11 children of



Martha "Patsy" Benjamin Washburn, the family matriarch. Photo courtesy of Washburn-Norlands Foundation.

Israel and Martha (Benjamin) Washburn. She was 87 years old and had never remarried.

Note: The editor would like to thank the Washburn-Norlands Foundation and its curator, Kathleen Beaugard for permission to reproduce the Washburn family photos used in this series. Information on visiting

Norlands, the Washburn family, and the Foundation's Living History Center can be found on their website at www.norlands.org or phone them at 897-4366.

On June 6-7 Norlands will host a Civil War re-enactment weekend complete with full-scale battle, field music, fashion show, formal tea party, old-time photos, bean supper, country dance, tours of the mansion among other great activities. Learn more from their website.

About the Author: Dover-Foxcroft native Ted Grant is a Washburn descendant, genealogist, and author. He can be reached through e-mail at tedgrant@midmaine.com. Ted's previous article in the *Conservator* concerned the Burgess family of Dover.

Our Business Sponsors

The Society gratefully acknowledges those businesses who so generously donate money or services to help our efforts. Please be sure to thank them when you visit their offices.

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Riverside Florist
Stutzman's Farmstand
Rumbling Falls Gift Shop
Carmen's Greenhouse

President's Report 2009

Presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in April.

As we reflect on the activities of the previous year, we find ourselves busy indeed. We are very active in our community, bringing our history to the forefront.

Our five general meetings last year were well attended and informative. Our last annual meeting had Nancy & Jack Battick showing us some helpful tips on saving family history. IN May, David Dean talked on Dover & Foxcroft 100 years ago, followed in June as Lou Stevens told us about the race track located on Park Street. Our fall schedule had Carlson Williams asking "Who Killed Sir Harry Oaks?" and in October we enjoyed a return visit by Commissioner Earle Shettleworth sharing the Historic Preservation Commission's stereoptic photos of old Dover & Foxcroft.

During last winter we did some work upstairs in the Observer Building and created a room for our larger artifacts. We now have an archive room, two artifact rooms, a library, and a front office upstairs. And, in April we received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation to purchase Past Perfect software, a specialized cataloging system made for museums. We are currently entering our artifacts, documents, and photos into the system, complete with photos of the various items.

June was a busy month. On Father's Day we held a breakfast at the Nor'easter, we held our third annual attic sale and at the end of the month a special showing of the movie *Gettysburg* complete with displays and refreshments. This was held at the Center Theatre.

Homecoming in August had some of our hosts decked out in 1950's attire and we greeted Elvis, played by Bruce Nye, who was here for a show. We had a wonderful float in the parade

displaying signs from businesses past. Thanks to Steve Rainsford and Jim Brown for an awesome idea and all the hard work.

Some of our directors, Chris Maas, Jack Battick, and Steve Rainsford, began to photograph the beautiful buildings in town and have begun the research to accompany the pictures. We are working closely with the town to establish Historic Districts and have come up with 3 areas of concern. This information will also be used to work up future walking tours.

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of our members, last spring we were able to bring the front of the Observer Building back to the look it once had. This was accomplished through monetary donations and labor donated by members. We also had the chimney rebuilt, which was in need of repair.

Thanks to Dave Lockwood, the Blacksmith Shop was open from May through September. It is looking very nice inside with displays set up according to the activities done at a blacksmith shop. Last fall we held a dedication of the stone placed there by Clark Thompson in memory of Emma B., a famous trotting mare born in the neighborhood.

Because of the construction at the Observer Building, we opened later than usual last summer. We were open Thursdays into the evenings and Saturday mornings. A huge thanks goes out to all who were docents. We couldn't be open without you.

We mailed four issues of our *Shiretown Conserver* last year. The articles were excellent and we received so many wonderful comments. Thanks to Nancy & Jack Battick and to all who contribute in any way. We're proud of our newsletter.

We are also beginning a series of interviews with older people in the community who have memories of growing up here. This is a fun

project and one that can add so much to our archives.

As we finish another year let us remember two men in our community who supported our Society in so many ways: Jim Brown who was our Vice-President and always available to lend a helping hand, and Bob Pomeroy who was so generous to us. Their passing has certainly left a hole at the museums.

We go forth into another year. A thank you goes out to all who have helped. It takes many hours, many donations, busy hands, and lots of dedication to keep our history safe.

Mary I. Annis
President

2008 Treasurer's Report

Income:

Dues	2392.00
Donations	4003.86
DVD Sales	535.00
Interest	62.68
Gifts	5329.50
Facade	1035.12
Sales	300.25
Igive	163.52
Raffle	202.00
Shaw's Slips	395.52
Refund	319.27
Grant	1464.00
Bus tour	205.00
Ornaments	312.00
Attic Sale	1726.32
Programs	641.58
Total	\$19,087.62

Expenses:

Lights	410.03
Phone	554.34
Printing	820.65
Postage	495.30
Supplies	3519.34
Memberships	35.00
Capitol Improvements	3312.34
Water/Sewer	394.85
Rent	150.25
Radio Ads	3.75
Fuel/Service	6090.70
Probate Court	4.00
Insurance	858.00
Facade	3530.79
Dues	70.00
Contributions	200.00
Total	\$20,449.44

Difference between Income & Expenses:
(1361.82)

Current Treasury Balance

Savings	8352.66
Checking	301.81
Total	8654.47

6 Month CD	2528.88
12 Month CD	2532.90
36 Month CD	5094.88
J. Brown Mem. Fund	1386.73

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Annis, Treasurer

A Message From Mary

We are about ready to start a new summer season. Where does the time go? We have our annual Attic Sale coming right up. The committee is poised and ready to start sorting and pricing the items for the sale. Thanks to Sylvia Dean, we have a great barn to store everything and a wonderful area to work in. The day of the sale we get an early start to get everything loaded up and brought to the Fire Station. It takes many people many hours to make this work.

Then on July 18 we have our first Shiretown Garden Tour. Have you purchased your tickets yet? This ought to be a good event, 11 gardens, even some vegetable gardens. I hope you can join us.

A busy summer is in the works. Stop by our museums and say hello. The Observer Building Museum will be open Thursdays, 10-4 and the Blacksmith Shop is open almost every day, whenever the open flag is out.

Mary Annis, President

Program & Meeting Schedule for 2009 All Programs begin at 7 p.m. at Thayer Parkway

- 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 ways it will help us utilize our collection.
- 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: _____

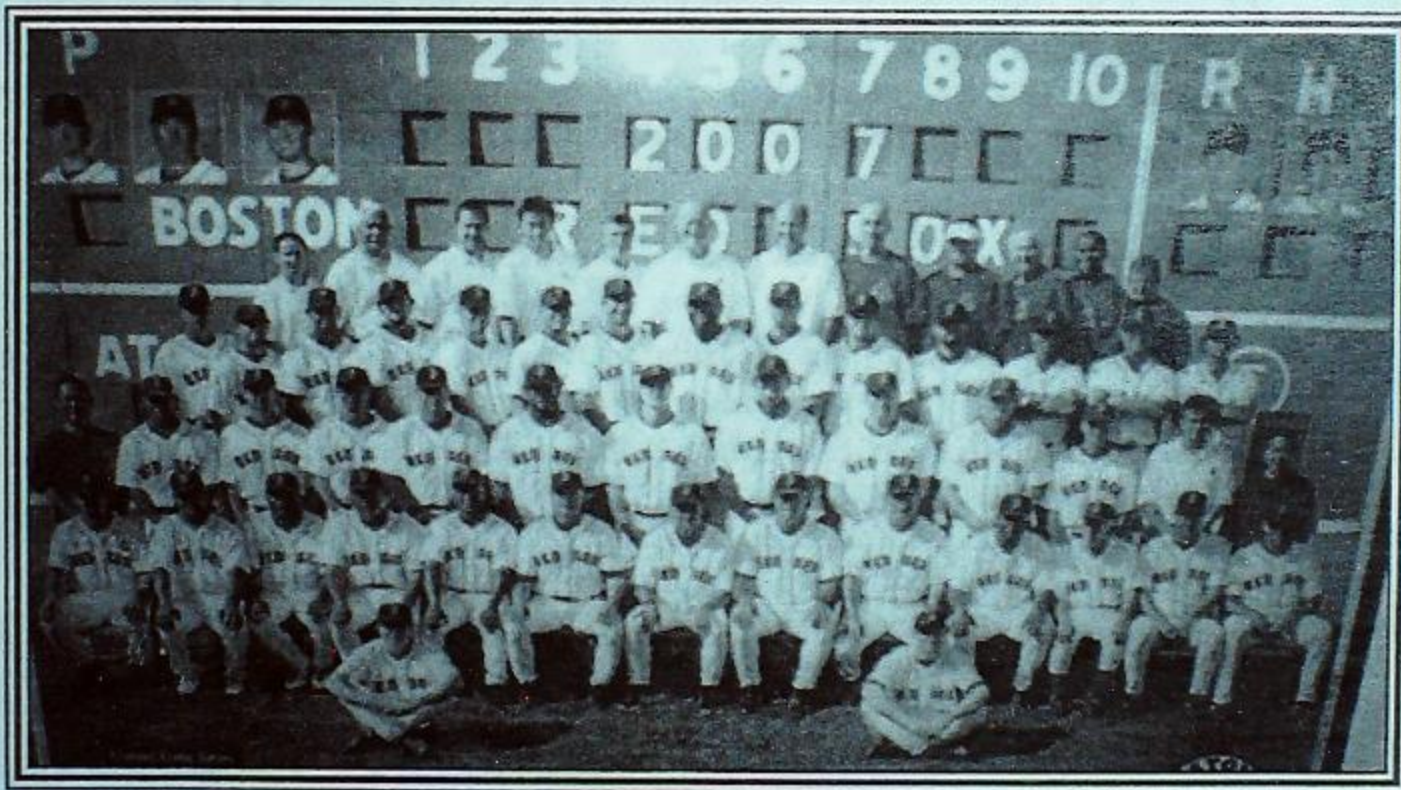
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Annual Dues (\$10.00 per person; \$7.00 senior membership): \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible). Please indicate if you wish it applied to the James Brown Memorial Fund (used for capital projects only).

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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