



# The SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society  
Volume 21, Number 1      Spring 2018

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## Our Hometown Boys Serve

Company F , 103<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Volunteers

By Mary Annis



Captain Charles Norton  
(1870-1950)

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To commemorate the last year of World War I, and our most intense involvement in the fighting, we present memories of Company F, composed largely of local Piscataquis County men.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Regiment began life in the Civil War as an Army National Guard Regiment made up of men from New England, but most of the soldiers came from Maine. It saw action from 1861-1863 and during World War One and World War Two, being deactivated after service in 1945.

We pick up our story in 1911, when this article appears in the *Piscataquis Observer* on August 24, 1911.    *Mary Annis*

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From the *Piscataquis Observer*

### DON'T RUN IN DEBT —1852—

“Gents, don’t run in debt – let your friends if they can  
 Have fine houses, feather and flowers,  
 But unless they are paid for, be more of a man  
 Than to envy their sunshiny hours

If you’ve money to spare, I have nothing to say:  
 Spend your dollars and dimes as you please;  
 But mind you, the man who his note has to pay  
 Is the man who is never at ease.

Kind husbands, don’t run in debt any more;  
 ‘Twill fill your wives cup full of sorrow,  
 To know that a neighbor may call at your door,  
 With a bill you must settle to-morrow;  
 Oh! Take my advice – it is good, it is true!  
 (But, lest you may doubt it,)  
 I’ll whisper a secret, now, setting ‘tis you –  
 I have tried it and know all about it.”

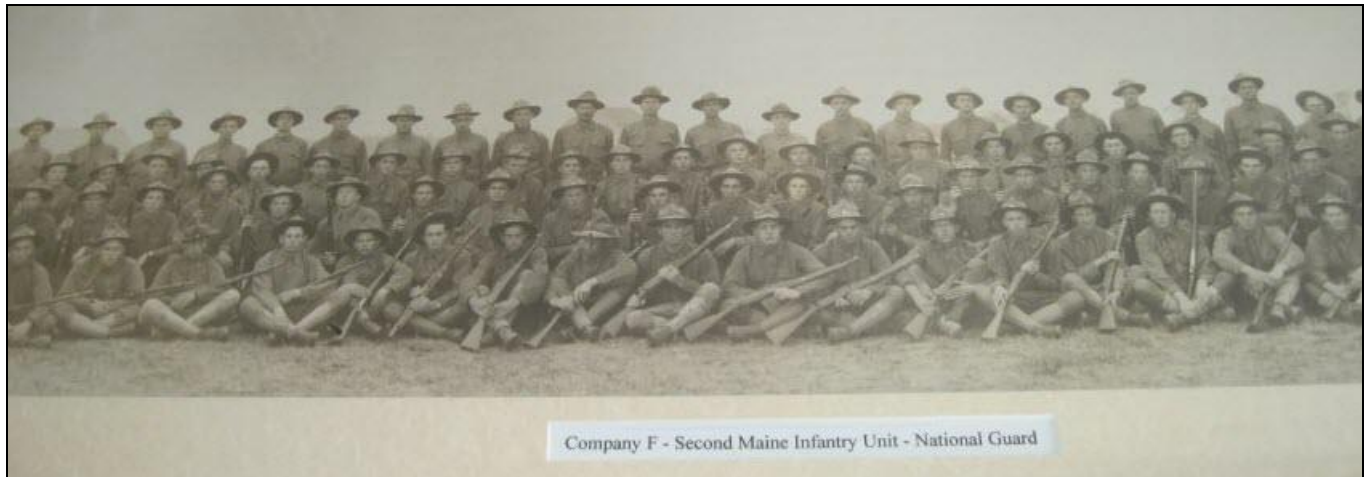
### MY SOLILOQUY BY ARTHUR 1853

As thin as a hatchet I’ve grown  
 And poor as Job’s turkey, by golly!  
 I stand like a scarecrow alone –  
 Sad victim of love’s melancholy.

I feel most confoundedly blue,  
 Life’s rose has turned into a thistle,  
 My sweetheart has turned out untrue,  
 And sacked me as slick as a whistle.

Though lively and keen as a rat,  
 And playful as any young kitten,  
 She has got the sharp claws of a cat,  
 And showed ‘em to me thro’ the mitten.

I courted her day after day,  
 Expecting a wedding to follow,  
 Alas for my love thrown away –  
 Her heart, like a pumpkin, was hollow.



“Company F at Augusta

### **Company Highly Complimented on Good Appearance**

Co. F, N, G, S, M, returned from Augusta Wednesday afternoon of last week with their colors flying in every sense of the word. The men had passed 10 days at Camp Keyes, the regular muster grounds, and during that time conducted themselves in a manner which brought to them and their captain, Charles H. Norton, the regimental staff officers’ very highest compliments. Col. Hume expressed himself very lucidly to Capt. Norton on the evening of the day when the soldiers broke camp, when he told the Captain that he ‘had the star company in the regiment.’

In the first place, Co. F was the only company in the regiment with its full complement of men. In the second the members were the most orderly and gentlemanly, it being the only company which reported not a man court marshaled or in the guard house during the 10 days’ camp. When on duty, under inspection or in maneuvers, Co. F stood foremost and Col. Hume gave them first rank.

The muster was an enjoyable one and the boys are reporting a fine time. They had plenty of work to do, but it wasn’t so strenuous as that at Pine Camp last year, and they had more pleasures intermingled. There was baseball every afternoon and one day was given over entirely to athletic sports. Co. F brought home the battalion championship honors in baseball and several of the first prizes which they had won in athletic events.

Taken altogether the 1911 muster was considered one of the best yet and the members of Co. F are not ashamed of their part in it. The citizens of the towns congratulate them upon their clean record.”

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Company F kept active at their musters, keeping their skills honed in case “the call” came. It arrived at 3 a.m. on Monday, June 19, 1916. This was several months before the United States officially entered World War One, however, there were other matters which needed attention. Company F was ordered to report to Augusta to await further orders. The troops were given a concert in Monument Square before being escorted to the train station by the band and a large number of citizens. A situation had occurred along the



Mexican border when Pancho Villa crossed over into the United States and caused problems raiding the countryside, and our boys were sent to Texas.

In August of 1916, the following letter was printed in the *Observer*. It was written by Lt. Dan Christie and I take excerpts from the text –

“We relieved Co. A, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry USA on July 13. Capt. Charles Norton ordered the same camp guard as the commander of A. Co. advised. This was found to take so many men that some were obliged to go on two nights running...No camp guard is on during the day and the station guard is reduced.

The ranchers near here will notify Capt. Norton at once if any strangers or suspicious characters come into this section, and no Mexican strangers are allowed in town.

It isn't expected that any large band of outlaws will get across the border, a distance of 40 miles, but a small band might come into this section and induce many of the Mexicans here to join them. There are 200 Mexicans who are voters here in town but many of them cannot be trusted.

The band which shot up Webb, a short distance below, found lodging here the night previous to the raid. The people with whom they spent the night were questioned later and acknowledged that they knew the character of the visitors. When asked why they did not report it to the authorities, they answered, ‘No one asked us,’ or Mexican lingo to that effect. The Americans began to get nervous and asked the government for protection. Nearly all the Mexicans here are in the employ of Americans so that our people can control the situation very well when there is no outside influence to interfere. Only one of the Mexicans is allowed to carry arms. He is a night watch about town and is dependable. The Americans all carry arms and usually ride in automobiles.

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Many of the ranchers have visited us and several times have taken us out in autos. They all tell us that they appreciate our coming to their aid and often ask if there isn't some way that they can better show their gratitude. A short time ago they donated to the company more tobacco than could be packed in a bushel basket, and also writing materials, stamps, and postal cards.

We haven't received any pay for service but always it seems that pay day can be just a few days ahead. (Lts received \$4.72 a day, Sgts received \$1.00 a day and privates earned 60 cents a day.) Pay day is a 'will-o-the-wisp'.

Mess Sgt. Fred Dunning is an expert in his department and is not only able to provide the right sort of food for the men, but usually keeps within the U. S. allowance, which seems very low. He takes into consideration the food value of rations as well, and whenever possible draws food to correspond with the climate. It is not the fare one would expect at a Sunday school picnic, where the boys are allowed to follow the dictates of appetite far across the picket line of hunger and into the borderland of indigestion.

The men are generally well and the sick rate is even smaller than it has been some years at the Augusta camp. There were two cases of typhoid fever in town not far from camp but care is taken to prevent an outbreak among the soldiers. On July 20, nearly every member of the company took the third and last inoculation for prevention of the disease and every member has had the second treatment. At the same time we were all vaccinated for smallpox prevention.

If the medicos could go one step further and give us an inoculation which would prevent us from experiencing the inconveniences of sand storms during the day, and make us oblivious to the crowing of cocks, the barking of dogs, and the braying of asses during the night, we would be quite comfortable.

Since we came here we had an issue of government clothing and now every man is well equipped and outfitted. There is a reservoir (used for irrigation purposes) in which we are allowed to bathe and a shower has been improvised at the stock yard near the camp.

A little after three o'clock in the afternoon, Mus. Thompson returned from the P. O. with the mail. Then there is a general stir in the camp for this is the most important event of the day. Everyone looks for a message from home. Usually he is not disappointed, for a good sized sack comes every day, and it is most from MAINE.

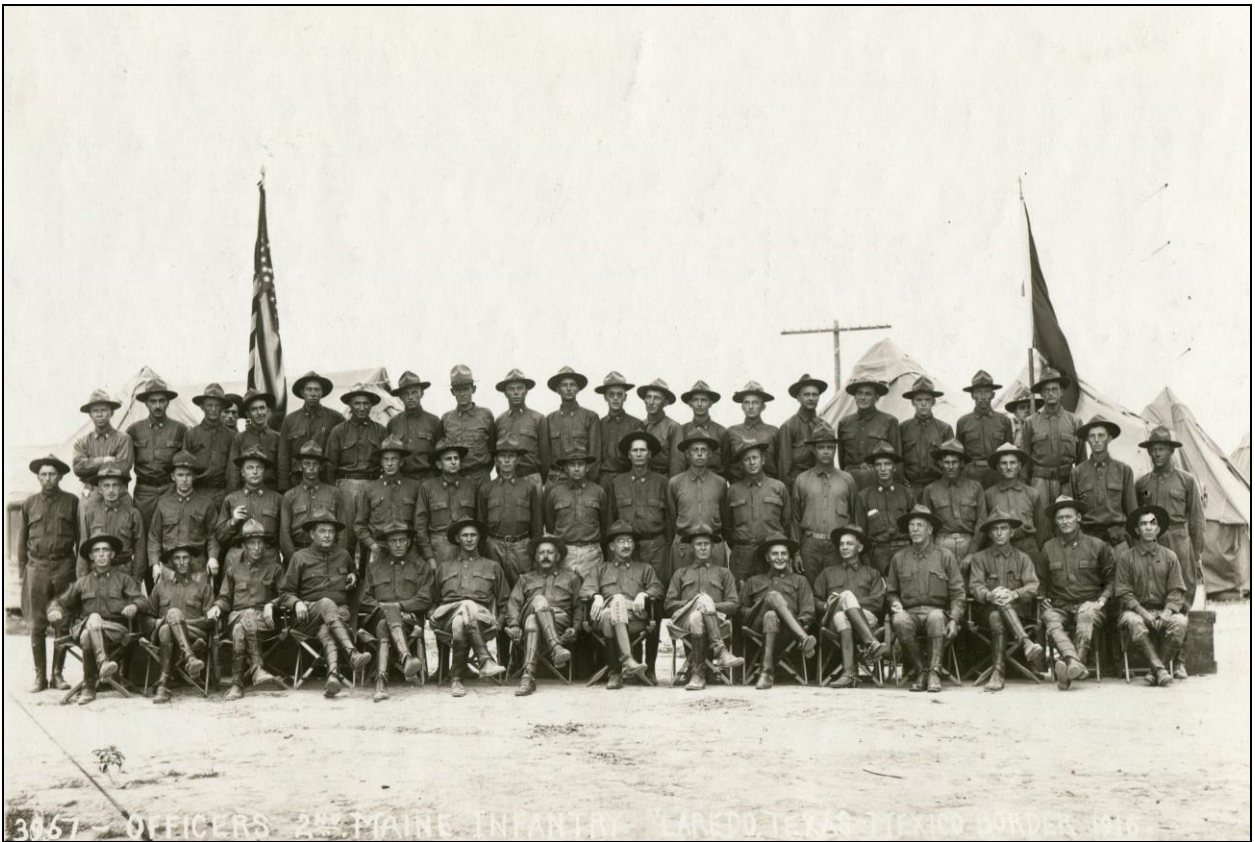
We do not know how long we shall be stationed at Encinal. There is a rumor that we shall be ordered back to Laredo next month for rifle practice."

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The Camp at Attention



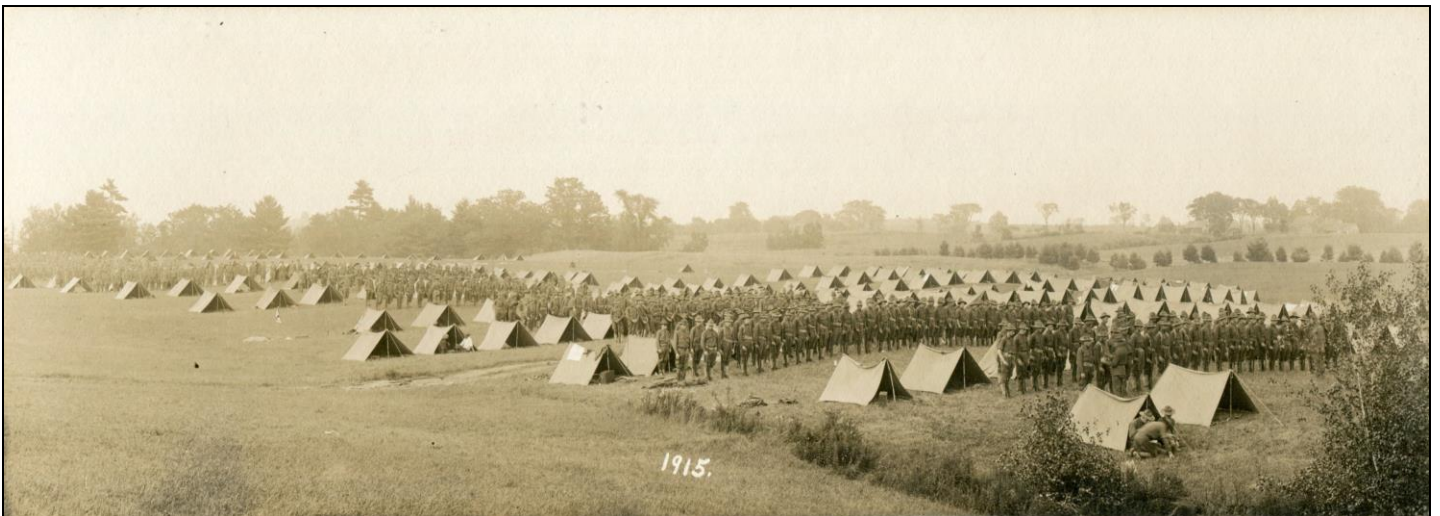
The Officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Infantry (Laredo, Texas)

(Continued on Page 7)

April 7, 1917 came with the United States officially declaring war. This date found our Company F back from Texas and quartered at the armory located on the third floor of the Mayo Block (now True Value). In May of 1917 the unit left on a special train for Auburn. They would be guarding bridges, factories and other points of importance in Lewiston, Mechanic Falls, South Paris and other major towns. From the *Observer*:

“A large crowd was at the Maine Central station to witness the departure and the company made a fine appearance as it marched to the train headed by the Dover and Foxcroft Military Band. Throughout the entire time that the men have been in town there has not been one word of complaint concerning any of them and conduct of the entire company reflects much credit upon officers and men alike.

The men who remain in Lewiston and Auburn will be quartered in the unoccupied Webster Grammar School building in Auburn, Mayor Burnham having offered them the use of the building rather than have them sleep in tents.



(Continued on Page 8)

**(Our Hometown Boys Serve– Continued from Page 7)**

The officers and personnel of the company are as follows: (Names with dates indicate that they are buried in the Dover and Foxcroft cemeteries)

**Captain:** Charles Henry. Norton (1870-1950 – Grocer)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt:** Dan Christie

**1<sup>st</sup> Sgt:** Orrin Tyler

**Supply Sgt:** Erroll Brawn (1891-1978)

**Mess Sgt:** Ora Rollins

**Sergeants:** Robert Weymouth (1888-1963, Woolen Mill), Ray Ames (1895-1974), Henry Spaulding (1893-1942, M.C. RR shops), William Leathers, James Tourtlotte, Roland Morrison

**Corporals:** Joseph Chaisson, William Sproule, William Barden, Charles Bowdoin, Roy Decker, Franklin Flint, Almon Messervey, George Folsom (1884-1954, Civil Engineer), Herbert Crandall , William Dawson (1888-1951, Woolen Mill), Newell Palmer

**Cooks:** Ezekiel Cookson (1887-1929), Henry Lord

**Mechanic:** Leon Mills (1890-1960)

**1<sup>st</sup> Class Privates:** Roy Ames, Dominique Babineau (killed in action), Vernon Bodge, Cecil Burns, Arthur Chadbourne (killed in action), Cecil Crossman (1895-1933), Dorance Decker, Charles Dutch, Albert Glidden, Leon Hall (1901-1982), Fred Hoskins, Lewis Hoskins, Willard Lovejoy, Albert Maguire, Thomas Mithee, Ernest Newman, Maurice Pearl, Frank Waterhouse, Walter Tozier

**Privates:** Omar Bartlett, Cecil Bennett (1899-1967), Roy Bennett , William Boyce, Carl Brown, Eugene Bruce, Albert Burrill, Roland Bush (1900-1929), Sidney Call, James Christie, Ernest Coffin, Allen Collins (1897-1958), Archie Cousins, Percy DeWitt (1895-1960), Vinal DeWitt, Clarence Dodge, Kenneth Dodge, Joseph Dugay, Errol Estes, Edwin Estes, Montford Foster, Phillip Genthner, Harold Hayes (1894-1963, Lawyer), Cecil Hibbard (1895-923), Howell Hughes, Burnett Humphrey, Arthur Johnson, Clarence Leathers, Merle Littlefield, Herbert Livingstone, Walter McClain, Allie Michaud, Allen Monroe, Joseph Morse, Clyde Oakes, Raymond Orff, Arthur Palmer, Lester Palmer (1898-1951 Woolen mill), Esmond Richardson, Domenick Rotondi, Donald Sargent, Alton Shorey (1893-1962), Harold Sproule, Leroy Stinneford, Leon Stowe, James Strout, Reginald Teague, Frank Thibodeau, Albert Tompkins (1894-1986), Phillips Tozier, Earle Wingate, Ralph Wyman.

In our next issue, we will follow Company F to battle in France in 1918.



## The Commons at Central Hall is Open!

While the entire project is not finished, we have passed a huge milestone. Thanks to your help, after eight years of renovations, we were finally able to complete two of the three parts of the Central Hall project. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hall, managed by Centre Theatre and the front part of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, managed by the Maine Highlands Senior Center are now open. Collectively called “**The Commons at Central Hall**”, they had their first public session Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Centre Theatre’s “Slightly Off Center Players”, put on an enjoyable “Medieval Dinner”. Approximately 135 people enjoyed good food, great entertainment and good company in brand, spanking newly renovated Central Hall. Everybody had a good time – lots of “oohs” and “aahs”.



March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
Dinner Theater by Centre Theater  
The first event at the newly refurbished Central Hall

## Annual Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their Historical Society dues for 2018. We really appreciate having you as a member. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do so now so you can continue to enjoy all of the benefits of membership in the Historical Society, including receiving copies of the *Conserver*.

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### The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society – Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$10 per person and \$7.00 for senior memberships. Please make checks payable to: Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover January to December. 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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### Progress on Central Hall

As we noted, two of the three parts to the Central Hall project are now largely in place. The third, and by some measures the most important part, is fitting out most of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as a medical model Adult Day Service Center. We need to raise approximately \$50,000 to complete construction on that portion of the building. This will complete construction, after 8 years, on the building! As soon as we can find a health care facility willing to run the ADSC, we will require another approximately \$100,000 to purchase equipment, a van for transportation and other initial startup costs for the facility. All of these funds will likely be matched by grants which the donating agency has already suggest they will make. We are very appreciative of their support, and of the support of the other agencies which have made generous grants, and the hundreds of individuals and businesses who have already shown their support for this wonderful project. Finally, none of this would be possible without your Historical Society responding to the call from the Town to begin this project in 2009.



### Message from Mary

Winter is on its way out and Spring will be here soon! We plan our grand opening in June with, hopefully, two new displays. Lou Dow, who is a lifelong resident of East Dover, is working on a mock up of the village of East Dover as it was in his memory – 1940's. He has shown us some of the buildings – painted as they used to look. He is doing a great job. Depending on where that will be exhibited we may have another new exhibit in the front room – subject weddings.

It's a busy time getting ready for the summer and our visitors. I'll be calling looking for hosts. If anyone would like to host for an afternoon please call. If more folks signed up we could be open more days! Also, if anyone likes working on displays, we could sure use help. Plan to visit your museum, we'd love to see you.



Our brilliant carpenters John Libera and Keith Doore hand-crafting new newell posts.

### **Our Corporate Sponsors**

A grateful thank you to the following businesses whose funds support the Society and its efforts to preserve our history. When you shop or see these folks, please tell them 'thank you' for their support!

Ellen Anderson, D.P.M.  
 Family Eyecare  
 Green Door Gallery  
 Lary Funeral Home  
 Maine Highlands Federal C/U  
 Mallett Real Estate  
 Steinke and Caruso  
 Rowell's Garage  
 Mark Stitham, M. D  
 Sean Stitham, M.D.

**Thank you all!**

### **Items Available**

We thank Calico Corner Gift Shop on West Main Street for stocking our ornaments and DVD's. Please stop by their store and support this local business.

Glass Christmas ornaments: \$6.00 each (add \$4.00 for shipping)

- 2008 – Blacksmith Shop
- 2009 – Observer Building
- 2010 – Central Hall
- 2011 – Thompson Free Library
- 2012 – Foxcroft Academy
- 2013 – The Blethen House
- 2014 – Pleasant Street School
- 2015 – Mayo's Mill
- 2016 – Piscataquis County Court House
- 2017 – Brown Mills

DVD's : Glimpses of Dover and Foxcroft - \$10.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Memories of Central Hall/Lou Stevens - \$15.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Dover-Foxcroft throws: \$40.00 (add \$8.00 for shipping)

**The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, Inc.**  
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Can you recognize this Dover-Foxcroft landmark, and where it was?