

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

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Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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SOCIETY DEVELOPS MORE STORAGE

The Androscoggin Historical Society has been fortunate to make many acquisitions for our museum and library over the years. As a result, we have become extremely cramped for space. Now, we have made several changes that have expanded our storage space within our same county building quarters.

First, we moved a bench from the top of the stairs to become part of the seating for lectures in the large museum. Then, a large display case was moved from the small museum to replace the bench by the stairs.

The small museum now will serve in part as a storage area. A storage cabinet and a bookcase containing infrequently used reference works were moved there from the library. Dennis Stires donated additional bookcases. We also purchased three sets of 72-inch high storage shelves, with thanks to **Staples** for the reduced price.

The donation by Doug Hodgkin of two four-drawer file cabinets for the library completes the conversion. These will relieve the crowding in the current files of newspaper clippings, genealogical materials, photographs, and other paper research resources, as well as provide space to file both accumulated and new acquisitions.

FIRST COUNTY WOMAN JUROR

Mrs. Georgia Fenderson is the first woman in Androscoggin county to be drawn on a jury. She is the wife of Frank Fenderson of Greene, and is a former Auburn woman. They recently moved to Greene, where they are carrying on a small farm.

She was an active worker in the equal suffrage campaign, and was the leader of the Housewives League in the establishment of the local public markets. She was at one time president of the Woman's Hospital association, and has been a member of the Woman's Literary Union.

She will serve on the jury of the April term of the Supreme Court in Auburn.

Source: "Here's the First Woman Juror," *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 11 Apr 1921: 12.

GENEVA KIRK, 1917-2007

Geneva Kirk, former Lewiston High School teacher and community activist, passed away 2 November 2007. She had been the leading expert on Lewiston history. She taught social studies and co-authored *A Text on State of Maine Government*, *Historic Lewiston: Its Government*, and *Historic Lewiston: Its Fire Department*.

As a member of the Androscoggin Historical Society, she served as a board member and as secretary. She donated some of her materials on local history to the Society. At the time of her death, she was an honorary director.

She was chair, secretary, tour leader, and lecturer for the Lewiston Historical Commission.

Other historical organizations of which she was a member were New England History Association, Maine State Preservation Society, Poland Spring Preservation Society, Maine Historical Society, Maine State Museum Commission, and Maine League of Historical Societies.

Kirk was active in countless other state and local educational, service, church, and political efforts. Her obituary listed many awards and recognitions.

Source: Obituary, *Sun Journal*, 5 Nov 2007.

MEETING NOTICE

Topic: "A NIGHT ON THE TOWN"

A history of evening fun and entertainment in the age before television. Come to reminisce or to find out what your grandparents did when they went out. We hope to see you there.

Speaker: Keith W. Brann

Date: Tuesday, 26 Feb. 2008, at 7:00 P.M.

Place: Androscoggin County Building

Enter from Court Street, elevator available.

AN ANDROSCOGGIN PATRIOT: PEABODY BRADFORD (1758-1852)

By Nancy Lecompte

Peabody Bradford was born the 15th of March 1758 at Duxbury, Massachusetts, and died the 17th of January 1852 in Auburn, Maine. He was the son of Peabody Bradford and Lydia Freeman. On the 29th of July 1788, Peabody married Hannah Bradbury (widow of Samuel Freeman, another Androscoggin Patriot) in Minot, Maine.

At the age of 17, Peabody served as a private in Captain Samuel Bradford's 1st Duxbury Company in Col. Warren's Plymouth Regiment. He answered the call as a "Minute Man" in the first armed conflict of the war on the 19th of April 1775. Peabody's uncle, Joseph Freeman, and his cousin, Chandler Freeman (also Androscoggin Patriots), served alongside Peabody that fateful day. This service lasted only three days, but was of immense importance in demonstrating that the American people were ready to stand up, fight, and die for their liberty.

Shortly thereafter, Peabody enlisted for 8 months in Captain Samuel Bradford's Company (his cousin or uncle), Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regiment. On the 1st of January 1776, he re-enlisted for an additional year under the same officers. This regiment was stationed at Plymouth and later Roxbury as a guard to deter the British from establishing a military presence in the area. They also smuggled supplies into the area. In March of 1776, they were in New York building entrenchments on Dorchester Heights. They stayed in the New York area until the end of 1776.

In January of 1777, Peabody re-enlisted for 3 years with the rank of corporal under Capt. Joseph Wadsworth (his former Sergeant) in Col. Gamaliel Bradford's (his uncle) 14th Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Army.

Early in 1777 the regiment was in Boston. The regiment marched to New York and participated in the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777. On the 28th of January 1778, Peabody Bradford appears on the muster roll at Valley Forge, indicating that he was with General Washington during that famous and tragic winter encampment. He was in the general hospital, along with many of his fellow comrades.

In late spring, the Continental Army, including Peabody's Regiment, marched from Valley Forge directly to Monmouth, New Jersey. Here, on the 28th of June in 1778, General Washington faced British General Clinton to a standoff, in the war's largest

single battle. Washington's force numbered about 12,000 men and the British had roughly 10,000 men. The battle lasted all day, neither side giving ground after the initial repositioning moves. General Clinton abandoned the battlefield at nightfall.

My research has not found any specific information on the whereabouts of Peabody or his regiment after the battle. Peabody was discharged while headquartered at West Point, New York on the 1st of January 1781.

In May or June of 1781, Peabody came from Duxbury to Bakerstown in Maine with Jonathan Bradford "a Kingston man" (possibly a cousin) and his cousins, Samuel and Chandler Freeman – all recently discharged from service. They "commenced clearing farms for themselves" and returned to Duxbury for the winter. The following spring they returned, bringing along Nathaniel Chandler (another Androscoggin Patriot). All five Patriots settled and raised families in Minot and Auburn.

[Most of my information was obtained from the military pension records of Peabody Bradford and Samuel Freeman, along with other period documents found at Footnote.com.]

HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1879

There was a gathering of "old folks" of Lewiston and Auburn on Fast Day 1879 in Auburn Hall for entertainment and speeches. Jacob B. Ham, first mayor of Lewiston, concluded his speech, "I think we should improve this occasion to organize an antiquarian – historical society.... I shall endeavor to have a historical society organized before this meeting is adjourned."

Chairman Charles Clark of Lewiston appointed Ham, Robert Martin and Daniel Holland as a committee of three to prepare a list of officers for a historical society. While the committee was out, Governor Alonzo Garcelon spoke briefly, "giving the objects to be gained by such a society."

Nominated and elected were President, Alonzo Garcelon; Vice Presidents, J. Ham of Lewiston and Thomas Littlefield of Auburn; Secretaries, J. G. Elder of Lewiston and George Woodman of Auburn; and Treasurer, J. Jordan of Auburn.

"Forty Years Ago," *Lew. Evening Journal*, 18 April 1879, 2.

Note: Our current Society was founded in 1923.

Goings-On at the Society

By Michael C. Lord

1) **Calendar Year 2007** business totals are as follows: Telephone calls - 467; Museum visits - 172; Library visits - 243; Correspondence - 590; Emails - 2,106; Board & Committee Meeting attendance - 128; Meeting Notices sent - 599; Meeting attendance - 205; Newsletters sent - 481; Annual Dinner - 42; Programs sent - 158; Androscoggin Round Table Meeting Notices Sent - 0; ART Mtg. - 0.

2) **Donations Report** since the last newsletter: CitiGroup Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Princeton, NJ, \$50.00, (Matching Dennis Mason's earlier gift); Edward C. & Bernice Y. Hodgkin, Auburn, \$200.00; Douglas I. Hodgkin, Lewiston, \$200.00; Bonnie Lounsbury, Auburn, \$50.00; Irving Isaacson, Lewiston, \$250.00; MT Abstracting (Keith Brann), Auburn, \$50.00; Total: \$800.00 We thank all donors.

3) There is no longer a need to acquire a **vacuum cleaner** for our Society. Our cleaning lady, Mrs. Lynne Roy, has contacted the Court Street Baptist Church, and they are kindly allowing her to park there once every four weeks for two hours. This relieves her of the need to cross the street with her vacuum cleaner in the winter. Many thanks to Lynne Roy and the Court Street Baptist Church!

4) We have a new **Bates College intern!** Aron Bodwitch works for us through their Service Learning Center, and will be with us through to near the end of May. He is a freshman with an undecided major, but is leaning toward history or political science. Welcome Aron!

Historical Acquisitions

Donations

- Luce and Parker's Grand Zoological Exhibition pamphlet of Auburn Hall, July 31, 1857. Donated by Richard Hurd of Auburn.
- *Official Manual of the Lewiston Board of Trade*, 1904. Given by Douglas I. Hodgkin of Lewiston.
- Five 8x10 B&W photos of a) Elm Street Universalist Church, b) Trolley on Summer Street, c) Turner Street Railroad Bridge, d) Auburn Public Library, and e) Dennison Street Bridge. Given by Buckfield Historical Society.

- Lewiston Elks, 590th Regular Session pamphlet, Sept. 1924. Given by Stan Oliver of Denver, CO.
- E.L.H.S. Class of 1918 reunion photos and ephemera, ca. 1950s & '60s. Given by Ruth Barker of Auburn.
- Eight plate glass negatives of Sabattus, ca. 1900. Given by Raymond Charest of Sabattus.
- Three Maine Central Railroad photos depicting steam engines: a) Lewiston, b) Penobscot, and c) Hallowell. They appear to be mid-twentieth century copies of late-nineteenth century originals. Given by Elinor Brockway of Auburn.
- Kitchen food chopper, ca. 1920s? Given by Douglas I. Hodgkin of Lewiston.
- Paper ephemera of Lewiston City Building, pre-1890 burning. Given by John Hartley of Cape Elizabeth.
- 1938 photo of C. U. Watson Shoe Co. - pre-1929 photo of Cushman-Hollis Shoe Co. - 1935 photo of Sears on Lisbon Street. Given by Carmen Cook.
- Six-inch ruler of Dr. True's Elixir, 1905. Given by Peter Mallett of Georgia, VT.
- A carte de visite of the nineteenth century of an unknown gentleman, made in Lewiston, Maine. Given by Ms. Patricia Rock of Albany, Georgia.
- Three books given by Dorothy Folsom Weymouth of Blanchard, Me.: a) *Touring Monson, Maine... Now and Then* (2004), comp. by D. Weymouth and E. Leonard; b) *History of Blanchard, Maine, 1831 - 2006, 175th Anniversary* (2006), comp. for the Blanchard Preservation Society by Ms. Weymouth; c) *The Crow's Nest, Camp Allagash, Moosehead Lake, Maine* (2007), comp. by Ms. Weymouth. All by DWEL Publishing, Monson, Maine.
- Large rolled photograph of Bates Mill employees on an outing, ca. 1930. Given by Paul Richard of Hooksett, NH.
- Four pins having to do with Bates College, and one with the Franco-Americans, ca. mid-20th century. Given by Doug Hodgkin of Lewiston.
- A collection of 2x3 B&W photos of the Flood of 1936 (15 of them), two of aircraft, and one of ships. Given by Lynda Brearey of Cape Elizabeth.
- A 5x7 B&W photo of Fred Leonard taken at the Stanley Studio in Lewiston in the nineteenth century. Given by Shelley Cardiel of Kirkland, WA.

Purchases

- *Maine Register, State Yearbook and Legislative Manual*, No. 138. Tower Publishing Company, Standish, ME, 2008. 1,115 pp. Our annual subscription, \$92.50.

Peabody Bradford

Signature of Peabody Bradford. See story, page 2.

LEROY LINNELL COLLECTION

The late Leroy Linnell was for many years the City Clerk of Auburn, Maine. The following were donated by his cousin, Arlene Simons:

Large collection of newspaper clippings on Auburn government and Twin Cities history:
. Several file folders
. Two scrapbooks
. Clippings on Kiwanis and Kora Temple
Auburn Centennial booklets (2)
Auburn Centennial bowtie, pins, and wooden nickels
Auburn 1869-1969: 100 Years a City
The Peoples Lewiston-Auburn Maine 1875-1975
The Flood of 1987
Auburn Landmarks
City of Auburn Calendar of Community Services (1995 and 1996)
Auburn Charter Commission Preliminary Report (June 1978)
City of Auburn Charter
City of Auburn Annual Reports (1891, 1960-61, 1986-87)
Harpwell Annual Reports (1967, 1972)
Sesquicentennial Palmyra Maine 1807-1957
"Documents Relating to Great Falls Urban Renewal Area"
"Street Index" - Auburn
Topographical maps: Lewiston, Poland, Livermore, Gray, Gardiner, and Freeport Quadrangles
"The Literary Digest Liberty Map of New Europe" (1921)
Several Auburn inaugural exercises programs
Mounted photos: Onawa buildings, "Boar Stone Mt. 1914," and "Nois Camp"
Real photo postcards of Onawa, Maine
"Souvenir Folder of Bangor, Maine"

Postcard aerial view of Lewiston and Auburn
Souvenir postcard folder: The Mohawk Trail
Souvenir postcard folder: Taconic Trail
1972 calendar Shawmut Inn, Kennebunkport
3 postcards for various motels
Postcard for Texaco Service Centre, Ontario, Canada
Lureka Elvena Davis, *Along Life's Way (Poems by Lureka)*
Files: Class Reunions of ELHS '35 and '39
File: "Marriages Performed"
File: "Gerald J. Reed Scholarship Foundation"
File: "Retirement Party February 2, 1983"
"The Blaine House: A Brief History and Guide"
Auburn Inauguration invitation 1998
Dedication Edward Little High School program 1961
Retirement of Denise L. Lajoie (employee in Lewiston City Clerk's office) 1987
Farewell party for City Manager Chip Morrison 1987
Dedication of Maine Municipal Association Center 1974
All America City Awards Presentation, Auburn, 1968
Auburn specimen ballots, 1965, 1967, 1973
Program and script for "Yes Men" for "Movie Queen," ELHS, 1935
Lakewood Theater Playbill for "Critic's Choice" with Allen Ludden and Betty White, 1962
Handbook for Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and brochures
Brochure, Fort Stephenson Motor Hotel (Fremont, OH)
Brochure, Chanticleer Motor Lodge (Geneva, NY)
Map of New York City from Hotel Bristol
Brochure from Geneva, New York
"New England Town Clerk," newsletter, Vol. 1 #1, 1969
Ice Follies program 1962
2 photos of a trade show for farm equipment
Map of Auburn, Maine, 1976
Map of Mediterranean, Near and Middle East, 1990

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