



## RENOVATION OF THE HEALY ASYLUM

Portland developers, Deep Cove II, are proposing to rehabilitate the Healy Asylum into thirty-two units of affordable elderly housing. The building at 81 Ash Street, Lewiston is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Healy Asylum was designed by Lewiston architect Jefferson Lake Coburn and constructed in 1892–1893. It began as a kindergarten and day nursery, as well as an orphanage for young boys. At some point it became solely a boy's orphanage.

Douglas I. Hodgkin, Editor  
Androscoggin Historical Society  
County Building, 2 Turner Street, Unit 8  
Auburn, Maine 04210-5978

The building was named for the Right Reverend James Augustine Healy, whose work on behalf of children was such that he was known as the "Children's Bishop." Appointed Bishop of Maine in 1875, he was the first African-American Roman Catholic Bishop in America.

The building, now vacant, was more recently known as Intown Manor and then as Intown Apartments.

Healy Asylum, Hugh C. Leighton Postcard from editor's collection.

## LIBRARY AND MUSEUM CATALOG Grant from the L & A Fund

The Androscoggin Historical Society has a research library and a large number of museum artifacts. We increasingly have been concerned that we need a better system of cataloging and locating our collections and maintaining records of our acquisitions.

The Society decided to use a grant from the L & A Fund to acquire cataloging software, called PastPerfect. This is a program that is becoming widely used in the State by other historical societies. It has many features beyond simple cataloging of library materials, historic objects, and photographs. It handles accessions, cataloging, loans in, loans out, exhibits, and condition reporting. It provides for detailed location information, including room, wall, cabinet, shelf, drawer, and container for each item. It enables us to include photographs of museum objects to ensure a match between the description and the object of interest.

We have only recently made the actual purchase. Nevertheless, it is expected that we shall be able to be more efficient in locating materials in our holdings, thereby enabling us more readily to help researchers and those who make inquiries. It will also prevent duplicate purchases. Ultimately, we hope to place our holdings on line so that genealogists and other historical researchers will be able to learn that we have holdings of use to them. This is indeed a long-term project with pay-offs in the future.

We are most grateful for the L & A Fund's support. This grant made possible an essential expenditure for which we have not had the funds until now.

If there are any members who are interested in assisting us to start to catalog our books, we shall teach you how to use the program.

## Donations

\$ 50 from Russell Dorr of Merrimack, NH.

\$250 from Douglas I. Hodgkin of Lewiston, ME.

## MEETING NOTICE:

**Topic:** "United Sports Antique & Vintage Snowmobile Gallery"

**Speaker:** Mr. Paul Bernier

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

**Location:** Androscoggin Historical Society  
Free to the public and wheelchair accessible.

Bernier will trace the evolution of snowmobiles from a utilitarian vehicle to today's organized sport machine. He has a passion for snowmobile history and has compiled a collection of more than 250 antique and vintage snowmobiles at his museum in Turner. He calls it one of the world's most diversified collections of original clothing, brochures, and snowmobile-related memorabilia. He also is the owner of United Sports, a store in Turner that specializes in snowmobiles and trailers.

Coming topics for Androscoggin Historical Society meetings are: March 23, "Harriman Architects and Engineers; Its Architectural Legacy in Androscoggin County," by Mark Lee; April 27, "150 Years of Methodists and Court Street Baptists in Auburn," by Betty Dexter and Douglas Hodgkin; May 25, "Gettysburg's Lost Battles; Civilian Struggle in 1863," by Prof. Margaret Creighton (annual dinner meeting, held in the High Street Congregational Church, Auburn).



## MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS NEEDED

President David Colby Young urges members to become more active in the Androscoggin Historical Society. “The Society can function and provide the services of our library and museum only as we can count on the members to support our efforts,” he said.

One of our most urgent needs is new Board members so that the work can be shared more equally. This requires attending one meeting a month and participating in activities according to your talents. While we especially need persons with business skills, we welcome any one with an interest in local history. By virtue of your membership in the Society, that means you!!

There are opportunities to contribute without joining the board. We need people interested in publicity, helping with the website, collections management, fundraising, filing, cataloguing books and artifacts, and assisting with our lecture program.

For information about joining the board or helping the Society, please call David Young at 786-2129 or Doug Hodgkin at 782-3072.

Calendar Year **2009** business totals are as follows: Telephone calls – **407**; Museum visits – **89**; Library visits – **219**; Correspondence – **299**; Emails – **1851**; Board Meetings (11) attendance – **109**; Lectures (7) attendance – **170**.

**Mu Chapter Scrapbooks.** The Mu Chapter is the Lewiston/Auburn chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society for key women educators. They donated to the Society twenty-three scrapbooks featuring the activities of the chapter and the accomplishments of its members.

Members of the Mu Chapter who delivered the donation of the Mu Chapter Scrapbooks: left to right, Pat Spilecki, Past President; Carol Day, Historian; Glenys Ryder, Parliamentarian; and Linda Prescott, President.



## REPORTS FROM THE SOCIETY

**May we have your email address?** In order to save much needed funds, we request your email address in order to send notices, newsletters, and other mailings. Please send the address to androhs@myfairpoint.net if you are willing to receive communications from the Androscoggin Historical Society in this way. If not, we shall continue to send this material via the United States Postal Service.

**New Board Member.** On December 12, 2009 the Board approved election of Richard Fraser of Mechanic Falls as a member of the AHS Board. He is the author of *A History of Maine Built Automobiles and Motorized Vehicles 1834-1934 with a History of Maine License Plates*. We hope to have a review of the book in our next newsletter.

**Dues Increase.** On November 10, 2010 the Board approved increasing the dues to \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$200 for life membership, effective for the 2010 to 2011 year, which begins June 1. We need to keep up with increasing costs, while keeping our dues affordable.

**Air Conditioner.** Our 1978-vintage air conditioner died this fall. We believe we got our money's worth from this thirty-one-year-old unit. We were able to purchase a used one from Michael Lord at a reasonable price.

## GRANT FOR GRAND TRUNK DEPOT

The Grand Trunk Depot at 103 Lincoln Street, Lewiston will undergo renovations as a result of a \$200,000 grant received by the Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council and the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company, announced January 2010.

The renovations will prepare the building for rent, possibly as a restaurant. It is hoped that this will contribute to the revitalization of the Lincoln Street area, which is the site of Simard-Payne Memorial Park (Railroad Park) and the proposed site of Museum L-A.

“These funds will go a long way in helping with retrofitting this historic building, and will be used for utility improvements, lead abatement, and window repairs, among other needs,” said Bob Thorpe, President, Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company.

Built in 1874, the depot was the destination for immigrants from French Canada who entered the United States via the Grand Trunk Railway through Island Pond, Vermont. The Lewiston and Auburn Railroad built the branch line to join the Grand Trunk main line at Lewiston Junction in Auburn in order to provide competition with the Maine Central Railroad.

The last train on this branch was in 1960. Ever since, the depot has largely been empty with a very few temporary occupants. Nevertheless, the depot has survived. There is now hope for its future.

This depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## Donations

- Research material & photographs of the first 25 settlers who arrived in Livermore, Maine before 1800. Donated by Marshall S. Bullock of Raymond, ME.
- *Mizpah Cook Book*, compiled by the Ladies of Mizpah Lodge of Odd Ladies—1911, Auburn, Maine. Donated by Joanne Wuschke of Dover, MA—In memory of Hope B. Hines and Annie Merrill, grandmother of Hope, who was a member of the Mizpah Lodge.
- 3- Bates College Publications, *The Student* – March, April & May 1905. Donated by Turner Historical Society.
- 1- Woman's Literary Union 1910–1911 program & meeting guide. Donated by Turner Historical Society.
- 1- map- Auburn Heights 1892. Donated by Turner Historical Society.
- 1- photo album page with 4 photos-The Relief Corps Picnic at Lake Grove, Auburn, July 8, 1924. Donated by the Turner Historical Society.
- Grain bag (from late 1800's) from J. B. Ham Company of GTR rail yard, Lewiston. Donated by Doug Hodgkin.
- Edward Little High School Handbook published by the Student Council, 1953–54. Donated by Doug Hodgkin.
- 12 issues Edward Little High School publication-*Station E.L.H.S.* 1955-1957. Donated by Doug Hodgkin of Lewiston, ME.
- *Early Vital Records of the Staples Family of Turner*. Donated by Susan Schlosser of Wisconsin
- Bound volume of *Lewiston Evening Journal*, July–Sept 1932. Donated by the Pejepscot Historical Society of Brunswick, ME.

**Purchases:** 2010 Edition of the *Maine Register*