

ANDROSCOGGIN HISTORY

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Newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society

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KEITH BRANN IS NEW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of the Society on 27 May 2008, Keith W. Brann was elected as the new President. He succeeds Dennis Stires, who had served for two years.

Keith is a former president of the Wilton Historical Society, and has recently chaired this Society's Futures and Membership Committees. He is very interested in local history as well as the Society's role in the community.

Other officers elected or re-elected were the following:

Vice President	Barbara V. Randall
Executive Secretary	Michael C. Lord
Recording Secretary	Douglas I. Hodgkin
Membership Secretary	Bruce A. Hall
Treasurer	Michael G. Spaulding
Newsletter Editor	Douglas I. Hodgkin
Attorney	Richard L. Trafton

The new Board of Directors includes Marti A. Chabot, Franklin H. Goss, Douglas A. Hall, John E. Henderson, Bernice Y. Hodgkin, Edward C. Hodgkin, Mary M. Riley, Norman E. Rose, W. Dennis Stires, David C. Young, and Elizabeth K. Young.

ARON BODWITCH – INTERN

Aron Bodwitch, Bates College Freshman, interned at the A.H.S. for the Spring semester and also the May term. He assembled our new shelving units that we have in our Small Museum and filled them, put some maps into Mylar-D, hung pictures, inventoried and/or bibliographed several different collections (it's nice to know what we have in different storage areas now!), sorted our framed media collection, filled our new donated filing cabinets, which involved rearranging almost all of our other filing drawers (this is much more labor-intensive than you might think!), managed to unstick a mannequin from the Large Museum floor, moved books, and performed many other tasks and duties. Well done, Aron. We wish you well in your future!

SCHOOL ON NATIONAL REGISTER

The former Lisbon Falls High School on Campus Avenue has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was used as a high school from 1906 to 1952, when a new school was opened on Route 196. Architect William R. Miller designed the Romanesque revival brick building “with finial topped tower, arched windows and doors, terra cotta and granite accents.”

Source: Connie Footman, *Sun Journal*, 30 Nov 2007.

VELOCIPEDE RACE

In 1869, the “velocipede,” an early kind of bicycle, emerged as a fad locally. Here is a newspaper story about an early race:

According to announcement, a velocipede race came off at Lisbon Hall last evening, at which the following named riders entered and made the time set against their names – the distance being ten times around the hall, equal to one-fourth of a mile: --

Swett,	1:59.
Savage,	1:30 ¼.
Sturgis, ruled out on 5 th turn, ... made in	48¼ s.
Willard,	1:47 ¾.
Alls,	1:34 ¾.
Kilgore,	1:31 ½.
Clayton,	1:34 ¾.

Savage having made the quickest time, received the prize, a silver call bell.

Following this there was a “slow race” ridden, the prize being awarded to the person who made the circle of the hall five times in the longest time. The following is the list of riders: --

Alls–ruled out–2 ¾ times around the hall in	2:38 ¼.
Sturgis–ruled out–2 ½ round in	3 minutes.
Savage–ruled out – made nearly five rounds in	5:28 ½.
Coburn – made the 5 rounds in	3:45 ½.
Willard – made 5 rounds in	2:56.

Coburn having been the longest time making the required distance, without touching the floor with his feet or falling, received the prize, a silver butter dish. Savage would have won this latter race had he not put his foot on the floor when within a foot of the line on his last round.

Source: *Lewiston Evening Journal*, March 26, 1869, 3.

THE 1859 ANNEXATION OF DANVILLE

By Douglas I. Hodgkin

The original municipal boundary separating the Towns of Auburn and Danville cut right through the village that had developed at the end of the bridge near the falls of the Androscoggin River. As early as 1855, *The Democratic Advocate* observed the growth of the village and asked what changes might be made “in our municipal regulations.” One answer given in 1857 was the proposed unification of the Towns of Lewiston, Auburn, and Danville as a single city. The *Journal* agreed that it was a natural goal, for the village was divided among the three. [“Improvements,” *Democratic Advocate*, July 19, 1855, 2; “New City,” *Lewiston Falls Journal (LFJ)*, Oct. 24, 1857, 2.]

After much discussion, eventually in 1859 a petition was presented to the Maine Legislature to set off to Auburn the portion of Danville north of the Little Androscoggin River. Editor Nelson Dingley Jr. headed the list. His *Lewiston Falls Journal* claimed that all eighty-five voters in the village portion of Danville had signed the petition. Eighty of those favored the annexation and the others had no objection. There also was a petition headed by William Dingley for the outright union of the two towns. [“Important Movement” and “Maine Legislature,” *LFJ*, 14 Jan 1859, 2; “Maine Legislature,” *LFJ*, 28 Jan 1859, 3; “Proposed Union on the Auburn Side,” *LFJ*, 4 Feb 1859, 2.]

At a town meeting on February 2, Danville voted to oppose both petitions. They chose Robert Martin, Esq., and Daniel Field, Esq., as agents to oppose both. Nevertheless, the proponents of annexation of the village pressed ahead as they optimistically predicted, “There can be no doubt that the legislature will act favorably on their petition.” [“Town Meeting in Danville,” *LFJ*, 4 Feb. 4, 1859, 2.]

The *Journal* argued for the annexation by pointing out the fragmentation of the village on the west side of the river with one-quarter in Danville and three-quarters in Auburn. First, the line was arbitrary, whereas the Little Androscoggin would provide a natural boundary. Second, the line divided neighbors and even divided houses, raising questions of where the owner resided, requiring payment of taxes to two towns, and loss of the right to vote when moving a short distance within the same village. Third, the village was a common community, but suffered from absence of uniformity in streets and fire and police regulations. Fourth, they could not “improve and

systematize” the schools. Fifth, the eighty-five voters in the village had to travel five miles to town meetings, but many did not have a horse and could not afford to take the travel time. Sixth, the Auburn post office was in Danville; Danville village residents found it more convenient to go there; when they had to record themselves legally as Danville residents, mail would be sent to the Danville post office five miles away. Seventh, whereas the Danville agents argued against the withdrawal of taxable property, they did not recognize that there also would be a reduction in expenditures. Moreover, total taxable property in 1858 was \$460,000 and after deduction of the \$200,000 in the village, the remaining \$260,000 was still more than many towns in the State, including five others in Androscoggin County. Whatever other arguments the opponents had were left unreported by the biased newspaper. [“Proposed Union on the Auburn Side,” *LFJ*, 11 Feb. 1859, 2.]

The Legislature’s Committee on the Division of Towns held a hearing on February 11 and heard the arguments. The *Journal* reported that there also was a petition from about 190 voters in Danville outside the village to have the entire town annexed to Auburn. The Committee voted to report a bill with six in favor and two opposed. The bill provided that the portion north of the Little Androscoggin would be annexed outright by Auburn. In addition, the entire Town of Danville would become part of Auburn if each town voted in favor. The bill was debated on the floor of the House on February 15. Mr. Libbey of Pownal opposed passage because he desired time for all to be heard. He moved successfully to table the bill two days. Mr. Cobb of Auburn advocated passage. On February 19, the bill finally passed and was signed by the Governor. [“The Union Project on the West Side,” *LFJ*, 18 Feb 1859, 2; “Maine Legislature,” *LFJ*, 18 Feb 1859, 3; “Union on the West Side,” *LFJ*, Feb. 25, 1859, 2.]

The two towns held their town meetings. On February 28, Auburn voted favorably by “about an 80 majority.” However, the next day, Danville voted 180 to 70 in opposition. The result was a unified village as provided in the statute, but the Town of Danville continued as a smaller, but independent town. [“The Union Project Defeated,” *LFJ*, March 4, 1859, 2.]

{The annexation that occurred in 1867 will be described in the next issue.}

PEWS AT CLOUGH MEETING HOUSE

The Clough Meeting House is located in the Crowley's Junction area of South Lewiston. An old record book lists those who purchased pews when the church was constructed in 1846. The editor located most on the Lewiston tax list of 1846. Two were found in Elder's *History of Lewiston*. A skim of Webster and Lisbon census of 1850 located others.

#	Name	Price	Town
1	John Cushing	16.00	Lew. tax list
2	reserved for pastor		
3	John Merrill	18.00	Lew. tax list
4	Noah Litchfield	25.00	Lew. tax list
5	Jeremiah Stanford	20.00	Elder, <i>Hist of Lew.</i>
6	William Garcelon	30.00	Lew. tax list
7	James Garcelon 2d	26.50	Lew. tax list
8	William Woodard	30.00	Lew. tax list
9	Samuel D. Garcelon	20.50	Lew. tax list
10	John H. Pettengill	25.50	Lew. tax list
11	Samuel Robinson	20.00	Not found
12	Henry M. Garcelon	24.00	Lew. tax list
13	Aaron Davis	18.00	Lew. tax list
14	Henry M. Garcelon	22.00	Lew. tax list
15	Amos Davis 2d	20.00	Lew. tax list
16	Sylvanus Foss	18.00	Lew. tax list
17	Aaron Tarr	12.50	Lew. tax list
18	Benjamin Whittum	12.00	There is a Benjamin Witham on tax list; otherwise not found.
19	Reuben Rand	12.00	Lew. tax list
20	James Jordan	12.50	Lew. tax list
21	Josiah S. Clough	20.00	Lew. tax list
22	Jeremiah Clough Jr	16.00	Lew. tax list
23	Peter Dennet	25.00	Lew. tax list
24	Peter Dennet	22.00	Lew. tax list
25	S + Wm Robinson	30.00	Webster 1850 Census
26	William Robinson Jr	20.00	Webster 1850 Census
27	Nathaniel Jordan	32.50	Lisbon 1850 Census
28	Samuel Litchfield	28.00	Lew. tax list
29	Anis Garcelon	29.00	Lew. tax list
30	P. Dennet & Josh Jordan	22.50	Dennet on Lew. tax list; Jordan in Webster 1850 Census.
31	Josiah S. Clough	26.00	Lew. tax list
32	Jer. + Thos. Crowley	20.00	Elder, <i>Hist. of Lew.</i>
33	Henry M. Garcelon	21.00	Lew. tax list
34	George W. Jordan	20.00	Lew. tax list
35	Samuel Litchfield	20.00	Lew. tax list
36	Wm Crowley	21.00	Lew. tax list
37	Andrew Bubier	13.00	Lew. tax list
38	Henry M. Garcelon	16.00	Lew. tax list
39	Henry M. Garcelon	15.50	Lew. tax list
40	S + Wm Robinson	12.00	Webster 1850 Census

Goings-On at the Society By Michael C. Lord

1) Fiscal Year 2007-08 business totals are as follows: Telephone calls - 595; Museum visits - 172; Library visits - 237; Correspondence - 614; Emails - 1,963; Board & Committee Meeting attendance - 134; Meeting Notices sent - 294; Meeting attendance - 164; Newsletters sent - 498; Annual Dinner - 38; Programs sent - 158; DAR Meeting - 8.

2) Donations Report Since the Last Newsletter: The Mary Dillingham Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, \$25.00; Down East Enterprise, Inc., publishers of *Down East* magazine, \$100.00, donation for the use of one of our photos in their magazine; Bonnie Lounsbury, \$15; Total: \$140.00 We thank all donors.

3) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~meandrhs>
This is our new website address. Please update your Internet bookmark.

4) Please provide the Society with your current email address! Thank you.

5) The Mary Dillingham Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a meeting in our large museum on Wednesday, February 20th. I started their meeting by hosting an hour-long Androscoggin History Quiz, which was enjoyed by all.

Historical Acquisitions

Donations

- An Interstate Publishing's *Lewiston Auburn Directory of 1953* given by Helen L. Levesque of Auburn.
- Ten rolls of motion film: 1920s football game; 1930s parade; 1967 Dairy Parade; '67 Armistice Day Parade; ditto w/ Santa; four of Auburn's Centennial; mid-'70s Bates College graduation. Given by Ms. Paula M. Mikkelsen of Trumansburg, NY.
- *Index to the History of Wayne, Maine*, given by Dennis Stires.
- *East Auburn Baptist Church, 200 Years*, given by Dennis Stires.
- *Faith Communities of Augusta*, by the Augusta Clergy Association, 1997. Donated by Harvey Versteeg of Augusta.
- Two black and white photos of Bates College Chapel and the Main Street Baptist Church in Lewiston, given by Dennis Stires.

- Collection of Cushman-Hollis Shoe Co. photos and people. Given by Rose Morrison of Poland.
- Three photos of the French family of Lewiston and Boston, from Shelley Cardiel of Kirkland, WA.
- Pine Tree Warriors collection - two plaques, photo/scrapbook, 1963 LP record, and ephemera. Given by Bert Dutil of Lewiston.
- *Maine Aero Rendezvous* - Official Program, 1940 - Augusta State Airport, showing Roland Maheux of Auburn restarting his plane engine in midflight. Given by William S. Hartley of Warren, NH.
- Spoon and butter knife of Donald E. Mason, also two napkin rings, and American Legion pins. Given by Glenis I. LeClair of Fall River, MA.
- Nineteenth century 5x7 photo of unknown woman taken by J. L. Hammond of Lewiston, given by Patricia Rock of Havelock, NC.
- Ten photographic postcard negatives from Camp Pesquisawasis at Danville, Maine, given by Margery Altman of Boston, MA.
- *Labor in Maine: Building the Arsenal of Democracy and Resisting Reaction at Home, 1939 - 1952*, by Charles A. Scontras (Orono, ME: The Bureau of Labor Education), 2006, gift of the BLE.
- Bates Mill, Lewiston, pay ticket for Lucinda Ladd, dated February 27, 1861, and signed by Alonzo Washburn, given by Michael Lord of Auburn.
- Androscoggin County Sheriff's Dep't patch, obsolete, eBay, \$4.00, w/ S&H.
- Sabattus Pond and River Company, unissued stock certificate, Webster, ME, ca. late 1800s, eBay, \$11.49, w/ S&H.
- Auburn, Maine Police patch, obsolete, pie shaped, black w/ yellow lettering, eBay, \$5.99, w/ S&H.
- An 1839 engraving of the bridge over the Androscoggin River at Brunswick and Topsham, with an article about it on the back, eBay, \$13.49, w/ S&H.
- *Historical Souvenir of the Semi-Centennial (1865-1915)*, Lewiston Commandery, No. 6, Knights Templar, Lewiston, Maine, May 3, 1915, eBay, \$11.50, w/ S&H.
- Androscoggin and Kennebec Railway Company Coupon Pass, ca. 1850s, eBay, \$2.25, w/ S&H.
- Trolley Excursion ticket, Electric Railroaders' Association, Androscoggin & Kennebec Railway, April 19, 1938, eBay, \$6.50, w/ S&H.
- Maine Central Railroad ticket to Danville Junction, #10241, eBay, \$2.50, w/ S&H.

COLLECTIONS POLICIES ADOPTED

The Board recently adopted amendments to the By-Laws regarding our collections. They create a standing Collections Committee and establish guidelines and procedures for the acquisition and de-accession of items in our collections.

CHAPTER REPRINTED

Michael Lord's chapter on the environmental history of the Androscoggin River from our book, *Androscoggin County, Maine*, has been reprinted in *Memories of Maine*, Southern Maine edition, Spring 2008, with several pictures he provided.

Purchases

- *Spiked Boots*, by Robert E. Pike (Dublin, NH: Yankee Books), 1987, eBay, \$15.50, w/ S&H.
- *100 Years of Rising with the Sun, 1893-1993* (Verplanck, NY: Historical Briefs, Inc.), 1993, LSJ offices, \$5.00.
- First Flight Cover - Auburn, Maine - U.S. Air Mail, postmarked Dec. 1, 1937, eBay, \$2.24, w/ S&H.

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