
LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

Letter from Ed

Greetings LCHA members and friends,

A new year is upon us, and an exciting one it will prove to be!

The LCHA Board of Trustees has voted to hire a part-time executive director. The role of the director will be an important one of fundraising, leadership, and organization. We have begun the process of writing a job description, which will compile our expectations for this position. This is an exciting step forward for LCHA as it has been a goal for some time. We hope to fill the position by June.

We very much appreciate your support of LCHA. Your memberships and donations have enabled us to make this step forward while we continue to maintain our buildings and fulfill our mission of preservation and education.

Thank you also to the executive board, the board of trustees and the stewardship committees for all you do. You are the heart and soul of our organization.

Enjoy the winter newsletter as you read about our accomplishments and the events and plans for a busy 2016.

Ed Kavanagh

President, Board of Trustees

Annual Meeting

A record number of members responded to the call to attend the annual meeting at Tom and Wendy Eichler's comfortable home in Wiscasset on November 14. The attendees contributed to the success of the appetizer and drinks party by bringing their favorite goodies and a holiday frame of mind.

President Ed Kavanagh dispatched the official business quickly. After a succinct review of the many accomplishments of our volunteers in 2015, he called for the approval of two new trustees: Bill Gemmill and Phil DiVece. Following that, the officers were elected: President, Ed Kavanagh; Vice president, Merry Fossel; Treasurer, Bill Brewer; Secretary, Christine Hopf-Lovette.



Newly elected officers for 2016, from left: Ed Kavanagh Christine Hopf-Lovette, Merry Fossel, Bill Brewer.

Education Outreach Report

By Louise Miller, Education Coordinator

When developing lesson resources for the sharing of Lincoln County history, material content, ease of presentation, teacher curriculum, and student interest all come into play. Given the Maine Learning Results and Common Core benchmarks that teachers must address at the present time, all of the LCHA resources are matched with specific standards for each grade level. Each year we offer something new for students to experience both in the classroom and out of the classroom.

Last fall the Center for Teaching and Learning requested a field trip to be arranged to the Pownalborough Court House, and assistance in including a visit to Fort Edgecomb. Working with the Department of Parks, I arranged for the Fort building to be open. As Fort Edgecomb is not staffed by the Department of Parks, LCHA Trustee Jeff Miller offered to greet and talk to the students about the Fort's history.

The Center for Teaching and Learning is planning a second field trip in the spring to LCHA's 19th century historic site, the Old Jail. The 5th grade of Great Salt Bay (GSB) has booked spring field trips to all three of the LCHA historic sites. In addition, the GSB students will participate in the "Before the Judges" program and conduct a trial based on the early 19th century record of a conviction in which the accused spent his sentence at the Old Jail in Wiscasset. Spring field trips to the three LCHA sites are now being booked.

In-school programs thus far this school year have included a hands-on art project at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) during their Winter Carnival day and a spinning demonstration at the Noble Garden Pre-school. The students at CTL were introduced to Japanned ware and its art, commonly referred to today as Tole Ware. This art form was popular in the 18th century and continued in fashion until the end of the 19th century. It was produced on a commercial scale as early as the mid-18th century, and was practiced by private artists.

Looking beyond the school year, three week-long "Summer with the Past" programs will be offered for children ages 8 – 10. In addition to learning about one of LCHA's historic sites, the children will participate in traditional games and activities, and a story time. Please access the LCHA web site after April 30th for specific dates and additional details, or e-mail Louise Miller at info@lincolncountyhistory.org. Space is limited.

Members wishing a copy of the Education Outreach Programs – 2016 disk may request it by e-mail through the LCHA web site or by calling me at 832-5759.

February 2016

COMING SOON

**Steel Band & Lobster Bake
at The Old Jail**

Details in the May Newsletter

Winter Lectures

By Christine Hopf-Lovette

The 2016 lecture series got off to a fine start on February 7 when historian and author Lincoln Paine led the audience behind the scenes at the Maine Maritime Museum. His slideshow presentation helped to visualize the work of a museum curator and hinted at the seductive nature of maritime history.



A full house of attendees enjoyed Lincoln Paine's talk about Maine Maritime Museum's collection on Feb.7.

On February 14, Bill Gemmill, a collector of schoolgirl art, brought examples from his collection and pointed out the unique features that distinguish Maine needlework and crafts from other parts of the country.

There are two more lectures on the schedule. On February 28, Michael Chaney, Executive Director of the Frances Perkins Center, will discuss the early Lincoln County photographs of E. Joseph Leighton. The photographs, upon which Chaney based his master's thesis, will be featured in a special exhibit at The Old Jail in Wiscasset this summer.

The final lecture of the series will be held on March 6 when our own place-based historian, Jay Robbins, will bring to life the stories of

court cases that were tried at the Pownalborough Court House in the late 1700s.

The lectures are held in the Communications Building behind the County Court House in Wiscasset at 1:00 PM on Sundays. LCHA volunteers provide coffee and pastries.

Trustee Workshop

By Bill Danielson

LCHA trustees spent Saturday, January 23 "on retreat" at the Skidompha Library in Damariscotta. Our goals were to review our responsibilities as trustees and to plan the Association's direction for the coming months and years. Pam Gormley, Skidompha's Executive Director, was our most capable leader.

After coffee (with awesome pastries provided by Cheri Kavanagh) Pam led us through review of a typical trustee job description. Throughout the discussion, she challenged us to be uncompromising in demanding excellence from ourselves and all volunteers – "or you're fired!" as she put it – for the good of the organization.

After a mid-morning break, we turned to planning. Following considerable deliberation and straw-votes, we arrived at several short term goals. Most significant was the commitment to hire a part time Executive Director/Development Director, a decision made possible only because of the generosity of LCHA members during our recent Annual Fund Drive. Other short term goals included recruiting more members and holding a "signature event" which would increase awareness of LCHA and raise funds to carry out its mission.

Long term goals included re-examining our mission statement and bylaws, exploring relationships with other Lincoln County historical

groups, and improving the Association's financial base, plus many other initiatives, too numerous to discuss here.

Over lunch we reviewed our marching orders - the steps we must take in order to reach the goals we had just set for the Association and for ourselves.

The unofficial consensus was that the event energized all who attended. In fact, by day's end it seemed we had participated in an "advance" for LCHA, and not a retreat. Our thanks to Pam Gormley and Skidompha for helping to make it so.

Stewardship Reports

Old Jail

By Christine Hopf-Lovette

Who would think that stewardship committee meetings would be so much fun? At our December meeting, hosts Bill and Esther Danielson provided an authentic Swedish smorgasbord breakfast. With such a glorious repast, it was hard to settle down to the business at hand, but we managed to make headway on several projects that will be completed before the summer season.

First of all, we determined that the entryway of the Old Jail, which consists of some very tired foam core panels and a few photocopies of photos, really needs updating. To that end, we consulted with a Brunswick graphic design firm recommended by the Maine State Museum. A redesign of the entryway is in progress. The cost will be covered by a grant

from the Davis Family Foundation.

Another ongoing concern is the condition of the window sashes on the second floor of the Jailer's House. Fortunately, an LCHA member, Tim Utley from Boothbay, volunteered to repair the sashes and replace the glazing on all the windows. With David Pope's help, Tim has removed and repaired two windows, and two more are in his shop.

The exterior of the shed has long been a worry, since the clapboards and windows have deteriorated greatly. Fortunately, funding from Lincoln County Commissioners will cover the cost of replacing the clapboards and window frames on this part of the structure. Work will commence as soon as weather permits.

Our annual yard sale will be held on Saturday, June 18 on the grounds of the Jail. Donations of furniture, toys, not-so-precious antiques, small appliances, cookware, and all manner of useable goods are needed. Bill and Judith Sutter have agreed to store the items in their barn across from the Jail. Please call Judith at 882-7230 to make arrangements.

Chapman-Hall House

By Louise Miller

Winter has found the Chapman-Hall Stewardship Committee plotting out 2016. With 2015 behind us we proudly surveyed the front yard from which a problem crab apple tree had been removed. During the tree removal one could easily imagine those little apples rolling down the length of Main Street as they escaped from the workers. The one frustration of 2015 was/is the squirrel who likes visiting Chapman-Hall; his removal has been carried forward to the 2016 project list.

The big maintenance items for 2016 are a new front door and the repairing and glazing of the

windows. The fund raising efforts of the Stewardship Committee have provided the funds to complete these two big projects. Which brings us to the second phase of work for 2016 – special programs and fund raising.

Chapman-Hall has a full calendar, starting with R.P. Hale, Music Master, in concert on April 3rd at the Damariscotta Baptist Church. Mr. Hale’s performance last year was hailed by all in attendance for its spirited tone and Mr. Hale’s command of his instruments, which included hammer dulcimer, box virginal and the church’s 19th century organ. There will be an admission fee of \$10 and the program will begin at 2 PM. May follows with the Annual Plant Sale on May 8th from 9 -12 at the Chapman-Hall House; Shredding on Site is tentatively set for May 18, from 9-12, to be held in the Bath Savings Bank parking lot.

Chapman-Hall House will open on June 11th with the special event “Three Traditions.” These presentations were well received last year and can be visited both Saturday (10-4) and Sunday (12-3).



Jeff and Gail Usher, professional historians, present Native American Culture of 17th & 18th century New England.

On June 18th, Traditional Blacksmith, Jeffrey Miller, will again be demonstrating at the house from 10-4. On July 9th the Chapman-Hall House Stewardship Committee will be entertaining the Damariscotta Historical Society at an informal afternoon social. Closing out the month of July, the Annual Yard Sale is planned for the 23rd. Stay tuned for more details on this popular event. The committee is also considering a special exhibit for August.

The Chapman-Hall House Stewardship Committee is looking forward to an enjoyable and busy season. As with all the LCHA historic sites, we welcome new volunteers as docents and/or extra hands for events and projects. If you are interested, please contact Natalie House at 563-8441.

Pownalborough Court House

By Merry Fossel

After a busy fall - conducting three separate school tours of the Court House and producing an appeal to the attorneys of Maine - the PCH Stewardship Committee bundled the building up for the winter and set about planning for the coming year.

We're working on developing a plan for signage and creating a booklet that can be used for a self-guided tour, both efforts funded by a grant from the Davis Foundation. 2016 will also be the year we'll work on solving moisture problems in the basement and address other items on our list of building repair priorities.

We also hope to begin the application process to make the Court House a National Landmark.

Finally, this year our programs will be planned around the theme of trials at the Court House. Jay Robbins will start us off with one of the lectures

in the Winter Lecture Series. He will talk about cases adjudicated at the Court House in the 1700s. Then, in the summer, we hope to do two different re-enactments of court cases - one conducted by children and the other a dramatization by adults. If anyone in our LCHA membership would be interested in helping to develop the summer programs, let us know! It promises to be a lot of fun.

LCHA is Seeking an Executive Director!

By Bill Danielson

Operating LCHA is no small deal for its little army of volunteers. It takes countless hours to maintain our three heritage buildings located in three different towns, to conduct tours, to maintain our collections, to provide new exhibits and educational programs for the public each year, and to raise the funds to make all these things happen. Often it seems we're so busy with demands of the moment that we can't see the forest for the trees.

To help us see that forest, and work toward goals beyond just year-to-year survival, LCHA has chosen to hire a part time Executive Director, to begin work on or about June 1. We are able to take this vital step because of our members' enthusiastic response to our recent Annual Appeal, combined with an extremely generous matching grant. Thank you, everyone, for your support!

And now, we need your help once again. If you know of a person who would like to become LCHA's new Executive Director, or if you are that person yourself, we would love to hear from you. Here's what the position entails

(excerpted from the job description):

The Executive Director shall manage all aspects of the Association's development program, bolster LCHA's membership program, contribute to the work of LCHA's long range planning, publicity, and stewardship committees, and support additional aspects of LCHA's daily operations as needed.

So, please help spread the word. We hope to hear from many candidates, in order to select the best Executive Director possible

Our ideal candidate would possess these qualifications:

- Demonstrated fundraising experience, and success in building relationships with donors, corporations, and foundations
- Experience in non-profit operations
- Excellent organizational skills
- Effective communication skills, both verbal and written
- Facility with office and museum software, including Past Perfect
- Ability to communicate a passion for the Association and its work

For more details, please visit the LCHA website at lincolncountyhistory.org.

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Lincoln County Historical Association (Maine)

Visit our web site

www.lincolncountyhistory.org

Lincoln County Historical Association

Executive Committee

President, Ed Kavanagh

Vice President, Merry Fossel

Secretary, Christine Hopf-Lovette

Treasurer, Bill Brewer

Board of Trustees

Neil Cavanaugh, Bill Danielson, Phil DiVece, Bill Gemmill, Dale Hinote, George Keyes, Linda Levenson, Jeff Miller, Perry Palmer, Linda Pope Elizabeth Potter, Faye Snyder, Judith Sutter

Volunteers Needed!

If you have a special interest or a skill you'd like to share, we have a spot for you. Here are some ideas:

Stewardship Committees

- Chapman-Hall House
- Museum and Old Jail
- Pownalborough Court House

Collections

Development

Special Events

Membership

Please call Chris at 207-522-6397 or email info@lincolncountyhistory.org.

LCHA Board of Trustees



(L to R) Phil DiVece, Bill Brewer, Ed Kavanagh, Judith Sutter, Jeff Miller, Merry Fossel, Christine Hopf-Lovette, Bobbi Brewer, Linda Pope, Bill Gemmill, Linda Levenson, Bill Danielson, George Keyes. Not Pictured: Neil Cavanaugh, Dale Hinote, Perry Palmer, Elizabeth Potter, Faye Snyder

