
LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

Letter from Ed

Dear LCHA members and friends,

Another season is fast coming to an end for our three sites. We have finished our tours and will soon be buttoning up the buildings.

However, maintenance and construction work is still being carried out, thanks to grants secured for us by our Executive Director Kerry Cushing and George Keyes, a highly valued trustee.

As you read through the newsletter, aptly prepared by Chris Hopf-Lovette, you will see that we have had an extremely busy and productive season.

At our annual meeting in November we will vote on a new slate of officers. More information will be forthcoming in an invitation to members.

This is my last "Letter from Ed" as my tenure as President of LCHA will be ending. It has been a learning journey for me, often filled with the unexpected. Together with the Executive Board, the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committees, we have navigated often difficult waters. My tenure has been a group effort, always with the best interest of LCHA foremost in our thoughts. I am most grateful for the support, advice and presence of those folks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate. I will always be grateful for the memories of us sharing this journey.

Ed Kavanagh, President

LCHA excursion to York, Maine September 16, 2017

By George Keyes

Thirteen LCHA members carpoled to York in four vehicles to spend the day in Maine's oldest historic community (first settled in 1623). We commenced by visiting the Sayward-Wheeler House (property of Historic New England) where we had an excellent tour. Originally dating from the 1720s, it was substantially upgraded in the 1750s by its then owner, Jonathan Sayward. He was an important figure about town with many commercial interests. As a loyal Tory he was subject to house arrest during the American Revolution but managed to hold on to his property. Sayward purchased much of his furniture from eastern Massachusetts but also from local cabinetmakers. During the course of the 19th century the family experienced genteel poverty and added little to the interior furnishings while retaining all of Saywards' original furniture. 19th century photographs indicate that very little changed in the course of two hundred years. We were able to closely examine much of the furniture including several sets of high style side chairs in the Queen Anne and Chippendale modes.

Following lunch at the York Harbor Hotel we walked along the famous Cliff Walk below a number of patrician houses which were originally the summer homes of wealthy families of the "Gilded Age".

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Owners of the Sayward-Wheeler House chose a unique way to fit their secretary into the room.

Our afternoon was spent at the Museums of Old York beginning with a tour of the Remick Gallery of the Old York Museum Center led by its director Joel Lefever. The high point of this notable collection is the set of Bulman bed hangings—magnificently preserved embroideries on linen completed in 1745.

Ken McAulisse, head of visitor services, led the group on a tour of the tavern, followed by the Emerson Wilcox House which also once contained a small tavern room. This rather eccentric building kind of wraps itself about the town's oldest cemetery without actually encroaching on it.

We then walked to the Old Gaol purported to be the oldest public building that survives within the mainland English speaking colonies of North America. This building contains the jailor's rooms, a number of cells, and a pair of court-

rooms separated by a suspended wall that could be lowered when necessary. The true marvel was a built-in privy with its adaptation of a poop deck shaft leading to the exterior of the building. Hygienically somewhat questionable but certainly ingenious! Our formal tour ended at the Gaol, but we also had the opportunity to view the one room schoolhouse.

Kermess tops expectations

By Christine Hopf-Lovette

This summer's fundraising party on July 23 at the Pownalborough Court House exceeded our hopes in just about every sense. We had the good fortune of lovely weather, a beautiful setting, and a support team who went out of their way to make sure that everyone had a great time.

Who knew that cakes could sell for \$100 - \$300 each? Auctioneer Kaja Veilleux was both entertaining and professional as he teased more and more dollars from our pockets. Wendy Eichler and Terri Wells also helped our cause by their willingness to sashay among the tables and display desserts provided by ten of LCHA's best bakers. Thank you to David Cherry, Merry Fossel, Sally Gemmill, Chris Hopf-Lovette, Cheri Kavanagh, Linda Pope, Elizabeth Potter, Kathryn Precourt, Judith Sutter, and Terri Wells.



Louana & Ted Frois share their chocolate whiskey cake.

Kaja went on to display his expertise in selling our big-ticket auction items for amounts ranging from \$100 - \$900 each. We really appreciate the generosity of our donors: A New Leaf Spa, Bill & Esther Danielson, Carriage House Gardens, Tom & Wendy Ross Eichler, Les Fossil's Restoration Resources, Heartwood Theater, Maine State Music Theater, Scott & Jada Kavanagh, Theater at Monmouth, Little Village Bistro, Wiscasset Woods Lodge, Fred & Beth Quivey, Sean Rafter, and SanPri Interiors.

Linda Pope and Perry Palmer sold raffle tickets for restaurant gift certificates while Terri and Peter Wells greeted guests under the grape arbor and served wine generously donated by George Keyes.

Faye Snyder, chair of the Collections Committee, exhibited mounted photos of a number of 18th and 19th century samplers that needed to be reframed to avoid degradation from air and the chemicals in the mats that were originally used. Three guests 'adopted' samplers at the event, bringing in \$960. Subsequently, seven more samplers were adopted, bringing in a total of \$2097.25.

Our primary sponsor, Ames True Value and secondary sponsor First National Bank plus commercial and individual patrons enabled us to cover our expenses.

Ben Brown of Mainely Pig Roasts arrived at the Court House at the break of dawn to be sure that the hog was perfectly cooked. He even posed for photos with the beautiful beast. Jorge Pena started preparing his South American vegetarian dishes several days earlier. As usual, his menu was outstanding, and he generously offered tastes to the meat lovers.

Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee of Castlebay provided period music that was both gentle and gay. A few of us even kicked up our heels during an Irish jig.

As the sun dipped down over the Kennebec, our guests made their way to their cars amidst murmurs of satisfaction that this year's Kermess was a big success. We agree. After expenses, the event raised \$15,244.88 for the LCHA general fund.

The Kermess committee was chaired by Chris Hopf-Lovette. Committee members included Kerry Cushing, Tom Eichler, Wendy Ross Eichler, Merry Fossil, Linda Pope, Elizabeth Potter, Beth Quivey, and Terri Wells. Special thanks to Linda Pope and Greg Cavanaugh for creating the invitation and to Merry Fossil for designing and donating program printing.

Education Outreach

By Louise Miller

The Heritage Children's Baskets officially became a part of each of the LCHA sites this summer. Each basket holds over a dozen books, ranging from one without words to fifth/sixth grade level. There are also three games appropriate to the 18th and early 19th centuries. Visiting families were invited to use the books and games to enhance their visit.

Attendance in the *Summer with the Past* program doubled this year, with all three sites hosting a week. Each year games and projects are planned that highlight the history of that week's site. Activities for Chapman-Hall House and the Court House tend to be 18th C. oriented, those of the Jail 19th C. Favorites among the children this year were: the games *Graces* and *Rolling Hoops*, making puppets and nutmeg graters, writing a newspaper (based in Wiscasset), and learning about herbs.

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The video contest “It’s Our History” did not have a winner, as the participants were not able to complete their projects. Next year will bring new opportunities. Thanks to puppeteers Elisabeth Ferrero and Joanie Dean for the delightful performance *Mashenka and the Bear* at the Court House on August 20th.

The 2017-2018 catalog of offerings is ready for teachers. The partnership with Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site is again on the calendar for May and June. A new partnership has been formed with FARMS (Focus on Agriculture in rural Maine Schools). Through this collaboration schools are being invited to “taste” history as well as study it.

In May 2018 R.P. Hale of Concord, NH will set up his 1864 Colonial style printing press in the parlor of the Old Jail. He will discuss wood block engraving and demonstrate the use of the press to visiting students.

The Education Department continues to network with schools (home schools, public and private) and libraries to assist in bringing the history of Lincoln County and LCHA’s three historic sites to students and adults.



Louise Miller discusses 17th C. foodways with students from Boothbay Elementary School.

Giving thanks

By Kerry Cushing, Executive Director

We have had a very busy summer starting with the CSA Angels cleaning and preserving over 450 items in our textile collection. The collections committee’s ‘Adopt-A-Sampler’ campaign has ensured the proper display of ten samplers in our extensive collection. Summer exhibits included a tattoo exhibit at the jail and a toy exhibit at the Court House; and our annual event, Kermess, raised over \$15,000.

We are now getting ready to close the buildings for the winter. However while the buildings are closed to the public there will be a lot of activity. At the Pownalborough Court House the ell will be jacked and leveled in November, the Carriage House is being renovated to include a handicapped access bathroom and ramp and the sills replaced, and a new handicapped access trail system is being created on the existing trails across from the Court House. At the Old Jail we are repointing the jailor’s house and cells and replacing the flashing around the chimneys. At Chapman-Hall House all the windows have been re-glazed and painted.

Taking care of these historic properties requires resources that come through the generosity of our LCHA members, businesses, granting agencies, and donations. Thank you to members of the development committee: George Keyes, chair, Mary Ellen Barnes, Merry Fossel, Bill Brewer, Bobbi Brewer, Bill Danielson, and Ed Kavanagh for working so hard to secure the funds needed to make these capital improvements, and thank you to all those who have helped in so many ways. Please help us maintain these very special buildings for future generations.

How you can help

- Give to the Annual Campaign

Supports annual operating costs of all three museums and grounds and gifts are tax deductible.

- Become a member

Membership supports the mission of LCHA and is vital to the health of any organization.

- Volunteer

Join a committee, become a docent, help with events, or any and all. We have fun!

- Attend an event

Check our calendar for upcoming events and lectures.

Thank you.

Adopt a sampler!

by Faye Snyder

This past spring LCHA hosted volunteer textile experts from The Angel Project through a grant given to us by the Costume Society of America (CSA). The objective of the project was to properly conserve, protect and prepare historically significant items from our extensive textile collection. One focus was our sampler collection. This collection contains 19 early School Girl samplers donated to LCHA by descendants and local area residents.

The samplers are an important part of decorating and interpreting the history of the three buildings maintained by LCHA. The CSA recommended the samplers be removed from their current frames and be cleaned to be ready for matting and framing with up-to-date

conservation materials. This must be done by a professional conservator. Fortunately we were able to take the samplers to Peter and Teresa Fogg, who have expertise in conservation and framing early textiles.

The Foggs were happy to take on the project, but there were costs involved. So the Collections Committee decided to begin an "Adopt a Sampler" campaign. An individual or group can pay for all or part of the cost to conserve, mount and frame a sampler. A plaque will be placed honoring the donor beneath the sampler. The history and provenance of the sampler and the conservative materials used will be placed in a special pocket attached to the back of the frame. To date, eight of the nineteen samplers have been adopted, conserved and reframed. The generous donors are: Bill and Sally Gemmil (2 samplers), Jenny Spaur (2 samplers), Pat Stauble, Rick and Faye Snyder, Teresa and Peter Fogg, and the LCHA Collections Committee.



This sampler by 9 year-old Lucy B. Hall was adopted for preservation by Pat Stauble. Conservation and reframing was done by Fogg Art, Westport Island.

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If you are interested in helping to conserve an important part of history for future generations to enjoy, please contact Kerry Cushing at 207-882-6817 or Faye Snyder at 240-298-2297. The proper storage, care and display of our wonderful collections make a huge difference in interpreting the history of our important historic sites.

Stewardship Reports

Pownalborough Court House

By Chuck Vaughan

We hear that the Pownalborough Court House is the “Crown Jewel” of the Lincoln County Historical Association. In choosing a topic to share in this Chronicle, I realized that it is a jewel with many facets. Yes, it is an impressive structure and has had its share of famous people cross its thresholds. It has been a significant presence in national, state and local history. We have great docents to tell the stories and show off the building. With the very capable assistance of Kerry Cushing, the development committee and the LCHA Board, we have made great strides in restoring and preserving the building. At present we are beating the bushes for money to replace the leaky Ell roof.

The facet that may not be immediately noticed is the exceptional trail system in the Court House Woods. Started decades ago as a Boy Scout project and revived and extended in the last few years by many volunteers headed up by George Keyes and Dave Probert, there are now a couple of miles of outstanding trails.

Pushing forward, we decided that upgrading part of the trails for wheelchair access would

open them up to more people. That entailed a handicapped bathroom. The need evolved into conversion of the ladies room in the Carriage House into a unisex handicapped bathroom. Dave Probert’s enthusiasm and commitment as he headed up the project has drawn in contractors and tradesmen to volunteer their time, charging only for materials. The project is underway as I write. With volunteer help and some donated materials, Dave replaced a rotten sill and did some jacking of the building. This latest upgrade takes it a giant step forward. Two grants obtained by Kerry Cushing and the board have enabled the handicapped trail and carriage house projects to merge into an exceptional offering for hikers and history buffs alike.

In a related and significant event, we lost our long-time friend, neighbor and supporter, Bill Waters. However, in keeping with his love for the Old Court House and the history of the area, he bequeathed the portion of his woodland adjacent to the Court House Woods to LCHA. This will allow our trail system to extend to forest owned by the Town of Dresden.

I’m sure there will be plenty of opportunity for people who like to build trails as well as hike on them to spend quality time in the Court House Woods.



Active and enthusiastic participants in Pownalborough Court House’s first cider pressing produced about 50 gallons. The event brought new visitors to the Court House, where Jay Robbins led tours.

Chapman-Hall House

By Louise Miller

The Chapman-Hall House has enjoyed a number of visitors this summer. The lady of the house, whom we call Miriam, stands in the front doorway every weekend to welcome passersby as they stroll down the sidewalk. (Rumor has it, Miriam would like a new outfit in 2018.)

The children's program *Summer with the Past*, was held in late June at the house. Six children enjoyed projects and games grounded in the Colonial time period. Among those projects was a lesson on herbs and the care of herb plants.



Summer with the Past participants learn about kitchen garden herbs and Chapman-Hall House.

Congratulations to Mrs. Natalie House of Damariscotta, winner of the raffle for our Signature Quilt. The drawing was held on October 9, after the close of our season.

The Stewardship Committee was invited to submit a garden related project to the Old Bristol Garden Club this past May. A two-part project was submitted: one project was to purchase herb plants for the *Summer with the Past* children, providing each child with a

sage and thyme plant, teaching them how to transplant it and explaining the historical use of herbs. The second piece was to put a new shrub planting by the Chapman-Hall House sign in the yard in front of the house. Mountain Laurel, well known in Maine even in the 18th Century, was chosen. The Stewardship Committee is very grateful to the Old Bristol Garden Club for their support of these endeavors.

This fall the parlor woodwork will be repainted. The paint has worn and chipped in several areas. Matching the original color, Doreen Conboy, a specialist in this field, will refresh the room.

Thanks to the Angel Grant awarded to LCHA this past Spring, the textile collection at Chapman-Hall will be stored in an adequate number of conservation appropriate boxes when the house is put to bed for the Winter.

Museum & Old Jail

By Christine Hopf-Lovette

With the close of the 2017 visitors season, work has begun on a project addressing the outer masonry envelope of the Jail and Jailor's House. This work, made possible by a grant from the Davis Foundation, will prevent moisture from finding its way between the granite blocks or bricks, which can force them outward in a freeze-thaw action.

Mason Keith Millett, who helped restore the outer wall of the jail with his father about 30 years ago, will repoint the granite blocks on the Jail and address minor repointing necessary on the brick Jailor's House. Millett will use his father's hand tools to form the unique joint details between the granite blocks to maintain the existing visual appearance of the structure. He will also replace gutters on the jail and install new flashing on three chimneys on the Jailor's House.



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Our committee was curious about trends in attendance over recent years. I checked my records and found that the number of visitors is actually fairly constant. Over the winter we will look at ways to increase these numbers.

One of the changes we made in the docent program this year was to schedule two-hour service segments. We will work on a plan for scheduling the 2018 season to ensure that the time is spread out equally among the volunteers.

Lincoln County Historical Association

President - Ed Kavanagh

Vice President - Bill Danielson

Secretary - Christine Hopf-Lovette

Treasurer - Bill Brewer



The Summer Membership Party on August 26 at the home of Chris Erickson and Joe Zoellers was very well attended. Zibette Dean, Jay Robbins, and Judith Sutter were honored for their outstanding contributions to their stewardship committees.