LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

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We are pleased to welcome our new board president, Robin Grant. Her professional life included mechanical engineering sales and ownership of a landscape gardening business. These days she enjoys gardening, day trading, and making music with good friends. Robin was formerly a trustee of the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth.

Looking forward

At LCHA we work to preserve the past, but we aren't stuck there. We endeavor to create a wide variety of programs for youth and adults that illustrate the historical circumstances that have brought us to this moment in time. As the American historian David McCullough has said, "History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

In order to share our past with the Lincoln County community, our work is actually about looking forward — looking forward to ways in which we can more effectively maintain our stewardship of our three historic properties and make history meaningful to our community. An example of this forward thinking is our recent Winter Lecture Series, held via Zoom. Taking advantage of remote technology, we were able to expand our reach to hundreds more people than could have attended in person, spreading an appreciation for our local history further than we had previously imagined. Another forward-looking innovation involves our approach to docent training. You'll read more about it inside this edition of the Chronicle.

We're also looking forward with thoughtful attention to the financial side of our organization. All monetary decisions are carefully considered, and we put a great deal of energy into the planning of fundraising activities and grant applications. Your bequests, gifts of stock, and other planned contributions, are especially welcome, and we encourage you to consider LCHA in your giving plans.

Thank you for all the ways in which you support us in our mission to preserve our history for the future generations.

Robin Grant

President, Board of Trustees

Executive Director's Report

by Shannon Gilmore

Although our museums are closed during the winter, we haven't been hibernating! Our Winter Lecture Series drew a record-breaking audience and demonstrated that our community is invested in learning the fuller story of our regional history and that remote programming is an effective way of reaching a wider audience. Recordings of the lectures are now available on YouTube.

As we prepare to open up the museums for the summer, we are also providing a new high quality training opportunity for volunteer docents. Our fun and educational Docent Training program will cover everything docents need to know to confidently engage with the public as a Docent at one of our three special historic places. This training consists of two parts – Session One: The Fundamentals of Docenting for LCHA, and Session Two: Site-Specific Docent Training. Participants may register for Session Two at one, two, or all three of our museums. We look forward to getting to know new volunteers and sharing our irreplaceable historic resources with them!

Another new event, Jailhouse Rock, will be a fun community party held at the Old Jail in Wiscasset on June 24th. We'll have live music from The Leopard Girls, and I know I won't be able to resist dancing! I hope you'll save the date, because this is going to be a super fun time!

On June 30th, we are launching The Gardens of Lincoln County Garden Tour. This two day event will offer self-guided tour access to incredible gardens in Round Pond, Damariscotta, Newcastle, Dresden, and Wiscasset. Tickets will be available for one or both days, with the option to order a bag lunch. Spearheaded by Board President Robin Grant and longtime volunteer Deane Brewer, this tour promises to be a highlight of the summer.

In addition to these new offerings, this summer we will bring back our favorite annual LCHA events like the Dresden Summerfest, Shredding on site, re-enactors and demonstrations, The Preservation Party and more. Please join us!

Meet our Investment Committee

LCHA'S Investment Committee works to ensure that we are on strong financial footing. They consider investment strategies that balance our current needs with a vision for the continued preservation of our history and heritage for generations to come.

The Investment Committee invites you to join others who have planned a charitable contribution through a bequest or estate plan. Remembering LCHA through a planned gift ensures our work will remain viable for years to come while advancing your own financial plan. Your love of local history will keep the places and stories of our past alive long after your lifetime. In addition, you'll also inspire others to support the preservation of our unique local history.

The following Investment Committee members would be happy to answer questions or discuss options for planned giving.

Michael Chaney - chaneymp@gmail.com

Bill Gemmill - wgemmill1@gmail.com

Robin Grant - rosehips91@aol.com

George Keyes - keyes7113@roadrunner.com,

Investment Committee members(l to r)Robin Grant, Bill Gemmill, Bill Brewer, Michael Chaney, George Keyes.

Uncovering stories from the Old Jail

by Kori Tanzer

Remarkable graffiti remaining on the walls for over one hundred years tells just one part of the story of those who were incarcerated here between 1811 and 1953. A fully-rigged ship and a map of the world with latitude and longitude indicate that sailors were among those held here, along with women, children, and people of color.

The jail records have been a vital resource in helping to uncover more of the stories of those who were incarcerated, and shows a lot about the type of person society wished to "put away." Recorded in these "criminal logs,"also known as jail schedules, are not only the names of prisoners and where they are from, what they are imprisoned for, but oftentimes their skin color and other distinguishing features.

In 1875, two men named James Halliday and John Thornton were held for deserting the schooner Jefferson Borden. Their names and heights have been recorded, along with their birthplaces and the fact that John Thornton has a tattooed anchor on each arm. The precision of the records provides details that can inform additional research to uncover more of the story. In the spring of 1875, the Jefferson Borden was the scene of a violent and brutal mutiny. Three members of the crew killed the first and second mate, who were the brother and cousin of Captain William Patterson of Edgecomb. Captain Patterson was allegedly known for his cruelty, including reports of overworking his men, giving them seawater to drink instead of fresh water, and giving them small portions of rotten food while he, his wife, and mates dined in luxury. We can easily see why Halliday and Thornton might have decided to desert their ship and take their chances with punishment, especially when such a violent mutiny occurred less than six months previously!

The two men were held at the jail for about two weeks before being released by the captain back to the ship harbored in Boothbay.

Of course, these are just two men out of the many sailors and seafarers who were incarcerated. Most recorded offenses were for mutiny or desertion. The captain would have needed every hand, and hoped the offending sailor had learned something from his few days or weeks in jail.

Women were also held at the jail, for offenses ranging from larceny to running "a house of ill-repute" as was the case of Jacob and Mary Woltz of Damariscotta in 1848. In 1877, Mary Reardon was a 47 year old woman who spent the winter in jail for running "a drinking house and tippling shop." Looking her up in the census for Wiscasset we find she was a widow and an Irish immigrant supporting her three teenage children, all of whom were listed as laborers. In March of 1847, Hannah Clark, Mary Clark, and Clarissa Tibbens of Wiscasset were held for "lewdness etc:" and sentenced to one month in the county jail. It is interesting to think what their crime could have been!

Sobering of all perhaps stories of the numerous children who have been held here for months at a time. In 1873, 11 year-old Alvin Mink, twelve year-old Sidney Peters, and sixteen year-old James Peters, all children from the Black community of Petersborough in Warren ME, were held for a month from October to November for larceny. James Peters was not released. He was charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny, and spent the winter in jail. He died of pneumonia, recorded as "lung fever" in the jail calendar in May the following year.

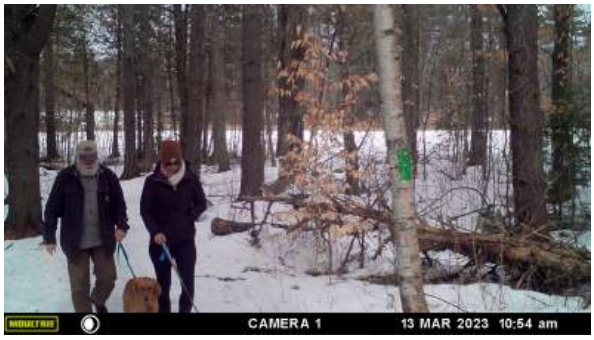
Do visit the Old Jail to uncover more stories that help to provide a fuller and more inclusive picture of Maine's history.

Jail Hours: June 1-October 1, Saturday & Sunday 12 noon - 4:00 pm.

Hike all year on the Court House trails

by Dave Probert

The three miles of hiking trails at Pownalborough Court House have been used extensively over the past several years. During the recent pandemic the trails were especially popular, providing much needed outdoor activity for individuals, families, and their pets. As word got out about how great they were, our trail camera monitored about 400 users per month. Now that the pandemic restrictions are no longer in place, usage in 2023 is down a bit to about 340 per month, but we are pleased to provide this valuable resource for surrounding communities.



A trailhead camera records foot traffic on the Court House trails. Dave Probert and his granddaughter Korissa enjoy a winter walk.

This is a quiz!

by David Pope

Can you name the various door hardware styles and give their approximate period in American history?

The pictures at the end of this article are samples of door hardware from an earlier time. The Museum and Old Jail (MOJ) has several of these types. I have distilled descriptions from Sven Kraumanis's blog post, T*hree Centuries of Door Hardware* into the following paragraphs. See if you can match each picture to the correct name and description. The prize? Perhaps a new awareness of the architectural details at the MOJ!

Black, white, and brown porcelain door knobs were patented in 1851. They required either a thicker door to hide the latch mechanism or a surface mount of same for retrofits on thinner older doors. The footprints, or shadows, of previous generations of latches can often be seen when porcelain knobs show up in houses older than 1850. The 2" - 2.5" glass and brass knobs came along later and usually came with brass faceplates that allowed for ornamentation appropriate to the Victorian Period.

Cast iron thumb latch hardware was produced from 1840 to about 1940. These didn't require blacksmithing skills and could be mass produced in a foundry to keep up with the U.S. building boom. They resembled the earlier Suffolk and Norfolk latches described below.

The **surface mounted "box lock"** was patented by a Mr. Carpenter in 1820. The cast iron lock and catch box were surface mounted and had delicate brass knobs. It could be locked and unlocked from both sides and was probably chosen for the doors leading into the cell blocks from the jailer's office and kitchen. One of these locks has been replaced with an older style latch, but scars that remain on that door are evidence of the box lock.

Two more styles of iron hardware are the Suffolk latch and the more recent Norfolk latch. William Twopenny (1997-1893) did us all a favor when he coined (sorry) those two terms to -describe the styles.

Both are **thumb latches** with a bar that catches a hook to keep the door closed. The Norfolk types were generally made in machine shops where blacksmithing skills were not required. **Norfolk latches** have a flat steel plate that can be stamped into pleasing shapes with a handle of cast iron or pewter. The thumb, bar, and catch pieces were similar to the older Suffolk latches, but evolved to be easier to install. **Suffolk latches** have no backplate on the handle side. The ends of the U-shaped handle were hammered flat into a lima bean shape (hence the name "bean latch") or more decorative heart or leaf forms.They were formed entirely by blacksmiths with their their coal forges

and anvils, and used a great deal more iron than later designs such as the Norfolk.

The jailer's house burned in the mid-1830s and was rebuilt in 1838. The Norfolk and Box latches are in keeping with that Federal period. Suffolk latches would date a structure to the slightly earlier Colonial period.

David Pope is a steward of the Old Jail. He uses blacksmithing tools, but his brother Russell, who has been blacksmithing in theNewmarket/ Portsmouth, NH, area for fifty years, made the latch shown against the yellow paint.

You'll find answers on the LCHA website, www.lincolncountyhistory.org/newsletter/quiz/.

UV Protection at Chapman-Hall House

by Louise Miller

Protecting furniture and textiles from excessive exposure to sunlight is a well-known challenge in museum conservation work. With that in mind, the volunteers at the Chapman-Hall House have dutifully covered 16 windows with black cloth after each day of tours since 2010. That is, until this past year.

Over the years the black cloth "hangings" have been replaced a number of times. Two years ago, it was decided to tackle the problem in a more permanent and state-of-the-art manner. Through its research, the stewardship committee decided on a shade with ultra-violet light protection, with 10% opacity. This material blocks UV rays, allows some outdoor light in, and presents a neat appearance from inside and out.

Working with Barnes Custom Window Treatments of Boothbay on opacity level, color, and installation details, the committee purchased shades that are very easy for the docents to raise and lower. Eventually, new curtains will cover the header in which the shade is stored when rolled up. The curtains will be in keeping with the fashion trends popular during the time frame of the house and appropriate to the means of the Chapmans and Halls. A common, simple window dressing was a one- panel piece of fabric, pulled to one side and held with a single tie. For a more decorative curtain, a valance, gracefully draped over the center of the window opening was common.

Funds to help cover the cost of the shades and installation were raised by the Chapman-Hall stewardship committee.

UV shades protect furnishings at Chapman-Hall House

Education Update

by Louise Miller

While LCHA's historic sites rested over the winter, the Education Department staff participated in nine history-themed cooking sessions at the FARMS kitchen in the Damariscotta YMCA. Classes from Great Salt Bay school focused on Native American foodways; students from the Center for Teaching and Learning of Edgecomb prepared dishes made from World War II ration recipes; South Bristol students incorporated their cooking session with studies on the Civil War. During each session, the students were provided with historical background details about the unique circumstances that affected the availability and preparation of food items.

In January, LCHA's Education Director Louise Miller visited the Center for Teaching and Learning to share insights on President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs that included building projects in Maine and employed various artists to produce art work for federal buildings.

LCHA's 2022 Internship study session was completed in December.Intern Miriam Koubeck made note of all of the textile entries on the Jailers invoices that had been submitted to Lincoln County Commissioners.(as recorded in Prescott Currier's book The Jails of Lincoln County 1761 - 1913). Over 400 entries were compiled in the period from 1804 to 1853. They included purchases for fabric for clothing, bed sacks, and quilts, batting for quilts, shoes, hats, stockings, and towels. In addition, Miriam researched Supply Belcher and Kate Vannah, 19th century composers with Maine connections who were very popular for their music.

LCHA has partnered with the Damariscotta Historical Society to produce a *A Place called Damariscotta – Its early Beginnings*. The exhibit is geared to third through sixth grades and it highlights historical details of the Damariscotta area from pre-contact to 1800. Educators wishing to set up a field trip should make a request via www.damariscottahistorical.org.

The Education Department is taking bookings for a field trip, 17th Century Lincoln County, held annually at the Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site in Pemaquid. InJanuary we received an award of $2500 from the Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust to assist with the program. These funds will help with staffing, training materials, and acquiring historical reproduction items to exhibit during the presentation.

Louise Miller shares 17th century. foodways with students at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site.

We welcome registration for the summer camp sessions of Summer with the Past – Discovering 18th and 19th Century Art, Crafts, & History. For complete details, please see the LCHA website.

Collections

In the fall edition of the Chronicle we introduced you to committee members George Keyes and Perry Palmer. Now meet the rest of our committee.

Jeff Miller started out as a cooper at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. An interest in making his own tools led him to the Sturbridge blacksmith's shop where he became an apprentice and eventually a Master Blacksmith. Jeff and his wife Louise, a former weaver at Sturbridge, have

made living history their life's work. Jeff brings to the collections committee his expertise in early tools and ironwork, an understanding of handmade everyday objects, knowledge about Native American artifacts, and an ability to identify all types of wood and wooden objects. He has helped us to correctly identify hundreds of objects in our collection.

Marie Reinhardt and her late husband John ran a successful B&B in an antique house in Wiscasset for 29 years. During that time she assisted in running antique shows to benefit LCHA on the grounds of the Old Jail. Marie has served as secretary of the Wiscasset Library and has been on garden club and village preservation committees. She stages objects from our collection for photography and enters items into the Catologit database. The committee is indebted to Marie for her dedication and organizational skills.

Faye Snyder has long been interested in early textiles and clothing. As a member of the North-South Skirmish Association and the Ladies of the 1860s, she lectured and conducted workshops for the living history organizations. Her personal collection of period clothing, women's and children's accessories and antique dolls has been on display in several museums including the National Civil War Museum. Faye was instrumental in securing for LCHA the 2017 Angel Project Grant sponsored by the Costume Society of America. She launched the "Adopt a Sampler Project" in which LCHA members and friends donated funds to conserve and frame 19 historic schoolgirl samplers. The samplers are currently on exhibit at all three museums.

Upcoming Events

April 29 - Docent College Session One: The Fundamentals of Docenting, by Zoom 9:00 am (free! Choose either 4/29 or 5/6 for Session One) **

May 6 - Docent College Session One: The Fundamentals of Docenting, Maine Tasting Center, 9:00 am (Choose either 4/29 or 5⁄6 for Session One)**

May 19 - Shredding On Site, Chapman Hall House, 8:30 am - noon

May 20 - Calling all Book Clubs & Readers! Women Writers of Lincoln County exhibit tours, 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

May 29 - Memorial Day at Pownalborough Court House, 10:00 am - noon

June 3 - Shredding at Dresden Town Office, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

June 24 -Jailhouse Rock, Wiscasset Old Jail, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm *

June 26-30, Summer with the Past, Summer camp for kids at Chapman-Hall House **

June 30 - July 1, The Gardens of Lincoln County, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *

June 9 - Dresden Summerfest - Pownalborough Court House, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

July 24- August 7 - Summer with the Past, Summer camp for kids at the Old Jail and Jailer's House **

August 19 - Reenactors at the Pownalborough Court House, 10.00 am - 4:00 pm

September 10 - Preservation Party, Pownalborough Court House, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

*Tickets available in advance
**Advance registration required

Lincoln County Historical Association

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Education Director Louise Miller

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It's Membership Renewal Time!

LCHA members are an important part of all the work we do! Membership expires annually on May 31.

Please join or renew before June 1 to be entered into a drawing for a pair of tickets to Gardens of Lincoln County (June 30 or July 1) or a pair of tickets to Jailhouse Rock (June 24). Four winners will be drawn.

Lincoln County Historical Association

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