
LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

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President's Letter

As Maine continued to be in the throes of COVID-19 this summer, we experienced a busy season at the two sites that could safely open with CDC guidelines in place. In addition, the trail system at Pownalborough Court House attracted several hundred walkers each month. Thank you to the docents who met visitors and the volunteers who faithfully maintain the properties.

In this issue you'll learn about a Black resident in the mid-coast of Maine who was enslaved but became a free man. His experience at the Pownalborough Court House lets you imagine for a moment the court business that took place there.

Our summer began with the receipt of significant donations to the Pownalborough Court House from descendants of the Canby family in support of portrait restoration and additions to our sampler collection attributed to the Goodwin and Johnson families.

We gathered out of doors for a Members Party in August and again on the Pownalborough Court House grounds in September for Kermess, an event that was well attended and a financial success. Many thanks to Kaja Veilleux for his lively auctioneering and to Chris Hopf-Lovette and her team for producing the event.

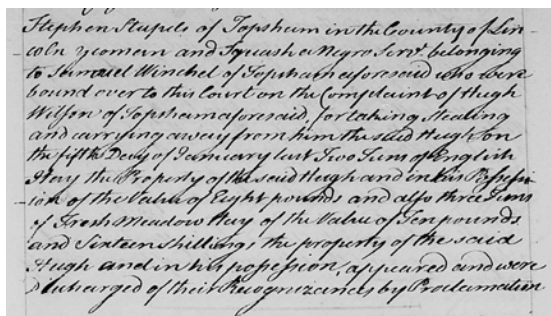
LCHA continues to provide educational experiences to our visitors and audiences during this unusual time. Shannon Gilmore, Executive Director, is working with our board and committees to chart the course for the year ahead. Don't hesitate to reach out to her at the Wiscasset office in the months ahead.

Stay tuned for details about the LCHA annual meeting in November which may very likely be a Zoom event, as it was last year. On behalf of all of us, please continue to stay safe.

Michael Chaney
President, Board of Trustees

by James Tanzer

In September 1763, Quash got caught up in petty hostilities between his enslaver Samuel Winchell and cabinetmaker Hugh Wilson. Court records reveal Quash at the Pownalborough Courthouse accused of stealing five tons of Hugh Wilson's hay, presumably on the order of Samuel Winchell in retribution for hay Wilson allegedly stole from Winchell the December previous. Thankfully, Quash was dismissed from court.



Quash appears in Pownalborough Court House records in 1763.

John Patton	1
Samuel Johnson	1
Samuel Clark	1
Andrew Douglas	1
Francis Douglas	1
Thomas Bricehurst	1
Hugh White	1
Galash Winchel	1
For James	44
	Poles

James Tanzer began working in museums 30 years ago and has been the Outreach Coordinator for the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum in Brunswick for the past 12 years.

Collections Committee

by Faye A. Snyder, Collections Chairman

Where did the summer go? It seems like yesterday when we were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the beautiful portrait of Rebecca Johnson Prescott by Henry Cheever Pratt. This portrait was donated to the Pownalborough Court House by David and Eileen Edge in memory of Eileen's mother, Clare Canby Keleher.

The Edges drove from Washington State to Maine with the portrait in tow along with several other personal items belonging to Rebecca Goodwin Johnson.

At about the same time that we were communicating with the Edges, Lori and Aric Wilmunder discovered six school girl samplers stitched by young cousins of the Goodwin/Johnson families at an auction in San Francisco. They contacted LCHA with their good news, and with a combined effort we were able to return four of these samplers to their rightful home at the Pownalborough Court House.

LCHA celebrated the return of these historically significant items in June at a small luncheon and reception to honor the generous donors. The highlight of the reception was the unveiling of the newly restored and framed portrait of the Hooper children by Henry Cheever Pratt. The restoration was made possible by a generous donation from the Edge Family, who also funded the conservation and framing of two of the Goodwin/Johnson samplers. We thank Peter and Theresa Fogg and their professional team for the careful and expert handling of this conservation project.

In July LCHA supported the Maine Bicentennial celebration at the Boothbay Railway Museum with the loan of ten items relating to early Lincoln County families. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed our display. A favorite object that brought many comments was an influenza mask from the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918.

The Collections Committee closed the season with Susan Jerome's lecture on Schoolgirl Samplers at the Court House. Susan is an expert in textile conservation at the University of Rhode Island, and she originally came to us as a consultant through the Angel Project in 2017. LCHA had been awarded a grant by the Costume Institute of America that involved several days of hands-on help and advice by members of the Institute. Susan encouraged us to conserve and reframe the now 19 samplers in our collection. This was made possible by all who donated to the Adopt-a-Sampler Project.

Although our museums are closing their doors for the year, the Collections Committee is still hard at work behind the scenes, photographing and describing more than 1,000 objects in our new database program Catalogit. We can hardly wait to see where 2022 will take us and what exciting objects may turn up when we least expect them!



The restoration and framing of this portrait of the Hooper children by Henry Cheever Pratt was made possible by a generous donation from the Edge family.

Summer program helps students understand museum work

by Louise T. Miller, Education Director

This summer the Education Department participated in the new Experiential Summer Program offered by the Wiscasset Middle High School. We provided three two-day sessions that included one day of introduction followed by a second day of hands-on activity.

In June the students spent time at the 1811 Old Jail and surveyed the area that had been designated as the exercise yard, defining the perimeter with surveying pins. The dimensions were noted in Prescott Currier's book, *The Jails of Lincoln County 1761-1913*. To my knowledge this is the first time the exercise yard had been defined for decades.

In July, Ed Kavanagh led the students on a tour of historic Wiscasset. As a follow-up activity, the students made small drawings of 20 historic buildings from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries and placed them on a cloth map of downtown Wiscasset. A highlight of the research was the discovery that the new LCHA office is located in the 1797 Manasseh Smith House, currently known as the Day House. It is considered to be the first brick house built in Wiscasset. In August the students toured the Pownalborough Court House and spent a day on the Court House trails.

This year's student intern, Jacques Young, a high school Junior, expressed a sincere interest in historical costuming. The internship program helped him expand his knowledge of fashion from the 18th and 19th centuries in a project that involved cataloging clothing and preparing a costume display. Jacques also used data from jailers' invoices to the County found in *The Jails of Lincoln County* to document textiles, clothing and cloth used at the Jail.

Connecting with students outside of the classroom expands the Education Department's ability to reach more students in innovative ways.

Stewardship Reports

Pownalborough Court House

by Dave Probert

We have seen an increase in visitors to the Court House and trails, due in part to their desire to finally get out and be active with family and friends. A number of people who had been using the trails for the past 18 months decided to take a look inside the historic place they had been passing by on their hikes.

The Court House trails are a great service to surrounding communities, providing outdoor recreation for adults, kids, dogs — and sometimes cats! Trail usage averages about 500 people per month.

The Carriage House is looking great with a fresh coat of paint. We made minor repairs that included roof shingles, some new clapboards, trim boards, and access to a second bathroom.

Several very successful events were held this season, beginning with our annual Memorial Day recognition/celebration, a wedding, Summerfest, a collaboration with Historic New England's Bowman House during Bicentennial Pilgrimage week, the Kermess fundraiser, and the increasingly popular cider pressing.

We are planning for another awesome Halloween event on Oct 20th & 30th.

Museum & Old Jail

by Christine Hopf-Lovette

Our dedicated docents have shown their ability to be flexible during this period of uncertainty regarding the pandemic. Visitors, too, have been accommodating, and have willingly donned their masks when they entered the building. The tour schedule was interrupted in late September with the long-awaited arrival of the plasterer to repair areas that were disturbed by electrical work and to re-plaster the wall of the main stairway in the Jailer's

house. We had to close our doors to visitors for the final two weekends of the season.

With high hopes for a Covid-free season in 2022, our stewardship committee has begun to discuss ideas for making the tours a more interactive experience. We are looking at ways to help our visitors get a clearer picture of the life of an inmate as well as that of the Jailer's family in the 19th century. We are also considering ideas for next year's special exhibit that we'll firm up during the winter months.

Chapman-Hall House

by Louise Miller

The 2021 season was quiet at Chapman-Hall House, as Coronavirus protocols kept our doors closed most of the summer. A highlight of the season, however, was a visit (six years in the making) by three Chapman descendants.

Drummond Chapman and his sisters Penny Louise and Deborah arrived August 20th for their long-awaited tour. Mr. Chapman later described their tour in a letter to his family that expressed his pleasure at learning new details about their genealogy. The Stewardship Committee wishes to express their appreciation for the donation the Chapmans made to the preservation of the House.

The Tea Towel Fundraising Project, featuring a pen and ink drawing of the Chapman-Hall House by Maurice "Jake" Day, has been a big success. The towels arrived late May and as of this writing they are all sold out. Chapman-Hall House participated in the long-awaited Maine Bicentennial with a

1820-2020 painted cutout of a lady and gentleman dressed in period costume.



Openings for faces allowed visitors to stand behind the images for photos.

Taking Stock

by Shannon Gilmore,, Executive Director

As the year ends, we are beginning to create goals for 2022 and take stock of 2021. LCHA's mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Lincoln County drives our work. Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, the organization made great strides in all areas. With a supportive network of members and friends, LCHA was able to accomplish the following highlights:

Collect Our Collections Committee is a hard-working and knowledgeable group. Their wise consideration of each item in the collection ensures that LCHA is committing our resources to care for significant objects of Lincoln County's history.

Preserve The Old Jail now has an updated electrical system. In addition, the damaged plaster in the front hallway was repaired and will make a welcoming entryway next spring. At the Pownalborough Court House, visitors now enter via an accessible ramp, and the Carriage House has had exterior repairs, roofing, and a fresh paint job. Stewardship Committees are identifying the projects that need our attention in 2022.

Interpret The Lincoln County Bicentennial events offered an array of opportunities to share historical interpretation with the public. Nearly 50 (masked) people turned out for Kevin Johnson's lecture at the Old Jail, *Wiscasset, Maine: The Postcard View*. At the Pownalborough Court House, our historic samplers were on display all summer and the related talk by Susan Jerome, *My Fingers on the Canvas* Move filled the court room. These free events allowed the community easy access to our resources. Education Director Louise Miller shared her insights with a number of students this year and is hard at work on new ways to engage with students during the Covid era.

I'm still learning the ropes, but this vibrant and active community of volunteers, members, and donors has shown me what a unique, successful, far-reaching, and wide-ranging organization LCHA is.

LCHA supports Maine Bicentennial - Plus One celebrations



Louise Miller, Stephen Ludwig, Thomas Hopf-Lovette, and Dave Probert (l to r) were stars of Wiscasset's 4th of July parade. Photo by Sarah Sutter.

The Covid-19 pandemic put bicentennial activities on hold for a year, but it didn't put a damper on our determination to play our part. LCHA's Ryan LaRochelle spearheaded the Lincoln County Bicentennial Committee, which included historical societies from many villages in the area. This committee published a guide to events taking place in Lincoln County during the bicentennial celebration week, August 15-21.

Pownalborough Court House and the Old Jail were open for tours, and visitors were encouraged to pick up the "Bicentennial Pilgrimage" brochures that included a special page at the back that could be stamped at each location. Visitors who made their way to a number of sites throughout the county could send in the page to be entered in a drawing for prizes. While Chapman-Hall House was closed at that time, the stewardship committee participated in the event by offering visitors an opportunity to be photographed on the grounds of the house as 19th century Damariscotta residents. The committee thanks Patricia Prendergast of Waldoboro for the delightful art.

LCHA also participated in Wiscasset's 4th of July

parade and the Bicentennial August 21 parade with a fine float constructed by David Pope. Artist and muralist Ed Buonvecchio depicted our three sites on plywood panels. Volunteers Dave Probert, Louise Miller, Stephen Ludwig, Thomas Hopf-Lovette, Judy Tunkle, and Paul Tunkle played parts in the two parades. Many thanks to Norm's Used Cars and Jeff Davis for the use of their vehicles in these events.

More Summer Fun



Louana and Ted Frois graciously hosted the LCHA Summer Members Party at their Squam Creek Farm on Westport Island.



Perry Palmer enjoys a good party. It was a relaxing get together and it gave president Michael Chaney an opportunity to bring us up to date on the year's accomplishments.



(above) Peter and Mary Walsh chat with Dave Probert at the Summer Members Party. (below) Alice Smith Duncan and Chris Duncan.



We set aside our masks for outdoor events, enjoying our annual Summer Party in August and another successful Kermess fundraiser in September. Kaja Veilleux of Thomaston Place Auction Galleries once again convinced us to open our purses and bid for mouth watering desserts and interesting experiences.

Summer Party photos by Chris Erickson.



Pownalborough Court House awaits the arrival of guests for this year's Kermess fundraiser.



(above) 'Married with Chitlins' duo entertains our guests with traditional American tunes. (below) Dave Probert bids on a cake displayed by Linda Pope during the cake walk.



Kermess photos by Bob Bond

Lincoln County Historical Association

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Support Your Community Heritage

Help LCHA continue the work of collecting, preserving, and promoting the history of Lincoln County with your support of our Annual Campaign.

Your donations will directly impact the organization by helping to cover operating costs, including:

- Care of our very special three National Register of Historic Places listed properties
- Care of our collection of historically significant objects relating to Lincoln County history
- Educational outreach to students county-wide
- Special exhibits and programs
- The development of innovative and new ways of engaging with the community

Please return the enclosed remittance envelope with your Annual Campaign contribution or visit our website to donate online: <https://www.lincolncountyhistory.org/get-involved/donate>

