
LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

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President's Letter

While COVID-19 prevents us from welcoming the public to our three historic sites, the usual winter lecture series, and other public programs, we continue stewardship of our properties and carry on with essential administrative activities.

LCHA held its Annual Meeting on November 21 via Zoom. The Collections Committee has been particularly active. This hardy group of volunteers met on a weekly basis over the summer and early fall to enter over 600 objects from the Pownalborough Court House into *Catalogit*, our new museum cataloging program. Work will continue at the Museum and Old Jail on our museum storage collection.

We are in receipt of some extraordinary collection items. A portrait of Rebecca Johnson Prescott is coming to us from the estate of Claire Canby Keller. In addition, wonderful friends of LCHA have purchased at auction six samplers, including one stitched by the same Rebecca Johnson Prescott. Four others in the group of samplers were stitched by cousins who lived at the Court House. Moreover, the Collections Committee recently discovered a rare edition of *The Frugal Housewife*, the second cookbook printed in America. One of eight copies known to exist, it includes engravings by Paul Revere. See the article by Perry Palmer on Samuel Goodwin's book.

As we come to the end of 2020, we close another chapter in LCHA history. Our Executive Director Kerry Cushing has accepted a new position at the Bridgton, Maine Historical Society. While we congratulate Kerry and thank her for her four years of service to the organization, we are sorry to see her move on. Kerry brought energy and determination to her work, and we have made much progress thanks to her efforts. Kerry will be with us until January 15 if you wish to extend a word of thanks and congratulations.

As always, thank you for your support and Stay Safe!

Michael Chaney
President, LCHA Board of Trustees

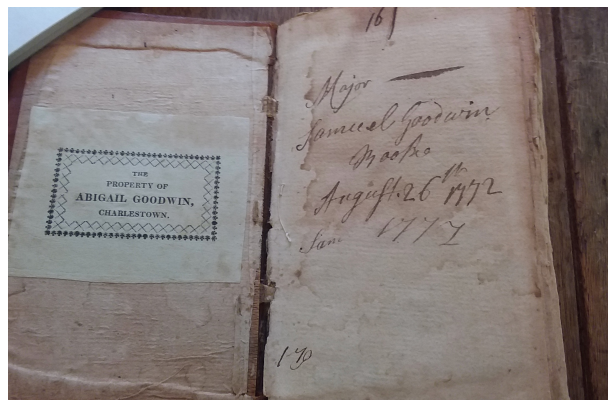
Just in time for the holidays!

Receipts for roasts from Major Samuel Goodwin's personal cookbook

by Perry Palmer

Earlier this fall, as our Collections committee sifted through some dusty old boxes of books and papers, Faye Snyder discovered a small leather bound cookbook. As I am LCHA's local expert in 18th century cooking, she thrust the book in my direction.

What a find! There on the fly page, in faded brown ink were the words: "Major Samuel Goodwin - Booke - August 26th, 1772. And on the inside front cover, a book label: "the property of ABIGAIL GOODWIN/Charlestown." (Abigail Goodwin was Samuel's daughter.)



Samuel Goodwin's cookbook, published in Boston in 1772, is one of eight known to be in existence today.

The cookbook is missing a title page, a table of contents, and an index. The binding is very crude. However, the first two pages feature engravings that show how to truss and spit various birds and small game for roasting and boiling — a very unusual feature in an 18thC cookbook.

In my subsequent research, I discovered that our cookbook is entitled *The Frugal Housewife* by Susannah Carter. It was first published in London and Dublin in 1765 and reprinted in 1772 in Boston

by Edes and Gill. Then I got really lucky. I found an offer online for a copy of this edition. The ad contained a lot of wonderful information, plus a contact phone number. The copy offered for sale includes pages that are missing from ours, but until now it was one of only seven known to exist.

The ad states: "Edes & Gill are best remembered as the most important printers in Boston during the American Revolution. In 1773, one year after publishing this cookbook, they and their newspaper, the Boston Gazette, played a crucial role in sparking the Boston Tea Party. For this cookbook they turned to another patriot, Paul Revere, famed as a silversmith and engraver. Paul Revere engraved two plates on copper to illustrate this work. Revere referred to his work in his Day Book on January 20, 1772, where he wrote: 'Mesr., Edes & Gill Dr. To Engraving a Copper plate for coocrey [sic] Book & 500 prints 2-14-0.' Revere evidently engraved a single plate of copper with both illustrations. A *fabulous provenance*. This book bears the apparently otherwise unknown book label of Sally Parsons dated 1774. Women's book labels on American books of this interest and period are of the greatest rarity."

Naturally, I picked up the phone and called. We had an amazing time paging carefully through "our" books. I emailed to him photos of the book, the binding, the book-label, and inscription. He confirmed that we have the Susannah Carter book with illustrations by Paul Revere. He said that this was only the second cookbook ever printed in America (the other having been printed in Williamsburg in 1746). The crude binding is the original, as books of this sort were sold in this condition — without pretty marbled endpapers. *One tell-tale that identifies this first edition is that page 123 is mis-numbered as 321.* Ours has the mistake.

The four leaves (two large pages, folded) that are missing from our book probably just fell out. What we have is all original!

The timeline is right: Paul Revere gets the commission to print 500 prints of engravings. If 2-14-0 means two pounds, fourteen shillings, he was

THE
FRUGAL HOUSEWIFE,
OR
Complete Woman Cook.
WHOLE.
The Art of Dressing all Sorts of Viands,
with Cleanliness, Decency, and Elegance,
Is explained in
Five Hundred approved Receipts, in
Roasting,
Frying,
Braising,
Custards,
Sauces,
Stews,
Huffins,
Supps,
Tartlets,
Pies,
Puddings,
Syllabubs,
Cremes,
Flummery,
Jellies,
Garns, and
Cafards,
Together with the BEST METHODS of
Pickling,
Dyeing,
Candying,
Fickling,
And making of ENGLISH WINES.
To which are prefixed,
Various BILLS of FARE,
For DRINKING and LIVING every Month of the Year,
and a copious INDEX to the whole.
By SUSANNAH CARTER,
OF CLARENCEWELL.
LONDON.
Printed for F. NEWBURY, in the Corner of St. Paul's
Church-Yard.
R O S T O N :
Re-Printed and sold by ROSS and GILBY, in Queen-street.

Consider this for your seasonal feasts!

When you roast a turkey goose, fowl, or chicken, lay them down to a good fire. Singe them clean with white paper, baste them with butter, and dust on some flour. As to time, a large turkey will take an hour and twenty minutes; if young an hour; a large fowl three quarters of an hour; a middling one half an hour; and a small chicken twenty minutes — but this depends intirely [sic] on the good ness of your fire.

When your fowls are thoroughly plump, and smoak [sic] draws from the breast on the fire, you may be sure that they are very near done Then baste them with butter; dust on a very little flour, and as soon as they have a good froth, serve them up.

Geese and ducks are commonly seasoned with onions, sage, and a little pepper and salt.

A Turkey for Roasting



A Turkey on Foot for Boil



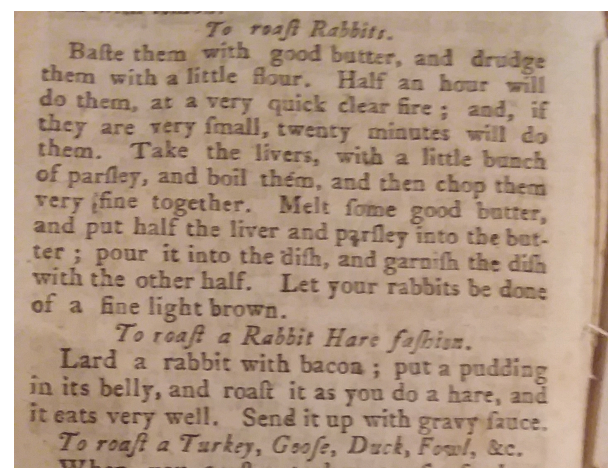
A Chicken or Fowl for Boil



Paul Revere illustrated the cookbook with two pages of engravings. He printed 500 copies to be bound into the book

Sauce for a Turkey: Good gravy in a dish and either bread, onion or oyster sauce in a bason [sic].

Roast a quarter of a hundred of chesnuts [sic] and peel them, save out 80 from 100. The rest bruise in a mortar, with the liver of the fowl, a quarter of a pound of ham well pounded, sweet herbs and parsley chopped fine. Season it with mace, nutmeg, pepper and salt. Mix them all together, and put them into the belly of your fowl: Spit it and tie the neck and vent close. For sauce, take the rest of the chesnuts, cut them in pieces, and put them into a strong gravy, with a glass of white wine. Thicken with a piece of butter rolled in flour. Pour the sauce in the dish, and garnish with orange and water-cresse [sic].



Susannah Carter's recipes reflect a simpler time when a cook relied on experience and common sense.

Stewardship Reports

Pownalborough Court House (PCH)

by Dave Probert



The refurbished sign at the entrance to Courthouse Road is supported by new signposts.

The PCH stewardship meeting in September was the first since March. We gathered at Pownalborough Hall wearing face coverings and observing social distancing.

The number of people using the Court House trails has been incredible with an average of 455 hikers per month this year, compared to 175 per month for 2019.

With help from neighbors Elmer and Judy Berry, we created a "Carriage Loop Trail" that goes from the Court House to the parking area and winds through the woods, coming out on the Court House Road and returning to the Court House yard. This eliminates the need to use the field across Rt 128 (Cedar Grove Rd) for parking during the Dresden Summerfest and provides a great loop for a horse drawn wagon.

LCHA has agreed to host another Trek Across Maine bicycle event at Pownalborough Court House on June 20th, 2021, provided the Covid pandemic is under control. We also hope to have more of our standard events in 2021.

The main Court House sign on Rt 128 has been

refurbished and funded by Dave Probert. New sign posts were installed with the help of Greg Edwards, Chuck Vaughan, and Steve Eagles.

LCHA has received grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 to repair the Carriage House. Paul Marseglia agreed to do the work starting next spring.

The resident eagles raised another chick this year and have been sighted near their nest and perched on nearby trees. They will relocate to the coast when the river freezes, and we look forward to seeing them next year.

Chapman-Hall House (CHH)

by Louise Miller

As we come to the close of a disappointing year for individuals, families, businesses and historical organizations of all kinds, we reflect on what those who originally called the Chapman-Hall House their home faced.

Nathaniel and Miriam Chapman moved to Damariscotta, then part of Nobleboro, in 1754. The Seven Year's War, the last of the French and Indian Wars, had begun. Sections of the Mid-Coast had been subjected to raids since 1688. A number of settlements had been abandoned; many had been burned out. Nathaniel, at the age of 54, left the relative safety of Ipswich, Massachusetts Bay Colony to seek a better opportunity in the burgeoning District of Maine. What were the risks he and Miriam considered?

Epidemics were a part of Colonial life as they are now. Boston had major outbreaks of measles in 1713, 1729, 1739 and '40. Influenza struck in numerous countries in 1732 and '33. As the Chapmans watched their children marry and have children of their own, the families faced many more rampant illnesses. Between 1759 and 1800 measles, influenza, small pox and yellow fever plagued many regions of North America.

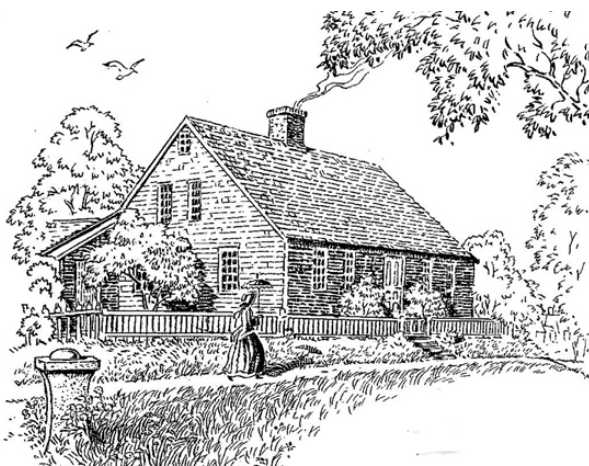
In 1835 the Halls purchased the Chapman house. Tilden Hall, a young blacksmith, and his wife Elizabeth spent the rest of their lives calling the

house home. As children they had lived through a challenging time in 1816 when New England and much of the world experienced the year without a summer. Cold temperatures created widespread food shortages.

There were also illnesses. In 1832 cholera hit a number of major U.S. cities. Yellow fever spread nationwide in 1841. There was an influenza epidemic from 1847 – 1848. Cholera was back in 1848 - 1849 and spread across the United States. In 1850 yellow fever hit the nation again. By the time of the Civil War the nation had suffered two more epidemics of yellow fever and two of influenza. In 1863, Tilden and Elizabeth lost their eldest son, Augustus, at the Battle of Baton Rouge.

Having faced the challenges of disease and the Civil War, the family continued to watch the growing pains of their country; members of the family remained in the house until 1907. In reflecting on the history that is preserved at the Chapman-Hall House one finds many of the same experiences and stresses that are a part of life today.

As this is being written, a call came in reporting that the House weathered well a terrific wind and rain storm that hit this area in the previous day. The stout timbers held out one more time, just as the families who settled in the Chapman-Hall House weathered the many storms they faced.



Chapman-Hall House rendered in pen and ink by Maurice "Jake" Day.

Thank you to the following generous donors for your support of the archaeological dig at the 1754 Chapman-Hall House. The dig will take place in the summer of 2021.

\$2,500.00 and above

Mary S. Hart

\$1,000.00 and above

Anonymous (2)

Jane Odom

\$250.00 and above

Michael Chapman

\$100.00 and above

George C. Betke, Jr.

Leonard Chapman

In memory of Benjamin Chapman

Bill and Esther Danielson

Joanne and Robert Doherty

In memory of Robert Brewer

Philip and Diane McDonough

\$50.00

Katharine Brewer

Michael and Laura Chaney

Paul Daiute

Maia Hart

David and Linda Pope

Up to \$25.00

Mary Bailey

Jeff and Louise Miller

The Museum and Old Jail (MOJ)

by Ed Kavanagh

I was rereading several LCHA Chronicle newsletters from past years, and one article that struck me as apropos for this time in history was an item from the summer of 2015. The first paragraph was what stood out as being particularly pertinent to this time in our current events. It begins: *The five decades from 1900-1950 saw two world wars, a crushing global depression, and an epidemic that claimed more lives than all military deaths in both wars combined.* It goes on to speak of the birth of air travel, the telephone, the automobile, electricity, right up through the television and computer.

I find it particularly poignant in that we now find

ourselves in the middle of another horrifying worldwide epidemic which is claiming so many lives and changing our world and our daily habits.

In our small community the pandemic has caused us to make difficult decisions in order to keep everyone safe. One of the decisions we made in light of an uncertain future was to keep our three historic sites closed this past summer. We have, however, pushed forward to keep abreast of essential projects and have done our best to stay in touch with our LCHA members and dedicated stewardship committee volunteers.

The MOJ stewardship committee had been looking forward to having the electrical system updated, followed by new plastering during the fall of 2020. While this project has been delayed until spring, we nevertheless appreciate the generosity of the County Commissioners and the successful efforts of George Keyes and Kerry Cushing in writing grants to secure funds that will help defray costs. We are thankful to all the volunteers who give of themselves, each in their own way, to make it all work.

Education Report

by Louise Miller

The new school year brought little relief for educators and students, including those in homeschools. As schools opened, they worked to refine the very careful plans that were in place to protect the health of their students, as well as educate the children in their care. Schools opened, but some were forced to close for a week or two due to the Coronavirus, and then re-open. This has impacted the LCHA outreach programs which are often in-school presentations.

Many schools have their students at school part of the week and attending remotely the rest of the week. The arrangement puts new challenges in place for teachers and parents. To meet this new environment, the LCHA Education Department staff is working to offer options that will fit well into

the schedule. Our partnership will continue with the staff of FARMS at the Lincoln County YMCA in Damariscotta. Karen Kleinkopf and Leslie Weeks are teaching their cooking classes virtually and will continue to offer historical-theme recipes and presentations through our partnership. When a school arranges for an historically focused cooking class, Louise Miller, Education Director, will attend the virtual session, contributing historical background information and showing students related items from the time period being covered.

New materials have been prepared for educators: *Settlement during War Years – 17th & 18th Century Challenges in Mid-Coast Maine*, and *The 1800s – A Century of Highs and Lows*. These booklets, averaging 46 pages each, cover the time period in an interdisciplinary manner. Along with Social Studies, topics include Architecture, Music and Art. The overall focus of the booklets is “place based” learning, incorporating into the curriculum the local community and its heritage whenever possible. The Lesson Resources, which have been a part of the education outreach package for some time, offer teachers a selection of topics based in the colonial time period. *The Math of Weaving*, *What to Pack – Advice for those traveling to the New World*, *Trading Across the Ocean*, and *Hearts and Art* are four of the ten-lesson resources that offer teachers a complete activity for their students requiring no further research on the part of the teacher.

Teaching/activity videos geared to students are still in the works. *Object of the Week* has become a fun opportunity to share items in the LCHA collections with students and the public at large. Innovative responses to the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus continue to drive the work of the education outreach program.

The LCHA Collections Committee has been hard at work updating and cataloging our archival materials. You can see many unique items from our collection each Monday in our online Object of the Week series. Visit lincolncountyhistory.org/learn/object-of-the-week/

Collections

by Faye Snyder

The Collections Committee is happy to report the installation of the computer program *Catalogit* into our database system. Although not ready for public use, we are hard at work entering all the accessioned objects into the program. It has taken our committee three years to examine, evaluate, describe, measure and permanently number every single object at Pownalborough Court House plus all the stored three-dimensional objects on the third floor of the Old Jail. This has been no easy task. The dedication and attention to detail by our committee members have been paramount to the success of this project. We meet every Monday morning from 9:00 until noon, sometimes taking our lunch to enjoy on the picnic tables at PCH. We have happily witnessed several families of eagles growing up and leaving the giant nest on the banks of the Kennebec River.

Our committee would especially like to thank George Keyes, long time member of LCHA, for identifying, researching and generously supporting the *Catalogit* program. George took the lead on this project and guided our committee to its success. When the program is online, our members, other historical organizations, and the public will easily be able to access a wealth of information through the program's search engine. We will be able to keep track of an object's location, edit information, and add photos as needed. This type of organization through a computer program such as *Catalogit* is very important, as we are managing three historic sites filled with material culture.

This past summer LCHA was gifted several historically important objects, directly related to the early families that lived at PCH. Next spring, when our museums are open, please make it a point to come for a visit — and don't forget to pack a lunch!

LCHA has begun the search for a new Executive Director. For details, please contact rlarochelle15@gmail.com. We thank outgoing ED Kerry Cushing for her many years of dedicated service to the organization!

Executive Director Report

Making the Difference

by Kerry Cushing

The 2020-2021 annual appeal is underway. Your gift supports projects that ensure the structural integrity and safety of our three historic properties in three different towns in Lincoln County as well as the collections they contain. Private contributions make the difference in accomplishing our mission, and we hope you will support our efforts again this year.

With your contributions and in-kind support as volunteers we have accomplished a great deal.

In 2020 we were able to:

- Create a new website
- Catalog the collections for online access through *Catalogit*
- Create virtual educational materials
- Host a successful non-event Kermess fundraiser
- Offer an Object of the Week online
- Secure funding to rewire the Museum and Old Jail, and finish the Carriage House repair project at the Court House
- Secure funding to host an archaeological dig at the Chapman-Hall House
- Add exciting additions to our collections for future exhibits

As I prepare to start a new journey in the Lakes Region of Maine, I would like to thank the members of our stewardship committees, trustees, collections committee, Kermess and Fashion Show committees, Bicentennial committee, and our many loyal members for making LCHA such a great organization. I have been proud to be a part of this vital group whose members really make a difference.

We thank our members!

Membership gifts from August 11, 2020 – November 30th, 2020

Sustaining Level - \$500.00

Currier Law Offices LLC, Diane Currier
Damariscotta Hardware

Supporting Level - \$100.00

Colby and Gale, Inc.
Carla Dickstein
Barbara and Michael Fraumeni

Business Level - \$50.00

Big Al's Super Values
Cheney Financial Group
H. M. Payson
Lincoln County Publishing
Elizabeth Palmer
Red's Eats
Rockland Savings Bank, FSB
Sea Basket Restaurant

Family Level - \$35.00

Barney and Carol Burrall
Joseph and Monica Dattilo
Ryan LaRochelle and Sarah Leighton
Holly McKibben
Keith and Linda Wood

Individual Level - \$25.00

Charles Burden
Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson
Christina Guy
Red Cloak Haunted History Tours
Barbara Rumsey
Sigrid & Associates Real Estate
Susan van Alsenoy

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