



The SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

Volume XVI, Number 2 Summer 2012

The “*Cascade*” Comes Home – A Big Part of our Heritage



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Observer – April 20, 1848: “FIRE! The Cooper’s shop owned and occupied by Mr. Albert J. Barrett of this village, took fire on Wednesday morning last, and was consumed, together with all its contents... Mr. Barrett lost all his tools, stock & considerable work already ‘set up’ for finishing...Fortunately for them, their Dwelling House, which is situated within a rod or two of the shop, was saved through the intercession of a favorable wind, and the great exertions of the citizens, who applied water and wet blankets to the easterly end of the house. Had the wind been at the south or east, the house would undoubtedly have been destroyed, together with others on that side of the road.

Where was ‘Piscataquis engine’ No. 1? We did not see it at the fire. Perhaps it wants repairing. Where are the hooks and ladders that the citizens of both villages subscribed for together with the Engine, some three or four years ago?”

Observer – April 27, 1848: “Notice is hereby given to the Citizens of Dover and Foxcroft Villages, that a meeting will be held at the Court House in Dover, on Saturday the 29th inst. at 6 o’clock P.M. to take into consideration the subject of forming a Fire Department, and particularly to see if they can agree upon any satisfactory limits for a Charter for said purpose.”

Observer – Jan 17, 1850: “ENGINE MEETING
At a meeting of the citizens of Dover & Foxcroft, holden at the Court house on Saturday evening Jan 12, for the purpose of considering the expediency of procuring a FIRE ENGINE – the following resolution was passed, viz; Resolved, that the citizens of Dover and Foxcroft here assembled, are willing that our property shall be taxed in an *equitable manner* to procure a Fire Engine.”

(continued on Page 4)

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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Visit us on-line at
www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs
and on Facebook

Come Visit this Summer!

We have several new and interesting displays in the museum this summer. We would be delighted to have you drop by to enjoy them and to share some time with old friends. Our normal open hours will be Thursdays, 11:00 to 2:00 from June 10 through Labor Day. If those hours are inconvenient, you can always call Mary or Chris. We can make the museum available to you and your family and friends at almost any time.

If you have old pictures or documents at home, remember that we are always happy to give them a good home. If you would prefer to keep the originals, we would be glad to make copies for you.



The Attic

I liked the attic full of joy
Where I could find a broken toy,
A dog-eared book, an old lace gown.
A tax report of nearby town,

A broken vase, old valentines,
A box of knotted Christmas twines,
An old fur piece, a broken chair.
A cowboy hat bought at the fair,
A half bottle of Lydia's pills,
That says t'will cure all human ills.
Some Christmas bells of faded red.
A broken baby dolly's bed.
The black hose that Grammy used to wear,
A baby book on how to care
For little tots if they get sick.
A table lamp without a wick,
For puss some catnip hung high to dry.
A romance book to make one cry
O'er hard luck kings and wicked queens.
A bag of never planted beans,

Some corset bones, high-buttoned shoes.
A wax bouquet of different hues.
A vest with all the buttons gone.
Some ears of shriveled popping corn,
An old baseball scorebook with ripped out pages,
Two small empty canary cages.
A movie magazine filled with forgotten stars,
A canning rack but no glass Ball jars.
An incomplete set of Chinese checkers,
And just one of a pair of sneakers.
All these and more I liked to see
An afternoon when I was free

And I was alone with no one to play,
An attic was where I could stay
The best part of a rainy day.

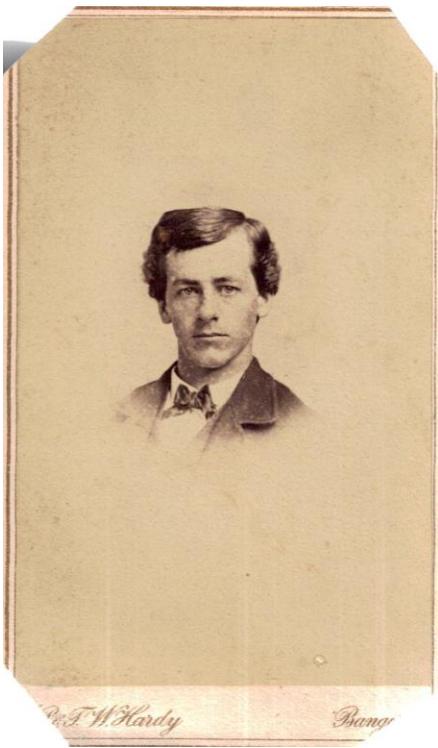
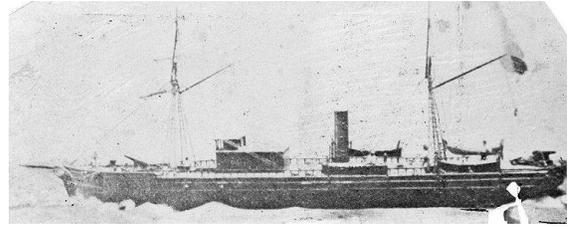
Louis Stevens

Civil War Letters

This is another of the letters in the Society's collection of a number of letters written during the Civil War from Fred Kimball to his family in Dover-Foxcroft. For more information on Mr. Kimball and his life, see the Spring 2011 issue of the Conserver.

Fred Kimball writes to his mother –

U. S. S. Ohio
Charleston
Sep 28, 1864



Fred Kimball

Knowing you would be expecting us home by the time this reaches you, I thought I would drop you a line to inform you and Chauncey's folks that we cannot get a furlough at once, there are so many absent. Geo. S. has deposited \$9.75 in Bank of North America and sent us a check for that amt. which we gave to the Lieut. Comdr. for safe keeping. He (the Lieut.) says we shall go as soon as some of those absent return. There is going to be a large draft made in a day or two but I think it will not reach us. In making a draft they took the names just as they come on the muster roles, and there are some six or seven hundred before us. When we heard Geo. was in Boston we sent him a pass supposing he would want to come on board but he has not come as yet. He wrote as soon as he got to Boston. We are hoping he may be on board today.

There was a government transport come in this morning for the purpose, I suppose, of taking off the drafted men – I haven't time to write more as I wish to get this in the morning mail.

Fred

Give Mother and Annie my respects.

(Fire Engine, Continued from page 1)



1895 fire in Mayo's Block (True Value building)

Observer – May 9, 1850: “Foxcroft Village Fire Company – This company have procured one of Hanneman & Co's Fire Engines, with four sections of suction and three hundred feet of leading hose, and the other usual apparatus, at a cost of \$903, in Boston. The Engine appears to be substantially made and well and tastefully finished. The company formed to work it are highly gratified with its appearance, and engage in it with a commendable zeal and spirit. An efficient Fire Department will, we trust, grow up under this organization.”

That fire engine, the *Cascade*, served the towns well for almost 50 years. Its last known use here was fighting the fire that burned Mayo's Hall (Ward's/True Value), in 1895. Some time after that, it was sold. For the past couple of decades it has sat in one corner of a factory in Syracuse, New York. Thanks to the wonderful work of the 38 members of the Dover-Foxcroft Firemen's Association, and at no cost to the taxpayers of the town, on Saturday the 2nd of June, the *Cascade* came home to where it began its life and where it served the community so well. It has joined many other historic pieces of fire equipment at the Association's Fire Department Museum. If you haven't seen the museum lately, get there soon. It's well worth the trip. By the way, we would do well to take a moment and express our appreciation to Joe Guyotte and all the members of the town's fire department, not just for preserving such an important part of our heritage, but for standing by at all times to serve the needs of the community.



Joe Guyotte and *Cascade*



Hasey's Bus Lines

by Louis Stevens

Early public transportation by horse and wagon or stagecoach for passengers traveling from Dover and Foxcroft to neighboring towns was often mentioned in news items in the *Observer*, whether it was Taylor's band hiring a team of horses and large wagon from Sanford's livery stable to go over to Dexter and back or a stagecoach taking people to Bangor to catch the steamer to Boston.

Then came the trains, the Dexter and Piscataquis (later the Maine Central) and the Bangor and Piscataquis (later the Bangor & Aroostook). Passenger trains stopped in the early 1930s, but by then, of course, private cars and trucks had increased greatly.

In 1935, a young man, Harry Hasey Jr., was granted permission to start a bus route here by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. At first, it went just from Bangor to Charleston (then home of Higgins Classical Institute), but he extended his run to Dover-Foxcroft on May 13, 1936. Eventually bus service reached Greenville on October of 1937. By September of 1946, a bus traveled to Bangor by way of LaGrange. Officers of the company, Hasey's Maine Stages, Inc., now were Harry Hasey, president, and his son, treasurer.

How did the modern bus schedule times compare with those of trains from two entirely different periods? Back in July 1883, a train for Bangor left at 5:50 a.m. and arrived at 10:25, and another left at 3:20 p.m., arriving at 6:15 p.m. The necessary detour around the Charleston hills must have added extra time for the train. The B&A timetable for November 25, 1929 (46 years later) gives only the departure times, not arrivals, at 7:55 a.m. and 4:37 p.m. The last train of the day returned from Bangor at 5:58. Just as we are told today to use a web site for more information, the train ad says, "Time table giving complete information may obtained at ticket offices." The 1945 schedule of Hasey's shows three buses leaving Perin's Drug Store and arriving in Bangor about 90 minutes later if via Charleston (week days), and about 2:30 via Milo. There was one Sunday trip as shown.

The last bus trip? I find no mention of it in my research on business in the town from the 1940s through the 1950s. Does a reader know?

[NOTE: Materials on the bus line, including times, are adapted from the entry "HASEY¹ S MAINE STAGES, INC." in the book "Dover-Foxcroft Autobiographies by Frank W. Keniston, of Milo, in 1947. He previously had published similar books on Guilford in 1942, and Milo in 1945.]

Softball at Foxcroft Academy

by Glenice Haley Snyder



When school opened in the fall of 1948, Foxcroft Academy offered only one organized or letter sport for the girl students. That was basketball, and only during the winter months. There was nothing for girls in the spring. No track, cross country, field hockey or tennis. There would be nothing until basketball started again the next fall and winter.

A number of us decided we would like to have a softball team and went to see the principal of the Academy (Mr. Tilson Thomas) about it. We told him our story of there being no sports for girls in the spring and he really listened to us. He agreed and said we could have a team if we could find a coach. Boy, that was all we needed.

How did we find a coach? Somehow, we all began to think the same thing. Why not ask Mr. Campbell? (He was the freshman and sophomore English teacher at the Academy.) He told us he knew nothing about the game and would give it some thought. We informed him we knew how to play and would help him learn. We just needed a coach. When he finally said yes, you never saw a happier group of girls. We all signed up and even made up the team roster because everyone knew what position they could play and gave it to him.

We still had a lot of hurdles to get over. The next one was "where can we play?" In the town of Dover-Foxcroft there was only one baseball field—the Fairgrounds on Fairview Ave. There was no way that would work, because the Academy and Grammar School boys baseball teams shared that field. Back we went to Mr. Thomas.

(continued on page 7)

(Softball, from page 6)

He said he would get back to us. I think it was the next day we found out we would be playing our home games and all practices on the football field. Oakes Field, the prized possession of Foxcroft Academy, would be our softball field. The Academy supplied home plate, pitcher's mound, the bases, one bat, new balls for home games and an old catcher's mask and chest protector from the boys baseball team. The team members supplied all gloves and a few bats. We had no uniforms. Transportation for away games was not supplied by the school for the four years we played. We went by private cars driven by players, Coach Campbell and a few parents.

I have no idea who decided to form a softball league for us. It could have been Mr. Thomas and the other school principals. I only know we had a Piscataquis County league made up of teams from Greenville, Guilford and Monson in the Northern division and Brownville Junction., Milo, Dexter and Foxcroft Academy in the Southern division. We played Higgins Classical Institute of Charleston in non-league games. At the end of the season the team with the most wins in each division played for the championship.

Since there were no certified umpires for softball at that time, Mr. Thomas became our home game umpire. For those of you who never knew Mr. Thomas, let me tell you my thoughts about him. He was a down-to-earth person who really had an open-door policy. I found that out when he helped us every step of the way to get softball started. Every time we went to him for help, he came through. I also found out that he was always finding ways to help the underdog in more ways than one.

At our first home game he was behind the catcher, where he belonged. Our next home game he came out and stood behind me at the pitcher's mound. I tried to tell him he was in the wrong place, but he informed me that he would stay where he was. It seemed he did not feel safe behind the catcher. The following was his explanation to me: "I am not safe behind the catcher because that ball comes in fast and hard and if the catcher does not catch it, I will get hit. When she does catch it and winds up to throw the ball back or to second base, I could get hit by that arm of hers if I did not get out of the way." Guess he won that discussion.

My next complaint came a few games later when he started calling a lot of balls. You see, he was really following our games and knew we were winning by a lot of runs and this was his reply to me: "I am just trying to help the other team have a better chance to get people on base so they can score a few more runs." Well, let it be known that for four years, Mr. Thomas and I had a lot of friendly conversations at the pitcher's mound. I could go on and tell you much more about how I respected Mr. Thomas, but there is just not enough time and space for it.

(continued on page 8)

(Softball, from page 7)



Softball Champs – 1951 and spring of 1952

Back row: Gloria Collins, Rebecca Rowe, Virginia True, Jane Barker, Donna Brown, Jean King
Seated: Mildred Mitchell, Carmy Clukey, Dibby Scribner, Glenice Haley, Carolyn Knowlton, Lois Ward

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention that in one game Coach Campbell made a change in the lineup. In a game with Milo, he made me catch and the catcher was the pitcher. Well, that was a disaster. I was scared to death behind the plate and the catcher was no pitcher. I stood about three feet behind the batter. All it took was one slightly wild pitch that I could not get and Milo knew they had a chance to win. They really started to score a lot of runs. Coach did finally put us back where we belonged, but it was too late. We just could not catch up, and they gave us our only loss in four years.

Our games were not covered by the "Observer," our scorebooks have disappeared, and we have no real proof of what we accomplished during those years. No home-run records, no stolen bases, no pitchers record. Nothing to show for it except our school letters (F). The school paper, *The Pony* was the only record we had, and it was written by players and the staff of "The Pony" under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Wiley, the commercial teacher. I still have some of those write-ups in my scrapbook. A little faded after 60 years, but still readable.

Proof or no proof we know what we did. We ended four years at Foxcroft Academy with one league loss and one non-league tie, and we were real proud of that record.

Somewhere in the bowels of Foxcroft Academy there should be four trophies or awards for girls' softball. I know they still have at least one, because it is or was in the trophy case in the gym lobby.

Good luck to all future Foxcroft Academy softball players. Play hard, work hard, play as a complete team and be proud

Message from Mary

Once again we begin another summer season. I want to invite you to stop in to visit the Observer Building Museum and see our new exhibits. This spring our "Thursday Crew" has been hard at work setting up some interesting displays.

We've moved the Dyer & Hughes piano, organ and melodeon to the back room, where they will share the space with Dr. Stitham. Both areas have been freshened up and enhanced with track lighting.

The front room is set up with an exhibit saying "Happy Birthday" to Foxcroft – 200 years old. In one corner is a section featuring the April Fool Flood of 1987. Thanks to WABI News for providing us with a DVD showing news coverage of the flood. In the middle room is a brand new train exhibit.

There is plenty new to see at your museum. I hope you'll take a few minutes to stop by. We will be open all summer on Thursdays from 11 to 2, also on Whoopie Pie Day – June 23 – and on Homecoming – August 4. Hope to see you!

Mary Annis
President

Annual Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their Historical Society dues for 2011. We really appreciate having you as a member. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do so now so you can continue to enjoy all of the benefits of membership in the Historical Society, including receiving copies of the *Conserver*.

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society – Membership Application Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail: _____

Annual dues are \$10 per person and \$7.00 for senior memberships. Please make checks payable to Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. Dues cover January to December. If you are giving a gift membership, please include the name and address and we'll gladly notify the recipient of your gift.

The Society is on the Web at www.rootsweb.com/~medfhs and on Facebook.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL

"Doing What Comes Naturally," though a song, could be the basis of our teams, as has been proven so far this year. We girls are "rounding third and heading home." We now have compiled a record of 4 wins and 0 lost.

Our first game was with the Monson girls whom we played twice this fall. Our bats were swinging, with seventy-five per cent of our hits going into the outfield resulting in home runs, doubles and triples. We topped the Monson girls 36-6

Positions of infield and outfield are Catcher-Donne Brown, Pitcher-Glenn Haley, 1st base-Betty Atherton, 2nd base-Elizabeth Scribner, Shortstop-Kay Knowlton, 3rd base-Jane Barker, Left fielder-Becky Rowe, Right field-Lois Ward, Short fielder—Janice Fields, Center fielder-Carmy Clukey. Other girls playing are Gloria Collins, Ellen Dow, Virginia True, Mildred Mitchell, Jean King and Joanne Trefethern.

In the second game, which was at Monson, we again triumphed 17-6. The third game was with Guilford here. Though not a high scoring game, it was not too difficult, and we won again 10-2. Maybe we got a little too confident, but our next game played Tuesday was a rough one. We played Higgins down there. (They must have improved.) The game started slowly with the Higgins girls leading all the way. Finally in the last inning, the score was 9-8 Higgins, when Glenn Haley stepped up and walloped a home-run to left field, after striking out the last time at bat. This started a fire under us Foxcroft girls. Although the game was officially over at 9-9, we played two extra innings and came through with flying colors 18-9.

Carmy Clukey

**NO FOR
BLUERRYING!**

The Steamer Favorite.

Having had her machinery put in first rate repair, is now capable of making good time. She will commence making her regular trips on Saturday July 25th.

To those wishing for a pleasant pastime, this offers a rare chance of combining pleasure with profit, as the blueberries are said to be unusually plenty this season.

The Boat will leave Sebec Village at 6 1-2; Stedman's Landing at 8 o'clock, A. M., and 1 P. M.; re'urning in season to connect with the several stages.

Good accommodations for horses at Stedman's Landing.

FARE each way 25 cents.

There will positively be no card playing or gambling on board this boat.

A. G. CROCKETT, & CO.
Foxcroft, July 23, 1863. 50



John W. Swett,
Carriage & Ornamental Painter.

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Dover and vicinity, that he still continues to carry on the

Painting Business,
at his old stand under the Printing Office. Now is the time to bring in your second hand WAGONS, for you can have them painted cheaper and better than at any other time. Also, PAINTS MIXED TO ORDER, and directions given for spreading the same if required. All work done in a neat and workmanlike manner, and promptly at the time promised, for PROMPTNESS is my motto.

Dover, Jan. 28, 1858. 34 if



The New Dyer & Hughes Exhibit at the Historical Society

C. H. B. WOODBURY,
DEALER IN
Groceries, Dry Goods, Flour and Patent Medicines,
DOVER, ME.

Our Corporate Sponsors

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Items Available

Glass Christmas ornaments:

- 2008/Blacksmith Shop
- 2009/Observer Building and
- 2010/Central Hall
- 2011 Thompson Free Ligrary

DVD's \$10.00 + \$3.00 shipping

- Scenes of old Dover and Foxcroft:
- Louis Stevens and memories of Central Hall

Throws: \$38.00 + \$8.00 shipping

Work Day at the Historical Society

Thursdays are almost always workdays at the Historical Society. We generally start work at about 10:00 and work from two to four or five hours. If you are interested in joining us for an interesting and enjoyable day working with good friends, contact Mary for more information. At the moment we are cataloging thousands of old *Observer* photos. Come along and help us identify folks in those pictures.

Thank you all!

>:E. S. FAVOR, <:
DEALER IN
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GLASS WARE, &c.,
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Can you guess what this was? (and where it was located? Hint: the street is named after the founder of this mill.)