



The SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Turns 50!

Chapter 4

By Mary Annis



Nancy Battick prepares an exhibit

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We now pick up our story in the year 2000. Having painted and set up the first two rooms at the Observer Building, we now begin work in the back room, the largest. We began by holding two work days and members helped clean out the space in anticipation of setting up further displays. Ryan Stitham led a crew of Boy Scouts as they did all the painting as his Eagle Project. After his work was finished we laid new carpeting and set up displays.

Thanks to a suggestion from Dot Greenlaw, we began to hold our public meetings at Thayer Parkway. This is a perfect place, home and comfortable.

In early 2001, we were very excited to have two new members join us. They are Nancy and Jack Battick who are very knowledgeable about archiving and preservation techniques. They jumped right in and began to help out.

The Stitham family generously donated Dr. Linus Stitham’s medical office in 2002. It is displayed in the back room at the museum, going a long way in filling up part of that large room. It is complete with his original waiting room benches and the photos of the hundreds of babies he delivered here over the years. Thanks, once again, to the generosity of Dot Greenlaw, two very large and old display cases were purchased. They provide much needed exhibit space.

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The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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Treasurer	Jim Annis
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Directors	Sylvia Dean
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Curator, Blacksmith	David Lockwood
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The Society's legal address is 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426. The *Shiretown Conserver* is published quarterly. Contact the editor at 874 West Main Street, Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426 or e-mail chrism@roadrunner.com, or by phone at 207-717-2666

Visit us on-line at
www.dover-foxcroft-historical-society.org
and on Facebook



By Anna Shaw Buck

By-Ways

I like to follow by-ways
That lead to woodsy lanes,
Where frail wild flowers blossom,
Refreshed by gentle rains;

Where silence brings a healing
Which soothes life's bitter smart,
And speaks a glamorous message
To many a lonely heart.

Some by-ways lead to valleys,
But paths that lure my feet
Ascend the rugged mountains
Where earth and heaven meet.

Watchers by the Hearth

When icy fetters bind the earth
And hostile winds besiege the night,
What joy to watch the hearth-fires glow,
And bask within that warmth and light;

To see the flickering shadows trace
Quick patterns on the rugs and floor,
Or dance upon rows of books,
Beside the paneled door!

Old memories weave a luring spell
Shut out the chilling wind and snow,
And bring to watchers by the hearth
An inward flame to match its glow.

The vanished past can live once more,
Now clear of grief, and free from pain;
And loved ones, who have blessed the home,
Return again.

Both from "On Wings of Song", 1935

(Our 50th Anniversary, continued from Page 1)



Sylvia Dean and Sharon Phillips

Our dues were increased in 2003. The cost of printing the “Shiretown Conserver” and mailing it had increased. We raised them to \$5.00. A motion was made at our annual meeting that our museum curators be officially elected. Dave Lockwood was named curator of the Blacksmith Shop Museum (a position he had held for many years) and Jack and Nancy Battick were elected as co-curators of the Observer Building Museum

During the year, the second half of the roof of the Blacksmith Shop was replaced. We also had to “adjust” the front of the building because of a sill problem.

In 2004, our long time – 41 year – secretary, Madelyn Betts, stepped down. She had been secretary since the very beginning and failing eyesight was causing problems. At our annual meeting, the Society presented her with a plant and much praise and appreciation for her hard work and diligence during these years. Jim Annis, our treasurer, then a State Representative, presented Madelyn with a Legislative Sentiment from the Maine State Legislature. Madelyn reflected on her many years of service and her delight in answering historical questions. Nancy Battick was elected secretary.

The windows in the Blacksmith Shop needed replacing. The new windows would cost about \$300 each. It was decided to offer the opportunity to members to purchase a window in memory of someone – a plaque to be placed beside the window. Madelyn was the first to buy one in memory of her father, George W. Ballard. Over the next year all eleven windows were purchased.

In August of 2004, the Society received a Façade Grant through the town of Dover-Foxcroft. This allowed us to paint the Observer Building and reshingle the roof.

Beginning in 2005 and for several years thereafter, the Society was part of an exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce Expo in Guilford. Each year the exhibit was a different local historical theme, such as the history of Dover and Foxcroft, WW11, one room schoolhouses, etc. Lou Stevens usually presented a talk at the show on the featured subject.

On April 9, 2005 one of our benefactors, Dorothy Greenlaw, celebrated her 100th birthday and received the Boston Post Cane from the town. She was the oldest resident. Dot was a great supporter of our efforts and always optimistic about our challenges. Upon her death on December 29, 2006, we received over \$100,000 through her donation to the Maine Community Foundation. We receive the interest from this account which was designated for the maintenance of our buildings.

We have a new bathroom! We installed one on the first floor – a new flush, set tub and floor.

(Continued on page 4)

(Our 50th Anniversary, Continued from Page 3)

A Civil War day was organized and held on July 2, 2005. It was a busy day with the re-dedication of our Civil War monument, a luncheon hosted by the ladies of the Congregational Church, a Civil War encampment, a visit from Hannibal Hamlin (Lincoln's vice-president) portrayed by Richard Newcombe, Lou Stevens giving cemetery tours, horse-drawn wagon rides, several historians giving lectures on the Civil War at the Observer Building, followed in the evening with a benefit concert. The town was buzzing with visitors



Jack and Nancy Battick

In 2006, we decided to try an Attic Sale as a fundraiser. Members Sylvia Dean and Sharon Phillips volunteered to chair the event. It was held at the Fire Department and was a huge success. We continued this tradition for several years.

During this year talks began about changing the front façade of the Observer Building. We would take down the bay window, which was cracked and sagging, and replace the façade with the 1874 configuration. A quote of \$7000 was obtained.

Work on our library upstairs in the Observer Building was completed thanks to Jim Brown. New ceiling tiles, new paint for the walls and floor, new electricity, and thanks to the generosity of the Thompson Free Library, new shelves for the books. We also received a wonderful table from Moosehead Manufacturing. Work on cataloging the books begins.

A featured display in 2006 was of wedding gowns through the ages. This display brought people from far and wide and the Society received many local wedding gowns for our collection as a result. The gowns displayed were from 1900 to 1976.

We are so fortunate to have Lou Stevens as a great supporter and asset. In May of 2007, the Society organized a "bus tour" led by Lou. The bus filled up in no time and Lou shared stories as we drove around "Old Dover". The following year Lou led us on an "Old Foxcroft" bus tour.

The sills at the Blacksmith Shop Museum were rotting away – they held up well considering the shop was built in 1863! They needed to be replaced, but the building needed to be emptied first. Several members met at the shop and spent the day removing items and putting them in a rented cargo container for safe keeping. After the sills were replaced, we cataloged all the items as they were put back.

It's now 2008 and we needed to get serious about the façade at the Observer building. A letter went out to our membership asking for help to accomplish this project. Response was excellent. Society member Chris Maas and his brother volunteered to do the work – saving the Society many dollars. Lou Stevens, upon entering the building for the first time after completion exclaimed "it brings back the memory of when I first came to apply for employment as a reporter!" - that remark made us all happy.

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(Our 50th Anniversary, Continued from Page 4)

On October 14, 2008, a memorial stone was laid at the Blacksmith Shop dedicated to Emma B (later known as Police Gazette), a grey trotting mare born in 1872 on the Boston Farm in Foxcroft. The stone was given by Clark Thompson, a Maine author of “Trotting Horse Heritage”. Currier and Ives made three prints of the horse – two of which hang in the shop.

When the town of Dover-Foxcroft vacated Central Hall in 2008, questions arose as to the Hall’s future. The Historical Society could not stand by and watch another historic structure disappear. In 2010 our work began in earnest to find a use for the building that would be an asset to our town. The Friends of Central Hall was organized under the umbrella of the Society. One of the final events to be held there was a “Hard Hat Ball”. This party was held to honor Lou Stevens and celebrate the beginning of the campaign to save the hall.

In June of 2012 Madelyn Betts turned 100 with a huge open house at the Congregational Church where she had served as organist for 27 years. The event was well attended by many well-wishers.

On October 14, 2012, the society held an open house, complete with cake and ice cream, as Foxcroft celebrated its Bicentennial. Chris Maas shared a program showing photos of Foxcroft’s early buildings and telling stories of those who lived there. Many people stayed for both presentations.

In 2013, we received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation to begin microfilming and digitizing the Piscataquis Observer. We have worked closely with the Thompson Free Library on this project and to date have completed 20 years.

Dave Lockwood, curator of the Blacksmith Shop Museum, began plans to build a small demonstration building next to the shop. Insurance will not allow us to have a fire at the forge in the shop, and this would allow us to host blacksmiths to show their trade. It came to fruition in 2014 with most of the building supplies and labor donated. We decided to name the building “Dunham Forge” after the Society’s founder, George Dunham. We held our grand opening on July 4 in conjunction with our 50th birthday party. We had an excellent crowd and shared our birthday cake with all. We hosted a different blacksmith most Saturdays until the end of September. Attendance was excellent and we shared the craft of blacksmithing with many, many children. They were enthralled with watching the items take shape under the hands of the smithy.

This year we also painted the Observer Building. The last paint job had lasted ten years, so we went back to the company who had painted it then. The building is sparkling white and looks wonderful at the head of Union Square.

This completes our 50 year history. It is a synopsis and certainly does not cover all of our activities during these past years. It has been fun for me to do this series. It allowed me to research the many years since our beginnings and when I came to become president. I hope you have enjoyed this trip back in time as much as I have.

A Tribute of Madelyn Celeste Ballard Betts.

In June of 2014, Madelyn Betts was presented with the Boston Post Cane. At 102 she was the town's oldest citizen. On September 28, 2014, Madelyn Celeste Ballard Betts, passed away. Madelyn was born on June 29, 1912, the only child of George W. and Grace (McComb) Ballard. She was a National Honor Society 1930 graduate of Foxcroft Academy and attended Maine School of Commerce (now Husson College). Madelyn had a keen interest in local Maine history, genealogy, antiques and enjoyed crafts, especially needlepoint. What a long life she had, and although at the end she was hard of hearing and had trouble seeing, her mind remained sharp and alert. She shared her memories at each visit and she answered questions quickly, correctly and usually with a wonderful story. She was such a part of this community, volunteering for many organizations and adding so much to our lives here. She will be missed, especially by the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society



Graduation from the Mayo Street Grammer School - 1926



Edward “Ned” Burham Buck

(1865-1934)

Foxcroft Clockmaker

By Mary Annis

Edward Burham Buck was born in Foxcroft on September 1, 1865 to parents Addison Prentice Buck and Sarah “Kitty” Gerry. On July 20 1892, at age 28, “Ned” married Ida A. Parker. They had no children.

“Ned” grew up in Foxcroft and graduated from Foxcroft Academy in 1883. He then went on to study at Bridgeton Academy and graduated from Emery College in Oxford, Georgia, a college selected because his father was living in Cole City, Georgia where he was general manager of the Dade Coal mines. After graduating college “Ned” became superintendent of the Georgia interests of the American Rock Boring Company of New York, later going into the jewelry field. He spent his early life in Waltham, Massachusetts where he learned the trade of watchmaker from William H. Edmunds and later studied with Dolphus D. Palmer, one of America’s greatest watchmakers, training at the Waltham Horological school. In this line of work he was superintendent for the diamond drill work for the Washburn-Moen Company in Springfield, Massachusetts, then as a jeweler in Springfield and later in Brewer and Bangor.



Edward Buck in 1890

In 1900, “Ned” returned to his hometown of Foxcroft, purchased his childhood home on Winter Street in Foxcroft and entered into civil service with the post office. He gave the post office 30 years of service, eight of which as Postmaster, retiring in 1930. Customers at the post office were impressed with Ned’s genial disposition which made him a special favorite with the public. He retired only because of his failing health.

“Ned” Buck had a wonderful hobby. Shortly after returning home the willow tree on the North Street School playground was to be cut down. Memories of his childhood, when he, with other playmates, had played in its branches, vividly returned. Ned was determined to preserve it if at all possible. He talked with the town officials and made arrangements to get the tree. After the wood had seasoned well he conceived the idea of making a Grandfather clock, thus preserving the tree for all time. The one catch was that he had no tools with which to make the clock. He borrowed them from Harold Farnham and to repay Mr. Farnham for his kindness, “Ned” made him a clock too – thus, two clocks were made from the old tree. The movements in the clocks were a “Tabor”, manufactured sometime between 1795 and 1825. Thus the old willow was preserved and Mr. Buck came into his hobby. “Ned’s” clock, when he was done with it, would be passed to his nephew, Alfred E. Buck, whose father also played in the old tree as a child.

As the hobby grew, “Ned” needed extensive tools, skilled wood-working and machine tools. He had an extensive workshop where the clocks were made located at his home.

Ned had a wonderful collection of clocks. His oldest clock was a wall clock which was a wedding gift to his grandmother, Mrs. Benjamin T. Buck. Mrs. Buck brought the clock from Buckfield in the early 1800’s when she moved to Foxcroft.

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(Edward "Ned" Buck, Continued from Page 7)



Nearly all of the banjo clocks made by "Ned" (and he liked making those the best) are reproductions of the Simon Willard clocks. One interesting clock he made for a Dr. Gilbert Palen of Philadelphia, is a diamond type of Willard and was made out of African mahogany. It was made in a diamond shape and the entire scheme was carried throughout. Most of the banjos he made were of willow, a native Maine wood. The clocks were made entirely by hand, even to the side arms which are of brass. The picture glasses were painted in Boston and were in keeping with the clocks or were a special request of the purchaser.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman K. Lee's son, Richard, married Miss Elizabeth Barnum Lane of Boston. The Lee's wanted to make the young couple a wedding present and decided to have Mr. Buck make a clock. The banjo type was selected. The woodwork was made from pieces of a willow tree cut in the Lee yard. The lower picture was that of the Lee homestead done in colors and the panel picture was a view of the Piscataquis River as seen from the rear of the Lee home. So the clock instead of being just a clock, when finished and carried to the young Lees in their Boston home, was a great reminder of the home in Foxcroft.



In 1920

Besides making wonderful clocks, "Ned" was talented in other areas. The Bucks had a camp on Sebec Lake. Before 1920, he and friend Will Stewart, built the "Buster", a large Sebec Lake launch. The boat was made completely by hand including the 1 cycle gas engine which propelled it. It was berthed for many years at the camp and gave many hours of enjoyment for the Buck family

"Ned" was a long time member of Kineo Lodge and Canton Kineo, I. O. O. F., and of Mosaic Lodge, F & A. M.. He was also a member of the Loyal Legion and the Sons of Veterans and a member of the Congregational Church.

Edward Burnham Buck passed away at 3:00 am on Thursday, October 25, 1934 at his home. Funeral services were held the following Saturday afternoon at 2:00 in his home with the Rev. Herbert R. Livingston officiating.

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FRIENDS OF CENTRAL HALL

FUNDRAISING BRICKS

FOCH BRICK ORDER FORM



Help Friends of Central Hall (FOCH) preserve and restore CENTRAL HALL by purchasing your engraved brick. Buy a brick in memory of a loved one, your children or family. Buy a brick to promote your business or organization. Artwork or your business logo can be added to the engraved bricks. Each sponsored brick would be a visible part of the walkway to a newly renovated CENTRAL HALL in downtown Dover-Foxcroft, Maine. All proceeds raised from the commemorative brick program will be used toward the restoration of CENTRAL HALL.

ENGRAVED BRICKS are 4"x8" or 8"x8" and allow for 15 spaces per line and up to 6 lines of text. Clip-Art and business logos can be added for an extra fee. We have selected Moonbeam Laser Engraving of Levant, Maine. The "Whitaker Greer #30" clay brick, a beveled edge brick, and vector engraving enable the etching to turn into glass. Create a lasting memory for a loved one or promote your business or

organization for a lifetime, by contributing to the preservation of Dover-Foxcroft town history.



Please fill out order form below and return to: **FRIENDS OF CENTRAL HALL**, Attention: Mary Annis, 28 Orchard Road, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426, or call Mary at 564-0820. Please make your check or money order payable to: **Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society**.

_____ 4"x8" ENGRAVED BRICK(s) with 15 spaces/line and (3) lines of print	\$100.00	\$ _____
_____ 8"x8" ENGRAVED BRICK(s) with 15 spaces/line and (6) lines of print	\$200.00	\$ _____
_____ Basic Logo you supply in .eps format - add \$50.00 per brick	\$50.00/ea	\$ _____
_____ In addition to, or in place of purchasing a brick, I wish to donate to FOCH	DONATION	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

(For additional artwork options or clip-art details, contact Bob and Lisa Bemis, Moonbeam Laser Engraving, 207-884-8372)

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Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Line 5: _____

Line 6: _____

Please provide contact information below:

Name(s) or Business Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email Address _____

The mission of the Friends of Central Hall is to preserve, restore to its former glory, maintain, and operate Central Hall as an event center that showcases small town America and promotes a vibrant Main Street by joining forces with those seeking to revitalize the community.

Annual Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their Historical Society dues for 2014. 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 *Conservator*.

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.

(Edward "Ned" Buck, Continued)

I want to thank Al Buck, nephew of "Ned", who helped with this article and for supplying the wonderful photographs.



Ned and Ida aboard the Buster

—A lad in town who heard the quotation, "A little learning is a dangerous thing," wants his parents to stop sending him to school, because he is afraid he shall not live long enough to get past the dangerous point.

Message from Mary

We now head into the winter months. At this time of year we think of setting up a new display or two at the Observer Building Museum and contacting speakers for programs during 2015.

As soon as Foxcroft Academy notifies us we will be working on archiving their collection. This collection is huge with items not only at the school but at the Thompson Free Library and the Historical Society too! We are looking for help and if you would like to join us just let me know. It should be a fun and interesting project.

I want to wish all our members and friends a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year. Wow!! 2015.

Our Corporate Sponsors

A grateful thank you to the following businesses whose funds support the Society and its efforts to preserve our history. When you shop or see these folks, please tell them 'thank you' for their support!

Ellen Anderson, D.P.M.

Family Eyecare

Green Door Gallery

Lary Funeral Home

Maine Highlands Federal C/U

Mallett Real Estate

Pleasant River Lumber

Rowell's Garage

Steinke and Caruso

Mark Stitham, M. D

Sean Stitham, M.D.

Items Available

We thank Bob's Home and Garden on Lincoln Street for stocking our ornaments and DVD's. Please stop by their store and support this local business.

Glass Christmas ornaments: \$6.00 each (add \$4.00 for shipping)

2008 – Blacksmith Shop

2009 – Observer Building

2010 – Central Hall

2011 – Thompson Free Library

2012 – Foxcroft Academy

2013 – The Blethen House

2014 – Pleasant Street School

DVD's :

Glimpses of Dover and Foxcroft - \$10.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Memories of Central Hall/Lou Stevens - \$15.00 (add \$3.00 for shipping)

Dover-Foxcroft throws: \$40.00 (add \$8.00 for shipping)

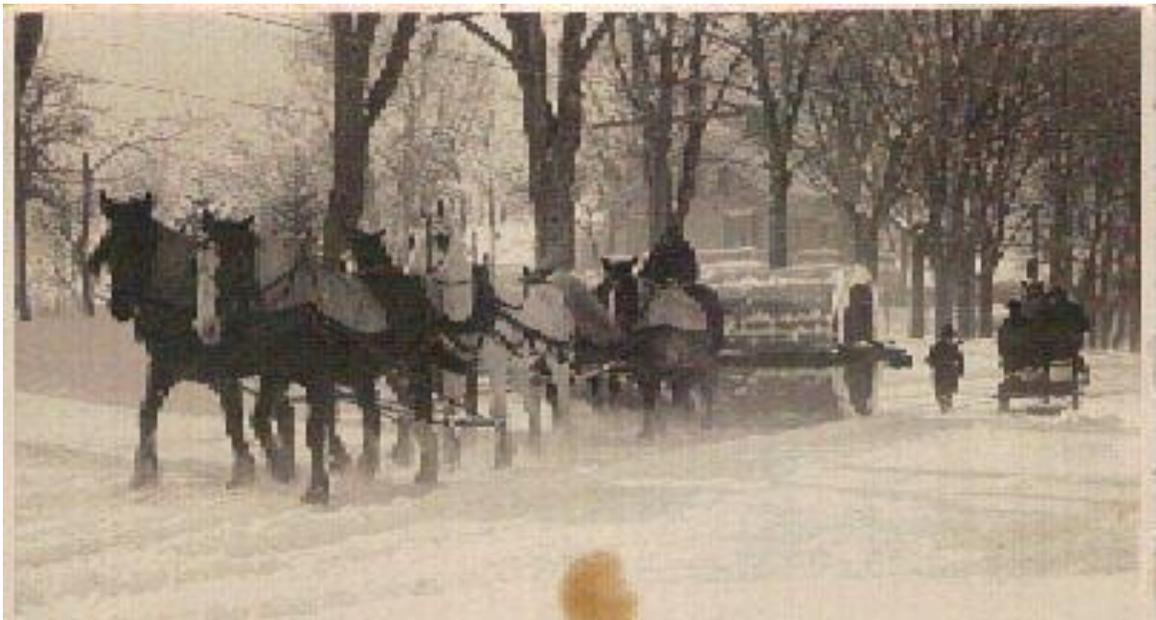
Work Day at the Historical Society

Thursdays are almost always work days 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.

Thank you all!

**The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, Inc.
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Dover-Foxcroft, ME
04426-3706**

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ME.



**The snow roller on West Main Street
(John Mayo/Jim Austin home in the Background)**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!