



# The SHIRETOWN CONSERVER

The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society  
Volume 19, Number 2 Summer 2016

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## School Days (continued)

### Lou Stevens



Louis Stevens 1997

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*Our local historian and good friend Lou Stevens continues to share his memories of school days in Dover-Foxcroft.*

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in the Grammar School

After swimming at the pond at Dover South Mills most days, I'm ready to enter a new classroom once again, for the first time, but the seventh time which comes about - not that I was held back because of poor work in school, but because my number one year was partly spent at the one—room school at Bear Hill in 1936, and then we moved into town at Bangor hill where my father could look after the black foxes he was tending. It soon came about that my fellow students and I again would have a woman teacher for all those years, and today we would have a woman who had the title of Mrs. before her name of Effie Bolton to join Mrs. Ola Blood and Mrs. Aya Goff, and if all goes well, and it should, we will have Mrs. Bernice Sterling in the room. she has upstairs. But enough of my history, so lets look at the construction history of this school which opened in 1925.

### Walter J. Rideout

It would be easy to say that the school superintendent for Dover-Foxcroft would be the most responsible for the grammar building being built, so I'll type it, because he wrote in a letter of November, 1923, to the Observer: "both the village schools are overcrowded." He added "At North Street it was necessary to have the first and second grades together in one room, and at Pleasant Street there were only five rooms available for the eight grades.

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### The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society

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### Annual Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their Historical Society dues for 2016. 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*

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.



### MY FIRST SCHOOL

By Viola Bosworth

At the top of a hill in the rural area of Maine  
Stands a white schoolhouse built many years ago.  
It has withstood the ravages of heat, snow and rain,  
And the tramping of many feet going to and fro.

The large room has blackboards, and long wooden seats,  
With a platform and teacher's desk at the end;  
Two wood-burning stoves furnish the needed heat  
During the winter when wind and snow often  
blend.

It was known as the Harriman School;  
All the children in the valley began learning there.  
Plus studying our books, we were taught the Golden  
Rule,  
And the beautiful soul-stirring Lord's Prayer.

The school was also a gathering place,  
For parents and friends who came to hear  
The children speak poems with their shy grace;  
Also to play games, sing, and eat lunches with  
much cheer.

Like a beacon it tirelessly stands  
Easily seen from the farm homes below.  
Its doors have been opened by many hands  
Seeking the wisdom all men need to know.

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Viola Pratt Bosworth (1901-1989) wrote poems in the 1980's. Viola lived in Dover Foxcroft and was active in the Baptist Church.

Viola was the daughter of Herbert Pratt (a carpenter – 1863-1931) and Carrie Knowles (a school teacher – 1866-1941) - she was one of eight children. The Harriman School still is standing in Sebec – we believe.

(School Days, continued from page 1)



**Effie Bolton**  
1899-1976

The best solution to him was the erection of a new school housing the 7th and 8th grades with rooms also for the manual training (wood working) and home economics. He later reiterated this in another letter in March of 1924.

So a special committee was soon formed and decided that the best place for the building would be on North street though it would mean purchasing the ground beneath it. But a group of citizens disliked this plan, and so , on July 14, 1924, now decided to construct the new school on land already owned by the town so no expense there as would be at North street. So, the new school would be erected "to the rear and slightly to the right of Pleasant street school. Years down the road, the Mayo Street school would be constructed, also on land owned by the town. I wrote in one of my town history books: "Five months later in December of 1924, the contract for the school was awarded to S. F. Atwood of here for \$21,383 which did not include that of heating and plumbing. The contract called for completion of the building before September 1, 1925, which was accomplished. It would be the last school built in the town for 25 years until the Mayo complex in 1950.

#### **“Now, into Dover Grammar School”**

Ahead into the coming school year was the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in a room on the bottom floor of the Dover Grammar School, a room that for a short time had been converted into classes for home economics and shop students. Again, we students who had just left Pleasant Street school, would be having the safe set-up of a married teacher (Mrs. Effie Bolton, who would have all classes. But in the next year, however, the situation would be much different: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders would now change rooms and teachers on the ground floor. And we would have men teachers for the first time. And new classmates from the North Street school would now join us; but still no gym or cafeteria, but possible formation of sports teams for boys. Now it would be seven years until, as seniors at Foxcroft Academy, for graduation.



The Grammar School (2016)

But first, a great surprise came on Friday, June 8, 1945, at Central Hall when students of Dover Grammar School were presented our diplomas by Harold O. Doe (Principal) and Hayden L. V. Anderson (Superintendent of School). It still is a great possession of mine. Equally valuable in many ways is my diploma saying "Foxcroft Academy" which had been signed by Ora Evans and Elizabeth B. am: Kimball (both members of the Board of Trustees) and Tillson D. Thomas (Principal). I had already started doing some sports at FA. Our graduation program was presented Jun 15, 1949, at Central Hall. Four years later I am given my diploma. from Boston University on June 8, 1953 (with several other thousands (2441) on the floor of the old Boston Garden where I had seen the Celtics perform so greatly over the area where I was sitting). It would be no surprise for you to know my degree was in journalism, and, in some ways, still at it with these few sentences.

## More on Dover-Foxcroft Schools

Lou's wonderful reminiscences on school days long gone got us browsing through our old town reports. For much of the first half of the last century each town report contained an extensive report by the Superintendent of schools. We thought we'd share interesting tidbits with you:

### 1923 report (year ending Feb 20, 1924)

#### Superintendent Walter J Rideout's first annual report

The list of schools operated by the town:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Street, Sub-Primary and grades 1 through 8 (one class for each grade)</li><li>• Pleasant Street: Sub-Primary and grades 1 through 8 (in 6 classrooms)</li><li>• Bear Hill, Rural</li><li>• Brockway, Rural</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dover South Mills, Rural</li><li>• East Dover Primary</li><li>• East Dover Grammar (Grades 5-8)</li><li>• Macomber, Rural</li><li>• Norton Hill, Rural</li><li>• West Dover-Rural</li></ul>
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Total Budget for the year for the entire district was \$27,029.68 (equivalent to approximately \$380,000 in 2016!)

“The teachers and pupils of the sixth and seventh grades of the North Street School and the Brockway and West Dover Schools have also earned and purchased victrolas. The majority of our schools now have these instruments. I know of no single piece of equipment which may be made to add more to the pleasure and profit of a school. Every school should have one.”

“For some time it has been apparent that the village schools were rapidly becoming overcrowded. In the North Street building we have eight rooms and there are nine grades to occupy them. This necessitates placing two grades in one room, the first and second, and as the combined grades are more than one teacher can properly care for, a teacher is provided for each grade. It is apparent that under these overcrowded conditions, neither pupils nor teachers can do their best work.

In the Pleasant Street building conditions are even worse. Here we have six rooms, one of which is used by the home economics department. This leaves five rooms for the nine grades. The sub-primary and first grades occupy one room in charge of one teacher. The second and third grades in charge of separate teachers occupy another. The fourth grade has a room to itself. The fifth and sixth grades are combined under one teacher as are the seventh and eighth.

Failure to provide the necessary accommodations can only result in one of two things; greater overcrowding or part time schooling for a large number of our children. I do not believe that the citizens of Dover-Foxcroft desire that our children be subjected to any such conditions.”



Miss Evadine Cook's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at North Street School about 1923

*As Lou began his reminiscences, we invited others to share their memories. Here are some memories from Pat Leland.*

## **Pat Leland Mereen Remembers World War II in Dover-Foxcroft**



Pat Leland

Several years ago when one of my granddaughter was in high school, she asked me if I would answer some questions about what it was like to be in high school during World War II. I did that as well as compiling a scrapbook which included part of the time I was in college. I still have the scrapbook which helps to bring back many memories.

On December 7 of this year, it will be 75 years since Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese and war was declared. I pause to reflect on what was memorable or important to me at that time.

My class at Foxcroft Academy was in its second year when war was declared, yes, we were 1943 graduates. Classes went on as they must. Communication were very different then, so we were not well informed about war activities – no TV – only radio, newspapers and news glimpses at the movies which were, by the time we saw them, no longer news. So most of us were not very well informed.

We looked forward to basketball games played in Central Hall, football games in the Fall, extra-curricular events such as spelling contests, debating society, plays, public speaking contests, all of which were coached by dedicated faculty members. An outstanding event, still remembered today, occurred when one of the members, Lloyd Blethen, won the national championship in cross-country running.

Some unusual instructions occurred when there were classes made available to girls who volunteered to learn child care skills in case children from England might need to be evacuated to the USA. Of course, in another war, which also became “our” war the Germans were bombing London on a nightly basis. I remember, vaguely, being on observation with Jane Washburn, at the fire station I believe, watching or waiting for sign of approaching aircraft. That seems a little ludicrous now, but we were very serious about it.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Pat Leland Remembers, from Page 5)



National Cross Country Team Foxcroft Academy sitting on the front steps, top row from left Dave McClure, Don Kinney, George Fowler, Gerald Twitchell, bottom row from left Ernest Fowler, Ed Craine, **Lloyd Blethen**, Howard Huntington, Ed Blodgett.

Activities in the town in which I took part was a 4-H club, “Wake-Up and Live” it was named. Through that organization I met and became interested in becoming a leader in rural and home and farm betterment – a Home Demonstration Agent as they were called. Instead of the University of Maine, I went to Farmington Teachers College and became a Home Economics Teacher, which I did for 31 years.

Church activities, centering around the Baptist Church, took up some of my time and interests. Helping with the little ones’

Sunday School classes, Baptist Youth Fellowship meetings, interacting with older, wiser people, I did learn quite a bit about the Bible. Some of the teachings have shaped much of my outlook and appreciation of life and mankind.

I loved going to the movies. There was a whole other world. I admired the fashionable clothes and hair styles, the music and dancing. Most movies were in black and white, and often there were two different productions a week! Sadly, the theatre block burned one winter night, the remain frozen in place until Spring.

But the least expensive past times, and the one in which some of my girlfriends and I often participated, was walking – not hiking, but walking on the streets and by-ways of Dover-Foxcroft.



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(Pat Leland remembers continued from page 6)

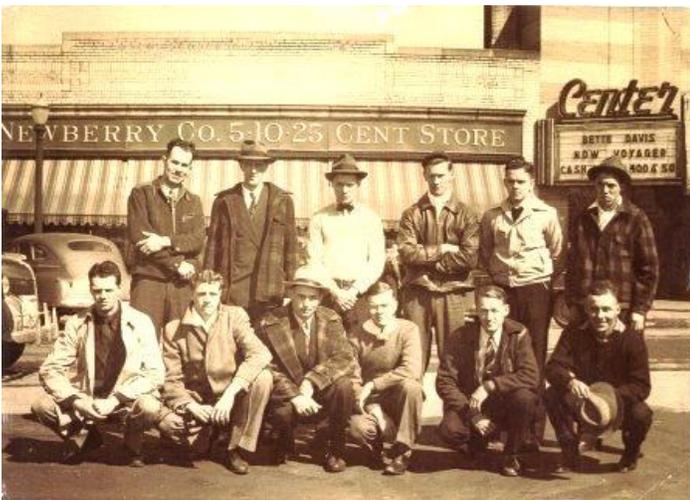
On one clear, bright December day, Maxine McCready, Kay Atherton and I were walking on the East Dover Road, near the town dump. We found cardboard boxes near there, flattened them out and slid on them down a steep snow covered hill. What some what dirty fun! One the way homeward we met, near the library, Anne Bonsey and Horace Lovejoy, looking serious and thoughtful. Horace asked "Haven't you heard the news?" "What's happened?" we asked. He told us it was reported that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. Yes, it was December 7, 1941, "a day to go down in infamy" as President Roosevelt decreed. The time and place and people where and when I heard this message, I have never forgotten. Did that young man have any inkling that the military would become his life's career? He served in two wars and died before he reached his legal age of retirement.



Maxine McCready and Kay Atherton

Another class member, George Fowler, enlisted in the Navy, serving in communications capacities. When he was honorable discharged at the end of the war, he worked for a while at the Piscataquis Observer office. He re-enlisted and went on to serve

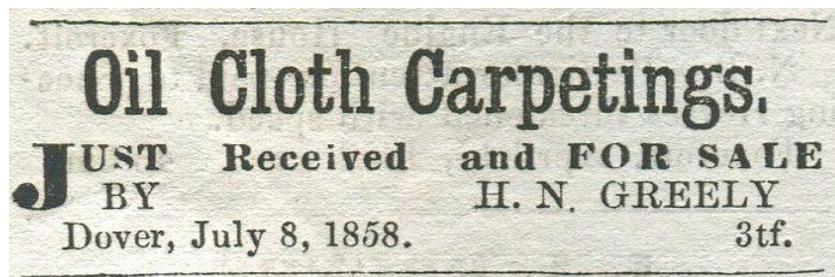
Another class member, George Fowler, enlisted in the Navy, serving in communications capacities. When he was honorable discharged at the end of the war, he worked for a while at the Piscataquis Observer office. He re-enlisted and went on to serve his country in many capitols of the world, ending up in Washington, DC.



Going off to war - 1942

The second occurrence always to be remembered was the ending of the war, August 15, 1945. A college classmate and I were waiting on table in a tea room on Martha's Vineyard, when we heard that news. Church bells were ringing, people running out into the streets, shouting, laughing and crying, and I was serving baked mackerel to an army captain who continued to sit at his table, pondering his fish. What his thoughts and recollections were, I can only imagine. The war was over, rebuilding and mending must ensue.

These are my recollections of happenings during my high school years and beyond. I hope I have remembered correctly!!



## A Tale of Two Drugstores

[They weren't pharmacies in those days]

Mark Stitham

Many newer residents of Dover Dash [as we hipsters used to call D-F back in the day!] only know of Rite-Aid, I'm sure. But in my youth, we had not one but two drugstores.

I lived at 50 West Main Street [now the home of the esteemed *Conserver* editor!] so my first memories are of Perrin's Rexall next to the KCM

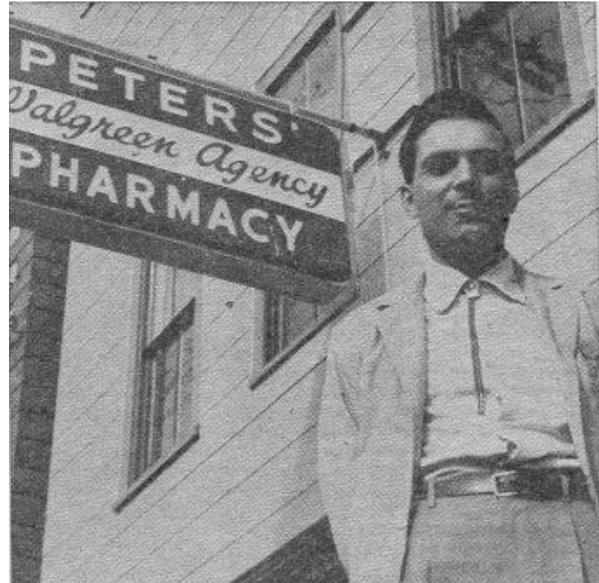
Texaco station [now a Shell station] across from the Civil War statue. [*Editor's Note: This was originally built as Dr. Buck's Drug store about 1870.*] That whole block is gone now and whenever I come into town from South Street for a visit, it still looks like a missing front tooth!



(Continued on Page 9)

(A Tale of Two Drugstores, Continued from Page 8)

The other drugstore was Peters next to the old brick bank building in Union Square. It later became a coffee shop named Cup and Easel among other things. Because I lived in Foxcroft and Lanpher's was closer, I seldom ventured into Peters' but remember Fred Peters as a very nice man. My sister's brother-in-law Jere White ran the Radio Shack section for a while. I'm sure one of the *Conserver's* readers could write more definitively re Peters'.



**Fred Peters outside his drug store**

Orville Lanpher took over Perrin's around 1957. I grew up thinking his name was "Ahh-Vee" because of the dropping of the "R" in our Mainer dialect. He once told me he had wanted to become a doctor but couldn't afford med school so went to pharmacy school. He was a gentle man with a good sense of humor. Here's an example:

Candy bars in those days cost a nickel. So when I went to pay for one and laid out my little palm with the nickel on it, he would sharply slap my fingers, making the nickel hop from my hand to his! I don't know how many times I fell for that, but more than once.

Speaking of candy bars, here are some readers are sure to remember Milky Way [still around but no dark chocolate version in those days]; Charleston Chews, Necco Wafers [Necco standing for the New England Confectionary Candy company of Massachusetts]; Turkish Taffy [best if put in the freezer and then cracked into pieces on your palm]; Fifth Avenue; Payday; and my favorite Reese's Peanut Butter Cup [also best if first in the freezer]. There were also Sugar Daddies and Sugar Babies. When I was six and had a loose tooth, it actually stuck in a Sugar Daddy and came out. And I haven't even gotten to penny candy.

My late father, Linus Stitham, MD, wrote his memoirs about his childhood in Aroostook County and included a whole chapter on penny candy! I think a paragraph here will do nicely. The best 'deal' were "Smarties" which had about 12 pieces for a penny. Mary Janes and Squirrels were tasty but the worst deal were those little wax bottles of sweet liquid which had about two drops of stuff. If you were 'brave,' you'd buy Red Hot balls. I liked red licorice but couldn't stand black licorice [and still dislike the anise flavor, e.g. Ouzo, a Greek liqueur]

(Continued on Page 10)

(A Tale of Two Drug Stores, Continued from page 9)

There was also a display of nuts that rotated in a white warmer device. My sister Cherie, when she gave up candy for Lent, could indulge herself there. [I, being a much better Catholic, gave up lima beans...because I didn't like them to begin with.] And of course, there was a soda fountain.

Both Lanpher's and Peters' had a soda fountain which was the centerpiece of much of my childhood after-school life. You could spin around on the stools while ordering a Root Beer Fuzzy served in a frosted mug for the outrageous sum of FIVE CENTS. Mom would often treat us to a fountain coke made at the counter after Catholic Mass on Sundays. She usually had a cherry coke, I, a vanilla, and my kid brother Kevin, a 'zombie'—a little shot of EVERY flavor. These were ten cents. Big sister Susan would often have a vanilla milkshake. Mr. Lanpher finally closed the soda fountain down because we kids weren't buying enough. Peters' kept theirs a while longer.

As an aside re prices: For most of my childhood in the 50s, my allowance was a dime. But that could buy: two candy bars; two Fudgecicles or two Popsicles; or a DC comic [Superman or Batman usually although I liked Flash and the Green Lantern especially] Comic books then had *three* complete stories in them. Creamsicles, though, were an expensive whole dime because they had "real" ice cream! And Center Theatre's admission price for kids on Saturday matinees was a quarter. They had candy you couldn't get elsewhere. [Center Theatre needs a whole article by itself.]

Lanpher's sold just about everything except hardware: greeting cards; school supplies; etc. It was like a miniature department store.

Music was a vital part of my childhood and especially the Sixties. Lanpher's had a jukebox—one song for a dime and three for a quarter. They also sold 45s for 77 cts. [I was so glad Steve Jobs brought back the 'single' with his iTunes store—record companies got greedy in the CD era, charging \$18 or \$19 to get the one or two tracks you really wanted.]. Albums were either \$2.99 for monaural or \$3.99 for stereo...and often I didn't have the extra buck so had to get the mono! [And sometimes the labels would "electronically re-channel" to make an ersatz "stereo." It was often just the vocal on one channel and the instrumental backing on the other, so the mono was often the better aural choice.]

Lastly, I want to mention the friendly ladies and teens who worked there for years. There were many including my girlfriend, Karen Baker *nee* Blodgett at the soda fountain but two stand out: Martha London and Beryl Dow. They watched me grow up and were always very kind to the little boy up the street.

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## Wm. Buck & Co.

Have a full stock of School Books, Writing Pads, Blank Books, Pencils, Pens, Ink, and other articles for school use, besides a large line of all Drugs, Medicines, and such articles as are found in a well appointed Drug Store.

Prescription work will receive careful attention.

**No. 15 Foxcroft Square.**

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## Message from Mary

Summer is here – the leaves are bursting forth and all is green and new! Your society is ready for another busy summer. At the Observer Building, Dennis Lyford has added new toys to the “Unplugged” exhibit and I have come up with a new exhibit called “Drugstore.com”. This past winter the family of Ted and Betty Harvey donated some wonderful items, including many bottles from local drugstores Ted had collected over the years. These, along with what we had in our collection, made a super display. Stop by on a Thursday and check it out.

The Blacksmith Shop is now open. We have 3 demonstrations planned for this summer:

June 18 – Matt Griffith from Guilford

July 30 – John Calderwood from Etna

August 20 – Pat Roy from Belfast

We are also adding a “Carver’s Corner” and knife sharpening. Bruce Towl has made cutouts – bring your camera. Food and drink will be available.

We hope to see you this summer!

## 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

2015 – Mayo’s Mill

2016 – Piscataquis County Court House

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)

**Thank you all!**

### 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.

**The Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society, Inc.**  
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