
LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

Letter from Ed

Dear LCHA friends,

It is my great pleasure to announce that we have hired Kerry Cushing as our new part-time Executive Director. This is a giant leap forward for LCHA, and one we have talked about for some time.

Kerry was introduced to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting on May 2nd, and the decision to offer her the position was unanimous. Thank you, Bill Danielson, for the countless hours you spent so aptly directing the search committee .

Stewardship committees at the Pownalborough Court House, Chapman Hall House, and the Museum and Old Jail are busily preparing for the summer season. New interpretive signs, produced with a grant from the Davis Foundation, will be installed before opening day.

Please join us on July 24 for our summer fundraising event, **Kermess at the Foye-Sortwell Farm**. We're having a traditional lobster bake (with steak and vegetarian options) and music by *Pan Fried Steel*.

Ed Kavanagh, President

Meet our new director

By Bill Danielson



In the last issue of the LCHA Chronicle, we reported that we had begun a search for LCHA's next Executive Director. Through the following months our search committee reviewed numerous applications, interviewed candidates, checked references, and met over and over. Now we are happy to report that our search was not merely successful; it was highly successful! Around June 1, Newcastle resident Kerry Cushing will begin work as our new Executive Director.

Kerry is no stranger to Lincoln County, nor to non-profit operations. For sixteen years, she has worked in the Development Office at Lincoln Academy. Earlier, she spent two years at the Maine Maritime Museum's Development Office. She also worked for a semester at Wiscasset Middle School, teaching and developing a foreign language curriculum. Equally important, Kerry was universally commended as a hard worker who sees projects to successful completion.

At LCHA, Kerry's primary duties will be to strengthen the Association's financial base, develop our membership program, and to assist in routine LCHA business. LCHA trustees are confident that Kerry has the experience, the energy, and the temperament to excel at these crucial tasks.

Kerry received her Bachelor's degree from Radford College in Virginia, and has studied at Bates College and at Kassel (continued on next page)

University in Germany. She lives in Newcastle with her two sons.

When she can find the time she enjoys gardening and cooking, and says she would love to travel some day, when circumstances permit.

LCHA's energy level, and the long hours our volunteers contribute in making the Association hum, have impressed Kerry and attracted her to the position. Given her own reputation for hard work, we know she will hum right in tune. She enthuses, "I can't wait to get going!"

Welcome, Kerry!

Education Outreach

By Louise T. Miller, Education Coordinator

The focus of our work is to develop new and innovative ways to involve children and their families in the study of Lincoln County history. The goal is important, but it is always a challenge to stretch our budget to accommodate these projects. Earlier this year, with the guidance and assistance of Mary Ellen Barnes of Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, we submitted a grant proposal for funding of a program called the Heritage Children's Baskets.

Heritage Children's Baskets are designed to be interactive resources for children at each of the LCHA sites that can enhance the experience of visiting families. They will include games and books appropriate to each site's particular history. These same resources will be used in a second new program for children called *Summer with the Past*. In addition, the games will be offered to schools during the winter months for classroom use —

offering yet another way to look at history.

The Outreach Program continues to gain momentum. In April I made my first visit to the 5th graders at the Ames School in Searsmont, enjoying a lively exchange with the students for almost two hours. During that time the children worked on the Horn Book resource that we offer to schools.

May will be a particularly busy month: I will visit Sheepscot Children's House and Bristol Consolidated School with a program on Colonial home life and I will supervise visits to all three LCHA sites by Great Salt Bay's 5th graders. Jay Robbins is bringing a group of young people from Belfast's Game Loft program to visit the Court House this month as a complement to their Coming of Age in America project.

I will confer with principals at four schools about the types of programs that will best enhance their curriculums. Their interest and enthusiasm speaks well for our program.

A brochure with details about the *Summer with the Past* program is now available. The week-long programs will take place on site at Chapman-Hall House (June 20-24, 9AM - Noon), Pownalborough Court House (July 18-22, 9AM - 3PM), and the Old Jail (August 8-12, 9AM - 3PM). Each day the children will experience a variety of activities, games and presentations based on the heritage of the particular historic site. Fees are \$65 per child (\$55 for LCHA Members) for the Chapman-Hall House week; \$115 (\$105 for LCHA Members) for the Pownalborough Court House and the Old Jail. Each week is limited to eight children, ages 8, 9, and 10. Please register early if you have child who would enjoy this special glimpse into the past.

***Summer with the Past* brochure is available now. Send an email to info@lincolncountyhistory.org**

On the Road with LCHA

By George Keyes

The historic seaports of Salem and Marblehead, across from each other about 14 miles north of Boston, are among the oldest Puritan settlements in the New World. Both attained great prosperity through trade, especially with China and the Far East. Both towns contain neighborhoods filled with historic structures and are largely dominated by pre-revolutionary and Federal period homes. Salem's Chestnut Street is considered by many to be the most beautiful residential street in America.

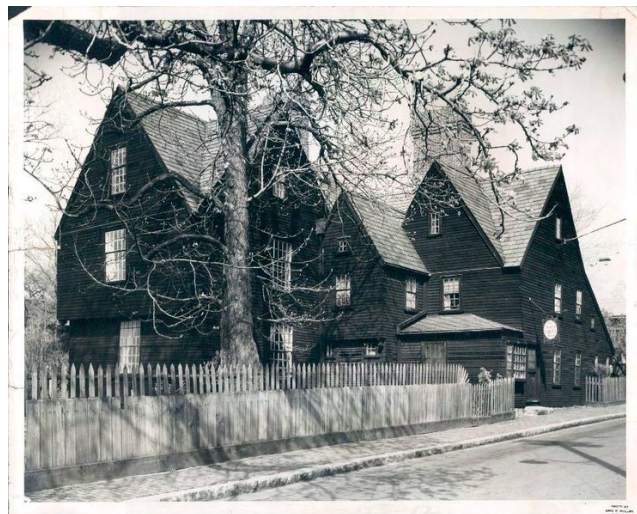
Our three-day program highlights the leading historic sites of both towns. On Day One we will visit the House of the Seven Gables followed by the Peabody-Essex Museum, including its Gardiner-Pingree House. The day's touring will end with a late afternoon stroll along Chestnut Street. Our historic hotel is at one end of Washington Square, one of the grandest early public spaces to survive from the Federal period.

On Day Two we set out for Marblehead where we will first visit the Jeremiah Lee Mansion—one of the best preserved and richly furnished Georgian period wooden frame houses to have survived in the English colonies. Home to the Marblehead Historical Society, this historic house was furnished with the advice of Henry Francis Dupont, whose sister, Elizabeth Crowninshield, was a key figure in the historic preservation of Marblehead early in the last century. Following this museum visit we will have time to stroll about old Marblehead and find a harborside eatery for lunch.

We will then return to Salem and visit the Witch House near Chestnut Street and the Salem Maritime Historic Site with the opportunity to visit the Richard Derby House, the nineteenth century Customs House, and the Derby Wharf.

On Thursday morning we will either remain in Salem or drive to Gloucester where we will visit Beauport on Eastern Point (the home of Henry Sleeper, a pioneer in creating period room ambiances by incorporating period architectural elements into the settings). Then we will continue on to Essex for lunch at one of its seafood restaurants. After that we will proceed to Cogswell's Grant, the Georgian saltwater farm that was the summer home of Bertram and Nina Little (Bertram was a director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities — now Historic New England — and Nina was a foremost collector of American folk art).

Reserve your space now. Tour is limited to 18 people. Contact Chris Hopf-Lovette at hopflovette@roadrunner.com or 207-522-6397 for a complete itinerary and information about reserving rooms at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass. LCHA has obtained a special rate of \$159 per night.



House of Seven Gables, Salem, Mass.

Stewardship Reports

Chapman- Hall House

By Louise Miller

Chapman-Hall will host its annual celebration of *Three Traditions* on opening weekend, June 11 and 12. Costumed historians Jeff and Gail Usher of Historic New England will share traditions of the colonial Native American; Jeffrey Miller of Flintlock Forge will demonstrate colonial navigation; and Paul Dauite of Hallowell will play the part of the settler militiaman. The hours for the weekend are Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM and Sunday 12 Noon to 3 PM.

Jeff Miller will return on Saturday, June 18th, to demonstrate blacksmithing in the colonial tradition from 10 AM to 4 PM. Beginning on Monday, June 20th, the Chapman-Hall House will sponsor its first children's summer program: *Summer with the Past*. This is a week-long program for children ages 8 to 10. Details can be found in Louise Miller's Education report.

On July 9th the Stewardship Committee will host the Damariscotta Historical Society for an afternoon social at the home of Elizabeth and Sarg Potter. July 23rd is set for the Annual Yard Sale fundraiser at the corner of Church Street and Elm Street from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

The tool exhibit in the ell of the house is being refurbished with new signage funded by a portion of the recent Davis Foundation grant.

The summer season promises to be a busy one, not just with special programs and projects,

but with the on-going efforts of preservation and documentation. The windows of the house are slated to be reglazed this year and the Collections Committee will continue documenting the various house artifacts. The committee is delighted with how much of their work has been entered into the LCHA data base, thanks to Linda Pope! Be sure to stop by and visit. Miriam will be in the yard to welcome you (unless it raining).

Museum & Old Jail

By Christine Hopf-Lovette

The MOJ Stewardship Committee gets things done! Three major projects that were initiated over the winter are nearing completion: eight of the twelve upstairs windows have been restored; three interpretive panels will be delivered in time to be installed before opening day; and the shed now boasts brand new and brightly painted clapboard siding .



Ed Kavanagh assists carpenters Ron Stead and wife Mary with installation of new siding on the shed.

The committee is particularly grateful for the time Tim Utley and David Pope have put into the windows, an exercise that involved removing entire sashes for repair and reglazing. They will look even prettier with new curtains, donated by Jenny Spaur.

The new interpretive panels were developed with help from the firm of Woodworth Graphic Design. The accompanying text, which includes maps, photos, and illustrations, was a group effort that took many hours, a great deal of research, and careful editing and re-editing to zero in on the essential facts. Delivery is expected during the last week in May. We think they are quite fabulous and we encourage you to come and see them.

Once David Pope, Ed Kavanagh, and our carpenter Ron Stead got into the repair of the shed, they discovered issues that were not initially visible. There were large gaps in the sheathing, sills were problematic, and a portion of the flooring in a storage closet had rotted. These repairs added \$3500 to the cost of the job, which had originally been budgeted for \$6000.

How will we pay for this? Well, Judith Sutter says, "Our barn door is open, tables are set up, and the space is ready to accept all your treasures and discards for the Saturday, June 18, Old Jail Yard Sale."

Our committee continues to grow, and we will have enough volunteer docents so that we can schedule two per day each weekend.

Have you renewed your membership?

Visit www.lincolncountyhistory.org for details.

Pownalborough Court House

By Merry Fossel

The eagles have nested . . .

This spring a family of eagles has created a nest very near the Court House, in the first line of trees between the period garden and the Kennebec River. This means we are asking visitors to not to shout (not that you would). We will be adding some signage on eagles and presenting a program later in the summer. Many thanks to Wiscasset Garden Club members who work on our period garden. The garden promises to beautiful again this year.

Our annual clean-up was held in early May. School tours of the Court House have already begun. Our 62nd annual Memorial Day Observance will begin at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 30. Masonic Chaplain Bruce Alexander, of Dresden, assisted by local Revolutionary War Living History group will lead the program of honor for fallen soldiers at our revolutionary era cemetery. Louise Miller will run a program for children from Jun 20-24th. And Dresden Summerfest will be on July 10th this year.

This summer the PCH Committee will complete the signage and self-guided tour project, continue to catalog our collection, and study our historical landscape, including the cemetery and trails. The Committee has lined up volunteer docents for the summer. We will again employ a student intern with help from the Dresden Recreation Department. However, we are still looking for a couple of back-up docents, to fill in if one our regular docents can't make it. If you are interested in becoming a back-up docent, contact Merry Fossel at 586-5690.

The Pownalborough Court House is open on (continued next page)

Saturday and Sunday from 10AM to 4PM between Memorial Day and Columbus Day. In July and August, we are open six days a week – from Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and residents of Dresden may visit for free.

LCHA Spotlight:

Chris Hopf-Lovette

By Beth Quivey

Chris Hopf-Lovette makes everything look easy! An accomplished seamstress, an avid reader, a graphic designer and editor, Chris loves to learn and to take on new challenges.



Chris grew up in New York State and studied at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. After a two-year experiment as a high school English teacher, she headed west to

San Francisco where she made her way into the advertising business as a print production manager. During that time she became involved in the Big Sisters program and collaborated with a friend to produce a fundraising calendar on San Francisco. The success of this venture convinced the two women to start a business.

Timing was perfect for the fledgling publishers, as calendars were just beginning to be sold on the retail market. They called their company Bo-Tree Productions and their calendars featured photography and fine art. A

portion of the proceeds from each of the calendars was donated to non-profit organizations related to its theme. It wasn't long before Chris and her partner had a team of sales reps and traveled the country marketing Bo-Tree products (which soon included a long line of calendars, date books and greeting cards) to bookstores, gift shops, and national chains. By the time the women sold their business, Chris had learned a lot about designing, graphics and marketing. She had also married George Lovette and their family now included a son, Thomas.

During the next stage of her business career, Chris focused on writing and editing. She became a media relations manager at a major electricity research organization in Palo Alto and, a certified copyeditor, she edited several non-fiction books.

A year after her husband's death in 2008, Chris moved to Wiscasset to be close to her sister Linda Pope. She was amazed at the number of volunteer opportunities in the Mid-coast area, but LCHA was at the top of her list, particularly since she lives right across from the Old Jail. "It made sense that I should be a docent at the Old Jail," she said, "but I also really like and respect our volunteers. They are intelligent and enthusiastic — and they bring such a variety of skills and talents to the organization."

Always busy, Chris also creates beautiful Japanese-style jackets under the name Asian Accents. You may have seen them at the Summer Island Studio in Brunswick. She loves to hike and has recently been taking lessons in fly fishing and German!

Chris is currently chair of LCHA's new fundraising event called Kermess, a lobster and steel band celebration at the Foye-Sortwell farm in July. With Chris at the helm, it is certain to be a fun evening!

Yard sales ahead: Lawn of the Old Jail, Wiscasset

June 18, 8 AM to 2 PM

Corner of Church and Elm, Damariscotta

July 23, 9 AM to Noon

All items welcomed including: furniture, household accessories, dishes, cookware, yard items, sports equipment, tools, electronics, books, jewelry, art, antiques, toys and anything else ready to be shared, except clothing.

Please give your attic and basement one more check, tell friends and family about the sale and support our annual fundraiser to the max. Let's make these our our biggest and best sales to date.

Collection Points:

Wiscasset: Sutter's barn 882-7230

132 Federal Street, Wiscasset

Damariscotta: Brewers' home 563-3289

22 Lewis Point Road, Damariscotta



Come to the Kermess!

Traditional Lobster Bake
(ribeye steak or vegetarian options)

Music by Pan Fried Steel
Raffle for Restaurant Gift Certificates
Silent Auction of Antiques

Sunday, July 24, 2016
5:00 PM

Foye-Sortwell Farm
104 Churchill Street
Wiscasset

Your invitation will arrive soon. Seating is limited, so order early. Tickets also available on the LCHA web site.



Lincoln County Historical Association

Executive Director Kerry Cushing

President Ed Kavanagh

Vice President Merry Fossil

Secretary Christine Hopf-Lovette

Treasurer Bill Brewer

Newsletter Editor Christine Hopf-Lovette

Trustees: Bobbi Brewer, Neil Cavanaugh, Bill Danielson, Phil DiVece, Bill Gemmill, George Keyes, Linda Levenson, Jeff Miller, Perry Palmer, Linda Pope, Elizabeth Potter, Faye Snyder, Judith Sutter

Let us hear from you. Call 882-6817 or email info@lincolncountyhistory.org

Volunteers Needed for the Kermess

Participation in this event is part of the fun. Please contact Chris Hopf-Lovette at 522-6397 or by email at hopf-lovette@roadrunner.com if you'd like to help. Here's what we need:

- lobster bake helpers
- steak grillers
- servers
- greeters
- silent auction attendant
- raffle sales
- bartenders
- set up
- clean up
- parking attendants