

LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

President's Letter



Dear LCHA Members and Friends,

I am so pleased to be LCHA's new president!

Ed Kavanagh has stepped down after six years as our sterling

leader and has handed me the reins to the good steed LCHA, or "Elsie." Elsie's well trained and well maintained: old in bones but young in zeal; lean of body, thin of coat in places, but chock full of commitment! My job, like that of past presidents, will be to keep this nationally, historically registered triple-crowned thoroughbred moving steadily forward on our mission.

I've been a part of LCHA since the day after Esther and I arrived in Wiscasset, six years ago. On that fateful morning I met David Pope, who invited us to join the Museum and Old Jail's Stewardship Committee. I thought, "Wow! They must be desperate!" But David's gesture was simply typical of the good will that pervades LCHA. We joined, and the rest is history. Lincoln County History.

My emails and phone calls to friends and family overflow with superlatives about LCHA and our three properties. But I'm still learning the ropes, or reins, and I ask everyone's help as I get the hang of this new assignment.

One way you can help right away is by passing this newsletter along to a friend or neighbor, and suggesting they become an LCHA member and join our community. We're not desperate, merely friendly, and there's good work to do!

Bill Danielson

2018 Winter Lecture Series

by Esther Danielson

LCHA's 2018 Winter Lecture Series has come and gone, but all four lectures will be remembered for their interesting content, their lively presentation, and the friendly atmosphere. All but one of the four Sunday lecture days was stormy but not dreadful enough for rescheduling. Folks who attended, true Mainers all, came out in numbers and filled the hall in every case.

Peter and Teresa Fogg presented the first talk, *Approaching Conservation and Restoration of Paintings, Frames, Textiles and Documents*. A rapt audience learned about technical aspects of framing artwork and documents, including repairing frames, a specialty of Teresa's. The Foggs also described and illustrated some of the techniques they use to conserve and restore damaged paintings and documents, and they discussed their philosophy on how much to preserve. The preservation work the Foggs do is removable, and the original work can always be retrieved. We came away in awe of these two local master preservationists and of their dedication to their work.

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2018 Lecture series, cont.



Julia Lane sings as she plays the Celtic harp

On February 11 well-known Maine duo Castlebay performed and talked about old time folk music and seafaring songs known to have been popular in Maine in colonial and post-colonial times. Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee sang acapella or accompanied themselves on a variety of instruments, including guitar, tin whistle, fiddle, and Celtic harp.

The third lecture featured a copy of one of the most accurate early maps of the Wiscasset area. Dennis Dunbar of Westport Island obtained a digital copy of the 1772 Sproule Map from England and presented a 30x50" inch printed copy to LCHA. After the presentation of the map Matthew Edney, Osher professor of the history of cartography at the University of Southern Maine, described how Maine was mapped in the earliest days of

English settlement and showed a variety of early maps of "Witchcasset."

Peggy Konitsky, Historic New England's Wiscasset manager of the Nickels-Sortwell House and Castle Tucker, gave the last lecture, titled *From Nickels to Sortwells – The Life of a House*. Illustrating her talk with historic photographs, she listed the many owners of the Nickels-Sortwell House and described how the Nickels and Sortwell families furnished and lived in it.

The LCHA Winter Lecture Series has become a fixture of Wiscasset winters. During the dark, cold months it provides a place for friends to learn local history, meet friends, and enjoy a cup of coffee and home-baked cookies and bars. Let us know your ideas for next year's Series!

Stewardship Reports

Pownalborough Court House

by Dave Probert

An important agenda item for 2018 is the installation of a new roof on the ell of the Court House. In preparation for this project, we completed some crucial foundation work that involved replacement of a portion of the sill. A number of clapboards were also replaced.

Construction has also begun on a remodel of the Carriage House bathroom. Slated for completion by the end of April, the new construction will yield a handicap-accessible multi-gender bathroom.

Another project that we believe will open up the the Court House Grounds for the enjoyment of many more people is a 1500 foot long wheelchair-accessible trail and parking area located directly across Rt. 128, (Cedar Grove Rd). Please join us for an opening ceremony to be held on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2nd at 10:00 AM.

Damage from the October 2017 wind storm included a number of blow-downs. Major damage was visible in the wooded area on the left side of Court House Road and near the Old Court House Cemetery. We retained the services of a logger who expects to reap about three loads of pulp wood and a couple of loads of good sawlogs. LCHA stands to make a little money from this harvest, but the improved look of the grounds is an even more important result.



The newly remodeled Carriage House bathroom will be wheelchair-accessible.

A preliminary schedule of upcoming events is as follows:

- May 28 Memorial Day events and opening
- June 2 Opening ceremony for wheelchair accessible trail.

Several dates are still open for 2018 weddings. For information, please contact Perry Palmer at info@lincolncountyhistory.org.

Chapman-Hall House

by Louise Miller

Spring is here and the stewardship committee is anxious to get into the house and let in the fresh air. Before closing up for

winter, local artist Doreen Conboy did a great job of refreshing the paint in the parlor in a shade of color that matches the original.

Our volunteer gardeners are looking forward to seeing how the herb garden and the new mountain laurel bush fared the winter. The terrific winds significantly damaged the sign in front of the house. It is now being repaired and will be back in time for opening day.

To get a jump start on the season, a special program is planned for Mother's Day, May 13th. R. P. Hale, music master, will join us at the house with an informal performance of Colonial harpsichord music between 12 noon and 4 PM. Mr. Hale will also chat with visitors in the parlor. To complement the day, the Annual Plant Sale will be back. A wide variety of garden plants will be available and can be viewed on the lawn at the house. For this special occasion, docents will dress in mid-18th C. clothing, and light refreshments will be served.

The following week, Mr. Hale will be in residence at the Old Jail in Wiscasset sharing the skill of a Colonial printer with students. Other early season events include the ever-popular *Shredding on Site* on June 1 from 9 AM to noon and opening day on June 2. Children participating in the *Summer with the Past* program will be welcomed before the month is out.

With the arrival of warmer weather, the collections committee will again take up their work of cataloging artifacts. Preservation and restoration needs of the house structure are slated for evaluation during the summer. Please stop in and spend some time getting acquainted with the Chapman-Hall House.

Museum & Old Jail

by Christine Hopf-Lovette

An old building that is not heated in the winter seems to create maintenance issues that provide us with lots of opportunities for speculation. What caused the mold to appear on the wall of the parlor in the Jailer's Quarters? Why is moisture running down the plastic UV blackout shades? Why is the carpet wet on the second floor?

Each month a check of the building is carried out by one of our stewardship committee members, and our meetings are often filled with discussions about how to deal with the latest revelations. In trying to answer the question about mold, our facilities committee members opened the wall to see if water was seeping through the exterior bricks. No, the lathes behind the plaster were dry. This is a relief because exterior bricks with obvious mortar issues were re-pointed last summer.



Sometimes things look worse before they get better. In the 'after' photo, the mold is gone, but the plaster will have to be patched and painted.

David Pope, Ed Kavanagh, Bill Sutter, and Bill Danielson attacked the mold with scrapers and a 50-50 mixture of bleach and water. Most of it is gone for now, and they installed a fan to keep cold moist air from settling in the area. They will patch the remaining plaster when the weather is warmer.

In the same room, the base of the wallboard above the fireplace mantle is damp. An area about 5' x 6' is cracked and peeling. The committee may need to replace the whole section before we paint the parlor and dining room prior to opening for the season on June 2. Helpers are genuinely welcome!

Membership in LCHA

by Kerry Cushing

Spring – It's coming soon! Grass will be green, snow and mud will be history, and our stewardship committees will prepare our historic properties for summer visitors and special events.

An important spring project for LCHA is our April membership drive. Memberships are very important to any organization because they support the organization's mission – and everything that supports that mission. Members are our most faithful supporters, keeping costs down by donating their time and expertise working on exhibits, events, tours, and other activities throughout the year.

A benefit of LCHA membership is the opportunity for social engagement. Members feel at home at our sites and volunteers understandably feel a sense of pride when they bring friends and relatives to visit.

Memberships support:

- Maintenance of our historic sites.
- Programs in the museums and outreach into the community.

- Preservation of our collections for future generations.
- Events and lectures that bring people together and strengthen our communities.

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission to all three historic properties
- Summer Social in August
- LCHA Chronicle 3 times a year
- 10% off museum store items
- Annual Members Meeting/Party in the fall

Thank you to our members for supporting the work that maintains and preserves these historic properties - and the stories they tell for future generations.

Please keep an eye out for membership renewal forms that will be mailed in April.

Education Outreach

by Louise Miller, Education Director

While the winter months are usually quiet ones for us, we have had much to keep us happily busy this year. Our partnership with FARMS (Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools) in Damariscotta has expanded to a program on the history of food that included not only Colonial cooking with Great Salt Bay's 5/6 Grade and Southport School's K-2 Grades, but also late 19th Century cooking trends (a request by the Chewonki School 7th Grade), and World War II ration recipes at the Center for Teaching and Learning. In addition, an adult cooking program in November focused on special Colonial recipes for the holidays.

It has been very rewarding to work with Karen Kleinkopf and Leslie Wicks of FARMS as the students tackle recipes and critique the results. With the introduction of the first program in the spring of 2017, the history of food concept has taken off with six classes at FARMS between October 2017 and mid-March 2018.

Southport School borrowed the Heritage Children's Basket of books and games in November. Kindergarten through Second Grade listened to historical theme stories, several based in Maine, and tried their hand at Colonial games such as Shut the Box, Nine Men Morris, and Draughts (Checkers).

The education outreach program offerings have recently caught the eye of MARCH (Maine Apostolate of Roman Catholic Homeschoolers) and Homeschoolers of Maine. We look forward to welcoming their students during one of our presentations and/or field trips this spring.

Field trips in May will include *17th Century Lincoln County*, held at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic State, and *To Print the Written Word – The Skill of Colonial and Early 19th C. Printers and Engravers*. Letters will be going out shortly to remind teachers to sign up for these special presentations.

May will quickly float into June and it will be time to start the *Summer with the Past* children's programs. The week-long programs will be held at Chapman-Hall in June, the Court House in July and the Old Jail in August. Please check the web site or contact the LCHA office for dates.

I would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Burns Family Foundation for their continued financial support of the Education Outreach program at LCHA for 2018.

Meet Joe Zoellers

by Christine Hopf-Lovette



Joe Zoellers, trustee

The newest member of our Board of Trustees, Joe Zoellers, was first introduced to LCHA by his neighbor, Elizabeth Potter. As she welcomed Joe to Wiscasset a few years ago, Elizabeth, a

former LCHA trustee, shared her passion for old homes and Lincoln County history. Fortunately for us, her enthusiasm did not fall on deaf ears, for Joe is an interior design professional with a particular interest in historic preservation.

Joe and his partner Chris Erickson moved to Wiscasset in 2015 after searching throughout New England for a summer residence. With a focus on creating spaces for entertaining inside and out, they set to work renovating an 1898 Colonial style home on four-plus acres overlooking the Sheepscot. LCHA members who attended the 2017 summer party hosted by Joe and Chris, will attest to Joe's talent as a designer.

Joe was particularly drawn to Pownalborough Court House, which he discovered when he and Chris attended last year's Kermess. Before long, he had offered to be a volunteer docent, serving for the remainder of the 2017 season. Although he claims he still has a lot to learn about the house and its artifacts, Joe is looking forward to serving as a Court House docent again this year. Welcome Joe!

FB: Lincoln County Historical Association Maine

Save the Date!
Kermess 2018
BBQ AND BLUES
Pownalborough
Court House
Sunday, July 22, 5:00 PM

Lincoln County Historical Association

President - Bill Danielson
Vice President - Christine Hopf-Lovette
Secretary - Bobbi Brewer
Treasurer - Bill Brewer
Executive Director - Kerry Cushing

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Newsletter Editor: Christine Hopf-Lovette

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Photo Album



Serious logging at Pownalborough Court House after October storm.



New wheelchair-accessible trail at Pownalborough.



Ed and Cheri Kavanagh examine the Historical Atlas of Maine, a gift for Ed's service presented by incoming president, Bill Danielson.



Linda Pope, Bill Weary and Wendy Eichler enjoy appetizers at the Annual Meeting.



Professor Matthew Edney describes how early maps of Maine were made during a winter lecture.

