

LCHA CHRONICLE

Lincoln County Historical Association

SAVE THE DATE!

Kermess at
Pownalborough
Court House

- Sunday, July 21
- 5:00 - 8:00PM
- Savor the sounds of classical guitar
- Feast on paella
- Bid for delicious desserts and extraordinary experiences

Help celebrate Maine's Bicentennial

2020 marks the 200th anniversary of Maine's statehood, and organizations across the state are already planning how they will celebrate the bicentennial. Ryan LaRochelle, chair of LCHA's Bicentennial Committee invites members to join him in developing ideas for events throughout the county.

See page 5 for more information.

We're ready for the summer season

Stewards from our three sites explain how they have been preparing for this year's visitors.

More on page 3.

President's letter...



It has been an extraordinary experience over my past few years on the Board to understand the tremendous attention to detail that this organization exerts on its three properties. These sites are significant for their location adjacent to three watersheds and for the stories they tell of Maine in the colonial and early national periods.

The stewardship committees focus on conservation and preservation activities that will ensure that these important historic structures are not lost to future generations. I am impressed at how seriously the volunteers attend to site maintenance, greeting visitors, and education outreach.

Your Board of Trustees is also very committed. Last fall LCHA once again convened a meeting of local historical societies to learn about each other's program initiatives and discuss ways that we can continue the flow of information among us. And earlier this spring they revisited the strategic plan to bring it up to date with today's priorities.

After a successful winter lecture series, we'll continue our tradition of engaging social events with our fourth Kermess and second fashion show. Please watch for announcements about how we will observe the upcoming bicentennial of Maine statehood. We welcome your participation.

Michael Chaney, President of the Board of Trustees

WINTER LECTURE SERIES – 2019

by *Bill Danielson*

On four Sunday afternoons each year in frosty February and madcap March, a contingent of devoted history fans gathers in Wiscasset for coffee, pastries, easy conversation and, mainly, an outstanding presentation by a local expert on some aspect of local history. These little galas, LCHA's Winter Lectures, are held in the County's 911 building, courtesy of the Lincoln County Communications Center.



Doreen Conboy addresses an attentive audience on decorative wall treatments in February

This winter's series opened on February 3rd, when artist and photographer Doreen Conboy delivered a fascinating presentation to a full and enthusiastic house. Doreen gave a visual tour of decorative wall treatments such as stenciling, mural painting, trompe l'oeil and grain painting used in early 19th century Maine, based on years of her research throughout Lincoln County. She discussed materials and techniques, historic background, and the lore and legend surrounding the imagery.

"Resistance and Reprisal: The Scots-Irish of Mid-Coast Maine During the French and Indian War" was the title of Michael Dekker's February 10th lecture. Michael detailed how

unrest in the community of St. George (now Thomaston, Cushing and Warren) during the 1750s led to the colonists attacking their Penobscot neighbors and attempting to depose the Massachusetts representatives living there. Michael, a local history expert and the author of a book titled "French and Indian Wars in Maine", (and a former trustee of LCHA), dazzled everyone with his depth of knowledge.

On March 3rd, Master shipwright Leon Poindexter spoke to a packed house about the Revolutionary War ship replica Providence and its ongoing renovation under his direction at the Wiscasset waterfront. Leon has worked on a number of historic vessels including the USS Constitution and the Boston Tea Party ships and was technical advisor for the motion picture "Master and Commander." Leon's talk, part history lesson, part fascinating renovation detail and part shipwright stories, captivated everyone in attendance.

The Farnsworth Museum's curator Jane Bianco delivered the final lecture of the season, titled "Maine and the Index of American Design," on March 17th. The Index was a Great Depression relief project in which artists created an immense picture archive of American Arts. Jane presented and discussed illustrations of twenty-four objects from the Index, which were concurrently on exhibition at the Farnsworth. Her talk devoted special attention to the carvings by artist Edbury Hatch of Newcastle.

Great credit is due to our team of volunteers who baked treats, brewed coffee, set up and stored chairs, and made arrangements with the speakers. LCHA is grateful to Lincoln County for use of the conference room.

See you all next winter!

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

Museum and Old Jail

by David Pope

In the years since 1954 when LCHA took over maintenance of the Museum and Old Jail (MOJ) on Federal Street in Wiscasset, we have accomplished a great deal. Some of those early repairs, however, have come up for new attention. They include the replacement of the roof and gutters and the repointing and repair of the granite block and brick exterior surfaces. We also capped the four chimneys. A Davis Foundation grant largely funded this repair of the exterior.

With the stabilization of the exterior we can now turn our attention to the interior. Roof leaks and climate extremes have taken their toll on interior surfaces. The public spaces in the first floor of the brick jailor's house need repainting and plaster repair. This work is complicated by the existence of lead paint. George Keyes and Executive Director, Kerry Cushing, will pursue a grant to cover the cost of the lead abatement, repainting, and plaster repair. Special care is being taken to preserve the feel of history and patina of 200 years. This work is planned for the fall, as our season winds down.

We have been driven batty by our winged and furry friends. "MOJ" means "cave" in bat language. Under the advice of a Maine bat expert, we are evicting them in a humane fashion. We will provide alternate housing and move that housing away in stages. There will be bat house construction opportunities for anyone who is interested.

The "Sails on the Sheepscot" exhibit is being held over for a second and final year. We're making subtle changes and some not so subtle

— like placing a rowboat or dory in the front yard that can occupy families on their way in and out of the facility. We hope you'll stop by the MOJ during the summer months when we are open from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. We also invite you to become involved with the multitude of volunteer opportunities presented by the MOJ. That would make another "O" (opportunities) for the MOJ, so let's get our MOJO working!

Pownalborough Court House

by Dave Probert

Although winter has been at our doorstep these past few months, it doesn't mean that thoughts, activities, and planning for the Court House have hibernated.



The Court House Ell sports a new roof.

Just prior to last November's hunting season, we completed a major portion of the new trail that goes east across the newly-acquired Bill Waters property and a town-owned lot to the Common Rd, then west onto an original rangeway, intersecting with the existing PCH trail system. This spring we will finish a connector, including a small bridge, between this new trail and the existing Blue Trail. Our new trail brochure is complete, with all intersections numbered and trails color coded.

GPS tracks were sent to www.mainetrailfinder.com to update the information already on this useful website. Thank you to LCHA members Ryan LaRochelle and Keith Wood for helping with the trails.

In December Horch Roofing replaced the roof of the Ell. They did an outstanding job in about one and a half days, including new underlayment, drip edge and shingles. The bulk of this work was financed by a generous grant from the Belvedere Foundation.



A harvest of logs tidied up Court House property.

In January and February Chad Cray harvested logs from the 12-acre lot on the east side of Route 128. The project cleaned up blow-downs from the “Halloween ’17” storm and thinned trees that were marked for harvest from a 2010 operation. Chad did a very good job, working on frozen ground to reduce the impact on the forest floor. This lot looks well maintained.

We are requesting proposals for Carriage House repairs. The cost estimates will be used in our applications for grant funding. While repairs to the south end were completed during work on the new accessible bathroom, the other three sides need a few new clapboards, some finish carpentry work, paint, and new roof shingles.

We are also getting a quote to re-charge the north chimney. When finished, the chimney will have preserved the original bricks and will look the same as the south chimney.

One of the largest events the Court House will host this year occurs on June 16 when the grounds are a rest stop for the American Lung Association’s Trek Across Maine. There may be as many as 1800 people cycling through that day!

Visit Pownalborough Court House Museum on Facebook for up-to-date events and photos.

Chapman-Hall House

by Louise Miller

Our dedicated stewardship committee will prepare the site for visitors in mid-May. Over the winter, volunteers expanded and re-typed the genealogy of the Chapman and Hall families, spanning the 17th C. into the 19th C. To complement the hooked rug exhibit on the second floor, an 1880s catalog originally published by E.S. Frost of Biddeford, Maine and measuring just 3 ½” x 5 ½” was enlarged to 8½” x 11” to make it more readable. Frost was famous for his rug hooking canvases.



E.S. Frost canvas for rug hooking on display at Chapman-Hall House.

The winter has had its effect on the chimney system; some excess mortar that accumulated during chimney construction succumbed to the freezing and thawing and fell free. Cleaning up around the fireplaces is always a major part of Chapman-Hall housework.

The chore that is much more fun for us is to put together the year’s calendar of events. There was such a positive response to last August’s costume exhibit, that we will make it an on-going part of the site’s displays. We have received new pieces and crafted other costumes to represent various periods of time. A special “behind the scenes” tour will be offered.

Dates on the calendar as of this writing are: Shredding on Site, May 17th (8 AM to Noon) at the Bath Savings Bank parking lot next to CHH; Opening of the Season June 1 & 2; Blacksmithing at CHH on June 16th (fathers free on Father’s Day); Summer with the Past, June 24-28. We will also be adding a few touches around the house in celebration of October’s Pumpkinfest Weekend.

In the course of the year we plan to finish the window work and repair the plaster on the north wall of the downstairs bedroom. The ornamental apple trees have been pruned, but it is becoming obvious that the Stewardship Committee must think about replacing one or both of them. Please stop in for a visit and bring a snack to enjoy under the apple trees before or after touring the house. With the herb garden nearby, it is a very pleasant spot to sit.

2020: CELEBRATING MAINE’S BICENTENNIAL

By Ryan LaRochelle

2020 will mark the 200th anniversary of Maine’s statehood, and organizations across the state are already planning how they will

celebrate the bicentennial. The Maine Humanities Council convened a planning session in March to help groups begin to organize their own celebrations, which several LCHA members attended. There are a host of events already planned, including a conference this summer on Maine statehood at the University of Maine in Orono from May 30- June 1; a kickoff flag raising organized by Maine 200 on July 26; and several talks starting this fall in the local area organized by Linda Novak of Fort Western in Augusta.



Maine’s bicentennial is a unique occasion to draw residents, visitors, public servants and private businesses together to commemorate 200 years of statehood, celebrate Maine’s present, and inspire a healthy and prosperous future.

This occasion provides communities with an opportunity to think about their history, how it has influenced our way of life today, and how we might envision the collective future of our state.

To this end, LCHA has established a Bicentennial Committee, chaired by Ryan LaRochelle, to help plan and coordinate events throughout the county to celebrate Maine’s statehood. The purpose of this committee will be to plan our own LCHA events to celebrate the bicentennial and also to convene a meeting of Lincoln County historical societies and groups to help coordinate efforts and establish regular communications. This will ensure that groups are not duplicating events and also help us to share ideas, resources, and cross-publicize events.

Last December LCHA brought together 18 Lincoln County historic associations for a county-wide retreat to discuss ways in which the organizations can work together. We hope that the Bicentennial Committee will help keep this momentum going and bring the wide range of highly active and engaged historical societies and groups into closer contact with one another.

A few LCHA board members have already expressed interest in joining this committee. If you would be interested in joining, or would like additional information about celebrating Maine's bicentennial, please contact Ryan LaRoche either by e-mail at rlarochelle15@gmail.com or by phone at (413)464-3879. We hope that you will join us in commemorating this exciting moment in Maine's history.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

By Louise T. Miller, Director

The Education Department has had a busier than usual fall/winter season. Our work with Karen Kleinkopf at FARMS picked up again in October. Classes from Great Salt Bay asked for recipes focused on foods used by Maine Native Americans. Once the cooking was done, I presented to the students an overview of the foods, both wild and cultivated, harvested by the Native Americans. The lesson included information on plants, shellfish, fish, and game.

In November I presented "Sharing the Voyage: A Ship Captain's Wife's Experiences" at Lincoln Home. It was a pleasure to watch two ladies in the audience discover that they each had a relative who worked on the same ship in the late 19th century. Also in November, Jeff Miller presented 17th century. Fisheries of MidCoast Maine to the AP History class at Wiscasset High School.

The Semester School of Chewonki toured Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site to experience the LCHA Education program 17th Century. Lincoln County. Chop Point School of Woolwich toured the Court House.

The Homeschoolers of Maine convention in Rockport provided an opportunity to promote LCHA and the offerings of our education program and also to network with other historic sites and organizations.

With the coming of spring, school visits have begun with a visit to Dresden Elementary School, Center for Teaching and Learning, and Bristol Consolidated School, and Juniper Hill in Alna. A Revolutionary Tea cooking program is already on the calendar for FARMS, and schools are beginning to look forward to attending 17th Century. Lincoln County at Colonial Pemaquid.

Outside of the school programs, we will continue the internship program and the annual summer program for children, *Summer with the Past*. The dates this year are: Chapman-Hall House, June 24 -28, the Old Jail August 5-9. You can find more details a on the web site, lincolncountyhistory.org.



Decorating oyster shells at Center for Teaching and Learning included a lesson on the formation of the shell middens in Damariscotta.

LOOKING AHEAD

by Kerry Cushing, Executive Director

Using Maine's Bicentennial in 2020 as a catalyst, LCHA Trustees and members of the community held a strategic planning workshop in March. With the strategic plan from 2000 as a guide, we divided into two groups: internal, which focused on the financial health and planning for future operating and facility needs, and external, which focused on outreach, programs, and events. The groups then shared their thoughts and goals for LCHA to achieve by 2025. The end result defined the following goals for the organization:

1. To preserve and maintain the properties of the Association, namely the 1754 Chapman-Hall House, the 1811 Museum and Old Jail and the 1761 Pownalborough Court House.
2. To preserve, maintain and augment the collections of the Association and to limit the same to objects that relate to Lincoln County and are of historical and cultural value.
3. To provide for the display and interpretation of objects which relate to Lincoln County and are of cultural and historical value through exhibits, programs, displays and presence on social media.
4. To promote research and educational opportunities and to publish findings relating to Lincoln County history, crafts, archives and culture.
5. To cooperate with other organizations in Maine which are engaged in historic preservation, conservation and research.

6. To maintain and grow a robust LCHA community of members, active volunteers, and paid staff.
7. To assure adequate funding in order to achieve the above purposes.

As we prepare for this exciting time in Maine's history we will be addressing these goals with specific actions for 2020 and beyond. With over 1000 visitors at our museums and trails last season and 300 students participating in education programs, we have established a strong foundation on which to build. This is only possible with solid support from our members, volunteers, businesses, granting agencies, and friends in the community. Thank you for contributing so much to help preserve the history of Lincoln County.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

by Christine Hopf-Lovette, Vice President

We are very lucky to have some very talented and skilled volunteers who accomplish amazing things, year after year. However, we're feeling stretched and we hope that more of our LCHA members can join in on the fun.

Please give me a call if you are interested in becoming:

- a greeter or a guide at one of the sites
- a groundskeeper
- our webmaster
- an event planner
- a publicity assistant
- a collections and exhibit volunteer

Please email me at chopflovette@gmail.com or call 207-522-6397

Lincoln County Historical Association

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**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP?**

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Renewal letters are in the mail for your LCHA membership that runs from June 1 to May 31.

If you have not received your notice, or if you would like to join, please send an email to info@lincolncountyhistory.org. or call Kerry Cushing at 207-882-6817

Visit us at: www.lincolncountyhistory.org.

Like us on Facebook: Lincoln County Historical Association (Maine) and Pownalborough Court House Museum



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