



Harrison Historical Society

P.O. Box 294

Harrison, Maine 04040

Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2006

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting

President - Elaine L. Smith

1st Vice President - Allan D. Denison

Secretary - Gerald E. Smith

Treasurer - Virginia Denison

Curator - Martha Denison

Librarian - John Micavich

Historian - Gerald E. Smith

President's Message - Elaine Little Smith

I am pleased to report that as in past years our monthly programs have been interesting, informative, and well attended. Open house in July and August on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 has also, for the most part, been well attended with several people stopping by to trace genealogy. These monthly meetings, programs and open houses will continue in 2007.

In addition, we have had several requests from people all over the United States for genealogical information. This winter in January and February, Mary's House will be open on Thursday afternoons, weather permitting, for genealogical and historical research.

Section 2 of the Society By-laws has seven purposes. We have completed the one pertaining to writing and publishing a Bicentennial History. Those years of hard, dedicated work by several people are behind us and we can concentrate on our mission as an educational institution. We are continuing to collect and preserve data and information that pertains to the history of Harrison. As you read the report by our curator, you realize how good the response has been to this end.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers to keep up and record current happenings that will be the history of tomorrow. Likewise, dedicated volunteers work to maintain Society property.

We continue to capitalize on publicity generated by our Canal Boat built for the 2005 Bicentennial. After a long, hard struggle obtaining liability insurance for the boat, we were successful and it was in the water from mid-July until Labor Day. The Harrison Boy Scouts enjoyed a day's outing on the boat as did several Society members and friends. Present plans are for the boat to be in the water next summer from mid-June until mid-July when our insurance expires. Many have enjoyed learning about the canal boat era from 1830 to 1870 when Harrison became an in-land seaport.

Building Projects

Several projects have been started or completed at the Carlson Homestead this past year. Gerald Smith headed up groups that repaired a section of the barn floor and scraped and stained some of the house and shed. Norton Little and Scott Burnham topped out the kitchen chimney and added a cap. Donald Davis built and installed garage doors on the long shop. Elaine Smith has taken care of several cleaning projects.

Gerald Smith and Martha Denison have obtained a \$5000 grant to help pay for replacing the roofing on one side of the museum and painting the gable ends. A contract has been awarded to AC Construction for this work.

There are always projects that need our attention if anyone is interested in helping.

Bulletin Board Display

When you visit the Town Office check out our bulletin board display in the meeting room. It is changed regularly by curator, Martha Denison. Some of the topics covered include: Old Home Days, Schools, Summit Springs, Veterans and Christmas in Harrison. This exhibit is made up of photos, letters, and other artifacts which we have received over the years. Please continue to think of us when you run across old relics pertaining to Harrison's history.

In Memorium

Celia Tarbox Ballard, a Life Member, passed away in October at the age of 94. She was born in Harrison, educated in Harrison schools and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1930. She grew up in the house just up Main Street from the Community Church. Her folks took in boarders. One of the first to stay was "Duke" Clarence Overland who lived there for many years. He was an excellent swim teacher and gave lessons at Crystal Lake. They also boarded school teachers and in the summers served meals - charging fifty cents for a full course dinner at noon. They grew their own vegetables and Celia had to pick berries for the pies. She also helped out in the kitchen and served as waitress. They used ice for refrigeration and the large cakes of ice were hard for Celia to get into the icebox. It was quite an event when they were first hooked up to electricity. The first night they turned on a light in every room upstairs and down to celebrate.

For entertainment, Celia enjoyed listening to their Edison Victrola. Later they acquired a radio, but they had only two sets of earphones and had to take turns listening. She also enjoyed the movies which were shown at the Bungalow Playhouse. In the wintertime there was sliding and skiing.

Celia worked in the South Waterford Post Office and Abbott's Store for five years. She married Frank Ballard, a carpenter and deputy sheriff. They lived in Fryeburg where she worked for seventeen years at the Fashion Corner. She lost both her son and husband in the mid 1960s but never dwelled on that. She was a social person who enjoyed getting together with friends. She and other ladies were often seen bicycling around Fryeburg roads on various outings. Always a positive person, she was devoted to helping others. When her sister-in-law became ill, she returned to Harrison to help care for her. She started the BA Annual Alumni Fall picnic which celebrated its 23 rd year in September. She was active in church, club work and both the Harrison and Fryeburg Historical Societies.

Orpha Sias Davis, a Life Member and past President, passed away in October at the age of 103. She was born in Newport, NY, attended grammar school in Waterford and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1921. As a dormitory student, she frequented the grocery store next to the Harrison Library and became special friends with the red headed manager/owner, Bert Davis whom she married in 1922.

They lived in various houses in town including a converted hen house set back from the road across from the present Long Lake boat launch. They lived behind the block while Bert was building their house at the foot of Edward K. Hill. Orpha worked at cleaning, painting and paper hanging jobs and at the B & M Corn Shop in the fall.

In 1938 they bought the property on Crystal Lake that became known as Shorelands. One time she and her husband booked the same cottage to two different people. They ended up building a new cottage so that neither of the guests would be left without a place to stay. Over the years, Shorelands grew into a complex of 21 cottages. Orpha took on the job as proprietor - advertising, writing to campers and booking their summer rentals during the winter, greeting guests, getting them settled, cleaning each cottage as vacated, doing the laundry, and even helping tend a vegetable garden. Many of the guests who rented the facilities became life-long friends returning year after year.

About 1963 Orpha had a bout with tuberculosis and spent most of a year at the sanitarium in Waterville. They sold Shorelands in 1965 to Richard "Buck" and Noreen Smith. Orpha and Bert moved to the large house on High Street. They also bought a place in Florida and spent several months there each winter. They continued to be active in town affairs. Orpha was a member of the Community Church for 82 years, a member of the Ladies Circle, American Legion Auxiliary and the Rebekahs.

She and Bert often took part in various entertainments. Orpha loved being the center of attention. She wrote many humorous ditties to the delight of all who heard them. She produced and performed many skits and plays often with the help of her friend, Dorothy Stackpole.

Barbara Gray Sampson passed away in March at the age of 97. She was born in South Paris and attended schools in New Hampshire and Vermont. She married Kenneth Sampson in 1928. She and Ken ran Ken's Koffee Kup at the Grange Hall in Harrison from 1936-1942. Today sketches can still be seen on the Grange walls from those restaurant days. The restaurant opened the same time as Deertrees Theater. They served many of the Deertrees workers and performers on a daily basis and many became longtime friends. An extra chef and more waitresses were hired during the summer to cover the long shifts and many of the local girls worked there. It was also a good place for school kids to meet and play cards or just "hang out" after school. The restaurant closed in the fall, of 1942 because of food rationing. Barb and Ken also worked summers in the kitchens of various boys and girls camps.

She was librarian at Bowdoin College for several years. They returned to Harrison in 1966. Barb was active in the Ladies Circle of the United Parish in Harrison where she helped organize many suppers.

She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and all kinds of fancy work.

In Memorium

Dorothy Rheume LeBlanc passed away in April. She was born in Lawrence, Mass. where she lived with her husband Gerard. They enjoyed summers in Harrison. Dorothy enjoyed ballroom dancing, singing, music, baking and boating with her family.

Zane A. Thompson, a Life Member, passed away in March. He graduated from Bridgton High School in 1952 as Valedictorian of his class. He graduated from the University of Maine with high honors in 1956 where he served as Editor of the Prism yearbook. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa. He attended the London School of Economics in London, England, on a fulbright scholarship. He also graduated from Harvard Law School.

Zane worked for Fiduciary Trust Co. in Boston, Mass, from 1963 to 1982. He was a trust counselor and at the time of his retirement was serving as vice president. He retired to Roque Bluff, Maine, and wintered in Florida. He took an early interest in genealogy and traced his family history back to the sixteen hundreds. He was interested in his Scottish roots and enjoyed the gatherings of the clans and their history. He also assisted others in tracing their histories.

Life in the Parsonage - November 1989 Program by Orpha Sias Davis

The Sias family, mother, father and three daughters, arrived in Waterford at the Lake House in 1909. The accommodations seemed luxurious and they were treated as guests until their furniture arrived and they could move into the parsonage. Rev. George Sias had been called to serve in Waterford and the parsonage was their home for about nine years.

They loved the rope swing in the barn, the carriage and black wagon on the barn floor and the animals in the stalls. There was hay in the loft to play hide and seek in, and chickens to hatch and kittens to be born. Original plays were presented in the barn for a theater.

Most of the Sias family's everyday and play and dress-up clothes came from the missionary barrel in the attic. The attic was a great place to play on rainy days and a place to sleep in summer when the big front rooms were let to boarders. One attic room was used for a swimsuit changing area as the lake was near by for bathing.

There was no electricity or central heating. Instead wood stoves, Franklin fireplaces, kerosene lamps, a four-holer toilet, a pump in an iron sink, a movable washing machine and a huge tin bathtub were their conveniences. There were many chores to be done by the children. Washing dishes, bringing in the wood and piling it in the shed, filling lamps with kerosene, cleaning lamp chimneys, making beds, ironing and emptying chamber pots were some of the tasks. They also did gardening, mountain climbing, berry and flower picking, sliding and skating.

Travel was mostly by horse and wagon or on foot and over the years they had several horses to use, provided to them by neighbors.

The parsonage was always a busy place with lots of entertaining, even some weddings and unexpected guests for Sunday dinner. A group of teenage boys, a group of older men and the ladies sewing circle would meet there.

Membership

We welcome the following new life members:

John E. Ebinger
Janet E. M. Libby
Craig K. Chute
Philip A. Chute

Support our society and become a member with an annual donation of \$5.00.

Individual Member	5.00
Donor	25.00
Sustaining	100.00
Patron	500.00
Benefactor	1000.00
Each Lifetime Member, a one time gift of	100.00

Please mail to: Harrison Historical Society, P O Box 294, Harrison, ME 04040

Curator's Report - *Martha Denison, Curator*

The Historical Society has been very fortunate to receive many important items since our last newsletter which has kept me very busy cataloging them. Many thanks to the following donors:

- **Douglas, Mary Ann-Woodland** Rebekah Lodge Recipe Book 1907
- **Bellanger, Achille**-Letter from George Seacord, cast iron sink, keys to Armstrong Cabins, postcards, photos, 1974 & 1971 OHHS yearbooks, signs, wooden box, Harrison fire coat, Vacationland survey map 1970, Purington Lumber apron
- **Lakeside Grange**-Replica of Lakeside Grange building used in 2005 parade
- **Carsley, Bill**-Bobsled
- **Knight, Sam & Linda**—Superior Court 1913, 1864 framed certificate
- **Denison, Phil & Betty**—Harrison Junior Drum & Bugle Corp. large drum with anvil, cover and pedal, photo of Mona & Joe Irish, autograph book of Fred Greene, fire cap belonging to Happy Hapgood
- **Scribner, Edwin**-c. 1950 bicycle, Ballantine Ale & Narragansett Ale bottles
- **Ebinger, John & Betty**—Handmade apple dolls c. 1920, special issues of newspapers, books titled "Cars 1930's & 1940's" and "Cars Early & Vintage 1886-1930," recipe book 1936
- **Scribner's Mills Preservation Inc.**—Ricker Machine patterns
- **Family of Orpha Davis**~c. 1930 washing machine, Shorelands calendars, tintype photos, cards, old flashlight, Bert Davis WWI uniform, sewing kit, 1942 canteen, felt boots, theatrical supply box and contents, antique auto poster, Fire Department hat belonging to Bert Davis, Navy chaps, Jello Cookbook, hymnals, maps, Navy caps, Biscuit Quilt, Town Report 1919, many plays & skits, 1951 Harrison Old Home Days booklet, Flatland Cloggers booklet 1981, Deertrees Theater program 1949
- **Mahoney, Bill**—DownEast Magazine 1956, Bon Ami household cleaner, buttonhook
- **Butterfield, Ken & Gail**-Bridgton High School Class of 1959 photo, Bolsters Mills Grammar School photo 1950, Eastern Star programs 1972-1992, Army uniform c. 1960
- **Martin, Dr. Rex**-Leather medicine bag & contents c. 1960 carried to make house calls for 40 years
- **Tarbox, Jim**—Receipts for the Odd Fellows building, list of voters 1888, centennial meeting notice, School Report 1912-1913
- **Lundstrom, Eva**—History of Baldwin
- **Radner, Babette**—Book about Maida Solomon's psychiatric work
- **Schroeder, Marion**—Ricker sewing machine instructions, business card for C. L. Walker, map, sampler done by Dr. Ruby Day
- **Pitts, Donna**-Copy of Minta Greene Scrapbook 1914-1921, Pitts Family Census 1790-1920
- **Heino, Robert**-History of Lutheran Cemetery
- **Maxfield, Durward & Evelyn**—Several receipts from area businesses, many photos of Randall & Trafton families, graduation photos of Harrison residents, school photos
- **Holden, George & Jean**-Ernest D. Murray's Bible signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, world map showing Ed Murray's travels
- **Denison, Allan**—Boy Scout shirt c. 1954
- **Dabczynski, Debby**—Videotape of Harrison Bicentennial Town Band Aug. 2005
- **Howard, Phil & Ann**—Parlor stove