

Androscoggin History

The newsletter of the Androscoggin Historical Society
Www.androhist.org

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Living History Day for Kids at Knight House



On Saturday, August 19, the Androscoggin Historical Society sponsored a program called “Work ... then Play,” to give children of all ages an insight into daily lives in the 19th century.

Located beside the falls in Auburn, the Knight House, built in 1796, is the oldest house in downtown Auburn. It sits with the Downing Shoe Shop, in which shoes used to be made by hand. Both buildings were open for tours.

The various activity stations were hands-on experiences to learn about hauling water with a shoulder yoke, washing clothes with a scrub board and home-made soap, wringing clothes with a wringer, wool-carding, sifting flour, grinding herbs with a mortar and pestle, and making kindling. Play activities include tops, hoop rolling, pick-up sticks, Graces, and ball-and-cup.



Maine Congressman Jonathan Cilley Killed in 1838 Duel

Maine Congressman Jonathan Cilley of Thomaston was killed in a duel with Congressman William J. Graves of Kentucky, 24 February 1838. “Graves approached Cilley with a letter at the behest of a newspaper editor, James Webb, who was incensed about a bribery accusation Cilley had made on the House floor. Cilley refused to accept the letter; Graves interpreted the refusal as a direct insult to his character and challenged Cilley to a duel. In an ironic twist, neither man had any known grievance with the other prior to the incident.” (<http://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1800-1850/A-fatal-duel-between-Members-in-1838/>)

We have the reactions of Andrew Giddinge of Danville, Maine, as recorded in his diary:

“I have read the account of the duel inter Graves and Cilley. Both ought to be esteemed murderers; they had malice – preence [sic] the distinguishing trait of a murderer. The survivor of every duel when one is killed

should be hung without mercy, as well as the bandit. I have no praise to bestow on a duelist!” (Giddinge diary, 3 March 1838.)

“We have the most sad report from Washington of a duel in which Jona Cilley Esq was murdered in a manner as savage as ever murder was ever committed. The damning Mark of Cain will be stamped – if God and the country are just or all concerned in the hellish place or knew it was intended and did not promptly take measure to have an injunction enforced on the meeting: And, if the powers that be and whose duties are to enforce the laws do not arraign the murderers and cause a Jury of the country to condemn or acquit all concerned as the laws of God & Man demand! – Honour, honour, -- Honour, the law of Cain, dictate of envy, pride, and malice.” (Giddinge diary, 6 March 1838.)

Neither Graves nor the two congressmen who served as seconds to the duelists were censured by the House, but Congress did pass a law in 1839 that outlawed dueling in Washington, DC.



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Acquisitions by the Androscoggin Historical Society

Donated by Patricia Chapman

- Photograph of a small child taken by H. Larocque

Donated by Carol E. Lutz

- Two purchase orders for delivery of sweet corn from Burnham & Morrill

Donated by Pejepscot Historical Society

- A document from the State of Maine Adjutant General's Office, Augusta, March 5, 1873.

Donated by James C. Hathorne

- One Underwood typewriter
- One war ration book from World War II

Donated by Dorothy Bowyer

- Article "New Auburn Fire" by the donor, from Hometown Memories Publishing, October 2017
- Three color pictures of the Knight House
- One color picture of blackened remains of the Cowan Mill

Donated by Douglas I. Hodgkin

- Bank wallet from Androscoggin Savings Bank, Lewiston, ME

Donated by Alfreda Fournier

- 37 Kodachrome slides of Auburn buildings in plastic containers
- 64 slides of Auburn in plastic sleeves

Donated by an unknown person

- Three Lewiston-Auburn College Club scrap books. Possibly from estate of Barbara Randall (see photo)

Donated by Michael Lord

- One sixteen-inch ruler from Falcon Rule of Auburn, ME
- One bar of soap from Poland Spring Hotels, Poland Spring, ME

Donated by Alvin Schaut

- Four postcards: Bates Canal, Shower at Lake Auburn, Lewiston & Auburn Falls, View from Lake Auburn

Donated by an unknown person

- Book, *The Lakes and Woods of Maine*, by Maine Central Railroad
- Booklet, "Where to Go and How to Get There," by Abner W. Lowell
- Booklet, "Songo River Line to the Switzerland of America Up in Maine," by C. L. Goodridge, General Manager, Portland, ME

Donated by Nancy Kurtz

- Large collection of the law books and papers of Frank A. Morey

Donated by Johanna M. Bacon

- *Lewiston City Directory and Auburn Business Directory*, 1868

Donated by Valerie Dawes

- 1950s black and white photos of construction of Auburn housing development by Alfred Dawes and John Marshall, including deeds and legal documents, some going back to 1930s and 1940s

Donated by Charlotte Collins

- White wedding dress (see photo)

Donated by David Chittim

- 1862 linen map of the State of Maine

Donated by Andrew White

- Booklet, "The Maple Grove Farm Stallions for 1893"

Purchased by Androscoggin Historical Society

- 2015 and 2017 *Maine Register*

Donated by John Poss

- Postmarked and stamped envelope addressed to "Mr. James F. Ford, Danville, Maine"

Donated by James Anderson

- Diary 1907 of Mary Page
- Page family genealogical materials
- Large collection of materials of the Jordan-Frost Lumber Company of Lewiston
- Large collection of materials of Francis M. Jordan
- Probate materials to settle estate of Francis M. Jordan

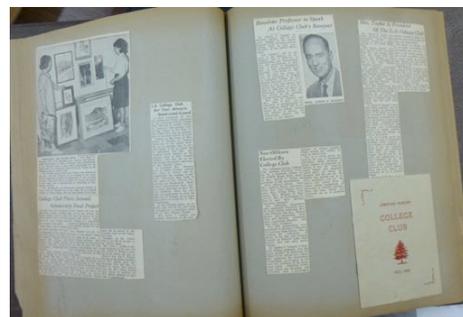
- Articles of Association and Agreement concerning Auburn Cement & Pipe Co.
- Map of "Plot of Land Sold to C. B. Goddard by Bowtell and Stinchfield," 1854

Donated by Peggy Shepard

- Four panoramic photos of the 1931 construction of Lewiston High School, Central Avenue
- Book, *Lewiston Memories*, by Douglas I. Hodgkin

Donated by Joseph Murphy, Jr.

- Copies of five photos: Lewiston High School track team, football team, and baseball team of 1916; St. Joseph's Church altar boys about 1909; Murphy family 1912



Up-Coming Programs at AHS

On October 24, Polly Tarbell Bartow will present “Splendid Decorations” about wall stencils and wall murals. She does wall murals and stenciling as well as fine decoration on furniture, boxes, mirrors, and other objects. In the late 18th and early 19th century when expensive wallpaper became all the rage in the United States, itinerant stencilers emerged on the scene offering an affordable alternative for the average homeowner who could not afford pricy wallpaper.

On November 14, Carolyn E. Lawson will present “Civil War Medicine, Myths, and Minie Balls.” Lawson is president of Washburn Norlands board of trustees and a seasoned Civil War re-enactor, who will take on the part of a Civil War nurse. “Many more people died from injuries and disease suffered in the Civil War rather than direct battle,” said Lawson. “The hugely heroic nature of Civil War nursing is fascinating.”

Both programs will take place at 7:00 pm at the Society’s Davis-Wagg Museum on the third floor of the Androscoggin County building, 2 Court Street, Auburn. Please enter via the Court Street entrance. An elevator is available. Admission for this program is free, although donations are gratefully accepted.



Bev Robbins staffed the AHS table at the Washburn Norlands Civil War Living History Event, June 17-18, 2017. This was an opportunity to exhibit some of the Civil War items in our collection, as well as to sell books related to the period.



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