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# LCHA CHRONICLE

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Lincoln County Historical Association

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## JOIN US FOR LATIN RHYTHMS

Kermess at Pownalborough  
Court House, Dresden

- Sunday, July 21
- 5:00 - 8:00 PM
- Savor the sounds of classical guitar
- Feast on paella
- Bid for delicious desserts and extraordinary experiences
- Deadline for tickets July 18

## MORE LCHA SAMPLERS UP FOR ADOPTION

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## President's letter...

With the arrival of July, the summer season in mid-coast Maine is in full swing. Each of our properties in Dresden, Wiscasset and Damariscotta is open to the public with unique exhibitions and presentations.

The LCHA's historic sampler collection is featured in the Summer 2019 issue of *PieceWork*, a magazine dedicated to historical aspects of needlework. Some of these samplers tell the story of early families who lived at Pownalborough Courthouse. Our efforts to conserve and frame these important pieces continue through our Adopt a Sampler Project.

*Sails on the Sheepscot* is a popular, colorful exhibition on display at the Museum and Old Jail in Wiscasset. In addition, a reproduction of a world map drawn on a jail cell wall has been digitized, enhanced and reproduced to make clearer the map and its notations.

The Chapman-Hall House in Damariscotta featured blacksmithing demonstrations by Jeff Miller on its opening day, June 17, and there are ten period costumes on display inside.

Stay tuned for celebrations of Maine's Bicentennial of Statehood. Board member Ryan LaRochelle heads a committee that is planning programs this fall and in the coming year. Mark your calendars and make reservations for the 2019 Kermess at the Pownalborough Courthouse in Dresden on Sunday, July 21 at 5:00 pm. Come enjoy the food, music and auction, all with a Latin flair.

Michael Chaney, *President of the Board of Trustees*

## LCHA'S SAMPLERS MAKE NEWS

by Faye Snyder

A number of samplers in the LCHA collection are currently featured in an article by Susan Jerome in the Summer 2019 issue of "PieceWork," a magazine dedicated to the historical aspects of needlework. The article came about as a result of a weekend in 2017 when members of the Costume Society of America worked with LCHA's collections committee and staff to document, label and preserve the textile collections of LCHA's three museums. They were very impressed with our samplers.

Lincoln County Historical Association currently owns 17 historically significant school girl samplers in its important collection of early textiles. Six of the samplers tell the story of the early families living at the Pownalborough Court House. Names such as Johnson, Goodwin, Twycross and Lilly are links to families still living in the Dresden and Richmond, Maine areas.

Three years ago the Collections Committee launched the Adopt a Sampler Project to professionally conserve and frame these samplers for future generations to enjoy. Four of the samplers related to the court house families were "adopted" and have been conserved and framed. They are now on display at Pownalborough Court House. Two others that have yet to be adopted are temporarily on display in a case in the Judges' Chambers. It is our hope that through donations specific to this project we will be able to have these two samplers conserved and framed this summer.

Four other other samplers have also been conserved and framed as a result of the adoption program. Two of these samplers

belong to a rare set of four that were stitched between 1815 and 1818 by Sarah Ann and Nancy Chamberlain from Bristol, Maine. Research shows that the sisters were students of Mrs. Brunto's Girls School in Bristol and the samplers were stitched under her supervision.

It is through your generous donations that these important pieces of history can be conserved and protected for the visitors at our three museums to view and enjoy. For more information on how you can donate to this project, please send a message to [info@lincolncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@lincolncountyhistory.org) or call 207-882-6817.



*This schoolgirl sampler by Sarah Ann Chamberlain is one of nine samplers that needs to be conserved and framed.*

### Kermess Raffle Tickets are just 5 for \$20

Over a dozen terrific restaurants have donated gift cards. You can buy raffle tickets online at [lincolncountyhistory.org](http://lincolncountyhistory.org). Tickets will also be sold at the event, but you do not have to be on hand to win.

## BICENTENNIAL PLANS ARE SHAPING UP

by Ryan LaRoche

The LCHA Bicentennial Committee has been ramping up its efforts to commemorate Maine's Bicentennial beginning in Fall 2019. In partnership with Old Fort Western, LCHA will host a series of six lectures this fall on Maine's prehistory and the early settlement period. Topics will include the initial contact period, trading posts in Maine, European settlement, and both French and Wabanaki perspectives on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Maine history. Lectures will take place on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, running from September 15 through October 20. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

On June 19, the Bicentennial Committee convened a meeting of all Lincoln County town historical societies, non-profit organizations, and other county-wide historical groups. The meeting was well attended, and participants brainstormed how to commemorate the Bicentennial throughout the county. The Bicentennial Committee in collaboration with interested groups will organize a series of events throughout the county under the theme: "Making a Living in Lincoln County: 1820 and Beyond."

Programming will show what has changed – and what has stayed the same – over the past two hundred years. In particular, we aim to show what daily life was like at different periods of time in different parts of Lincoln County. The programmatic theme is broad enough to provide leeway for individual organizations to develop their own programming that speaks to local history and expertise while providing enough conceptual unity to bring different programs together.

The Bicentennial Committee will convene another county-wide meeting on Wednesday, August 7 at 6:00 PM (location TBD). We ask that groups interested in playing a role in these commemorations come prepared for this meeting with a preliminary plan to describe their organization's programming.

If you would be interested in joining, or would like additional information about celebrating Maine's bicentennial, please contact committee chairperson Ryan LaRoche either by e-mail at [rlarochelle15@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

### *Pownalborough Court House*

by Dave Probert

On Memorial Day the Masons of Post 103 led 85 visitors to the Court House Cemetery where they offered kind words and placed flowers at the graves of the veterans of the Revolutionary war, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. After the graveside ceremony, the American flag was raised to full staff on a new flagpole dedicated to Stephen Powell. The event culminated with a volley of rounds from the muskets of the Colonial Maine Living History Association re-enactors. With that, the 2019 season opened for the Pownalborough Court House museum.

The trails are complete with signs marking the intersections and colored blazes on the trees that correspond to the trail brochure. It seems that work on the trails is continuous, and with such a wet spring there is a need for more bog walks. These will be constructed later this summer or early fall.

June was a busy month. We hosted a beautiful

wedding on the grounds and played host to the Trek Across Maine, a fund raiser for the American Lung Association. Some 1153 bicyclists made a rest stop at the Court House on the third day of the ride. Their next stop would be the end of the loop in Brunswick. We received dozens of positive comments about the property and many promises to return for a more in-depth tour of the Court House.

In an effort to keep the Court House Museum interesting, the LCHA collections committee makes subtle changes to rooms from time to time. A new display on the third floor features information and artifacts from the mid 18th century, about the time of the French and Indian War. The new display includes a musket chest from Fort Shirley, the fort that once existed on the grounds where the Court House now stands.

We will host the Dresden Summerfest on Sunday July 14th, then Kermess on Sunday July 21st. Check the Pownalborough Court House Museum on Facebook for up-to-date events and photos.



*Re-enactors prepare for a salute on Memorial Day.*

## *Museum & Old Jail*

by Christine Hopf-Lovette

After a slow start, the warmer weather in late June brought a great number of visitors to the Jail. It's hard to believe that we used to make do with only one docent on hand at a time. But covering all the hours is still a stretch, so we encourage anyone who is interested to give us a call. Chris handles the schedule: 207-522-6397 or [chopflovette@gmail.com](mailto:chopflovette@gmail.com).

The world map drawn on a cell wall by a sailor sometime before 1850 has been fading and losing some of its detail. It's such an outstanding reminder of the period and the kinds of inmates who spent time in the Jail, that we wanted to preserve the image without touching the original. Photographer Bob Bond set up his lights and used his talents to take the best photo possible. Then we hired Christine MacKenzie of *Before & After* restoration service to fill in some of the lost detail on the digital photo file. After that, with Bob Bond's help, we sent the digital file off to be printed on a 24" x 36" aluminum panel. The reproduction now hangs in cell #1. One can admire the sailor's mapmaking skill and his excellent penmanship.

The next major maintenance project for the structure will involve the electrical wiring of the Jailer's House. We hope to obtain grants to cover the cost of this work, which will require re-plastering and painting. After that, we will tackle the issue of painting the wood trim.

"Sails on the Sheepscot" continues to delight visitors. We have also made our tour of the Jail and the exhibit a little more interactive for kids with a treasure hunt. They are asked to be on the lookout for items pictured in a booklet which is theirs to keep.

## *Chapman-Hall House*

by Louise Miller

Summer is upon us and the season was kicked off nicely with 37 visitors touring the house on Father's Day. Jeff Miller, Blacksmith, demonstrated his skill and discussed traditional blacksmithing methods with visitors. Many thanks to the Bath Savings Bank for sponsoring this event again this year.

The costume exhibit is back with all new clothing to be seen. Ten new mannequins, adults and children, are now part of the permanent displays and have been arranged in each of the downstairs rooms and in the upstairs bedroom. The circa 1870s silk gown that originally greeted visitors in the downstairs bedroom, now resides in the rug room on the second floor. Our sincere thanks to the historical re-enactors who share their extra clothing with us: Yvette Clark of Vermont, Sharon Bell of New York, and Beth Gilgun and Michelle Held of Massachusetts. The children's clothes were made by Stewardship Committee members.

The house boasts refurbished windows all around the first floor. The second floor windows will require complete replacement. The steps to that end are now being put in place. The plaster on the North and East walls of the downstairs bedroom has been repaired. Darryn Peterson of Nobleboro had the work completed for opening day despite the cold, wet spring.

Again this year, the Old Bristol Garden Club invited the Stewardship Committee to submit a proposal for the Club to consider funding. The Nine Patch Garden proposal was funded with an award of \$100. The Nine Patch Garden was one of the activities for the children who

attended the *Summer with the Past – Discovering 18th & 19th Century Art, Crafts and History* program at Chapman-Hall from June 24 -28. Using the traditional quilt pattern as the design to follow, the children learned planting basics, use of color, and plant care while putting their planters together. Many thanks to the Old Bristol Garden Club for their support.

The Stewardship Committee would like to acknowledge Ernie McNiff, who retired as a docent this year after many years of volunteering. Ernie particularly enjoyed sharing with visitors the cat paw print found in one of the bricks that makes up the hearth of the Parlor fireplace. Our appreciation goes out to Ernie for the many hours he gave to Chapman-Hall over the years.

Zibette Dean, a Stewardship Committee member, is our ace herb gardener. Zibette has the herb garden looking so well. A few plants needed to be replaced after the rough winter, yet the garden is full of lush growth with the various plants showing off their flowers as the summer goes along. Do stop and enjoy the garden before or after your tour of the house.



*New for this season is an outfit from 1820 in the Chapman-Hall House parlor*

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Louise T. Miller, Director

On June 11th we presented our last *17th Century Lincoln County* program at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site. Two schools are booked to experience the program in September. Many thanks to Paul Daiute (17th century fisherman), Jeff Miller (blacksmith), Neill DePaoli (park ranger/archeologist), and Karen and Bruce Campbell (ace time keepers), all volunteers, for making this program possible.

With the success of 17th century Lincoln County model used at Colonial Pemaquid, I am designing new field trip offerings at the three LCHA sites. At this time, I am seeking volunteers to learn various skills to bring these new programs to life for students. At each site four areas will be highlighted. The presentations will reflect the time frame(s) of each historic site, providing teachers and their students with three unique experiences. Have you ever wanted to hold court at the Court House, demonstrate spinning, discuss parlor games, explain the ins and outs of hearth cooking, write with a quill, or sew for prisoners at the County Jail? What about shoemaking? These are all topics that are on the drawing board for the new programs in development. If you are interested, please contact me at [info@lincolncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@lincolncountyhistory.org).

This summer there will be two day camp sessions. The Chapman-Hall session was held in June; the Old Jail will host a session in August. Now in its fourth year, this program continues to introduce children to an ever-changing list of activities practiced during the 18th and 19th centuries. These programs are a great way to share history in its many facets outside of the classroom, encouraging creativity in an enjoyable and relaxed setting.

The pilot internship program undertaken last summer proved to be beneficial, as anticipated, to both LCHA and the student. With the continued support of the Wiscasset Middle High School the program is continuing this summer. Katelyn Long of Wiscasset will participate in research activities, collections work, and the children's program.

With the upcoming bicentennial celebrations for the State of Maine and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote, the next several months will present many new opportunities to learn, re-learn and enjoy Maine's rich history.



*A piece of history – the Damariscotta Band proudly stands before the Chapman-Hall House in 1888. Elizabeth Hall and her daughter Ann resided in the house at that time.*

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

LCHA membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. For your convenience, we have included a renewal envelope in this newsletter.

For membership questions, please email [info@lincolncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@lincolncountyhistory.org). or call Kerry Cushing at 207-882-6817

## Kermess Auction 2019

Here's an inside peek at the experiences up for auction this year:

- Cruises on the Sheepscoot, the Kennebec, and Penobscot Bay
- Vacation cottages in Arrowsic and the north tip of Cape Breton Island
- Overnight lodging and meals in Portland and Wiscasset
- Whitewater raft trip for two on the Kennebec in West Forks
- Monhegan ferry passes and Shaw's Wharf restaurant gift card
- Airplane ride over the midcoast
- Passes for two at four repertory theaters
- Facial and manicure at Bliss in Damariscotta
- Six week hydro therapy series at Wild Grace Wellness Center in Dresden
- Family membership at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens plus gift card at Boothbay Greenhouses
- Cooking class/demo and dinner for six at your home with chef Chris Toy. (includes food and wine)

Kermess tickets may be ordered online at [www.lincolncountyhistory.org](http://www.lincolncountyhistory.org).

Seating is limited. Order by July 18.

Questions? Email us at [info@lincolncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@lincolncountyhistory.org)



## MEMBERSHIP IN LCHA

by Kerry Cushing, Executive Director

LCHA's operating and project goals are funded by memberships, donations, grants, events and income from programs.

At the heart of every organization is its membership base. Our 2019 membership drive is in full swing. Thank you to LCHA Membership Chair and Trustee, Linda Pope, for signing the membership renewal letters and thank you letters!

Your membership in LCHA supports events, improvements to our historic buildings, collections and exhibits and education outreach programs. We have some special exhibits at all three sites and hope you will stop by and bring your guests.

On the other hand, many of you have talents and skills that could be very helpful to us. We find sometimes that the same volunteers show up for all manner of essential projects. If you would like to be more involved, please give me a call. I can put you in touch with a need for you to fill!

A major goal in 2019 is to increase our membership. We currently have 152 members and a goal of \$7,000.00 in membership income for the fiscal year. Thank you to our renewing and new members. We hope you will join us and help preserve the past for our future.

*Lincoln County Historical Association*

President - Michael Chaney

Vice President - Christine Hopf-Lovette

Treasurer - Bill Brewer

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Executive Director - Kerry Cushing

Newsletter Editor - Christine Hopf-Lovette



*An old skiff placed on the lawn  
and a treasure hunt pamphlet  
for kids enhance this year's  
exhibit at the Old Jail.*

**Your investigation  
at the Old Jail**

**Find clues to life in  
early Wiscasset**



**Don't be a stranger! Keep in touch with us:**

Web site - [lincolncountyhistory.org](http://lincolncountyhistory.org)

FB - Lincoln County Historical Association Maine

FB - Pownalborough Court House Museum

Email - [info@lincolncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@lincolncountyhistory.org)