



OWASCOAG NOTES

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WE ARE 60! BY JAN MAKOWSKI

The year 2021 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of Scarborough Historical Society. The anniversary was bittersweet due to the passing of Anna M. Delaware on November 9, 2021. Anna was the last surviving member of the 25 original members who were present at the society's first meeting held February 3, 1961, at the Scarborough Town Hall to organize and elect officers. Officers elected were Clark A. Libbey, president; Mrs. Helen S. (Sherman) Parlin, vice-president; Mrs. Anna Delaware, secretary; A. Ralph Libbey, treasurer; Mrs. Dorothy Shaw Libbey, historian. Anna became treasurer in 1968, following A. Ralph Libbey's death the previous year. (Anna held that position until her passing in 2021!) The society requested permission from the town to lease the old, vacant Libby schoolhouse above Eight Corners Church with the promise to keep it up if the town voted approval, stating "the society is much interested in getting started. The water district has given us the old watering trough that was at Dunstan Corner so many years. We have an old bible, the one Parson Tilton used in the old Tilton Church on the Broad Turn Road, and a few other things."



The original building
SHS archives

Meetings/Events

Check the Historical Society Facebook page and website for announcements regarding reopening and future events and meetings



Scarborough Historical Society 2021
Photo: Jan Makowski

people, the Society had grown to about 50 members by 1986 when the article was written in the *Seaglass*. Today there are well over 300 members and the society is still growing.

The society first met in the old Libby School on Gorham Road where the Lions Club now meets. It acquired the current building on Route 1 in Dunstan, adjacent to the fire station and Alger Hall, when the present fire station was built. The building was constructed in 1911 by the Portland Railroad Co. and used as a sub-station, or generator station, for the electric trolley cars that once ran between Portland and Saco. It later housed the Dunstan Fire Station and then the Police Benevolent Society, a community service arm of the police.

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BEECH RIDGE SCHOOL UPDATE

BY KARLENE OSBORNE



Since 2018, when we acquired the 1800s one-room schoolhouse on Holmes Road, we have continuously strived to work on restoring this historic site. With a budget of \$280,000 we are so grateful that half of this goal has been reached. Funds were just received to more than match an anonymous challenge grant discussed in the last newsletter. Also discussed was a pledge which can now be recognized as a very generous gift of \$20,000 from John Hill, a 1960 Scarborough High School graduate. John's mother was a Scarborough teacher and is fondly remembered by many past students.

Alden Joinery and Restoration will resume work in the cold of January as we strive to carefully restore this unique piece of Scarborough history. While we must raise another

er \$140,000, we are grateful to the many donors who agree that this project is essential to our town and have already sent donations. Your gift is tax deductible, as Scarborough Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Checks can be sent to PO Box 156, Scarborough, ME 04070-0156 or go to our GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/SHS-Restore-Beech-Ridge-School>.



Beech Ridge School
Photo: Karlene Osborne

Vern Paulsen donated a colonial-style door to replace the garage door.

Lights salvaged from a roller rink were installed by Clarke Libbey.

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The building was basically a garage. A ceiling was installed in the front room, and a second floor and ceiling were built in the back part. A colonial-style door donated by Vern Paulsen replaced the garage door. Lights salvaged from a roller rink in Turner, Maine, were installed by Clarke Libbey, who also did much of the wiring. (Anna replaced these in memory of her parents). The door to the back room was moved from the side of the wall to the center. Over the years, bookcases and bookshelves (mostly donated) have been added. An early expense was the purchase of 50 folding chairs. In 1963-1964 meetings were moved the "Museum at Dunstan." The museum building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1991.

Over the years Anna and Warren Delaware did countless things for the museum without knowledge of the others and without any praise -- maintenance, mowing, running errands, keeping stock. After the Scarborough Town Hall digitized many town documents to minimize storage needs, Anna was the one responsible in procuring some of those documents, including Scarborough's old town tax records.

In 2018, the Scarborough Historical Society was deeded ownership of Beech Ridge School on Holmes Road, Scarborough's last one-room district school. The society has been raising funds and overseeing the building's restoration. Once completed, the building will be available to the community. With displays of period school artifacts, the school building will offer visitors a view of what a one-room school was like back in the day.

In its 60 years of existence, the Scarborough Historical Society and Museum has upheld its mission to collect, preserve and share the town's history, its antiquities, and its heritage. The Museum, with its collections of objects and artifacts, tells the four-hundred-year-old chronological story of Scarborough. Among the documents, artifacts, books, maps, implements used in domestics, farming and fishing, maps, clothing, family genealogies, cemetery information, and photos there is something of interest for every age. And now, with the addition of the Laughton History Table, visitors may view over 5,000 indexed images from Rodney Laughton's extensive collection of paper records, newspaper articles, postcards, letters, and brochures on a desktop computer.

RECIPE COLLECTION

BY BECKY DELAWARE, CURATOR

The three binders of recipes and other materials that comprise this collection were given to me by my husband Roger's grandmother. Recipe booklets in this collection were published by baking companies to use as promotions for their products. Most were produced between 1900 and WWII, a few are from the 1950s-1970s. There are some brand names that are still in existence, such as Rumford Baking Powder, Jello, Fleischmann, Calumet, Arm & Hammer and Certo.



Jello recipe booklet, 1902

Brands that are no longer in existence or not in existence as baking products are Lever, which we associate with soap, but was then promoting chocolate cakes; and Avon, the perfume company, which was producing recipes. There are companies that are unknown to me such as Midland Flour, Rose Mill Flour, Occident Flour and Slades.

(Editor's comments: I've had an opportunity to review the collection and I was especially interested in Hood's cookbook, Num-

ber 3, published by C.I. Hood Co, Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass. The book is "Respectfully dedicated to the ladies of the United States."

In among the recipes for blueberry cake, apple pudding, corned beef, etc., are remedies and cures for consumption, diphtheria, indigestion and other ailments. The company sold sarsaparilla, a "blood purifier and invigorator"; medicated soap to improve and beautify the complexion; Peptiron pills, an iron tonic for "paleness, nervousness, neuralgia, mental and physical exhaustion". The company slogan was "If Made by Hood It's Good."

Another find was a 1935 news article by Good Housekeeping Institute extolling the virtues of an electric mixer. "And now the electric beater, one of our latest blessings, had brought something more to the art of perfect cookery. For with an electric beater it is possible to measure the mixing process accurately every time, while cutting down the time required for beating, and sparing our arm muscles in a truly wonderful way.")



Sunbeam mixer, 1935

HOLIDAY CHEER AT MUSEUM

BY KARLENE OSBORNE

Thank you to the Scarborough Garden Club for the beautiful holiday wreaths that decorate the museum's doors this year. Also, many thanks to Joyce Alden for the boughs, berries and ribbons that grace the window boxes and watering trough this year.



Thank you to all of those who donated to the Scarborough Historical Society as part of our 2021 Giving Day appeal, as well as to all of those who have continued to donate to our operating funds! The outpouring of love and support has been amazing.



Scarborough Garden Club members Elaine Mallory, Marie Leyro, Karen Thompson
Photo: Karlene Osborne

A Tourist Season of Long Ago

By Linda Snow McLoon

The Coast Watch newspaper's Black Point new column of June 10, 1898, gave some insight on the upcoming tourist season at Prouts Neck:

The beach season while not fully open has received during the last week quite a good start. At the Neck several of the cottagers from Boston, New York and Philadelphia have made their appearances and opened their cottages for the summer. The Checkley and Southgate houses each have a few guests. The Cammock and Willows will open the first of the week, and the Jocelyn on which Proprietor Libby has been making an extensive addition will be open a few days late. The Atlantic and Kirkwood houses will also open next week. At Higgins Beach we also find a few of the cottages already occupied. Notwithstanding the war scare our beach business will, unless all signs prove false, be fully up to last year.*

*Referring to the ten-week-long conflict with Spain, the Spanish-American War, that lasted from April 21-August 13, 1898.



The Checkley House



Southgate House—later the Black Point Inn



The Cammock House



The Willows

Recent Donations

By Don Taylor, Historian



Don Taylor

Jean-Marie Caterina	Town reports: 18 Scarborough Town Reports, 1930-1948
Linda Ceaser	Photo, 5 newspaper clippings, 3 scrapbook pages, 3 WWII ration books
Rebecca Delaware	Three binders containing 69+ early 20th century recipe booklets; Cushman's Lunch Cakes box; grammar school certificate (1939). Civic League Silver Anniversary Program; 1905 graduation program; 1950 Scarborough Downs program; invitation to Scottows Stockade Ford marker dedication, 1931.
Evangeline Dougherty	Collage of class of 1952; book, <i>Winslow Homer</i>
Joelien Knight	Book, <i>One Thousand Years of Hubbard History</i>
Bruce Larrabee	48-star U.S. flag, framed; appraisal & inventory of James Shaw's "Clipper Ways," Prouts Neck 1924
Jim Minott	Beech Ridge Speedway program
Don Taylor	Book, <i>Maine Families in 1790, Volume 7</i>

Thank you to each person who has kindly given and shared treasures with the Scarborough Historical Society.

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The Jocelyn Hotel
SHS archives



The Atlantic House
SHS archives



Kirkwood House
Laughton Collection

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Other days by appointment

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Reminder: Our membership year is April 1 through March 31. If you have not yet done so, it's time to renew your membership. If you have been receiving this newsletter and are not yet a member of Scarborough Historical Society, please consider becoming one. Your membership supports the society's mission to collect, preserve and exhibit items of historical significance to Scarborough.

SCARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your contributions are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Membership year: April 1-March 31

207-885-9997

<http://ScarboroughHistoricalSociety.org>

scarboroughhist@gmail.com

Individual \$15 (65+...\$10)
 Family* \$25
 Student \$5
 Life \$100 (Family...\$150)
Business \$50
Corporate/Benefactor (Annual)
 Level I Cammock \$100-250
 Level II Jocelyn \$251-500
 Level III Scottow \$501-1,000
Level IV Owascoag Society \$1,000+
Gifts are tax deductible \$ _____

Date _____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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New Member Renewal

Email _____

*Family: 2 adults and children to 18

Make checks payable to
Scarborough Historical Society
P.O. Box 156, Scarborough, ME 04070-0156