

WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER #5 JUNE 2018

A Tale of the Memorial Day Ceremony



Young Brody Vigue ably read the Gettysburg Address on May 28th as WHS along with Mt. Olivet Masons, Farrar-Ross VFW, and Washington Fire Dept observed Memorial Day 2018. A public coffee hour and bike parade for kids was followed by a memorial ceremony at the

Town Monument where a new flag was raised and saluted, and a wreath placed. For nearly a quarter century before the recent multi-organization tribute, Dave Martucci read the Address, mostly alone or almost at the monument. Back in 1911, the town monument was placed. When Alcerio Gibbs, for whom our library is named, died in the 1920s, he bequeathed a sum of money for maintenance of the stone and for several other causes including a library. In 1992, when construction of the library was beginning, Martucci re-read Gibbs' will to make sure his terms were met and found that Gibbs has requested a reading of the Gettysburg Address at the monument on Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day. Martucci volunteered to do it and has done so ever since . . . until Brody took it on this year.

Dave often spoke to few or even no listeners. One year, as he recited to no one at all, a passing motorcyclist came to a quick halt, jumped off his bike, listened to Dave's last few words, and asked him what he was doing. Dave explained that he was fulfilling the long ago request. The biker exuberantly thanked Dave, gave him a hug, jumped on his bike and sped away. This is a true story and a memory Dave treasures. Our most sincere thanks to Dave Martucci for a quarter century of dedication. Many thanks, too, to Brody Vigue for volunteering to carry out the tradition this year.

Prescott – WHS connections bring old items to life

In June, WHS invited the 5th grade to visit Razorville Hall. Students started the visit with three hands-on activities involving using a 2-man cross cut saw and a buck saw, using a wash board and hand operated wringer attached to a wash tub, and hand cranking homemade ice cream for an afternoon treat.



Students filled in a timeline as they toured different exhibit areas in the museum with WHS members sharing information with them.

After a quick walk to the VFW for lunch, Scott Whittier and Howard Good shared personal military stories and the history of the VFW, a national organization. The local VFW building – Farrar-Ross Post #9437 - was originally Razorville School. WHS member and guide, Rhoda (Brann) Gamage, shared memories of going to school there. To get the real feel of a one-room school, she encouraged students to also visit Hodge School, a Washington school that was re-located to the Union Fairgrounds. The structure was moved from Washington, restored to its authentic appearance, and is open for public viewing. The Razorville Hall field trip ended with eating the ice cream students churned in the morning!

Prescott – WHS Connections Mapping our history

This spring Washington Historical Society (WHS) presented two programs for Prescott Memorial School students

In May, working with the 6th grade class, WHS members went back to the time when Washington had 14 one-room schools – all in existence at the same time. We began by studying the 1857 map and locating the place where many of the schools had been. Next, using painter’s tape on the gym floor, we laid out and labeled many of the roads in Washington and marked the location of the 14 schools.



WHS member, Liz Grinnell, with Prescott students

Then, the whole school came together in the gym and WHS volunteers helped every student locate where they lived on the labeled roads on the floor. Students moved to the closest one room school – the one they would have gone to. As the schools closed over the years, students moved to the next school they would have attended. Eventually, we arrived at the final four schools, Razorville, Hodge, Village, and West Washington. Finally, all the students and school staff moved together to the location of Prescott Memorial School which opened in 1954.

Students and volunteers talked about why there were so many small schools, how students got to school, the range of ages of the students in each school with one teacher, and how schools have changed over the years. This whole exercise was informative and fun for students and adults alike.

WHS Organizes Fourth Auction

Mark your calendars now for the 4TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON COMMUNITY AUCTION on SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018. Preview begins at 4 p.m. with silent auction items ready for bidding. The live auction starts at 6 p.m. and usually lasts about 2 hours with as many as 100 items up for bids.

The community auction brings most of the town’s organizations together for an entertaining evening of sociability and money-raising to support scholarships, community projects, and each individual group’s ongoing activities. There are gift certificates, unique hand-made crafts, necessities like firewood, and treats like vacation opportunities and LOTS MORE! Check out this year’s auction on the Washington Community Auction’s Facebook page starting early in July and look for the special mailing.



The 2019 WHS calendar will be available for sale along with other items at Heritage Day – September 8. Theme for the 2019 Calendar is our town’s non-profit and public service organizations.

Heritage Day preview:

Antique Appraisals with Larry Trueman 10 a.m.

Pie Contest taste testing 11:30 a.m.

Fiber crafts, Stone workers, Blacksmith . . .

BARBECUE LUNCH AT VFW HALL

**NEW! MUSIC with
ELLEN BOWMAN TRIO at
RAZORVILLE CHAPEL**

Join us for a day of old-fashioned fun !

These Old Houses

By Naomi Kirkpatrick

Clara Lermond lost both her parents while a teenager. She was sent to Waldoboro Village School for advanced classes and after finishing the eighth grade, Clara took and passed the examination for teacher eligibility. In the Spring of 1889, at age sixteen, she taught school at North Union. That year, she also met Charlie Overlock at Medomak Valley Grange and they were married in 1890. The couple lived in a small house on the Liberty Road property, consisting of 9 acres, more or less, that they farmed. In 1892, daughter Josephine was born, and son Elliott Burnell in 1906. Charlie and Clara built the place now known as The Kirkpatrick Farm in 1902. Clara taught school in Washington, Appleton, Liberty and Union for 35 years. She was Washington's town clerk from 1928-1933.

The whole Overlock family was known for their orchestra. Charlie played the fiddle, Clara played the piano and organ. Their daughter, Josephine followed in her mother's footsteps, learning to play the piano at an early age. Burnell, their son, played the drum. They entertained at grange halls, dance halls, and the like, sometimes four and five times a week. Burnell later wrote a book about his father, "Sixty Six Years a Country Fiddler." Charlie passed in 1947. Later, because of failing health, Clara left the home she loved so much and went to live with her daughter, Josephine. The house stood empty for many years. Clara passed in 1965. Contents of the Overlock Farm had been auctioned off, but remnants of the past inhabitants remained. Many of the school books lined the shelves upstairs and down, well worn, telling the story of the many years of teaching served by this family. The old piano was still in the dining room, dusty, the ivory keys well worn from playing beloved tunes.

The house was sold in 1967 to Melisande ("Sandy") and John Upham Sr.



Home of Clara (Lermond) & Charles Overlock
Washington, Me. - Built 1902

The old farmhouse was brought back to life with John's love of farming, Sandy's home cooking, and a houseful of kids including Naomi Upham, who with her husband Kevin, now owns the farm. With the Uphams, cows and horses could once again be seen grazing peacefully in the pasture. The whole family pitched in tending animals, planting and harvesting the gardens, and making the farm work. John and Sandy were especially proud of their produce and for several years had a garden stand providing fresh vegetables, fruit and butter to folks around the area. Some patrons traveled from as far Rockland each week.

The Uphams later built the ranch style home across the street and in September of 1971 the farm was sold to Tim and Maureen Donovan who had moved to Maine from Oklahoma. The Donovans sold the property to Kevin and Naomi Upham Kirkpatrick (John and Melisande's daughter) in August of 1974. The house has been home to the Kirkpatrick's for the past 44 years. Kevin and Naomi have carried on the tradition of farming with their love of horses and gardening. They have raised two daughters, Erin and Megan. The farmhouse remains loved and full of wonderful memories.



Document conservation grant

WHS thanks Maine Community Foundation Knox County Fund for a grant to purchase archival storage boxes and to purchase a laser printer, photo printer, and scanner to digitize and maintain our photos and paper documents.

The most important function of a museum is to preserve the objects of historical significance they have collected. At a training, Liz Grinnell and Hazel Kopishke learned ways to care for and store sensitive materials and the importance of low light, humidity and handling. The timely receipt of the MCF grant will go a long way toward protecting the wide variety of materials found in our collections. WHS is proud to have been awarded this very helpful grant from Maine Community Foundation Knox County Fund. Thank you.

Come Fall Conference Each autumn, historical societies in the area have a get together called the Come Fall Conference. It's a time for representatives from nearby societies to share what they're working on and get acquainted. The 2017 Come Fall conference was held at Union Historical Society's Robbins House. The guest speaker was Adam Fisher who described Maine State Library services for digitalizing print materials – an aid which WHS used on our Oral History Project and post-card collection. The 2018 Come Fall Conference will be held at the Waldoborough Historical Society, 1164 Main Street, Rte. 220S, Waldoboro, on Saturday, October 6. Coffee will be ready at 9 A.M.

Washington Historical Society
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WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RAZORVILLE HALL MUSEUM

264 RAZORVILLE ROAD

OPEN: SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 1 - 3 P.M.

HERITAGE DAY: SAT. SEPT. 8, 10 - 2

BY APPOINTMENT: CONTACT 845-2760



Pie tasters test flavorific pies for last year's Pie Contest, a highlight of Washington Heritage Day at Razorville Hall.

To enter—see details in mail flyer.