

Yesterday's News

Published by the Lovell Historical Society



Volume 14, Number 1

Winter 2007

lovell.pastperfect-online.com

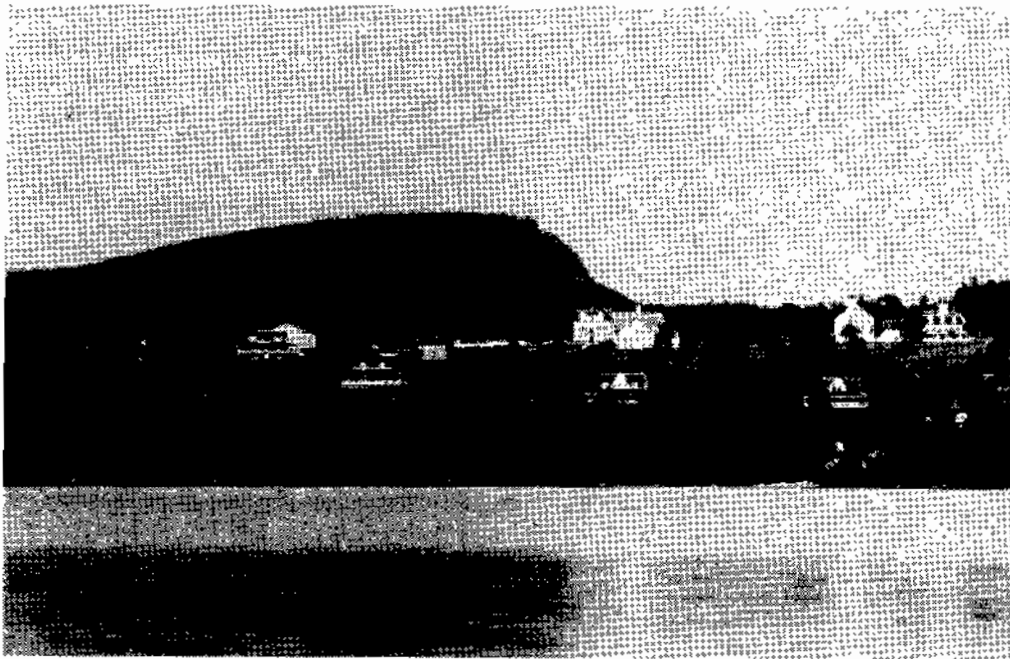
The Lovell Historical Society has entered cyberspace! More than 9,000 of our collection records can now be accessed at the web address above from any computer that is at hand. There are 5,000 images to behold as well as information on our vital records, archival material and library collections.

We welcome your attention to these records. Please take a look and let us know any additional insight or information you can add to what is there. This is all a work in progress which will only improve with your help.

The site is hosted by the PastPerfect Software Company, author of software for museum and historical society collections. The Lovell Historical Society, along with 40 museums and historical societies in Maine and 5,210 elsewhere in the United States, use this software to keep track of their records and accessions. In Maine, the Lovell Historical Society has joined the Camden Area History Center in uploading its collection records to the PastPerfect site.

Our ultimate goal is to have this search tool for our collection be a link on an official Lovell Historical Society website. Until then, this is a giant step toward that end. Stay tuned for further cyberspace developments and, in the meantime, enjoy browsing this site! In the box Keyword Search try typing in "stagecoaches", "Mudjekeewis" or a family's last name. Or just click on the link Random Images and enjoy the photos. If you do not have access to a computer, come visit the research center on Tuesdays – we now have high-speed wireless access to the internet.

We hope to update the collection records monthly and look forward to your input. If you would like to add family photos to this site, we would be more than glad to receive them or scan them and promptly return them to you. Please send additions to the collection or corrections (particularly regarding biographical data) to P.O. Box 166, Lovell 04051 or email us at lovellhist@fairpoint.net.



In the keyword search box type in "Center Lovell houses" and you can see this unusual view of Center Lovell from Kezar Lake in the early 1900's. Photo donated by Beverly & Jack Bassett.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to another edition of *Yesterday's News*. I'd like to thank several people for their assistance with this volume; particularly Marcia Storkerson, Pam Bliss, Jacky Stearns and Janice Sage. We are also fortunate to include the fourth in a series of articles on Lovell and the Civil War by John and Liz McCann. More written contributions and production assistance is always appreciated!

Our two most recent events - The Fall Harvest and our Christmas Open House - were wonderfully attended and very successful thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers. The winners of the pumpkin painting contest were: River Lusky (ages 5 and under), Allison Thomas (ages 6 to 10) and Maddie Egan (ages 11 and over). The winners of the Christmas raffle were: Kelly Rickards (\$100 gift certificate to the Center Lovell Inn), Tensy McDonald (\$100 gift certificate to Lovell Hardware), and James and Nancy Van Metre (\$100 gift certificate to Harvest Gold).

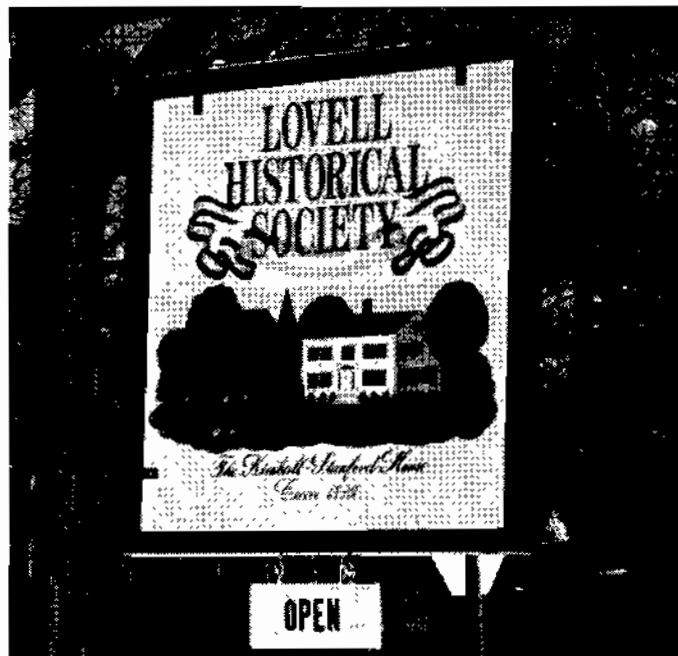
In addition to our regular research projects, including the cataloging of more records to be added to our online search site, we are continually organizing for the future. Beverly Bassett has set the date for the 8th Antique Show & Sale and is lining up the vast number of volunteers needed to make this event a success. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 22nd (the day after Lovell Old Home Days). Michelle Hammond has graciously volunteered to design a website for us, which should be ready before spring. We also hope to have Gary Crowell's crew on hand to tackle several small jobs this winter and anticipate further exterior work this summer. At the very least, we need to replace the barn siding. Please remember that your generous donations will make this all possible!

I think we can all take pride in the progress the Lovell Historical Society has made over the years. As we begin a new year, I thought you might find the following information interesting. In the last three years, the number of members and donors to the Society has more than doubled, as have monetary and physical gifts. We now have about 600 members and more than half of the Lovell households contribute to this organization. Additionally, we have restored and renovated the historic 1839 Kimball-Stanford House and created a beautiful museum and impressive research center. Our collection is now available to view online and our newsletter is a quarterly publication.

Can we do better? Why not? We have a wonderful group of research, cleanup, baking and event hosting volunteers but we need more. We would love to have more events, more museum exhibits, more research projects and more regular hours of operation. Please consider volunteering some time in whatever fashion you would like. If you are available to help, please contact me or one of our officers. As an all volunteer organization we have come a long way in a short period of time. Your help can ensure that we continue forward. Thank you.

Catherine Stone

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Our refurbished sign, courtesy of Roger Williams.
Photo by Pam Bliss.

THE LOVELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MISSION

The Lovell Historical Society exists to collect and preserve historical and genealogical records, property, and artifacts, and to encourage and support interest in and study of the history of the Town of Lovell and its environs. Its collections are available for consultation by its members and other interested parties. In fulfillment of its educational mission, the Society presents public programs on relevant topics, publishes documents and the results of research, maintains an archive, a library and a museum, provides information and guidance to interested researchers, and collaborates with libraries, schools, and other organizations to carry out historical projects..

OFFICERS 2006-2007

Catherine Stone, <i>President</i>	<i>Directors:</i>
Beverly Bassett, <i>Vice President</i>	Renee Dutton
Claudia Bengel, <i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Mitchell
Meghan Nyberg, <i>Treasurer</i>	Louis Olmsted

LOCATION AND HOURS

The Society, located on Route 5 in the 1839 Kimball-Stanford House, is open on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. All are welcome to visit our museum and research collections. Business meetings are open to all members and are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 2 pm. Our phone number is (207) 925-3234 or (207) 925-2291. Email is lovellhist@pivot.net. Our collection can be viewed at lovell.pastperfect-online.com.

Royal Hatch and the 17th Maine Infantry

Lovell and the Civil War

By John & Liz McCann

On August 18, 1862, Royal Hatch of West Lovell joined the Union Army, being sworn in as one of the original members of the Seventeenth Maine Infantry Regiment. The 17th Maine was drawn from York, Cumberland, and Oxford Counties. He's described in regimental records as 5'11" in height, with blue eyes and light hair. He would have been considered tall; the average height for Union soldiers was 5'7". (1)

The Seventeenth Maine was truly a heroic group of men. They sustained the heaviest battle losses of any Maine Infantry Regiment. Their engagements included Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Appomattox. Of a total enrollment of 1,371 there were 953 casualties, specifically: 207 killed, 552 wounded, 163 died of disease while 31 languished in Confederate prisons. (2)

So far as can be determined, Royal Hatch was in every battle fought by the 17th Maine, including Gettysburg where the 17th fought a holding action against superior Confederate numbers which ended with a bayonet charge when their ammunition was exhausted. He fought in the Battle of the Wilderness (General Grant's first battle against General Lee in April 1864) where he was wounded in action. He was promoted to Corporal in November 1864 during the siege of Petersburg, Virginia. Corporal Hatch and the 17th played a key role in the final weeks of the war, when the Union Army of the Potomac finally forced General Lee out of his fortifications around Petersburg and fought a running battle for two weeks as Lee tried to escape to the south and west until finally being cornered at Appomattox where he surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to

General Grant. The single most significant action of that two-week retreat was found at Sailor's Creek, Virginia. It was here, on April 6, 1865, over two years and seven months from the time he enlisted and only 3 days from Lee's surrender, that Royal Hatch was killed in action. This article will detail that final battle and Royal Hatch's role in it. Although not mentioned specifically by name in battle reports, it is possible to follow him by following the actions of the 17th Regiment and his particular unit, Company H.

At 6 a.m. on April 6th, the 17th Maine Regiment was advancing west as part of the II Army Corps along the Richmond and Danville Railroad. As they advanced, they met stiff resistance from Rebels who were dug in on a low ridge outside the small town of Deatonville. These Rebels were pouring heavy fire into the 17th Maine and its accompanying brigade. The decision was quickly made to charge the ridge and dislodge the troops. One of the first casualties was the 17th Regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Hobson, who went down with a bullet in the leg (3). Command of the regiment was assumed by Major Charles Mattocks who led the assault as the brigade charged the ridge. Here's an account from one member of the 17th who was there that morning:

"We advanced slowly at first, but soon encountered the enemy in force, behind a formidable line of rifle pits and breastworks. Between our lines and those of the enemy was a ridge upon which were a few farm buildings. Under a severe fire from the enemy, we charged to the ridge, and gained the cover of the houses, from which we opened fire with good effect. After firing a few rounds, the rebels were discovered to be giving way on our left.

Major Mattocks, with the colors, and as many of the regiment as could keep up, charged with a yell, rushed over the breastworks, and captured about one hundred men, 10 or 12 officers and one battle flag (the Regimental Colors of the 21st North Carolina) besides killing and wounding a large number of the enemy. While hesitating at the breastworks, and during the last charge, our losses were quite severe." (4)

The flag of the 21st North Carolina was seized by Corporal Asbury Haynes of Company H. Both Haynes and Mattocks would eventually receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for this action.

Having cleared the Rebels from Deatonville, the division moved forward in pursuit of the enemy. After covering about two miles, the troops came upon a small stream called Sailor's Creek, just as the Rebel wagon train and several thousand troops were crossing. Despite heavy fire from the troops accompanying the increasingly valuable wagon train, the Federal troops instantly charged, throwing the train into wild confusion.

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The flag of the 17th Maine Infantry.
Photo courtesy of the Maine State Museum.

The 17th Maine and 57th Pennsylvania pushed through the wagons without stopping and gained the ridge beyond, thus blocking the wagon train from moving forward. In the confusion this engendered Rebel troops hurriedly escaped where they could. In addition to the loss of the wagons and provisions, two Confederate Army Corps' were effectively taken out of action. One Lieutenant General was captured and another barely escaped. Arriving at this moment, General Lee said: "My God, has the Army been dissolved?" (5) Not quite yet, but the time was drawing nigh and General Lee would himself dissolve his army at Appomattox three days later.

Sailor's Creek was the last major engagement between the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac. The II Corps, of which the 17th Maine was a part, suffered 55 killed, 256 wounded and 85 missing in action. Lee's total losses came close to 12,000 men, plus 13 guns, 300 wagons and 7 Generals. This was about a third of the men Lee had when he started the day. (6) Within the 17th Regiment, there was one officer and 4 enlisted men killed, 4 officers and 23 enlisted men wounded. The proportion of casualties among 17th Maine officers was 1 in 5; among enlisted men 1 in 10. (7)

Where Royal Hatch fell during this day isn't certain, although the Regimental reports show him being killed at Amelia Springs (8), which is how the Union Army identified the action in Deatonsville, the place where Major Mattocks and Corporal Haynes won their Medals of Honor. As a fellow corporal in Company H, it's easy to imagine him charging through the 21st North Carolina with Haynes, hoping to capture that battle flag.

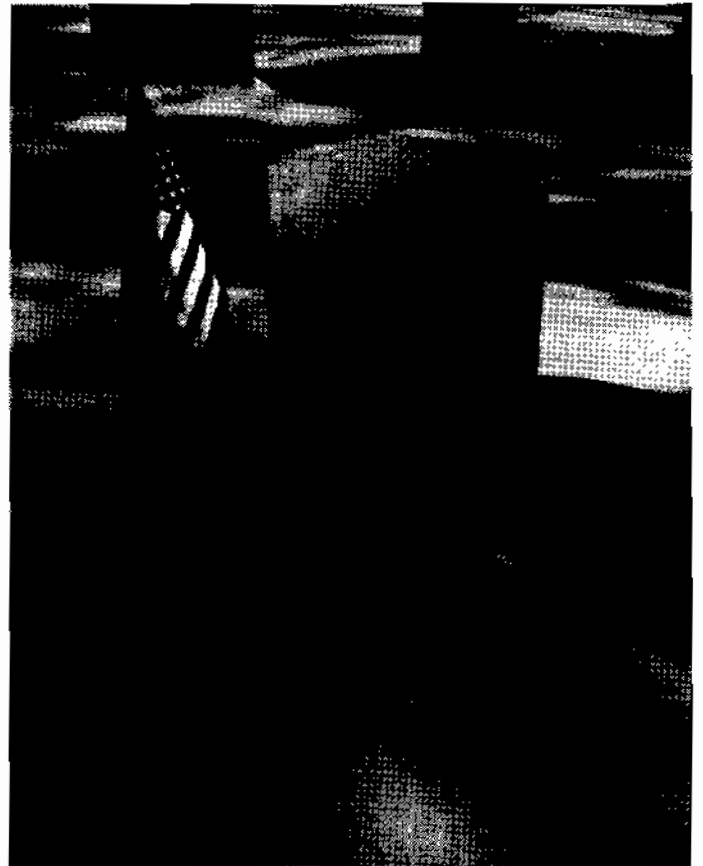
With so much horror behind them, and so much hope that the end of the war was near, the 17th Maine and the entire Union Army fought during this time with vigor and aggression to end it as quickly as possible. The 17th Maine had been marching over 35 miles a day since the Petersburg breakout. In some ways it was like any hard march, yet now it was also very different. For all anyone knew, the thing they had been marching towards since August 18, 1862 might be lying over the next hill (9). No one wanted the Rebels to escape and continue the fight. The time to end it was now, and that was accomplished through the courage, commitment and dedication of men like Royal Hatch. Having fought for over two years he couldn't bear the thought of letting the enemy escape to fight on. That dedication led to his death. We mourn his death, and his community was lessened by the passing of a clearly brave and devoted man. Yet through his death, and the deaths of countless others, we emerged a new and stronger nation.

Corporal Hatch's body was returned to West Lovell. He is buried in the West Lovell cemetery alongside his mother Rebecca and father, Israel, who survived him by 10 and 32 years respectively.

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Notes:

- (1) Jordan, William. The Red Diamond Regiment. The 17th Maine Infantry 1862-1865, pg. 360. White Mountain Books, 1996.
- (2) Maine State Archives, Records of the 17th Maine Infantry (on line at www.maine.gov/sos/arc/archives/military/civilwar/17meinf.htm)
- (3) Jordan, pg. 235.
- (4) Houghton, Edwin. Campaigns of the Seventeenth Maine by a Member of the Regiment. Published 1866 (copy maintained in Maine State Library, Augusta).
- (5) Foote, Shelby. The Civil War. A Narrative, Vol. III, pg. 919, Vintage Books, 1986.
- (6) Jordan, pg. 236.
- (7) Houghton, pg. 269.
- (8) "Consolidated Monthly Reports of the 17th Maine Infantry Regiment, 1864-1865". Original documents maintained by the Maine State Archives.
- (9) Catton, Bruce. A Stillness at Appomatox, pg. 369. Doubleday Books, 1953.



Royal Hatch's gravestone at the West Lovell cemetery.
Photo by Pam Bliss.

PLANE CRASHES INTO KEZAR LAKE!

What a sensational headline that would have made during the week of October 16, 1946. The event did occur but the headline never did. Fortunately two of our members have recounted both the crash and rescue operation.

Twelve-year-old Albert Stearns was visiting Rudy Vallee's property, at that time owned by Frank Foy of Boston. Al was accompanied by his father Marcus. He and his father were standing by the shore when they witnessed a familiar sight. The amphibious Grumman Widgeon owned by William Armstrong Fairburn, President of Diamond Match, was coming in for a landing in front of Mr. Fairburn's Kezar Lake property known as Westways. The air was still and the lake surface was as smooth as glass. Perhaps the water was too smooth. According to Al, "*It seemed so strange. The plane hit the water with a hard and loud thud. The nose crashed into the lake. We didn't expect that!*" It seems the pilot misjudged the distance between the water and the plane, resulting in the crash.

One of Mr. Foy's guests that day was a *Boston Post* reporter, who accompanied Albert and his father by boat to the crash site to see if they could help. By the time they crossed the lake the pilot and his passenger had been rescued. Juanita Perkins remembers hearing that the pilot had gotten

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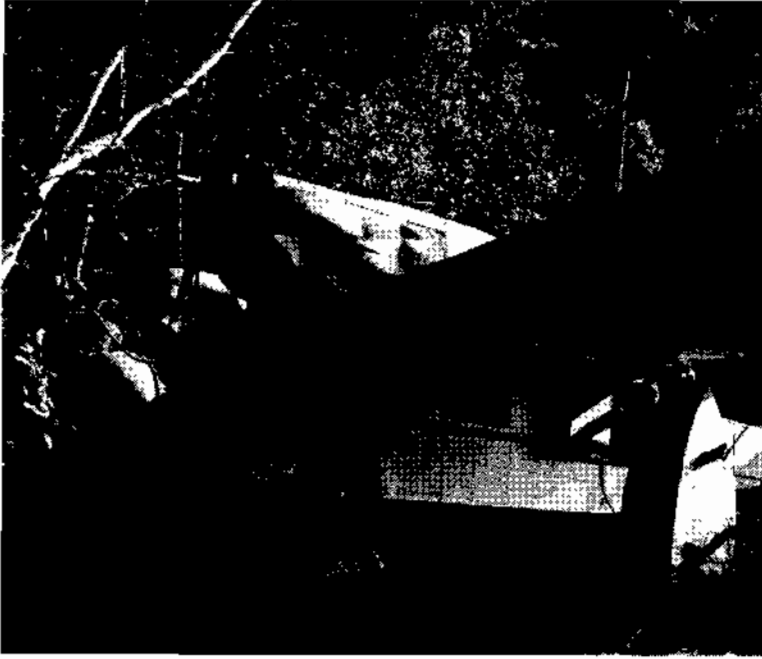
*Diving for the wreckage.
Photo donated by Juanita Perkins.*



*Winching the aircraft ashore.
Photo donated by Juanita Perkins.*

the unconscious passenger, Mr. Fairburn's son Bill, out the little side window and onto the wing. They took a boat to shore as the plane sank into fairly deep water.

The rescue operation appears to be as exciting as the crash itself. Juanita's father, Melvin "Wilkie"

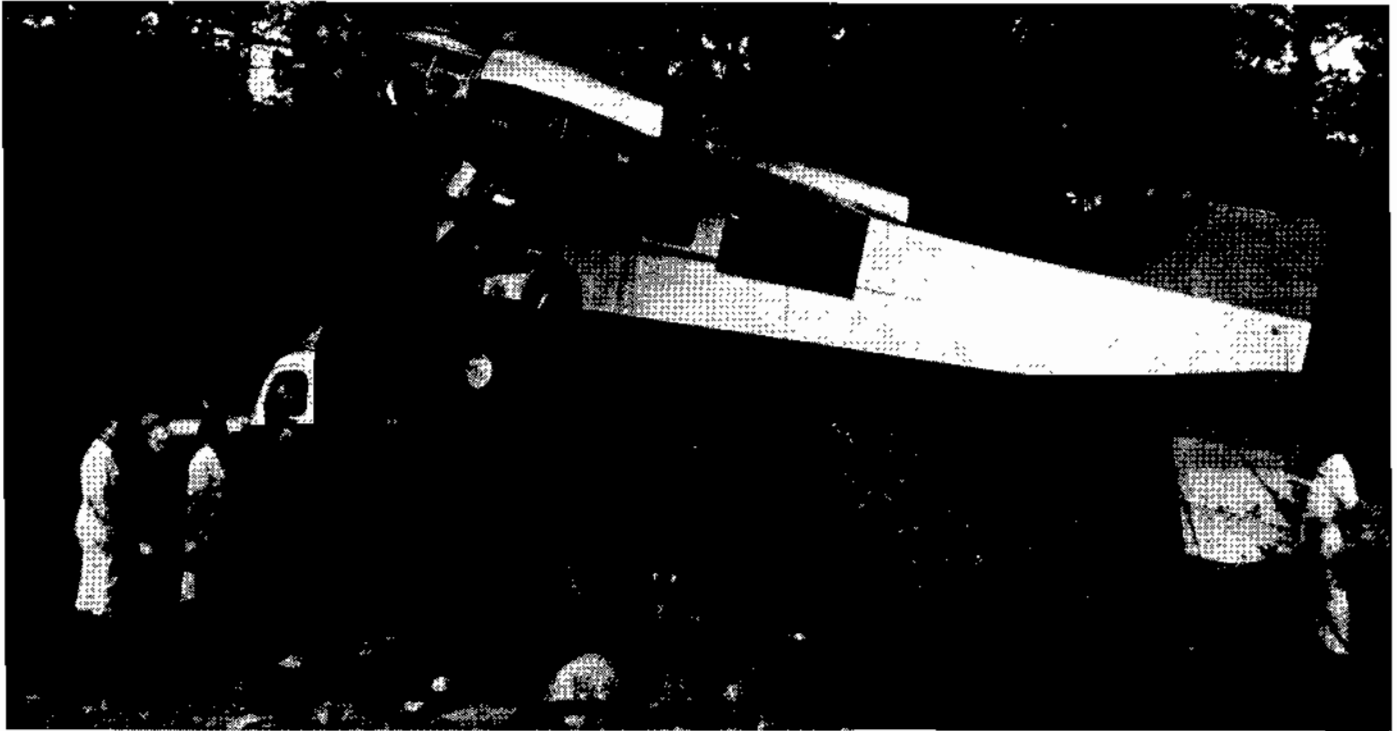


*The crushed nose of the Grumman Widgeon.
Photo donated by Juanita Perkins.*

Wilkinson, with the assistance of his daughter and the Westways caretaker, located the downed plane after many hours of dragging a hook over the area. A crew was then sent down from Waterville, where the aircraft was usually housed. According to Juanita:

"They brought in the crew, set up a dock and brought in a diver and all kinds of apparatus and they started diving. Apparently there is some sort of a ring on the top of this airplane. It was sunk partly in the mud so it was not easy to get this plane up. For the first day or two the diver was trying to operate some sort of a way of jacking up the plane to bring it up. It was really hard work for him working in the water like that. I guess he'd taken a lot for the day because he complained of headaches. The water was exceptionally deep. So they decided they needed to do something to help out the diver. They rigged something up on the dock and had a two way radio so they could talk. I can't remember how many days exactly it took them to get it up floating but I think it all took about a week. They raised it about half way and then they towed it to shore using a winch. The nose was completely smashed in."

Juanita watched as the plane was loaded onto a flatbed truck. Once the wings were removed, the truck transported the damaged aircraft back to Waterville. Surprisingly, there was no mention of the crash in the newspapers, despite the high visibility of the transport operation. Albert does remember Mr. Fairburn clearly advising the *Boston Post* reporter not to publish the story. ♦♦



*The damaged aircraft loaded onto a flatbed for transport to Waterville.
Photo donated by Juanita Perkins.*

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sadness the passing of the following friends and neighbors, and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Marjorie Koop, 84, of Lovell, died October 28, 2006, at the Hospice House in Auburn. She was born in Amityville, N.Y., on July 16, 1922. She attended Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1943 as a registered nurse. After living in Amityville for 63 years, she retired with her husband to Lovell. The family includes her husband, Andrew Koop; daughter, Nancy Zabel; son Stephen Koop; and four grandchildren.

Eleanor F. Nelson, 80, a lifelong resident of Stoneham, died November 16, 2006 at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway. She was born August 12, 1926 in Rumford, the daughter of John and Ethel Adams. On February 22, 1950, she married Albert E. Nelson, Sr. who predeceased her August 14, 2006. She worked most of her life at various area business offices. Eleanor was a very active community member, donating countless hours of service to many organizations. She helped in town affairs and enjoyed time spent at her camp in Wilsons Mills. She is survived by ten grandchildren and her four children: Sharon Berman, Cheryl Barnard, Albert Nelson, and Dale Nelson.

C. George Scala, 81, died on Nov 30th at his winter home in Las Vegas. He was born in Utica, NY and grew up in Clinton, NY. He joined the Navy, attended Dartmouth College, left there to serve as a medic aboard the USS Missouri, and then returned to Clinton where he graduated from Hamilton College in 1949. In 1980, he became chairman and chief executive of Lechmere and moved to Beverly, MA. George had a second home in Lovell. Upon retirement he was very active with the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library, the Milfoil Committee, and the Greater Lovell Land Trust. He was also a life member of this Society. He leaves his wife, Rosemary, a daughter, 3 sons, a sister and 8 grandchildren.

Pauline Mary Smith, 93, of Lovell died Jan 1, 2007 at the Fryeburg Health Care Center. She was born in Lovell, a daughter of Albert and Marion McAllister Kendall, and was educated in Lovell schools. She was a homemaker, a member of the Lovell United Church of Christ and worked at various jobs for many people in her community. She is fondly remembered for her energy, stamina, and ability to tackle any job. Pauline is survived by two daughters, Beverly Bassett and her husband, Jack of Lovell; and Carolyn Knight and her husband Donald of Oxford, Maine; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Lena E. Taylor, 82, of Norway and formerly of Lovell, passed away on January 12, 2007. Known to her friends as Lee, she was born on May 14, 1924 in Kensington, MD. Lee married James W. Taylor, Jr. during WWII and after the war they lived in MD, Freeport, ME, and Brockton, MA. In the 1960's they moved to Cliffwood Lodge in North Lovell. After selling their property to Evergreen Valley, they moved to South Paris. Lee is survived by her husband of 63 years Jim, daughters Patricia Knotts of Laytonsville, MD, Mary Fox of Stoneham, Janet Schmidt of Fallon, NV and son, Bill (James III) of Caldwell, ID, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

John W. Wentworth, a former Director of the Lovell Historical Society, died on November 3, 2006 while staying at his granddaughter's house in Michigan. He was born in Greenville, ME and retired to Lovell after having a successful career in electrical engineering. He became an active community volunteer with the Boy Scouts, the Lovell United Church of Christ and this Society. He was predeceased by his wives, Annabel and Dorothy.

Keith B. Wilson, 56, of West Paris, died October 2, 2006, at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway. He was born in Portland on March 14, 1950, the son of Leland and Betsey Cummings Wilson. He attended school in Lovell and graduated from Fryeburg Academy. After serving in the US Air Force, he married Pauline Lebel on June 13, 1999. Keith owned and operated a landscaping business. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and football. He is survived by his wife; daughter, Renee Wilson; stepdaughter Rebecca Cole; stepson, Jason Timberlake; brother, Kurt; three sisters, Dawn Wilson, Bonnie Tielonen and Vivian Stone; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter three months ago: **Phyllis Hetzler - John Muench**: Paintings and Prints, 1950-1990; **Frank Gorke** - letter dated January 4, 1862 from Abel Farington of Lovell to Horace Dresser of Lovell, while Horace was serving with the 10th Maine Infantry in Pennsylvania; **Ruth Hodgkins** - framed cross stitch of Joshua Chamberlain's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg; **Beverly & Jack Bassett** - Annual Lovell Town Reports for 1880, 1882, 1885, 1886, 1888 & 1899, Annual Stoneham Town Report for 1939, Lovell Building Ordinances and Regulations, 1976 & 1977, photo of Hortense Prescott, 2 photos of Will Smart; **Barbara Eastman** - Chatham Cemetery Records; **Jim Bicket & Mary Heroux** - barn loom from the Willard Bicket barn; **Isabel Freeman** - Collection of Camp

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Mudjekeewis memorabilia that belonged to her mother, Eleanor Stearns Whittemore Jackson. Included are: 5 candid shots of Eleanor Whittemore; a group photo signed by the campers; a 1930 panoramic group photo; a panoramic view of the waterfront and yearbooks for 1930, 1932, 1933 and 1935. **Anna Chandler Memorial Fund** – Maine Families in 1790 Vol. 1-9 Index (on CD); **David Sanderson** – souvenir brochure and menu from Don Dickerman's Blue Horse Tea Room, **David Goes Voyaging** by David Binney Putnam, 3 Volk family photos by Vivian Akers, Rules of the Deck for The Pirates Den, Halford family photographs, the loan of a framed charcoal sketch of the Halford House on Hatch's Hill drawn by John H. Halford in 1946; **Amo Kimball** – woven basket, 4 iron popover cups, Griswold scotch pan, 3 legged spider; **Marcia Hamlin** - Town of Lovell Valuation Book for 1938; **Francis Gilman** – Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the Loss a Valuable Resource by John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman; **Arlene & Dick Fisher** – 5 baby dresses hand stitched by Arlene's grandmother for her father, Leroy B. Webber; **Carolyn Knights** – class photo of the 1st and 2nd grades at Annie Heald School in 1949; **John & Liz McCann** – window shades; **Ann Williams** – permission to use an article she wrote titled "Several Incarnations of Don Dickerman"; **The John R. Fox Family** - By-laws of Kezar Tribe, No. 110, Improved Order of Red Men, 1907, Auditor's Reports for 1951 and 1953 for the Town of Lovell, early Brown's Camps brochure, photo of "Uncle" Steve Kimball, permission to scan 2 family photos **Nancy Stearns Pitman** – permission to scan six photos for use in our collection; **Richard & Kathleen Lyman** – Henry Walker's Farm Account Book (1875-1878), numerous articles and maps of Sweden by Richard Lyman; **Bud Gallie** – biography of his grandfather, Percival Chubb; **Linda Libby** – Lovell Grammar School Graduation programs from 1960 & 1962, 6 slides of the 1955 Ladies Circle fair, newspaper photo about the Ladies Circle fair.

Cash donations have been gratefully received from: **Katherine Armstrong, John & Esther Atwood, Sandra Bell, William Bingham, Donald & Gertrude Blanchard, Frank Boni & Julie Gehman, Lt. Col. William C. Brooks, John & Joan Crowe, Charles & Sharon Dager, William de K. Burton, Heidi Dikeman, Robert Fenn, Deborah Fossum, David Freund, Barry & Nona Gilman, Theda Gilman, Tom & Alison Halloran, Susan Hamlin & Robert Mead, Collier Hands, John Hastings & Lynn Smith, Allen & Patty Jenkins, David & Becky Johnson, James & Jean McBain, Philip McCarron, William & Anna Marie McCormick, Mariuna Morrison, Wes Newman, William & Janet Nichols, Jane Orans, Anne Pilsbury, Michael & Nelle Pitman, Robin Siegel, Herman & Nancy Voigt, Robert & Susan Winship, Irene Zeller.**

If you have made a donation or given an artifact or other form of historical material and it has not been listed here or previously noted, please contact us immediately. We appreciate the thoughtful generosity of our members and friends, and most certainly want to acknowledge and list gifts properly.

The Lovell Historical Society
P.O. Box 166
Lovell ME 04051

FIRST CLASS

DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE LHS NEWSLETTER?

If your mailing label doesn't say "6-07" or "Life," it is time to join or renew for the current year. Thanks!