

Yesterday's News

Published quarterly by the Lovell Historical Society



Volume 18, Number 1

Winter 2011



Photo donated by the Donald Andrews Family

The Meeting House

Lovell's meeting house, built between 1796 and 1798, is one of the oldest structures in town with a very rich history. It has been in continuous use for more than two centuries as the setting for town meetings. Despite several renovations, the structure retains much of its early charm.

Meeting houses were common in colonial New England and were originally built for both religious worship and town business. The Massachusetts grant of land to Lovell's proprietors stipulated that five acres of Lot 22 be used "to build a meeting house or for the Public worship of God and for a training field and a Burying place". Funds were raised through taxation and a two and one-half story structure was constructed, at the time the largest building in town. A cemetery to the south was laid out and a large field was set aside in front of the burying place for militia training.

While the Meeting House was the central focus of the town, it was also impractical. The building was drafty and extremely difficult to heat because of the roof's height. Often town meetings were moved to homes nearby. Church services were held in the structure but there were few conveniences.

The first discussion at a town meeting of lowering the roof to solve the heating problem was in 1819, but it was not until 1827 that Philip Johnson was given the contract to lower the roof and complete the interior. Johnson was an innkeeper, the town's first postmaster and a builder. He was also the father of the painter Eastman Johnson. He proceeded to lower the building by three feet and construct pews and a pulpit. As payment he sold the pews to families in the community.

Joseph Andrews, in one of his letters from South Dakota published Sept. 27, 1912 in the *Norway Advertiser*, gave a description of the interior: "The high, old fashioned pews, each with a high door which swung in and buttoned on the inside; the singers' gallery, the high circular pulpit with circular stairs on each side and the circular chancel below the pulpit with seats running around on the inside for the deacons to sit in during divine service, or where the dignified town officers sat or stood during the semiannual town meeting sessions. I can see in memory as plainly as though it were but yesterday." Mr. Andrews also remembered hearing Frederick Douglass, a leader of the abolitionist movement, speak there.

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From the President

2010 proved to be another great year for the Society. We continued our trend of adding about fifty new members a year, we held four community events, we updated our website (www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org)—adding a documents link with Lovell's vital records and cemetery records—and nearly completed the restoration of the attached barn on the Kimball-Stanford House. Without your support we would not have been able to achieve so much.

The restoration of the Kimball-Stanford barn was critical for establishing a barn museum to display our large collection of tools, farm implements and boat building equipment. Thanks to many donations we have been able to stabilize the foundation and replace the dilapidated exterior siding. Special thanks to the following organizations for their assistance: Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust; Davis Family Foundation; Robert & Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation; Henney Historical Fund; Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation; and Mulford Trust. We still need to repair the windows and replace the roof and are hoping we can count on your donations to make this possible. Donations to the Kimball-Stanford House restoration are greatly appreciated!

On September 26th, we held our Fall Harvest event, which was very well attended. Sarah and Anna Williams demonstrated a cider press with apples donated by Pie Tree Orchard. The Charles Lusky family set up a petting zoo and Sam Ring organized pumpkin painting. There was an abundance of refreshments at our hospitality table, hosted by Marge Ward, along with a bake sale table. In addition, live music was provided by "Birds on a Wire"—a group comprised of Jenny & Greg Huang-Dale and Jeanine Loubier. It was a fun event and our thanks go to all the volunteers, including the many bakers, who contributed that day.

On December 19th, we hosted our Christmas Open House. Again, many members volunteered to make this a successful event: Bonnie Fox did a beautiful job decorating the interior of the Kimball-Stanford House; over thirty members baked for the sale table; Rachel Kuvaja again made the most delicious gingerbread men for cookie decorating; and Marge Ward organized another fantastic hospitality table. Charles and Beth-Ann Lusky donated a beautiful Christmas tree and Renee Dutton provided us with wreaths. We were also fortunate to receive four great raffle items from our members—Chris & Jen Lively, Bill & Lynda Rudd, Janice Sage, Debra Angelico and Ginny Roriston. The lucky winners were: David & Elizabeth Woods (\$100 gift certificate to Ebenezer's Restaurant); Martha Van Steenburgh (\$100 gift certificate to the Center Lovell Inn); Herb & Mary Adams (\$100 gift certificate to Harvest Gold

Gallery); and Sandra Bell (\$100 gift certificate to Lovell Hardware). Thank you to all the members who purchased raffle tickets!

I want to thank all of our donors and volunteers. This Society has been very fortunate to receive so many contributions in the form of volunteer work, additions to our collection and financial generosity. Please remember we depend upon all of these contributions and welcome them in whatever form.

Best wishes, *Catherine Stone*

2011 Events

Annual Dinner	Monday, June 27
Antique Sale & Auction	Sunday, July 17
Historic House Tour	Sunday, August 14
Fall Harvest	Sunday, October 16
Christmas Open House	Sunday, December 18

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 2010-2011

Catherine Stone, President	Directors:
Beverly Bassett, Vice President	Renee Dutton
Mary Heroux, Secretary	Lou Olmsted
Bonnie Fox, Treasurer	Stanley Tupaj

LOCATION AND HOURS

The Society, located on Route 5 in the 1839 Kimball-Stanford House, is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm, Saturdays from 9am to 12pm 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 2pm. Our phone number is (207) 925-3234 or (207) 925-2291. Our collection can be viewed at our web site—www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org—and our e-mail address is lovellhist@fairpoint.net.



Returning to their seats after voting at a 1982 Town Meeting from left to right: Archie Lorton, John McKeen, Eric Gulbrandsen, Carol Craig and Roseanne McLaughlin. In the far rear are Gordon Eastman, Maynard Craig, Gerry Craig, Jean Brown and John Chandler. Jerry Urquhart is seated facing the camera.

Photo by Juanita Perkins

Worship services were held in the building until 1852 when two Congregational Churches were built. The pew holders signed a quittance of the pews to the town and at that point the building was used only as a town house, suitable for meetings and elections. Sometime near 1890 the building was remodeled and the old pulpit, pews and balcony were removed.

Today the Meeting House stands as testament to our "town meeting" form of government and is in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, the building suffers from serious structural deficiencies. The foundation is crumbling, the sills are rotting and the systems are primitive. The building has no heat, other than from two woodstoves, no running water and no insulation. To correct these problems, an effort is being made to renovate the building so that this historic building can continue to be used for town meetings and elections. •••



Town of Lovell Safe & Woodstove



Voting Booths

The Egg Lady of Lovell

Written by T. Jewell Collins in 1964



Beatrice (Pride) Libby was born in Westbrook on October 16, 1895, the daughter of James and Dora Pride. She graduated from Westbrook High School and Gorham Normal School and taught school for three years before marrying Francis Parker Libby in 1916. She moved to his family farm on Old Waterford Road, where they raised six children and ran a large poultry farm. She died on March 9, 1997 at the age of 101.

Photos courtesy of Jonathan Hatch, 1995



After viewing firsthand the operations of a small egg farm, I realize the tender, loving care eggs receive, at least eggs on Beatrice Pride Libby's farm in Lovell, Maine. I first met Mrs. Libby when, at the recommendation of a local friend in North Waterford, I drove down the Lovell Road to her farm to buy fresh eggs.

There was no answer to my rap on the back door. I peered through the screen into a room filled with cartons and baskets of eggs, and what I was to learn later was a candling machine and a grading machine. Still no evidence of anyone. I retreated to the dooryard to contemplate the situation when, from down a long flight of stairs out of the loft of the barn, came a white-haired, overalled lady. Hanging over her arm was a basket of eggs. When I explained that the television was on but that no one answered the door, she replied, "Oh, I live here alone". I didn't pursue the matter at the time. I just bought three dozen eggs, including a humpty-dumpty sized one, and went on my way. My family and I left for our home in another state a few days later, but I did not forget Mrs. Libby. The next summer on our vacation in North Waterford, I drove to her farm, not only to buy eggs but to hear her story, too.

Mrs. Libby claims that there is no story. She is active, happy, and doing work she likes. What is so unusual about that? Well, when one woman feeds 1,350 hens and collects 1,600 eggs every day all by herself, that's worth crowing about! I gladly passed the time of day with this working grandmother and came forth the richer for it.

Since 1948 when her husband Francis Parker Libby passed on, Mrs. Libby has been caring for the chicken farm. "I knew the work, liked it, and so it seemed logical to continue in it," she replied. "Besides I wanted to keep the farmhouse for the children and their families to come back to." "The children" include three boys and three girls plus almost twenty grandchildren. Usually, during the summer, grandchildren are on hand to help collect the eggs, a favorite vacation occupation. Then she says her percentage of cracked eggs rises slightly to the delight of the local folk who buy them for 25 cents a dozen. When I asked her how many hours a day she spends caring for the hens, she estimated six. Her daughter from Maryland who had entered the kitchen at this point said that was a very conservative estimate!

Mrs. Libby refuses to admit to loneliness. The road is kept plowed in the snowy season, and one of her sons who lives nearby stops in occasionally. During the long winter evenings, she crochets, braids, and works with plastics. She showed me several attractive carryalls she had fashioned using an upside down

bell-shaped form and pliable strips of plastic. Her children have given her subscriptions to *National Geographic* and *Reader's Digest*, and she avidly reads these two publications plus the *Poultryman* and the *Farm Journal*, necessities in her profession.

Her fiftieth reunion from Gorham Normal School was held several years ago, but Mrs. Libby was too busy to attend. "I can't leave my hens for a day" she exclaimed, hastily adding, "I am so thankful to be able to work so hard". She did not attend her fiftieth high school reunion either, but several of her classmates came to see her, and she is now corresponding with one.

She has lived in her present home for forty-seven years. Her travels have included a trip to Washington D.C. upon graduation from high school and several brief visits to see a cousin in Boston before her marriage in 1916. At present, she is too busy feeding hens and collecting eggs to visit a married daughter in Camden and one in Dover-Foxcroft, but there is always space in the ten-room farmhouse for her children and their families to visit her, and visit they do! Our conversation in the new-old kitchen was carried on to the accompaniment of sawing and hammering as her son-in-law and several grandchildren replaced the worn planks in the side porch. The previous weekend her sons and son-in-law finished painting the white and green-trimmed house.

Very little of her one-hundred acres of land is farmed now, but a winter ago, the land yielded sufficient hardwood to enable her to have an oil furnace and stove installed with the proceeds, at the insistence of her children who take good care of her

despite the distances which separate them.

In addition to poultry, Mrs. Libby also raises flowers—asters, marigolds, cosmos, day lilies and bachelor buttons—in a flower bed flanking one of the two chicken houses. Peonies bloom under the kitchen and parlor windows.

Mrs. Libby said that the home economics training she received in school stood her in good stead during the raising of her six children. Her daughter chimed in at this point to say that she still can't make hot biscuits and custard like her mother. We all enjoyed a good laugh when Mrs. Libby told about making peanut butter cookies the day previous to my visit and leaving out the peanut butter. "Everyone said they were good sugar cookies" she added good-naturedly.

At the close of our visit, Mrs. Libby led me out to the egg room where baskets of eggs were ready to be candled and graded. She deals only with grade A and B eggs, grade B being those with irregular shells and odd shapes. Sometimes during the summer as many as fifty cars a day stop by for eggs. Selling this way to private customers, many of them summer people, is a courtesy, as her real business lies in the eggs she boxes and sells to the Maine Egg Producers Association in Scarborough, Maine.

As I bade good-bye to the energetic egg lady of Lovell, I thought of what a fine role model she is for all who know her, and I felt indeed privileged to be one of them. •••

T. Jewell Collins is a freelance writer living in Harrison, Maine, not far from her cabin on Back Pond, one of the Five Kezars. Her works have appeared in numerous publications, most recently Lake Living and The Bridgton News.



Joseph and Rebecca Parker with their grandson Francis Parker Libby in front of the family farmhouse on Old Waterford Road.
From the Mabel Parker Libby Glass Negative Collection donated by Albert Libby, Martha Barrow & Jeanene LaCasee

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the death of the following friends and neighbors.

Rev. Ronald Ashworth, 74, of Peru, ME passed away on October 27, 2010. He was born in New Bedford, MA on May 29, 1936 and spent much of his career as the executive director of several YMCA's in Maine. He later attended Bangor Theological Seminary and became an ordained minister in 1999. He served as pastor of the Lovell United Church of Christ from 2001 to 2005 and again from 2007 to recently when his health required him to step down. He was a member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Alice, four daughters—Karen Miller, Bonnie, Sherry Spencer and Heidi Arsenault—eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Brian E. Buffington, 53, of Lovell passed away on December 16th, 2010. He was born on July 22, 1957, the son of Harry and Gloria Buffington and attended local schools. He had a degree in forestry from the University of New Hampshire at Berlin and had taught at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. He is survived by his mother and nine siblings—Pamela, Deborah Frock, Dennis, Holly Morse, Tina Fox, Tammy, Susan Sinecio, Wendy Stearns and Rachel Leonard.

Mary Alice (Chase) Conover, 93, of Augusta, ME died on November 9, 2010. She was born in Augusta on January 19, 1917 and was the granddaughter of William Henry Dresser of Lovell and his wife Ida Mary Campbell. Mary grew up in Auburn, ME, graduated from Bates College, and spent much of her life in Acton, MA teaching flute and leading chamber music ensembles. She was a member of this Society. Mary was predeceased by her husband Towne and is survived by two children—Roger and Heidi Conover.

Durward W. Eastman, 88, of Crystal River, FL passed away on December 18, 2010. He was born in Lovell on March 16, 1922, the son of Alva and Helene Eastman. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was a retired high school teacher in Northborough, MA and an industrial engineer. He is survived by his wife Joanne, two children—Thomas and Liana Ruuttila—three grandchildren and one step-grandson.

Carroll S. Fogg, 96, of Norway, ME died on November 14, 2010. He was born on September 13, 1914 in Cumberland, ME, the son of Walter and Christina Fogg. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked most of his life for HP Hood & Son. During the 1950s, he lived in North Lovell with his brother Lester and wife Daisy. He was predeceased by his wife Katherine and is survived by two children—Marcia Glatt and Ray—six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, his companion Doris McAllister and her two sons.

Elizabeth A. (Fox) Guptill, 84, of Canton, ME died on November 4, 2010. She was born in Lovell on November 27, 1925, the daughter of Henry and Agnes Fox. She attended school at Fryeburg Academy and was predeceased by her son Charles.

Merle E. Harmon, 79 of Sebago, ME died December 24, 2010. He was born in Lovell on March 5, 1931, the son of Charles and Eleanor Harmon. After attending local schools he worked as a truck driver for L.C. Andrews Building Supply and Gerrity Lumber. He was predeceased by his wife Beverly and daughter Sandra Murphy and is survived by two daughters—Nancy Thompson and Christine Jordan—five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Wayne T. Harmon, 74, of Scarborough, ME passed away on December 20, 2010. He was born in Lovell on October 24, 1936, the son of Leon and Marge Harmon and attended local schools. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked for many years for L.C. Andrews Building Supply and Nelson & Small Wholesale Distribution. In 1990, he and his wife moved to Naples, FL, where he returned to the building supply business until his retirement in 1999. Wayne was a Life Member of this Society. He was predeceased by his son Doug and is survived by his wife Meredith, son Greg, and six grandchildren.

Thomas A. Hodsdon, 55, of Lovell died on November 28, 2010. Tom worked in the timber industry for most of his career, most recently working for Western Maine Timberlands as a truck driver. He had a great love for horses and especially enjoyed training and showing them. He is survived by his wife Nancy, daughter Teresa Lynn Dunnam and one granddaughter.

Rita Lambert, of Jamaica Plain, MA passed away on June 15, 2010. Rita and her sister-in-law Evelyn owned and operated Kezar Lake Camp, a co-ed camp on the eastern shore of the lower bay of Kezar Lake, from 1955

through 1969. She was a graduate of Cornell University and NYU School of Social Work and practiced as a licensed therapist. She was predeceased by her husband Samuel and son Jeffery and is survived by two children—Geri and Roy—and six grandchildren.

Gordon Lester Littlefield, Sr., 86, of Lyman, ME died on September 8, 2010. He was born in Lovell on June 18, 1924, the son of Ralph and Evelyn Littlefield, and attended local schools. While still at Fryeburg Academy, he enlisted with the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He later re-enlisted and served in Germany during the Cold War. Upon his return from active duty, he worked in construction and in the Federal Protective Service at the Federal Court House in Portland. He is survived by his wife Helen, two children—Gordon and Sharon—three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Virginia B. (Keniston) McBain, 90, of Peabody, MA and Lovell passed away on November 10, 2010. She was born in Haverhill, MA on August 28, 1920, the daughter of Frank Keniston of Lovell and wife Gladys. She worked for many years as a registered nurse and before moving to Peabody lived in Lynnfield and Melrose. She was a contributor to this Society. She is survived by her husband James, five children—James, Candace Whittaker, Sherry Iwamoto, Steven and Philip—and five grandchildren.

Mary Jane “Jari” (Whitesell) Mogavero, 85, of St. Petersburg, FL died on April 17, 2010. She was born in Lovell on October 27, 1924, the daughter of Gamaliel and Mary Louise Whitesell and was raised in Kingwood, WV. During World War II, she joined the Navy serving as a Pharmacist 1st Class. After the war she had a career as a registered nurse, working at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, NY and the University of Cincinnati, Wyoming Medical Center, in Cincinnati, OH. She was a Life Member of this Society. Jari was predeceased by her husband Arch and is survived by her five children—Mary Lu English, Joseph, Michael, Patrick and Peter—and eleven grandchildren.

Priscilla “Peeps” (Keighler) Olive, 87, of Belmont, MA and Lovell passed away on December 10, 2010. She was born on November 26, 1923, the daughter of J. Campbell and Priscilla Keighler of Providence, RI and graduated from The Westover School in Middlebury, CT. She was an avid volunteer both in Belmont and at her summer home in Lovell and was a member of this Society. Peeps was predeceased by her husband George and is survived by three children—George, John and Priscilla Motley—and six grandchildren.

Valerie Ann (Voytek) Reynolds, 72 of Lovell died on November 5, 2010. She was born in Bridgeport, CT, the daughter of Michael and Irene Voytek. Valerie worked for Remington Arms for 35 years and upon moving to Lovell worked at Bridgton Hospital. She is survived by her husband Bruce, son Paul, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

William Woodard Sayles, 73, of Lovell passed away on November 27, 2010. He was born in New York, NY on October 7, 1937 and graduated from Governor Dummer Academy and Brown University. He co-founded Jaskins and Sayles Associates, which was a distributor and later manufacturer of diagnostic laboratory tests and equipment. Upon retiring, Bill and his wife left Massachusetts and moved to their home on Kezar Lake. He was a member of the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department and a member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Mary, two sons—Philip and David—and two grandsons.

Robert Emil Schmidt, 84, of Armonk, NY and Lovell passed away on November 21, 2010. He was born March 3, 1926 in Huntington, NY, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and graduated from Cornell University. He spent most of his career with Nestle, retiring in 1991 as Vice President of Nestle Services, Inc. Upon retirement he divided his time between Armonk and his summer home on Kezar Lake. He was an active volunteer at his church, a member of the Westchester Choral Society and a supporter of many Lovell organizations, including this Society. He was predeceased by his wife Edith and is survived by his two children—Doug and Sukey Barthelmess—and two granddaughters.

Edwin Frederick White, 80, of Lovell passed away on December 9, 2010. He was born in Worcester, MA and attended Mount Hermon School and the University of Massachusetts. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Ed moved to Stratford, CT and worked for Southern New England Telephone for 45 years. He and his wife Elizabeth moved to Lovell in 1999 and became active volunteers in the community. Ed served many positions within the Lovell United Church of Christ, sang in the choir, actively worked with the Dinner Bell Community Supper in Fryeburg and was a Life Member of this Society. He is survived by his wife, their four children—Mark, Kevin, Debra Delmonico and Diane Mealo—and nine grandchildren.

Gifts & Donations

We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter: **Jack & Beverly Bassett**—Herbert Harmon's Masonic certificate, Harold Gray's 1915 diary; **Dennis Barker & Turf Ramsden**—*Christmas Soul* performed by the Flooded Cellar Band; **Ben Brown**—permission to scan photo; **Ann Chick**—portable ramp; **Renee Dutton**—wreaths; **Larry & Bonnie Fox**—photos from the 2004 Farmers Field Day and the 1994 tour of Stanley Steamers; **Allen & Patty Jenkins**—2 pair of ice skates; **Susan McGraw Keber** (in memory of Theodore Arnheiter, Jr.)—permission to scan photos; **Bert & Marilyn Kendall**—painted tray, permission to scan photo; **Charles & Beth-Ann Lusky**—Christmas tree; **Oliveanne Kimball-Scott**—notes on interviews with Doris Holmes & Bill Dallinger; **Christine Kuhn & Margot Bleier** (in memory of Margaret Perkins & Ena Pryde)—sixty-one Camp Mudjekeewis films from the 1920's through the 1950's; **Dave & Peg Mason**—information & photos of Agawam Kezar Ski Club; **Fred & Ruth Mitchell**—12 ft table from the Oddfellows Lodge; **Leotus Morrison** (in memory of Margaret Perkins & Ena Pryde)—Camp Mudjekeewis questionnaires by campers & counselors; **Pietree Orchards**—apples & pumpkins; **Cliff & Liz Rowe**—permission to scan photos; **David & Cathy Sanderson**—set of 4 Don Dickerman glasses; **Frederic Sater**—photos of Lovell Old Home Days and the Lovell Classics event; **Dean & Pat Stearns**—permission to scan Ella C. McKeen's 3 diaries for the years 1941-50.

Cash donations have been gratefully received from: **Herb & Mary Adams; Priscilla Beckloff; Charles & Claudia Benge & Dorothy Force; Bill & Deborah Berman; Lt. Col. William Brooks; Glenice Denison** (in memory of Margery & Leon Harmon); **Center Lovell Inn; Ann Diskin** (in memory of David Evans); **Ebenezer's Pub; John & Doborah Fossum; Peter & Linda Gale; Theda Gilman; Tom & Alison Halloran; Elner Hamner; Valerie Elbrick Hanlon; Harvest Gold Gallery; Stuart & Barbara Hauser; Phyllis Hetzler** (in memory of Gordon Littlefield); **Cliff & Eileen Hill; June Irvine; Anne Isaak; Meredith Koenig; Bill & Lucy LaCasse; Kent Libby; Lovell Hardware; Mitchell Lyons; Barbara McAllister; Bill & Anna Marie McCormick; Jack Mendelsohn & Judith Frediani; Fred & Ruth Mitchell; Charles & Roberta Mosher; Helen Ogden; Jane Orans & Quisisana; Turf Ramsden; John Roberts; Virginia Roriston; Dr. Loren Rosenbach; Bill & Mary Sayles; Robert Schmidt; Mary Semple; Kim & Janet Sheffield; Robin Siegel** (in memory of Bill Sayles); **Nicholas Skinner; Elizabeth & David Smith; John Smith; Todd & Sarah Smith; Roger & Caroline Sorg; Charles & Julianne Steffens** (in memory of Richard & Mary North); **Bob Steller & Pat Gibson; Hal & Carol Taylor; Alison & Dave Tomlinson; Neil & Donna Wilson; Bob & Susan Winship; James & Nancy Van Metre; Betty Webster; Elizabeth White; Judith Whitney; Irene Zeller.**

The Lovell Historical Society
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If your mailing label doesn't say "6-11" or "Life",
it is time to join or renew your membership. Thanks!