



The Garcelon Family in front of their home on Kezar Lake.

*Photo donated by David C. Garcelon*

## The Story Behind the Garcelon Mansion

By David C. Garcelon

At the north end of Kezar Lake sits a magnificent neoclassical style home known as the “Garcelon Mansion”. Built for Charles Augustus Garcelon and his family in 1908 and 1909, the house commands magnificent views of the White Mountains and is unequalled in the quality of its design. Constructed by Italian craftsmen, the house features maple floors, hand-carved paneling and an elaborate staircase framed by columns. This is the story of how this home came to be built.

Charles Garcelon was born in Lewiston on November 14, 1842. He was the son of Dr. Alonzo and Ann Augusta (Waldron) Garcelon and the great-great-grandson of James and Deliverance (Annis) Garcelon, who were among the first settlers in 1776 of Lewiston Falls, an Indian garrison on the Androscoggin River. The family’s imprint on the area exists to this day.

The Garcelons were farmers. They were also very much involved in the development of Lewiston and its surrounding area. From the time Charles was born in 1842, until he left for the Civil War in 1862, he was at the center of a family which was not only known for having the finest horses, growing the largest cabbages and having the best orchards, but who also started the *Lewiston Falls Journal*. The family was instrumental in

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## From the President

This year has been very busy with renovations to the Kimball-Stanford House, fund-raising events, wonderful additions to our collection, new members and research volunteers. Thank you all for your continuing support!

Utilizing the superb craftsmanship of Gary Crowell, Allen Dotson and their crews, we began the task of repairing the Kimball-Stanford House barn. Our goal is to restore the attached barn for use as a farm museum. Thanks to the support of many of our members and several foundations, we have been able to begin the work. The work is not yet completed and we look forward to your continued support in this endeavor.

On July 18th, we held another successful annual antique sale and auction. The beautiful weather drew a large crowd and we again raised enough money to help pay our operating costs. Bruce Buxton donated his time appraising items in the parlor, while Kevin McElroy played his violin in the barn. Antique dealers were set up inside and outside and Jay Hanson conducted our second auction of contemporary items in the field. Ruth Mitchell coordinated her cooks and servers, providing delicious food during the event. It was a great day! Many thanks go to all of the people, too numerous to mention, who donated their time and gifts. The fortunate winners of the raffle were: Gerald & Evelyn Davis (Victorian Mirror); Gary & Mary Heroux (Cathedral Pickle Bottle); and Ben & Pat Foley (Cameo Brooch/Pendant).

We staged a new event on August 8th which we named "Lovell Classics". Set at the Pleasant Point Inn, classic boats were available for viewing as were antique automobiles. Additionally there was a vintage fashion show, using items from our collection and borrowed vintage garb. The event proved to be delightful and our enormous thanks go to all who helped—from those who provided hors d'oeuvres, displayed their cars and/or boats, and donated or modeled the clothing. Our fearless models were Amy Josephson, Sandra Bell, Heidi Dikeman, Barry Dikeman and Arthur Cormier—with Karen Erickson working feverishly in the back room. It was such a fun evening and at some point we will do it again!

Our Fall Harvest event will take place on Sunday, September 26 from 1 to 4pm. During this family event we will be pressing apples into cider, there will be a children's petting zoo and "Birds on a Wire" will be playing live fiddle music in the barn. In addition, Sam Ring will supervise free pumpkin painting. Abundant refreshments will be on hand as well as a large harvest bake sale. Over 300 people attended this free event last year and had a wonderful time. Come and enjoy the festivities!

Best wishes, *Catherine Stone*

## The Fall Harvest

**Sunday  
September 26  
1-4pm**

**Live Music  
Refreshments  
Petting Zoo  
Bake Sale  
Pumpkin Painting  
Cider Press Demo**

### 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](http://www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org)—and our e-mail address is [lovellhist@fairpoint.net](mailto:lovellhist@fairpoint.net).

creating Androscoggin County in 1854, promoting public schools in Lewiston, co-founding Bates College (Garcelon Field at Bates College is named after Dr. Alonzo Garcelon) and helping to build the very first railroad in Lewiston. Charles' uncle, William Hale Waldron, co-founded the *Lewiston Falls Journal* with Alonzo in May of 1847 and it exists to this day under the name of *The Sun Journal*.

When the Civil War started on April 12, 1861, Charles was 18. His father, Alonzo, was the area's most prominent surgeon and was also very involved in town, state and national affairs. Less than two weeks after the firing on Fort Sumter, Alonzo was appointed Surgeon General for all the Maine soldiers who fought in the war.

On May 24, 1862, 19-year-old Charles went to Augusta and "joined for duty and enrolled" for a period of three years. He then went back to Lewiston and with his uncle, William Waldron, advertised for recruits to form a Company. The advertisement was successful and resulted in Company "I" of the 16th Maine Infantry Regiment.

When the 16th Maine was formed in Augusta on August 14, 1862, Charles was made a Second Lieutenant and his Uncle William was made Captain of Company "I". At the same mustering ground in Augusta was a 24-year-old private from North Lovell named Stephen Coffin. Coffin had just been mustered into Company "D" of the 16th.

Stephen Coffin was born in Lovell on March 25, 1838, the son of Nicholas and Esther Coffin. Shortly after the 16th Maine arrived in Washington, D.C., Stephen was appointed as a "Hospital Nurse", which

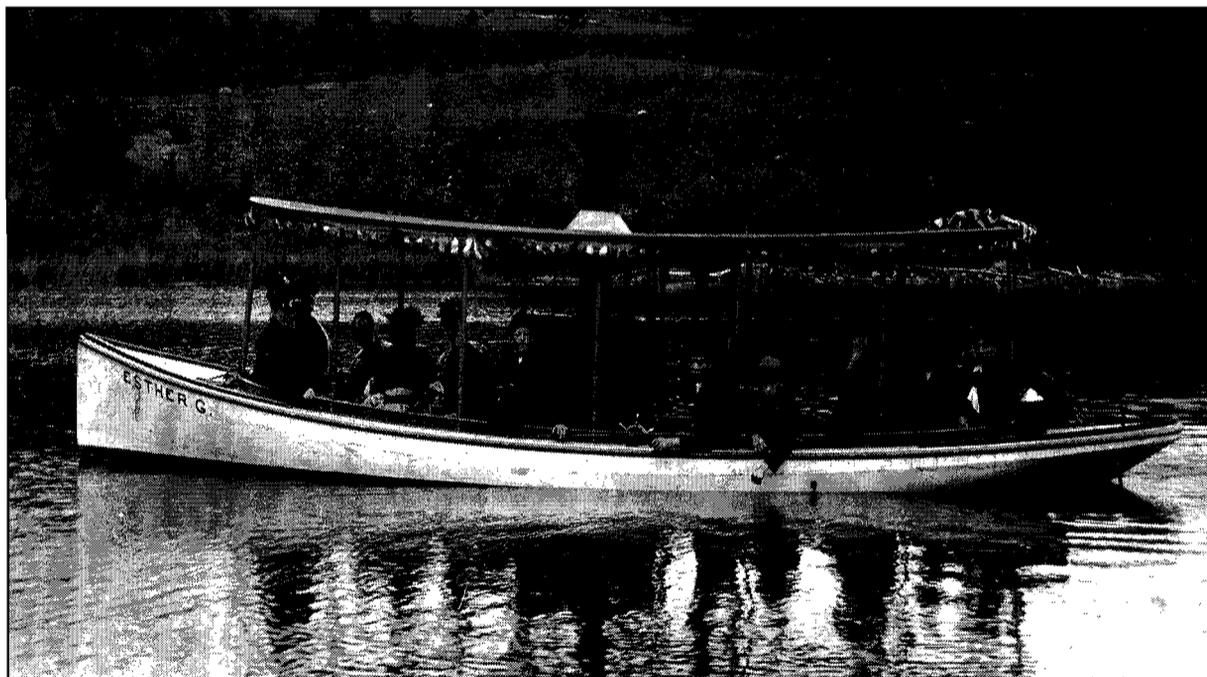
he remained for his entire time in the war. Regimental historians wrote that Coffin "served mostly in regimental and field hospital as a nurse: a faithful, hard-working attendant. Many a soldier ... owes his life to the care and nursing of this man" they wrote.

Charles served as an infantryman and Second Lieutenant through the battle of Antietam on September 16, 1862. On September 21, 1862 he was detailed to command the Brigade Ambulance Corps. This detail was assigned because Charles was known to be good with horses and able to handle horses while under fire was one of the prime requisites for being an ambulance "driver" in the war.

Stephen and Charles must have had almost daily contact because they were both responsible for the care of the sick and wounded. They performed their work under fire and without any means of protection against the enemy; these circumstances alone would cause strong bonds to develop between the two young men. At the end of the war in 1865, Stephen returned to North Lovell. Charles went on to become a Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, leaving the Army in May of 1866. He returned to Lewiston and shortly thereafter made a visit to Stephen in North Lovell. There he met Caleb and Mary Coffin and their five daughters.

Stephen had spent half of his life residing in the house of his uncle, Caleb Coffin. His mother had moved the family there after the death of her husband in 1849. Caleb and Mary (Burbank) Coffin

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The Garcelon's steamboat, the Esther G., travelling on Kezar Lake.

were farmers in North Lovell. Their farm included the land where the present Garcelon Mansion is today and across Route 5 where the present Daisy Mountain Inn is located. The Inn is the house that was Caleb and Mary Coffin's home. The farm had about 140 acres and approximately 1500 feet of frontage on Kezar Lake.

In 1867, the 24-year-old Charles left Lewiston and went to work for the newly formed Pullman Company in their East St. Louis, Missouri office. He began as a conductor but very quickly rose to be District Manager of Pullman's St. Louis office. In the meantime, he had fallen in love with one of Stephen's cousins, Esther. The couple was married in St. Louis on March 27, 1872.

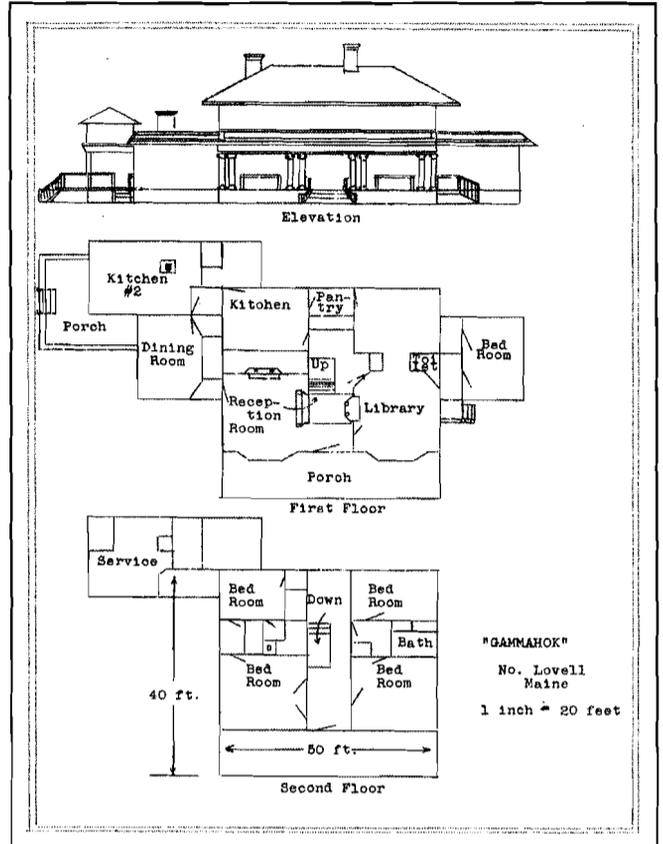
Esther very quickly proved her mettle, using her sewing skills to make Charles's conductor uniforms. She managed the household while her husband managed the district for the Pullman Company. Esther gave birth to three sons, Charles Augustus Jr. in 1874, Albert Bertram in 1878 and Don in 1886. Don died at 21 months old. Charles and Albert lived full lives.

By the late 1880's, Charles and Esther had been moved to the Town of Pullman (now part of Chicago), Illinois after Charles was made District Manager for the Pullman Company's main office there. On January 1, 1889, he was promoted to General Manager of the Pullman Palace Car Company. At that time it was one of the largest industrial corporations in the world. His rise to the top of the company was meteoric, but back in Lewiston and Lovell very few people were even aware of it.

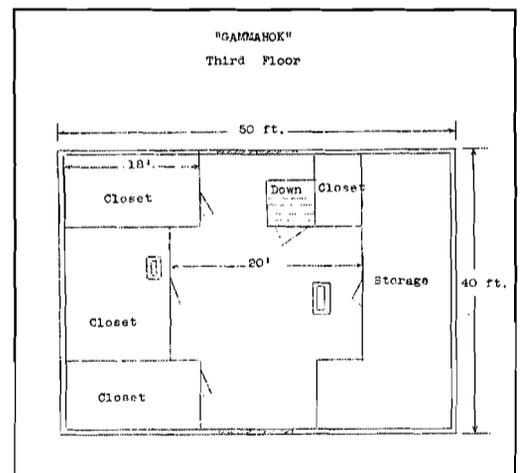
While Charles was "rising to the top", Esther's family in Lovell was having a very hard time. Her mother, father, sisters, along with cousin Stephen and his family were struggling to survive. Charles devised a solution to which Esther quickly agreed. He provided the money and Esther purchased the 140-acre Coffin Farm in North Lovell on November 24, 1890. The purchase of the property gave the Coffin family a new lease on life. Not only did Esther purchase the property, but the Coffin family was given lifetime tenancy rights. They were paid generous sums to operate the farm. Charles also paid to have the farmhouse renovated and upgraded, and paid the property taxes. As a result, Charles's old comrade-in-arms, Stephen Coffin, was able to live out his life on the Coffin Farm and Esther's sisters and their families were able to stop worrying about money.

By the time he retired from Pullman in 1906, Charles had arranged to build a mansion on Kezar Lake. It is likely it was built by the same Italian craftsmen who built Robert Todd Lincoln's mansion "Hildene" in Manchester, Vermont. Robert Todd Lincoln was president of the Pullman Company when Charles was its chief operating officer and they worked together every day.

Esther died at the mansion on April 25, 1927. Charles died there on May 12, 1935, just a few months shy of his 93rd birthday. They are both buried in the Garcelon Cemetery on Garcelon Ferry Road in Lewiston Their promise to provide a home for Esther's family lasted for another 34 years, until Daisy (Hill) Fogg, who was Esther's niece, died at the farmhouse on September 4, 1979. ...



Floor plans drawn by Charles Augustus Garcelon Jr. of "Gammahok", the family mansion. The name was coined by a grandchild who had difficulty pronouncing "Grandma's house".



## Newest Pullman Car Honors Lake Kezar at Lovell, Maine



*The following story was published in the Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald on December 1, 1946, Section C, Page Fourteen.*

Maine's beautiful Lake Kezar—surrounded by the various communities making up the town of Lovell—has been honored by the Pullman Company by having its name inscribed in gold on the sides of a sleek, new Pullman car. This signal honor accorded the 10-mile long lake nestled like an iridescent gem in the foothills of the White Mountains, has brought to reality a dream harbored for several years by Gus Heim of Lovell.

Hundreds of New Yorkers make Lake Kezar their summer vacation headquarters, where after alighting from a Pullman in Union Station at Portland they are whisked 35 miles over the road by motor car to the various summer resorts that abound on its shores.

### **Idea Came to Heim**

During the early morning hours of the summer months, Gus Heim, of Lovell, waited at Union Station for the arrival of guests of Sunset Inn, which is conducted by his mother, Mrs. Edna M. Heim. As the various Pullman cars arrived from New York City and other distant points, Gus noted with interest the many names inscribed on the sides of the cars. But one name was missing and that was Lake Kezar. The idea germinated in Gus' mind a couple of years ago that

this Maine lake, which had forged to the front as a recreational center of the state, should take its place with other noted lakes and have its name emblazoned on the sides of one of the Pullman cars.

Early this last Summer he broached the subject to his mother who regarded it with favor. In her mind Lake Kezar is the most beautiful lake in the world and located, as it is, in the quaint, historical town of Lovell which is noted for its proof of records showing that the old pioneers of 200 years and more, toiled and sweat under high taxation when Maine was a part of Massachusetts.

Original houses of over 100 years are still standing, and the ancestors of these fine pioneers are still thriving in this town of Lovell. Knowing all of these characters and the beautiful Lake Kezar which commands a panoramic view of the Presidential Mountain Range, Mrs. Heim wrote to President Crawford of the Pullman Car Company of Chicago, stressing all of the above facts in conjunction with the many private estates, summer resorts and business establishments that abound on the shores of the lake.

### **General Manager of Company**

She disclosed to President Crawford that one of the residents owning a beautiful estate on the shores of Lake Kezar, until his death ten years ago, was none other than Charles A. Garcelon, Sr., who was general manager of the Pullman Company when the founder, George Pullman, was alive. Mr. Garcelon, who passed

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on in 1937, at the age of 93, was a fine old gentleman, respected and admired by all who had the opportunity of knowing him.

His son, Charles A. Jr., who resides at the north shore of Lake Kezar, reveals a few of the highlights of his illustrious father's life. He was born on a farm in Lewiston in 1844; his mother died when he was very young. His father was a doctor, later governor of Maine. The Country was in a turmoil; North and South, State rights and Slavery were all in a tangled mess. When a young man he carried a younger brother on his back, seven miles to the home of his grandfather, near Garcelon Ferry across the Androscoggin. He found employment with his uncle, William Waldron, who was then owner of the *Lewiston Journal*, walking to work every day.

One morning, at 6 a.m. his uncle called him from his attic room and said, "See what the Rebs have done to our boys". A description of Bull Run was in the paper. The 18-year-old boy hurried to the newspaper office to read further accounts of the disastrous battle.

He and his uncle opened an office in what is now the Lower Maine Central Station and there they recruited Company I of the 16th Me. Infantry. Marching to Augusta the company was outfitted and Charles was made second lieutenant of his company. Hurrying to the South, he fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg. In the latter year of the war he was on the staff of General Mower and at the end he was Chief Quartermaster of the Eastern District of Texas. At the age of 21 he was in charge of disposing of all army property accumulated in Texas under Sheridan.

#### **Became A Conductor**

The war over, he found employment with the Wabash Railroad, running from Toledo to St. Louis. He soon became conductor for the Pullman Company and from this position he was made District Superintendent at St. Louis for the company.

After George Pullman noticed that he had made many friends among the Railway men in St. Louis his advance was rapid until he was finally made General Manager of the Company. Charles A. Garcelon had a strong will, if he knew he was right, regardless of opposition he never faltered. His word was his bond. One of his expressions was, "A lie will travel leagues while the truth is putting its boots on".

He married Esther Coffin of Lovell, who went to St. Louis after he secured employment with the Wabash Railroad as conductor. He received \$80 a month and Mrs. Garcelon made all of his clothes including his uniforms.

Mr. Garcelon retired from the Pullman Company in 1906 and came back east to Lake Kezar where he resided until his death. He is buried in Garcelon Cemetery in Lewiston where the first Garcelon, who came from France more than 200 years ago, is buried.

#### **Good Word Arrived**

On Oct. 29, this year, Mrs. Heim received a letter from Vice President James M. Carry, of the Pullman Company, stating that he was pleased to inform her that one of the Pullman Cars of the Lake Series is now

in operation and is named Lake Kezar. A large photograph was enclosed in the same letter showing the Lake Kezar Pullman Car.

Gus Heim has had his wish fulfilled and is now eagerly looking forward to the coming summer when on some early morning a long train will come to a stop in Union Station, but Gus's attention won't be on the passengers as they step onto the station platform. His eyes will be fastened on the side of a new Pullman Car bearing the gold letters—LAKE KEZAR. •••



Edna (Ostermeyer) Heim (1889-1961) and her husband Gustav (1879-1933) built and operated Sunset Inn at Kezar Lake. After her husband's death she continued to operate the Inn, until 1952 when it was sold and became a part of Quisisana.

*Photo donated by Gus Heim*

According to David Garcelon, the newspaper account of the Lake Kezar Pullman Car is not the full story:

*On August 28, 1940 the Pullman Palace Car Company built a car according to their Plan 4086B and named it the "Kezar Falls", putting it into their Type L (Lake) series. At the time that Mrs. Heim approached President Crawford of Pullman in the summer of 1946, the "Kezar Falls" had been in service for almost six years. After her request, the car's name was changed to "Lake Kezar". In all probability it was leased to lines operating in New England and the eastern seaboard; it was upgraded on August 29, 1952, and finally taken out of service on July 1, 1958.*

## Garcelon's Letter from Gettysburg

*During the Battle of Gettysburg Charles Garcelon carried his wounded uncle, William Waldron, from the field. In a letter, transcribed below by great-grandson David C. Garcelon, Charles wrote his aunt and assured her that William would be fine. The original letter is with the "Garcelon Family Papers" in the Edmund Muskie Archives & Special Collections at Bates College.*

In the Field near Gettysburg Penn July 4th, 63

My dear Aunt:

I have the pleasure to inform you that Uncle and my-self are safe. Undoubtedly you have been very anxious to learn our fate. Uncle received a bullet wound in the neck it is not thought to be serious by the Doct,r and my own judgement is that it is not. We should be very thankful that he has es-caped as he has. The rebels drove us out of the town but our men made a stand on the hill back of the town which position the enemy are not able to force. Uncle and myself have both been prisoners since the 1st and were released to July 4th, it will be long remembered the 4th of July 1863. The cause of all the disaster was the disgraceful conduct of the eleventh corps they were on the right of our Corps, they broke and let the enemy in our rear so that we were compelled to fall back when we arrived at the town we found the enemy allready there so that retreat by that route was impossible and Uncle being wounded it was impossible to escape.

It has been an awful conflict and it is not over probably although there has been no firing today. I trust we may be successful it seems as though this wicked war has gone far enough to stop both sides are tired of it, the common soldiers I mean those who are not making their money out of the war, it seems awful to think there are men who do not want this war to close be-cause they will not have an opportunity to make a little money but there are such men I have no doubt. Don't worry about Uncle I think he will get along quite well.... I will write you frequently have good courage all will be well yet. Give my love to all Yours Affect. CAG

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### In Memoriam

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

**Patrick J. Cadigan**, 52, of Lovell passed away on August 29, 2010. He was born in Portland, ME, the son of George and Mary Cadigan and attended schools in South Portland and Fryeburg. He had a construction and landscaping business in town. He is survived by his partner Mary Perkins.

**Patricia A. (Harmon) Chandler**, 81, of Lovell passed away on July 7, 2010. She was born in Stow, ME, the daughter of Herbert and Tressia Harmon. After receiving a Masters in Education from the University of Southern Maine, Pat taught in local schools for over 35 years. She was predeceased by her husband Robert and is survived by two children—Alexander and Rose Savage—two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Harry Herbert Crosby**, 91, of Newton, MA and Lovell passed away on July 28, 2010. He grew up in Iowa, the son of Guy and Eva Crosby, and served as a Group Navigator during World War II. After the war he received his PhD in English from Stanford University and spent most of his career teaching at Boston University. He also authored or coauthored ten textbooks on college writing and a personal memoir of his Air Force service. Harry moved to Lovell in 1984 after retiring from teaching and was extremely active in community affairs. He served as a Secretary and Director of this Society and was a Life Member. He was predeceased by his first wife Jean and is survived by his second wife Mary Alice, four children—Steve, April, Jeff and Rebecca Hutchinson—eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three stepchildren and five step-grandchildren.

**Kelly Dunham**, 77, of Lovell passed away on September 2, 2010. He was born in Fryeburg, the son of Esmond and Ida Dunham and attended Fryeburg schools. He worked as a general contractor for many years and was very active in the Lovell and Fryeburg Historical Societies and many community organizations. He was a former Vice President of this Society and was an Honorary Life Member. He is survived by his wife Irene, two children—Richard and Coffee—three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Ruth (Spencer) Kendall**, 92, of Hilton Head, SC and Lovell passed away on July 25, 2010. She was born in Middletown, CT, the daughter of Bertrand and Alice Spencer. She graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, raised her family and joined her husband in starting Kendall Infrared Labs in 1953. In 1961, they became summer residents of Lovell and were very active in community affairs. She was a Life Member of this Society. Ruth was predeceased by her husband David and is survived by three children—Doug, Bert and Kathy—five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**Donald Campbell Kilgour**, 95, of Rockport, ME passed away on June 11, 2010. He was born in Lovell, the son of James and Olive Kilgour and attended schools here before graduating from the University of Maine. Don was a ballplayer, pitching for the Cleveland Indians in the Texas League until an injury ended his career. He then served in the Army during World War II, fighting in Italy. After the war, he returned to Maine and spent his career working for Central Maine Power. He was very active in community affairs and was a Honorary Life Member of this Society. He was predeceased by his wife Barbara and is survived by two sons—Bruce and James—four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Gifts & Donations

*We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter:* **Steve & Mary Anderson, Hal & Joyce Buckingham, Frank & Willie Gorke, Tom McLaughlin, Anita Miller, David & Ruth Morine**—9 Civil War homefront letters; **Sandra Bell**—Lovell Classics photos; **Mercer & Mary Louise Blanchard**—permission to copy a DVD of the Bittles family home movies; **Pam Bliss**—Lovell Classics photos; **Bob & Robin Chiarello**—four framed fashion prints circa 1920's; **Bernard & Genie Cohen** (in memory of Miriam & Irving Deutsch)—permission to scan photos, information on Kinapic Lodge; **Gerald & Evelyn Davis**—log cabin quilt & hand appliquéd bedspread made by Celia (McAllister) Davis; **Henry & Christine Deutsch**—permission to scan photos; **Renee Dutton** (in memory of Oliver Dutton & William Severance)—3 real estate signs, large panel with a Don Dickerman drawing; **Joni Fox-Campbell**—photos of the 1961 Lovell Old Home Days parade, Brown's Camps promotional on a slice of wood, 2 Lovell Annual Reports, Spring 1945 Woodsmoke; **Jane Gleason**—vintage clothing owned by Eleanor Lewis, permission to scan photo; **Bill & Nancy Jamison**—photos of Lovell Old Home Days, the Antique Show, the Lion's Auction and the Library dedication; **Ron & Sally McAllister**—2 quart ice cream freezer; **Fred & Ruth Mitchell**—permission to scan photos; **Leotus Morrison**—large collection of Camp Mudjekeewis material; **Margrit Newman**—decorative pole from the John McKeen house on Old Stage Road; **Keith Rowe** (in memory of Harlan & Eileen Rowe)—framed Don Dickerman sketch; **Margery Sholes** (for the Dallinger family)—framed photo of Douglas Volk painting a portrait of Abraham Lincoln; **Nancy Skorge**—collection of Camp Mudjekeewis material; **Dean & Pat Stearns** (in memory of Helen Stearns)—1903 Bread Machine; **Vinton Family**—VHS tape of WNPE's "Rod & Reel Streamside: The Maine Reason for Fishing".

*Cash donations have been gratefully received from:* **Shirlee Bommer; David & Eva Bradford; Corille Bresette** (in memory of Eileen Rowe); **Ed & Audrey Clout; Collier Hands; Carol Jaffe** (in memory of Don Dickerman, Margaret Perkins & Ena Pryde); **Christine Kuhn; Bill & Lucy LaCasse; Julie Lindquist** (in memory of Margaret Perkins & Ena Pryde); **Paul & Cynthia Littlefield; Margery MacMillan; Janet Mason; Michelle McClure; Irene McDeed; Mary McLaughlin; William & Janet Nichols; Harry & Meghan Nyberg; Mark Palmer & Janet Westlund; Bruce & Alice Rogers; Loren & Barbara Rosenbach; Gene & Vicki Royer; Tom Schafner; Nancy Skorge; Brad Smith; Al & Irene St. Germain; Charles & Julianne Steffens** (in memory of Virginia Sutton Wisecarver); **Zoe Trautman; Linda Wallace.**

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

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