

# Yesterday's News

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## Eastman Hill Stock Farm



The Roaring Twenties is distinguished as a period of sustained economic prosperity. The popularity of movies, the automobile, jazz, radio, baseball, and horse racing skyrocketed during this decade. It was a time of major lifestyle changes and the small town of Lovell, population 575, influenced the nation during these years, thanks in part to Robert Eastman and his development of Eastman Hill Stock Farm.

The focal point of Eastman Hill Stock Farm is the Federal/Greek Revival style brick house built in 1833 by Phineas Eastman (1787-1847). Phineas had occupied the site since 1816, and this is where he constructed Lovell's first brick home for his wife Dorothy (Charles) Eastman (1799-1873) and their nine children. When he died, the house was left to his widow and sons, and stayed in the family until 1877. The property then passed into the hands of a succession of owners—John Abbott, John Walker, William Kneeland, and Hilton McAllister.

In 1912, Robert Maurice Eastman (1869-1932) purchased his grandfather's Lovell homestead for use

as a summer home. Eastman grew up in Minnesota and became a highly successful printer in Chicago. He had taken a small printing business, F.W. Hall Printing Company, and transformed it into the world's largest catalogue and magazine printing concern. The business had over a thousand employees and published *Photoplay*, the Sears & Roebuck catalogue, and *National Geographic*, among others.

After purchasing the brick house with forty-five acres, Robert Eastman began to expand his Lovell holdings. In 1913, he purchased the property across the street, including the house with attached ells and barn, known as the Jonathan Charles House. This became the home of the farm's superintendent. The Town Poor Farm was purchased in 1920 and became the focus of Eastman's stock farm operations. In 1926, he purchased the Isaac Eastman property, comprising four acres and a Greek Revival style house. It was located up the hill from the brick house. This home, known as the Mel House, was used for

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## From the President

2011 was another great year for the Society. We continued our trend of adding about fifty new members a year, we held five community events, completed several restoration projects on the Kimball-Stanford House, and continued to update our website ([www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org)). Without your support we would not have been able to achieve so much.

On September 24th, we hosted "West Lovell Conversations", a round table discussion about the development of West Lovell, a unique section of town. The panel members were Marcia Hamlin, Ron Leavitt, Byron Shaw, and Al Stearns. They engaged in a lively and entertaining discussion, and the research center was packed with attendees. We hope to have more of these discussions, covering different topics, with the next planned for early this summer.

On October 16th, we held our Fall Harvest event, which is always enjoyable and well attended. Sarah and Anna Williams demonstrated a cider press with apples donated by Pie Tree Orchard. The Nick Nataluk 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*. It was a fun event and our thanks go to all the volunteers, including the many bakers, who contributed that day.

On December 18th, 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 the research center was enlivened by the displays of Lucy Rogers and Sue Sidwell. We were also fortunate to receive three great raffle items from our members—Chris & Jen Lively, Janice Sage, and Ginny Roriston. The lucky winners were: Pete & Cary Fleming (\$200 gift certificate for home fuel, which they are generously donating to Lovell's Friends Helping Friends); Bernie & Genie Cohen (\$100 gift certificate to Ebenezer's Restaurant); and Ron & Liz Tusing (dinner for two at the Center Lovell Inn). Thank you to all the members who purchased raffle tickets!

This last year we welcomed several new volunteers who deserve special thanks. Linda Legere has taken on the project of documenting Lovell's houses, a large task. Sharon Kelly has joined Lou Olmsted in adding data to our museum software program, a job that leaves little room for error. Their work, combined with our other volunteers, has greatly enhanced our

research capabilities. If you are interested in joining their efforts, please stop by.

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

Best wishes, *Catherine Stone*

### 2012 Events

Annual Dinner	Monday, June 25
Antique Sale & Auction	Sunday, July 15
Fall Harvest	Sunday, October 14
Christmas Open House	Sunday, December 16

### 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 2011-2012

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

#### 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 [lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

laundry facilities and to provide housing for farm assistants. At this point the farm totaled approximately one thousand acres.

Robert and his wife Caroline (Evers) or "Carrie" (1874-1954) transformed the rural farmstead into a country gentleman's estate. Electricity and running water were added, and legend has it that Eastman won the electrical service (with poles discretely hidden in the woods) in a poker game from the president of the local power company. A glazed verandah was added in 1921. Two years later, after moving the stock farm operation to the Town Poor Farm property, Eastman hired Portland architect Fred H. Thorne to turn the old attached barn into a medieval hall, complete with a great assembly area, performance stage, game room, office, two bathrooms, and three guest bedrooms. That same year Breck-Robinson Nursery Company of Lexington, Massachusetts designed a formal garden to replace the cornfield across the street from the house.

The country gentleman's farm was now complete for the family, which included a son William or "Billy" (1894-1978) and daughter Eunice or "Patty" (1905-1989). It is not clear if Billy spent much time at the farm, as he and his parents appear to have had a falling out sometime after he graduated from Yale University in 1919. Legend has it that Billy fell in love and married a woman of the Catholic religion, causing a large rift with his Episcopalian parents.

Patty spent her summers at the farm and for three years kept a journal of her time there. Unfortunately, the journal disappeared between 1992 and 1993 and reference can only be made to a historic property plan of the farm compiled by Ann Beha Associates. According to that history, Patty and her school friend Florence Gratuit wrote a journal from 1920 through 1922 they titled *The Gratman Daily Bulletin*. In the journal, they painted a pleasant picture of a carefree summer existence. Passages mentioned the family's annual auto trips from Chicago, overnights at the Hotel Touraine in Boston, and escorting guests from the train stations in Portland or Fryeburg. Days were spent swimming, fishing, playing tennis, going for automobile rides, walking (mother Carrie was often on a "reducing regimen" that included hikes up and down the hill), boating, horseback riding, going to church, the movies, and dances. Patty's parents were often referred to as "Sir Robert" and "Lady Caroline".

According to the Ann Beha Associates history, one of the more interesting journal entries was made on July 7, 1921, apparently following a party: *Today the Old Brick House on the Hill is suffering from the effects of "the morning after". There were high jinks last night, and if Grandfather Eastman's spirit still wanders about the old homestead it either laughed a hearty ghostly laugh or floated back to his granite*



Robert Eastman

*cellar in spirit disgust. Wonder what the reverend old spirit of Phineas Eastman thinks about anyway. What thoughts pass through his hoary old head when he witnesses us all living such a joyous carefree existence in the old place he built a century ago with years of labor and worry, pausing every now and then to fight off the marauding Indians who were not at all pleased with the invasion of their forest home by the white man. He must be dreadfully puzzled when he sees Mrs. Bassett stand up and talk to Chicago and New York through a little wood and metal contraption on the wall. What a look of amazement must have spread over the old gentleman's face when he first saw the whole house flooded with light when someone pressed a little button just inside the door, saw water flowing uphill into a big fool-shaped [sic] white tub that made lazy folks think every morning is Saturday night....*

While the family lived this leisurely lifestyle, Robert Eastman pursued an interest in stock breeding. He began by breeding Holstein and in a *New York Herald* article dated November 1, 1922 he related that he "began raising pure bred cattle for recreation and with the hope and belief that Maine's livestock industry could be stimulated". Eastman had great success in 1922 with a two-year-old bull named King Grant Reliance that won the blue ribbon at the Springfield Agricultural Fair, the highest honor east

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of Chicago. He had many other successful black and white prodigies before he became interested in Thoroughbreds.

To say that Robert Eastman was interested in Thoroughbreds does not do justice to his influence on horse racing. The 1920s was Thoroughbred racing's Golden Age and Eastman Hill Stock Farm became well-known thanks to Eastman's successful breeding operation. In partnership with a Canadian friend, Christopher J. Fitzgerald, Eastman first purchased the stallion Tryster. They later sold the horse for \$100,000. He bought the mare Clonakilty, bred her with Hourless, and produced two remarkable race horses. Mike Hall became one of the greatest racing geldings of all time and his brother, Charley O, won the Florida Derby in 1933 and came in 3rd at the Kentucky Derby. Other race horses include Cathop, another offspring of Clonakilty. With Fitzgerald and good friend Hal Price Headley, he formed a syndicate to buy Pharamond II, a stallion that later became one of the leading sires in the United States. Eastman Hill Stock Farm was often mentioned in racing circles.

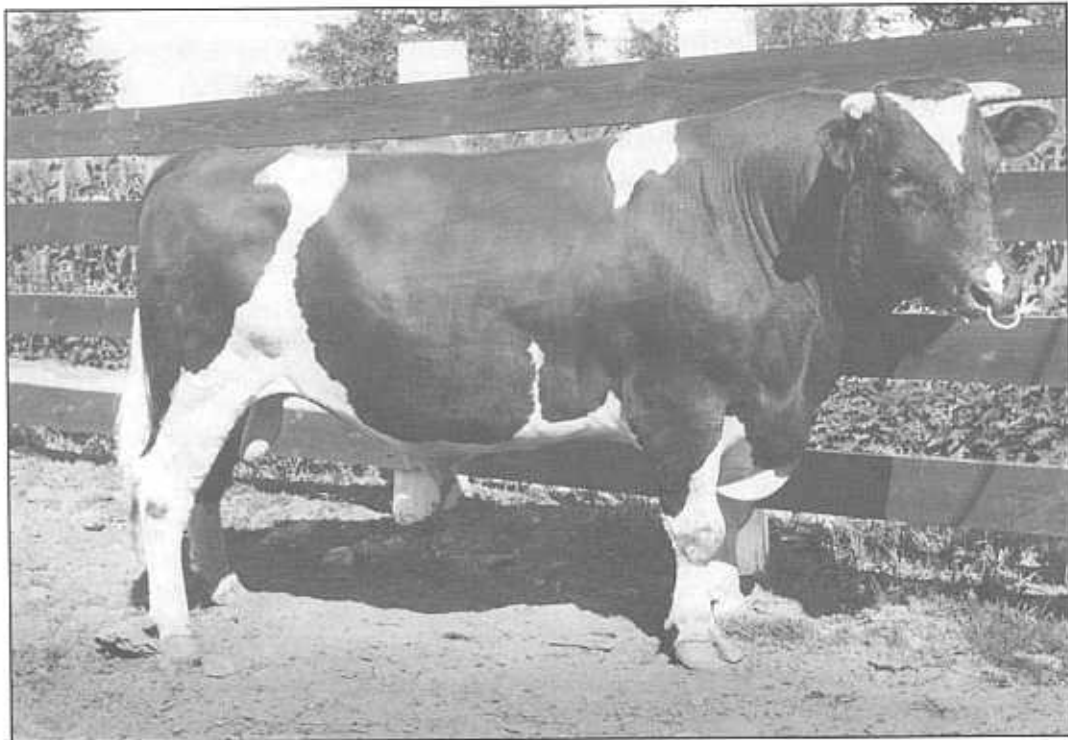
It was reported by *The Blood-Horse* that early in 1931 Robert Eastman suffered a stroke with resulting paralysis. He did continue to visit Eastman Hill Stock Farm in the summer, as witnessed by correspondence left at the farm, but he lessened his involvement in

Thoroughbreds. In November of 1932 it was reported that he sold off most of his Thoroughbred stock at a Lexington, Kentucky auction, except for a few horses in training and Mike Hall, who had been turned out for a life of ease. On November 23, 1932, at the age of sixty-two, Eastman died of a massive heart attack.

Eastman Hill Stock Farm was left to his wife Carrie, with the desire that upon her death the property go to their daughter Patty. His son Billy was left the former Town Poor Farm property which included the stock farm operation. Shortly after his father's death, Billy sold the property back to his mother. The breeding stock and remaining race horses were slowly sold off and in 1949 so was the former Poor Farm property. Carrie died in 1954 and left the property to her daughter.

Patty continued the tradition of summering at Eastman Hill and in 1957 married her long-time friend Joseph Carroll. It is probably no coincidence that this friendship did not develop into marriage until the death of her mother, as Joe was also of the Catholic religion. Joe died after ten years of marriage and Patty died in 1989 with no heirs. She decided to leave the farm to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They sold the property in 1994 with conservation easements and the farm has remained in private hands ever since.

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King Grant Reliance, 1922 Grand Champion Eastern States Exposition and seven other fairs



## Mike Hall



Of all the race horses Robert Eastman owned and bred, none was more successful than Mike Hall. When Mike Hall was racing well he was great. He broke track records and shocked experts with his come-from-behind wins. In 1928 he was at his best and was ranked America's champion handicap horse. Not bad for a horse from Lovell, Maine.

Eastman Hill Stock Farm had been the site of a successful Holstein cattle breeding operation for several years before Eastman became interested in Thoroughbreds. Eastman's first venture as a Thoroughbred owner was the purchase, in partnership with Christopher J. Fitzgerald, of Tryster. The stallion was a descendant of Man O' War and had been the 1920 American Champion Two-Year-Old Male Horse. This was followed by the purchase of a number of mares, including imported Clonakilty.

Eastman had purchased Clonakilty from Fitzgerald with the stipulation that the mare should be bred to Hourless, the 1917 winner of the Belmont Stakes. The product of this mating was Mike Hall. The horse, sired in 1924, was named for one of the founders of Eastman's printing house in Chicago.

Mike Hall did not begin his racing career until he was a three-year-old. Hal Price Headley, the owner of Beaumont Farm in Lexington, Kentucky and one of the 20th century's most successful Thoroughbred

horsemen, had purchased the brown gelding from Eastman. Under new ownership and training, it was discovered that Mike Hall was a good horse and in 1927 he won his first big race. During the last race of the year, three-year-old Mike Hall set an American record of 3:48 for two and a quarter miles at the Latonia Cup Handicap. The following year he won the Dixie, Great Lakes, Washington, and Latonia Cup Handcaps. Altogether, Mike Hall won upwards of \$100,000 during the two years Headley owned him.

Mike Hall was resold back to Eastman in the fall of 1928. He continued in the charge of Headley and, according to the former owner's wishes, was shipped to England for two races to be held in October of 1929—the Cesarewitch Stakes and the Cambridgeshire Stakes. Mike Hall travelled under the management and direction of Fitzgerald.

Mike Hall was the second Thoroughbred from America to take part in important racing events on English courses in 1929. Fitzgerald hoped to demonstrate that horses crossing the Atlantic could be successfully run "right off the boat". Mike Hall travelled in one of the best boxes in the steamship *Minnewaska* and his first race was held ten days after landing.

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While the American "invader" had a presentable showing in the two races he participated in, Mike Hall did not place in either. At the Cesarewitch Handicap, he finished thirteenth in a field of thirty-five runners. It was noted by British reporter Myrick Good that there was a lot to like about the American five-year-old who was "a hard-looking gelding, lacking distinctiveness and a little short of quality". Another reporter commented that Mike Hall's big feet were suggestive of his preferring soft ground and "he took rather a long time to get going".

When Mike Hall returned to America and Beaumont Farm, it was reported by Harold Fallon, Headley's secretary, that he was in surprisingly good condition: "His feet and legs are perfect and he acts as if he knows where he is; seems to recognize his surroundings, and is eating and sleeping just as if he had never been off Beaumont Farm. He is a grand, sensible gelding, and we are all happy to have him back."

Having spent most of his five-year-old season preparing for the trip to England, Mike Hall was prevented from finishing his racing campaign in 1930 by a tendon injury. It appeared that the gelding's racing days were drawing to a conclusion. But Eastman took a chance in March 1931 and sent Mike Hall to Mexico to compete in the \$100,000 Agua Caliente Handicap for three-year-olds and up. Few people thought seven-year-old Mike Hall had a chance to win but he surprised everyone. As reported by *The Thoroughbred Record*: "It was one of the greatest finishes in the history of the running of the

world's richest race and it brought the record-breaking throno to its feet, wildly acclaiming the horses as they surged past the finish line, with the finish in doubt until the official numbers were hung out. In Mike Hall's sensational victory coming from a good distance back, he passed under the wire in the record breaking time of 2:03 to establish a new mark for the ten furlongs."

By August of 1931 Mike Hall was suffering from a recurrence of the tendon trouble which had interrupted his career two years earlier. By October it was clear that the veteran racer was pulling up sore after his training gallops. Robert Eastman announced that Mike Hall would be retiring to Lovell the following summer to spend his remaining days, adding that there would be nothing too good for him in his old age. It is not certain if that happened. Eastman died that November and no record can be found that Mike Hall returned home to Lovell. It is known that he never raced again and in 1937 he was paraded with six other "outstanding" retired geldings at Keeneland Race Course. Headley was listed as the owner of Mike Hall.

In reporting Mike Hall's retirement, *The Blood-Horse* described him as one of the greatest racing geldings of all time. During his five-year racing career he won \$213,220, the equivalent today of \$2.8 million. Until Sun Beau and Sea Biscuit surpassed his record, Eastman Hill Stock Farm's Mike Hall was the greatest money horse in the history of the U.S. turf.

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*\*Cathy Schenck, the Librarian at Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky, provided most of the research for this article.*



Mike Hall in front of the stables at the stock farm operation, once the Town Poor Farm

## In Memoriam

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

**Dennis W. Emery**, 85, of Fryeburg, ME, passed away on November 13, 2011. Dennis was born in Fryeburg, graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 1946 and spent many years working for Leon and Marge Harmon at the Lovell Village Store, now Rosies. After Marge's retirement, he took over the business and operated the store for five years, from 1954 to 1959, before buying Emery's Red and White Market in Fryeburg. Dennis was active with the Masons, Fryeburg Academy, and was a member of this Society.

**Hugh Berchmans Flanigan, Jr.**, 76, of Jupiter, FL, died on September 15, 2011. He was born in Philadelphia, PA on January 3, 1935, the son of Hugh and Helen Flanigan. He served in the Navy as a Lt. Aviator and, after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a DMD, practiced dentistry for 42 years. He was a longtime summer resident of Boulder Brook Club on Kezar Lake. He is survived by three ex-wives—Phoebe, Darlene, and Randi—eight children—Hugh, Heidi Tucker, Stephen, Mollie Allen, Patrick, Phoebe McGurik, Jeffrey, and Jenifer—and nine grandchildren.

**Walston "Bud" Chubb Gallie**, 84, of Lovell, passed away on November 20, 2011. He was born in New York City on July 11, 1927, the son of Thomas and Mavis (Chubb) Gallie. He served in the Navy during World War II and received an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He worked in commercial banking and held executive positions at the National Bank of North America and the Bank of New York. His summers were spent visiting his family's summer home, to which he later retired. Bud was an actively involved Life Member of this Society. He was predeceased by his wife Patricia and is survived by his four children—Chubb, Will, Mary, and Suzanne—and five grandchildren.

**John Kane**, 87, of Intervale, NH, died on October 25, 2011. He was born in Montclair, NJ on November 22, 1923 and attended Amherst College. After serving in World War II, where he was attached to the 9th Air Force, 371st fighter-bomber group, he settled in Lovell and lived on Sabattus Mountain Road for many years. He founded his own printing business, raised chinchillas, and collected and reproduced New England historical maps. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, four children—Leslie, Ellen Soroka, Shelly Moore, and Lawrence—five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Katherine Colleen Nunnely**, 63, of Kansas City, MO, passed away on September 29, 2011. She was born April 12, 1948 in Schenectady, NY to Howard and Emily Nunnely and grew up in New Florence, MO. Colleen received a law degree from Antioch Law School, at which time she began to summer in Lovell. She purchased a cabin on Sabattus Mountain Road in 1987. She worked for the Legal Aid Society of Western Missouri and then for UAW Legal Services and was an active member of this Society.

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## Gifts & Donations

*We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter:* **Craig Adams**—permission to scan photos; **Russell & Penny Allen** (in memory of Mark Allen, Albert Heath, & Millard Charles)—school reports on 2 Lovell residents; **Janette Bennett**—John S. Gerry's name plate from Gerry's Mill; **Kris & Sukey Barthelmess**—2 Kezar Lake sweatshirts; **Jack & Beverly Bassett**—photos and news clippings, Walker & Bell wooden box, *Our Mailman* written by Jim Rowe, collection of Warren family Christmas cards; **Joan Crowe**—50 photo note cards; **Gerald & Evelyn Davis** (in memory of Celia McAllister)—ledger of George Davis 1918-1938, doll, purses, embroidery hoop, checkers set, crepe paper; **Renee Dutton** (in memory of Richard Davis)—ice shovel & snow sled, information on Eastman Hill, Christmas wreath; **Ray & Peggy Fisher** (in memory of Muriel Pratt)—2 early Lovell photos; **Patricia Foley**—handmade garland; **Steve Fox**—early records of the Kezar Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club;

**Fred Horton & Katherine Ryan**—permission to scan photos; **Littlefield Family** (in memory of Bob & Gladys Littlefield)—1901 Lovell Tax Book; **Charles & Beth-Ann Lusky**—Christmas tree from Intelligent Mountain; **Sheldon & Kathleen Moulton**—large collection of material including the correspondence and journals of the R.O. Moulton family, *1880 Atlas of Oxford County*, instruction book for Union Loom; **David Sanderson**—information on Don Dickerman, sheet music for *Miss You* autographed by Rudy Vallee, “Smart Set” of 8 Rudy Vallee and his Connecticut Yankees records, recording of Uncle Steve’s *Circle* and a copy of the sheet music; **Richard & Martha Van Steenburgh**—Stearns family scrapbook; **Dale Zale**—permission to scan photos.

*Cash donations have been gratefully received from:* **Priscilla Beckloff** (in memory of Paul Morton); **Sandra Bell; Joni Fox Cambell; Katherine Chase; Charles & Joan Dattelbaum; Ann Diskin** (in memory of David Evans); **Maureen Duggan; Ben & Nancy Eshleman; Peter & Cary Fleming; Tom & Pam Foley; Elmer Fox; Francis & Jean Gilman; Theda Gilman; Tom & Alison Halloran; Collier Hands; Larry Goff & Sharon Kelly; Oliveanne Kimball-Scott; Jeff Knights; Azel & Kay Littlefield; Chris & Jen Lively & Ebenezer’s Pub; Dick & Kay Lyman; Hollie Magee; Rev. Donald McAllister; Bill & Anne Marie McCormick; Sheldon & Kathleen Moulton; Jane Orans & Quisisana; Pietree Orchards; Dan & Jeanne Ouellette; Anne Pilsbury** (in memory of Colleen Nunnally); **William & Sandra Pitas; Michael & Nelle Pitman** (in honor of Dean & Pat Stearns and Nancy Pitman); **John Roberts; Ginny Roriston; Janice Sage & the Center Lovell Inn; Mary Semple** (in memory of John Kane); **Kim & Janet Sheffield; Sue Sidwell; Nicholas Skinner; Brad Smith; John Smith; Todd & Sarah Smith; Al & Jacky Stearns; Robert Steller & Patricia Gibson; Ralph & Marilyn Tedesco; Rob & Lorri Upton; Tim & Phyllis Warren; Elizabeth White; Irene Zeller.**

*Donations in memory of Walston “Bud” Gallie:* **Harry & Meghan Nyberg; Dennis & Ellen Smith; Robert Steller & Patricia Gibson; Tamsen Thorpe.**

*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  
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If your mailing label doesn’t say “6-12” or “Life”,  
it is time to join or renew your membership. Thanks!