

# Yesterday's News

Published quarterly by the Lovell Historical Society

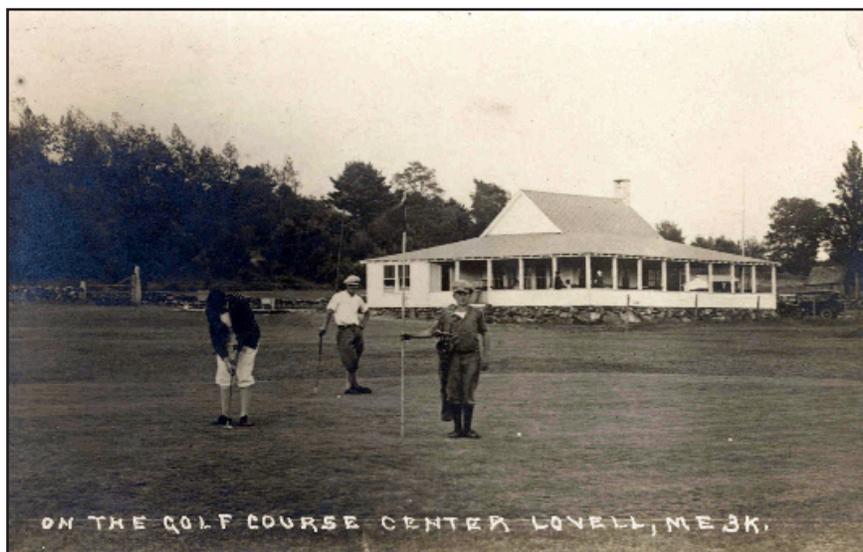


Volume 23, Number 3

Summer 2016

## Lake Kezar Country Club

By Ford Hutchinson



One in a series of postcards of the Lake Kezar Country Club published by Eastern Illustrating Co., circa 1924

*"If you want to know a man, take him out on the golf course."*  
Donald Ross (1892-1948), golf course designer

Head north on Route 5 from Lovell Village past the hardware store, past No. 4 corners, and look left. Greeting you is a long verdant stretch of grass bisected by tall stately pines. Continue farther and on the left a sturdy sign beckons you to turn into a parking lot. Do so and you have arrived at the Lake Kezar Country Club, one of the oldest courses in Western Maine with a proud tradition.

For those whose memories stretch back a few decades, the LKCC was where the mountains soared above tree lines; where Lovell boys and girls with names like Stearns, Eastman, Chandler, and Dallinger earned summer money caddying and shagging balls; where playing eighteen gave the chance to play the course twice; and where, incredibly, a plane actually landed on the 9th fairway! (For more about this, view

the "Kezar Geezer" video at the Lovell Historical Society, which is available on DVD.)

Lake Kezar Country Club's origins go back to the early 1920s when Ben Brown, owner of Brown's Camps (now Severance Lodge Club), and other resort owners recognized the need for a golf course to entertain seasonal visitors and to provide new recreational opportunity and jobs for residents. Brown's vision took hold. Stock was issued to raise money; resort owners and others (Davey, Eastman, Gunther, Heald, Walker, Kimball, Stearns, Whitehead) invested and the Lake Kezar Country Club was born. Robert Eastman donated land (once an old apple orchard), and Donald Ross (1892-1948) was chosen to design the course. He was a wise choice. A highly

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## From the President

As we have in previous years, our summer edition of the Society's newsletter is being mailed town wide. If you have not received the previous quarterly editions and enjoy reading this publication, we hope you will become a member of the Lovell Historical Society. Along with publishing our newsletter, we maintain an internet site ([www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org)) where you can view more than 15,000 records in our collection and over 9,000 images. You can also view transcriptions of Lovell's vital records, early maps, and the town's updated cemetery records. We are located in the 1839 Kimball-Stanford House, maintaining a museum and research center that is open at least three days a week year-round, and hosting a minimum of six town events per year. Your support will help us continue this work and would be greatly appreciated!

On Sunday, July 10th, we will host our annual Antique Show and Auction from 10am to 3pm. This event is free. Dealers will display their wares plus we will have delicious food available and a raffle of three great items: \$100 gift certificate to Rosie's Lovell Village Store; \$100 gift certificate to Lovell Hardware; \$100 gift certificate to Two Black Dogs Restaurant.

Additionally, there will be a live auction at 10am conducted by Frank Eastman. The nineteen auction items are presented on the last page of this newsletter. If you are unable to attend just let us know and we will accept not-to-exceed bids.

Four weeks later, on August 14th, we will be having a special dinner graciously hosted by the Attenborough family. They have spent several years restoring the 1908 Garcelon Mansion, a magnificent neoclassical style home at the north end of Kezar Lake. Tour the house and enjoy a delicious sit-down dinner. Seating is limited so make your reservations soon.

Best wishes, *Catherine Stone*

### 2016 Events

Antique Show & Auction	Sunday, July 10th
Garcelon Dinner Party	Sunday, August 14th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, August 16th
Fall Harvest	Sunday, October 16th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, October 18th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, December 13th
Christmas Open House	Sunday, December 18th

### Dinner at the Garcelon Mansion

August 14th, 6pm

Hosted by Neale & Louisa  
Attenborough and Family

A catered dinner in their newly restored  
Lake Kezar home, once owned by the  
Garcelon family.

Limited Seating  
\$100 per person  
Call 207-925-3234 or  
[email lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
for reservations

Proceeds to Benefit the  
Lovell Historical Society

## THE LOVELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS 2015-2016

Catherine Stone, President	Lou Olmsted, Director
Marge Ward, Vice President	Carol Taylor, Director
Dee Barker, Treasurer	Robin Taylor-Chiarelo, Director
Susan Welchman, Secretary	Vacancy, Director
Linda Matte, Director	

### LOCATION AND HOURS

The Society, located at 551 Main Street 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 at 2pm every other month at specified dates.

Phone number: (207) 925-3234

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Email address: [lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



Donald Ross (1872-1948), Golf Architect

respected golf architect, Ross had already designed many courses. Today they are esteemed by the golf establishment, with Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina the most famous. As an accomplished player (5th in the 1903 U.S. Open), Ross expressed his love for the game best through course architecture. "Naturalness" was his trademark with holes requiring run up shots where severe trouble lay at the back. Anyone who has overshot the 1st, 3rd, and 4th holes knows about this! Ross, also in the interest of naturalness, insisted two stone walls running across the 8th and 9th holes be covered with dirt much to the bane of weekend hackers today.

Course construction started in 1923. It was a huge undertaking. Teams scraped, dug, hauled and moved earth; huge snow rollers compacted and smoothed it; tons of manure fertilized it. For a clubhouse Schoolhouse No. 4 was purchased from the town for one dollar and moved down the street. A fireplace and porch were added and today it looks much like it did then. The course opened on August 12, 1924 amidst great fanfare with well known professional golfers Francis Quinet and Gene Sarazen attending, who were good friends of Ross. Sarazen is only one of five players in golf history to have won all four major golf titles.

By today's standards, the course is considered short. According to John Derr (1918-2015), famous golf announcer and former Lovell summer resident who played at the club, "it was a delightful, pleasant

course to play, not too difficult but not a pushover at the time it was built." Al Stearns observed "golfers then played with more challenges than they do today.....when you got in the rough you were in the rough!" Fairway surfaces did not provide the smooth condition golfers find today but rather were bumpy and uneven which required propping up balls before hitting. The course was wildly acclaimed, however, and the only one in the immediate area. (Norway and Bridgton courses had not been built yet.)

A review of the guest register in the first days of play from August 12 to 18, 1924 reveals notable people. Conifer resident Mercer Blanchard, whose presence on Lake Kezar goes back many years (since 1934), remarks:

*On August 13th my maternal grandfather, William J. Bittles, paid \$105 for 6 memberships for himself and the following family members: my father Harold Mercer Blanchard, my uncles Milton Elvin Blanchard and William Bittles and my grandmother and aunt. Also playing was Ben Brown.*

*The next day, the 14th, Mr. and Mrs. B.V.H. (Bernie) Shultz played as members. They lived in Short Hills, NJ and built their Lake Kezar home, known as the Chalet, on Brown's Camps road. It is now part of Severance Lodge. On the same day Ben Brown, Jr. played at the daily rate of \$1.50.*

*On August 16th, four greens fees totaling \$6.00*

Observations by Sumner Kimball, town historian and next door neighbor to the golf course being created in 1923:

*Aug. 27th to Sept 1st: Quite a crew of men with teams have this week been at work on the Kezar Lake Golfground. Have done a lot of work back of E.F. McAllister's building. James Plummer and Geo. Smith have hauled quite a number of cart loads (i.e. manure) besides dirt, & Sept. 3rd they began to get dressing from under tie-ups at the barn at No. 4.*

*Sept. 3rd: "Laborday." Quite a crew of men and horses with carts and large snow roller worked all day on Golf Links at No. 4.*

*Oct. 15 to 22nd 1923: The Lake Kezar Country Golf Club are digging out a large cistern for water on land of Bennett McDaniels on North East side of Christian Hill. This is to be piped over to their Golfgrounds at No. 4 sometime next spring or summer.*

were refunded to Bernie Shultz, who played as a member. No doubt these refunds were for his guests.

On August 17, my grandfather, William J. Bittles, played as a member. He and my grandmother, Elizabeth Tierney Bittles, lived in Newark, NJ, and built "Waters' Edge" on Severance Lodge Road in the early 1920s.

On August 18, Ben S. Whitehead played. He and his wife also came from Newark. They built "Everbreeze" on the island off Severance. Chances are they played with the Shultzes as all were members.

The Bittles, Whiteheads, and Shultzes were close friends in New Jersey and stayed at Ben Brown's Camps before they built their own cottages on the lake.

Relatively few Lovell residents played golf in the early years of LKCC. Residents Shorty Harriman, Fred Kimball, and Seth Heald were regular players but most of the golfers came from the local resorts – Brown's Camps, Conifer, Farrington's, and Quisisana. Golfing added significantly to the summer attractions of the town, but the club also boasted tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a skeet shooting range.

The golf course provided excellent summer job opportunities for Lovell kids. They earned good spending money from caddying over the summer. Additionally, they learned to play the game and were allowed to practice on the course after hours, becoming the next generation of players.

No commentary on the history of Lake Kezar Country Club would be complete without mentioning the pros who taught and oversaw the maintenance and operations in the early years. Henry Johnson was the first. Following Johnson was Andy Ferreira and then in 1936 Wellington "Duke" Charles. Duke was

a Fryeburg native, a star Bowdoin athlete who set a New England discus record in 1925, and he served as club pro for twenty-three years. He had a gruff demeanor (I know. I took lessons from him) but was generally liked and respected. Ask anyone who played golf during his "reign" and they will remember him, especially the caddies who had to shag balls after his lessons. Duke gave over 3000 lessons, repaired clubs, sold equipment, and assigned caddies fairly. He was a member of the Professional Golf Association (PGA).

Lake Kezar Country Club remained a nine-hole course for many years with timely succession of stockholders and board members. However, as golf author Paul Dunn notes: "For 75 years, the golfers at this country club had to settle for only nine holes of Ross's architectural achievements. The compatible back nine was created in 1998 by Country Club President, Paul Lusky, who had dreamed for years of building a complementary nine holes, with Ross-like winding fairways and traditional sloping greens. His efforts won praise from players near and far. Members agree that if Donald Ross were here, he'd be mighty proud of Lusky's efforts." (Paul Dunn. *Great Donald Ross Golf Courses You Can Play*. 2001. Derrydale Press.)

Donald Ross loved golf not only as a sport but as a test of one's integrity and character. When he said, "If you want to know a man, take him out to the golf course" no doubt the course he designed in Lovell was in his collective memory. Thanks to Ben Brown, other foresighted resort owners, and town leaders, Lovell was given a golfing gem ninety-two years ago: a beautiful course carved from a splendid setting by one of golf's greatest course architects. It is called Lake Kezar Country Club. •••



Shorty Harriman, Fred Kimball, & Seth Heald at the new golf course in 1924  
*Photo donated by Donald Kilgour*

## Caddying at Lake Kezar Country Club



With the advent of the electric cart, golf caddies have become a thing of the past at the Lake Kezar Country Club. No longer do young residents have the opportunity to earn significant sums of money carrying bags and clubs during the summer. But there was a time when caddying was considered a very lucrative, although exhausting, summer job. And some of the best memories of the Lake Kezar Country Club come from former caddies.

Former Selectman Gordon “Stub” Eastman and his sister Olive were one of the first to caddy after the course opened. It should be noted that the course regularly hired girls, a practice which took hold in the United States during World War I when there was a caddy shortage. Stub and Olive lived in Lovell Village and walked to the course, caddying for one round - nine holes - and then walked home for lunch. In those days, most of the golfers only played one round. The caddies would earn seventy-five cents a round, although big spenders might pay a dollar.

Stub remembers Club Treasurer Seth Heald as a frugal sort, or in his words “as tight as the bark of the tree.” Summer resident Paul Bacon was known to never take a practice swing, and he was described as “a pretty good golfer.” There were a few people, who will not be named here, known to be notorious cheaters, and others that were to be avoided because of their nasty disposition. For Stub, the experience served as a valuable learning lesson: “As young kids, you know, we got quite an insight on people....”

When Al Stearns was about nine years old, he would ride his bike from West Lovell to chase golf balls. People would be practicing and kids would

be paid to go out and pick up the balls afterwards. Eventually he started caddying. He recounted how younger caddies would only be allowed to carry one bag but as you got older you could carry two: “You could actually make more money than the guys working at Gerry’s Mill because they were earning about 75 cents an hour. That would be six dollars a day....I remember making eight dollars on good days.”

The golf course allowed for other opportunities to make money, such as retrieving lost balls. Golf pro Duke Charles would pay ten cents apiece for them, which he then sold to golfers for a quarter. Al explained: “We used to jump in the pond - skinny dip - and we’d get sixty golf balls at a time....You’d come up and you were the color of your trousers - you were brown, or gray. And we used to use the hose they watered the greens with to hose each other off so we could get re-dressed....We’d go in late day, after the golfers. No one played much golf after 4:00 pm in those days. It was cocktail hour.”

Roberta Chandler also caddied as a young girl and fondly remembers some of the regular golfers. Patty (Eastman) Carroll of Eastman Hill Stock Farm was a daily player and “was as regular as rain” but “not much of a golfer.” Dr. Everett Ginn, a dentist, received 75 silver dollars as a gift on his 75th birthday, and he distributed 25 of them in the caddy shack. He also helped the Lovell PTA to establish a dental care program. And one summer resident stood out in Roberta’s memory as a superb golfer - Peg Garabrant. She married John Derr, the gifted golf and sports reporter, and became an amateur golfing champion.

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Circa 1924 postcard

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## In Memoriam

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

**Dexter L. Bresette**, 81, of Lovell died on March 29, 2016. He was born in Bridgton, the son of John and Frances Bresette, and served in the U.S. Army as Motor-Pool Sergeant. He was a longtime resident of Lovell, owned Bresette & Sons Logging, and operated Bresette's Garage. He was predeceased by his first wife Ruth and his second wife Corille. He is survived by his four children—Glen, Sharon Deschambeault, Laurie Panno, and Chris—and ten grandchildren.

**Sarina (Overmyer) Dotson**, 75, of Lovell passed away on March 4, 2016. She was born in Fort Dodge, IA on February 6, 1941, the daughter of Paul & Sara Overmyer. She received her B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and pursued a career as an artist. She is survived by her husband Allen and her step-daughter Southern and one step-grandchild.

**Barbara (Stearns) Adley Hohu**, 88, of Oregon and Arizona, died on April 7, 2016. She was born in Lovell on November 7, 1927, the daughter of George and Avis Stearns. Barbara graduated from the University of Maine and was a member of this Society. She was predeceased by her first husband Stanwood Adley and her second husband Samuel Hohu. She is survived by her two daughters—Rebecca Stamper and Pamela Foley—and two grandchildren.

**Richard A. Landis**, 87, of Lower Gwynedd, PA passed away on February 7, 2016. He was born in Dover, NJ on August 27, 1928, the son of Leslie and Margaret Landis. He attended Muhlenberg College and served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and Navy Pilot. Dick was the Township Supervisor of Lower Gwynedd for many years and an active Rotarian. He summered on Kezar Lake and was a life member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Grace, three children—Susan Shaner, Richard, and Scott—seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, four step children and one step granddaughter.

**Edwin Smith**, 57, of Fryeburg and previously of Lovell, passed away on March 31, 2016. He was born on September 12, 1958 to Albert and Ellen Smith. For many years, he worked in Lovell for Norris Bennett and later for Robbie Drew. He is survived by his two daughters—Amber and Marissa—and one granddaughter.

**James Patrick Wood**, 66, of Sweden and Claremont, CA died on May 30, 2016. He was born in Pasadena, CA on Nov. 11, 1949, the son of James and Barbara Wood. He grew up in Riverside, CA and graduated from the University of Arizona. He had a career in the life insurance business and also worked as a substitute teacher. Patrick was a member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Jane Gibbons.

## Gifts and Donations

*We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter:* **James & Barbara Ainger**—items for the Antique Shop; **Jim & Suerae Ballard**—items for the Antique Shop; **Sandra Barty** (in memory of Richard Beckhard)—watercolor of the Beckhard camp, 3 framed Juanita Perkins photos, collection of Beckhard family photos, collection of memorabilia from Richard Beckhard, *Agent of Change: My Life, My Practice* by Richard Beckhard; **Jack & Beverly Bassett**—photos, slides, and newspaper clippings; **Sandra Bell**—flowers, items for the Antique Shop; **Robert & Judy Bishop**—*My Maine Folks* by Inex M. Farrington; **Skip Cadigan** (in memory of Mary Cadigan)—framed photograph of the Lakeview House; **Stephen Cunningham**—*Bits and Bytes* computer services; **Allen Dotson**—twenty-four hand painted walking sticks by artist Sarina Dotson; **Karen Erickson**—3 pieces of Deer Country Kiln pottery made by Bill Vinton; **Anne Jones Hall**—*Pioneers of Billerica: Settling the Shawshine Wilderness 1654-1660* by Shirley Moore Barnes; **Lake Kezar Country Club**—two plaques for The President's Cup (1925-1985) and Club Championship (1930-1980); **Jim & Jean McBain**—permission to scan family photo albums and scrapbooks; **Lou & Nancy Olmsted**—permission to scan photos; **Jean Stearns**—framed portrait of Marcellus Lovejoy Stearns; **Town of Lovell**—School Fund Book No. 2 (1906-1944), *Historic Property Plan for Eastman Hill Stock Farm*, *Constitution of the State of Maine*, Real Estate Transactions in Lovell (April 1, 1945 through April 1, 1958), Report of the Selectmen on Roads (Nov. 3, 1828 through March 3, 1890), General Journals for the Town of Lovell (1973 through 1977), survey maps of the newer sections of the No. 4 Cemetery and the North Lovell Cemetery (on loan); **Tooty Wilson**—crocheted yoke, *Sharp's Useful Language*; **George & Moira Yip**—permission to scan photos.

*Donations for the purchase of oil have been gratefully received from:* **Lyn Beliveau, Jane Gleason, Walt Krauser, Joyce McAlister MacDonald, Irene McDeed, William & Kathleen Morella, Ellen Rowe, Armand & Judy Sabourin, Mary Semple, Roger & Caroline Sorg.**

*Donations to our auction and raffle have been generously made by the following individuals and businesses:* **Dee Barker, Sandra Bell, Bridgton Highlands Country Club, Allen Dotson, Ebenezer's Restaurant & Pub, Todd Flagg & Good Life Adventures, Harvest Gold Gallery, Kezar Lake Marina, Lovell Hardware, Richard & Linda Matte, Kevin McElroy & Catherine Butler, Molloy Energy, Old Saco Inn, Quisisana, Rod Iron Designs, Rosie's Lovell Village Store, the Semple Family, Craig Severance, Shawnee Peak Ski Area, Stow Corner Store, Hal & Carol Taylor, Robin Taylor-Chiarelo, Two Black Dogs Country Pub.**

*Cash donations have been gratefully received from:* **Glenn Allison, Michael Bannon, Charles & Joan Dattelbaum, Dan Eaton & Linda Whiting, Peter & Cary Fleming, John & Deborah Fossum, Elmer Fox, Linda Gale, Theda Gilman** (in memory of Barbara Hohu), **Jane Gleason, Ann Jones Hall, Collier Hands, Lynn Hurd** (in memory of Marcia & George Ingraham), **Anne Isaak, John Kaplan, Kezar Realty** (in honor of Scott & Angela Thomas), **Paul Littlefield, Dave & Peg Mason, Barbara McAllister** (in memory of Erwin McAllister), **Gerald Nelson** (in memory of Mary Nelson), **Ellen Rowe** (in memory of Page Rowe), **Frederic Sater, Mary Semple, John Smith, Stan Tupaj & Rondi Stearns** (in memory of Michelina Tupaj), **Herman & Nancy Voigt, Judith Whitney, Judith Wilson** (in memory of Leo Morrison, Margot Dunbar Bleier and Ann Curley Brown).

*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.*

## Sunday, July 10, 2016

Antique Sale from 10am to 3pm  
Live Auction at 11am  
Delicious Food and Free Admission  
“Not to Exceed” Bids Accepted if not in Attendance

### Live Auction Items:

- 200 Gallons Heating Oil Fill-up from Molloy Energy
- Dinner for 4 at the Oxford House Inn
- Private 6 Course Beer Dinner for 4 at Ebenezer’s Pub
- Fun Day of Fishing for 2, Kezar Lake or Hilo, Hawaii
- Day Rental of a Pontoon Boat from Kezar Lake Marina
- Framed Watercolor by Donald Blagge Barton
- A Bucket of Balls & Dinner for 2 at the Old Saco Inn
- Sterling Silver Harvest Gold Bracelet
- Decorative Sign Bracket by Rod Iron Designs
- 16 foot fiberglass Old Town Canoe
- Steamboat Cruise for 4 on Kezar Lake
- 2 Adult Lift Tickets at Shawnee Peak
- 10 Rounds of Golf at Bridgton Highlands
- Dinner & Show for 4 at Quisisana
- Individual Federal & State Tax Preparation
- Canoeing/Hiking/Kayaking or Fishing Excursion
- Pair of Handpainted Walking Sticks
- Ebenezer’s Pub Sign
- Canopy Tour for 2 at Bretton Woods & Lunch

- Raffle Items:**
- \$100 Gift Certificate for Rosie’s Lovell Village Store
  - \$100 Gift Certificate for Lovell Hardware
  - \$100 Gift Certificate for Two Black Dogs Restaurant

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

If your mailing label doesn’t say “6-17” or “Life,”  
it is time to join or renew your membership. Thanks!