Yesterday's News

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Pioneers in Military Service: Lovell Women in Uniform in World War II

By John & Liz McCann

During World War II, over 350,000 women served in the United States armed forces—a number that exceeded the size of the entire military in 1939. The war transformed the United States from an isolationist country with a small military establishment into a leading military power. With that expansion came the understanding that the military couldn't achieve its mission with men alone. At least three women from Lovell were amongst the pioneers who demonstrated the capabilities, courage, and commitment that continue to define women in the military to this day.

Incorporating women into the military wasn't an easy or readily accepted transition. General Eisenhower told Congress after the war, that when the formation of women's units was first proposed, "I was violently against it." Then he added, "Every phase of the record they compiled during the war convinced me of the error of my first reaction." Eisenhower went on to fight for a permanent place for women in the US Armed Forces, not from a sense of social justice, but from the clear reality that women had demonstrated an ability to serve, and to serve well.

Irene Kenerson Yoder of Fryeburg and Lovell talked about her experiences in the Women's naval reserve (called the WAVES – Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) during WWII in a *Lewiston Sun-Journal* newspaper article written by Joyce White and published November 12, 2001. This article draws heavily from that reporting.

She was 19 when she heard about women serving in the Army, Yoder said, but women had to be 21 to join. Then she heard about the WAVES. "You could join at 20. It sounded like something I could do for my country." The adventure of it appealed to her, too, she said, and she went off in January 1943 at age 20 to join up.

(continued on page 3)

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) 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 16th, we will host our first Summer Fair from 10am to 3pm. Dealers will be on site, antique boats will be on display, and 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 11am 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.

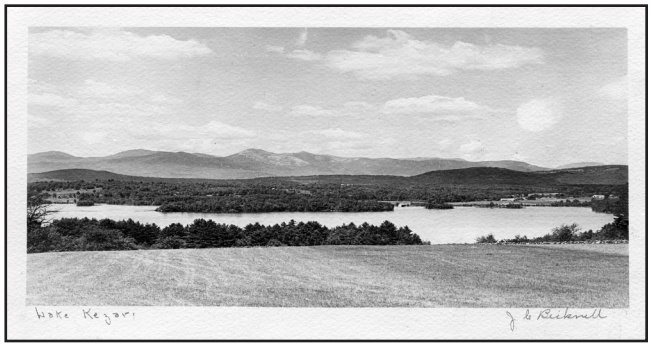
Once the auction ends, shortly after 12pm, live music presented by *Alternate Ending* will begin. At about the same time, Bruce Buxton of Antiques Roadshow will begin appraising Antiques & Fine Art.

Three weeks later, we will be conducting our sixth House Tour. Five of Lovell's finest homes will be on display from 1pm to 4pm. After the tour, join us for refreshments (hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar) at the Pleasant Point Inn on the eastern shore of Kezar Lake!

Best wishes, *Catherine Stone*

2017 Events

Summer Fair	Sunday, July 16th
House Tour	Sunday, August 13th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, August 15th
Fall Harvest	Sunday, October 15th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, October 17th
Business Meeting	Tuesday, December 12th
Christmas Open House	Sunday, December 17th



New Item for Sale!

Lake Kezar by J.C. Bicknell

22x13 fine art giclee reproduction from an original hand tinted J.C. Bicknell photograph of Lake Kezar

$75

THE LOVELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 2017-2018

Catherine Stone, President	Liz Kerr, Director
Marge Ward, Vice President	Meghan Nyberg, Director
Dee Barker, Treasurer	Lou Olmsted, Director
Susan Welchman, Secretary	Jean Stearns, Director
	Carol Taylor, 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone number: (207) 925-3234
Mailing address: P.O. Box 166, Lovell, ME 04051
Website: www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org
Email address: lovellhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Irene (Kenerson) Yoder (1922-2011)

Women typically enlisted "for the duration plus six months" to free male soldiers for combat by filling stateside jobs that were consistent with traditional female roles. The 1942 Congressional debate that preceded the authorization for women to join the service was a heated one, with many Senators and Congressmen deeply opposed to the thought of women in the military. Congressman Andrew Somers of New York summed up a lot of Congressional opinion when he said:

> "…the silliest piece of legislation that has ever come before my notice in the years I have served here. A woman's army to defend the United States of America. Think of the humiliation. What has become of the manhood of America, that we have to call on our women to do what has ever been the duty of men? The thing is so revolting to me, to my sense of decency, that I cannot discuss it."

Despite the overwrought rhetoric of Mr. Somers and others, the Republic didn't fall and the sun continued to set in the west. Public opinion was shifting in support of the bill as the realization came that it could boost the war effort. Women also recognized the opportunities they would gain if they could train and work in the military. And, most important, they wanted to serve their country.

The bill passed and was signed into law by Franklin Roosevelt on May 15th, 1942. By the end of the war, women were serving in the military as members of the WAVES, the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Marines, Women's Air Support Pilots (WASPs) and in the Coast Guard as SPARs (an abbreviation of the Coast Guard motto Semper Paratus).

As noted above, Irene Yoder served in the WAVES. At least two other Lovell women served, both as Marines. Their comments and perspectives were captured in the same 2001 *Lewiston Sun Journal* article referenced above.

Martha Arlene (Libby) Barrow had two brothers in military service, and she thought it very unfair that only men could serve their country. "I felt as though I should do my share for my country, too."

When the services ramped up women recruiting in 1943, she and her friend Maxine (Eastman) Buck Fisher decided to enlist. They began six weeks of boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Fisher said she enjoyed it all, especially the marching and the "passing in review" on Saturday mornings.

"We were proud to be in uniform," she said.

After boot camp, Barrow went to Washington D.C. and Fisher went to motor transport school at Camp Lejeune. Barrow was assigned work in Marine Corps Headquarters that was typical for a woman in service at

(continued on page 4)

Martha Arlene (Libby) Barrow (1923-2014)

that time. She served as an auditor and accountant for eight months, then transferred back to Camp Lejeune where she worked in the auditing office and then the children's school for the remainder of her enlistment. "Not very glamorous, but I enjoyed it after I resigned myself."

"We were never expected to fight," she said. The idea was to have women take over some duties "to free a Marine to fight."

Fisher's service took a less traditional route. An aptitude test placed her in mechanic school. "I tried to get out of it, but to my surprise, I found that I loved it. We learned everything about jeeps and trucks of all types, wiring, timing, brakes, transmissions, sanding, and painting. It was wonderful."

Motor transport school at Camp Lejeune followed, and then Fisher shipped out on a troop train, headed for San Francisco. "We saw a lot of country I'd never seen or expected to see. People all along the way met the train with magazines and candy and good wishes. There were a lot of sailors on that train, and guards were posted at each end of the cars to prevent fraternization. We were the guards and worked in two hour shifts."

In California, she first worked in the carburetion and ignition room, a quiet, clean, glassed in area. Then she was sent to another area to take over the tool room. "I hated that job. I was the only woman in the building. The guys teased me, but after I got to know

Maxine (Eastman) Buck Fisher (1921-2012)

them, we became good buddies. A lot of older men who had joined up to support the war effort worked there and two, in particular, looked after me. They admitted I was a mechanic, and we kept in touch after I moved to Montana."

That's where she met her future husband, a Marine from Montana who had just returned from four years in the South Pacific. "When we first met, I was outside working on a major's car. He was surprised to see me, a woman, putting on a voltage regulator."

In January 1945, rules changed to allow enlisted women to date officers. They began dating and were married on Columbus Day in 1945 and moved to Montana where she lived for many years.

The WAVE, Irene Yoder, also served as a mechanic. Aptitude tests showed her to be "mechanically inclined." Yoder said, so she was sent to Naval aviation mechanics school in Memphis, TN. Navy men taught the classes, and they lived in separate quarters with high fences and a guard at the gate.

She was soon stationed in Pensacola, Florida where she worked as a mechanic on planes and in the parts store, she said, releasing parts and doing office work.

Yoder wanted to transfer to Hawaii, but it was considered an overseas assignment, and too close to the combat zone for women to serve there in the early years of the war. As soon as Hawaii opened as a possibility for women, Yoder got her requested transfer.

The weather there was heavenly, she said, but it was there that the young WAVE got her first taste of what war was really like. The base hospital was full of wounded and emotionally traumatized men, and she signed up to spend time talking with them. Some could only sit and stare, she said. "I got to know some of them and wrote letters for some who couldn't write because of their wounds."

After her discharge in late fall 1945, she returned to Portland. It was only a couple weeks before Christmas, and Yoder wanted to surprise her parents. But nothing was running, she said, no busses or trains, because of a huge snowstorm. "I wanted to get home. I was this close, So I told a cabbie, 'I'll give you $50 if you'll get me to Fryeburg.'And he did."

Irene Yoder, Martha Barrow, and Maxine Fisher were women who not only contributed to victory in WWII, they established for all time truths we now take for granted. While there have been ebbs and flows in incorporating women into the military, it's no longer considered unusual for women to serve at all levels in the service: to run brigades; to be ships' captain; or to command fighter squadrons.

When asked what life after the service was like, Maxine Fisher said "it's very true, that old saying. Once a Marine, always a Marine. It has carried me all these years."

That sentiment has not only carried her, it has carried her sisters-in-arms ever since WWII. Necessity may have driven America to bring women into the Armed Services. Courage, commitment, and capability keep them there. •••

McClelland Barclay, American Illustrator

McClelland Barclay (1891-1943) was a leading American illustrator, known for his ability to paint strikingly beautiful women, boldly colored and outlined. In 1930, he purchased from his friend Don Dickerman land and a camp on the western shore of Kezar Lake.

He purchased the property three days after his wedding to 19-year-old model Helene Haskin. She had been Barclay's inspiration for a series of illustrations that he did of the 'Fisher Body Girl' for the General Motors Company. The advertising campaign became so popular that Helene was recognized wherever she went. They were divorced three years later.

Barclay was best known for his Art Deco advertising art, but he also created animal sculptures, costume jewelry, and illustrations which appeared on the covers of major magazines. During World War II, he was appointed a Lieutenant Commander with the Naval Reserve and contributed many posters, illustrations, and officer portraits for the Navy.

Barclay was reported missing in action in 1943 after the LST he was aboard was torpedoed. His body was never recovered.

His camp went to his brother, Robert Hamilton Barclay, who had purchased abutting property in 1933 from the Dickermans. Bob and his eccentric wife Bobbey were well known summer visitors. According to Al Stearns, Bobbey was never without her holstered pistol, drove a purple Buick convertible at reckless speeds, and chain-smoked her favorite Benson & Hedges cigarettes. Others have reported that she was less than hesitant to brandish her weapon in front of boats that got too close to her camp. •••

Navy Recruitment Poster by McClelland Barclay

In Memoriam

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

William R. Bingham, 96, of Wayne and Pompton Plains, NJ, died on March 27, 2017. He was born in Olney, MD on Jan. 15, 1921, the son of David and Octavia Bingham. He grew up in East Orange, NJ, and graduated from Princeton University with a BS in Chemistry. During WWII, he served in the Essex Troup and Mounted Guard. Bill worked as a chemical engineer for US Rubber for decades, and then with Allied Signal. He summered in Sweden, ME and was a life member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Louise, four children—Betsy, Barbara, Jim and Tom—ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Jonathan Demme, 73, of New York, NY, passed away on April 26, 2017. He was born in Baldwin, NY, on Feb. 22, 1944, the son of Robert and Dorothy Demme. He attended high school in Miami, FL and graduated from the University of Florida. He became an Oscar-winning film director, and his work included *Silence of the Lambs* and *Philadelphia*. He summered on the western shore of Kezar Lake. He is survived by his wife Joanne and three children—Brooklyn, Ramona, and Joseph.

Glenice (Harmon) Denison, 83, of South Burlington, VT, passed away on April 4, 2017. She was born in Lovell on March 28, 1934, the daughter of Leon and Marge Harmon. After graduating from a junior college in Boston, she lived most of her life in South Burlington. She was a member of this Society. Glenice was predeceased by her son Steve and is survived by two children—Ned and Ron—and five grandchildren.

Clara Frances (Crews) Farquharson, 79, of Cheyenne, WY, died on May 30, 2017. She was born in Cheyenne on February 10, 1938, the daughter of Lloyd and Lorella Crews. She studied nursing at the University of Denver and received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Much of her career was spent as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Kingsway Learning Center in Haddonfield, NJ. She spent many of her summers on Kezar Lake and in Lovell, and was a life member of this Society.

John R. Farquharson, 78, of Mullica Hills, NJ, died on January 13, 2017. He was born on June 5, 1939 in New Britain, CT, the son of Erving and Marguerite Farquharson. He graduated from the University of Denver, majoring in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and had a 40 year career with Aramark Food Service, serving as President for the last 15 years. John spent most of his summers on Kezar Lake and in Lovell, and was a life member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, two step-children, six step-grandchildren, and one step-great-grandchild.

Gerald Clark Heath, 75, of Lovell, passed away on May 4, 2017. He was born on January 28, 1942 in North Conway, NH, the son of Noyes and Barbara Heath. Jerry graduated from Kennett High School and moved to Lovell in the early 1980s. He held diverse jobs—logging with his father and uncle, working as a machinist at Dearborn, and selling cars at Crest and Profile Motors. He was predeceased by his son Kerry and is survived by his wife Becky, three step-children, and three step-grandchildren.

Victoria (Sazanides) Lipiatos, 94. of Lovell, died on February 24, 2017. She was born on November 22, 1922 in New York, NY, the daughter of Apostolos and Virginia Sazanides. In her younger years, she worked as a switchboard operator for AT&T and then became a stay-at-home mom, volunteering whenever she could. She was predeceased by her husband Tommy and two sons—Peter and Paul. She is survived by sons Marino and Michael, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Courtis Saunders, Jr., 89, of Reading, MA, passed away on June 8, 2017. He was born on January 21, 1928 in Somerville, MA, the son of Courtis and Alma Saunders. Court graduated from Northeastern and had a career in Investment Banking. He first visited Kezar Lake in 1940 and purchased his home at Westways in 1988. He was predeceased by his wife Dorothy and is survived by his four children—William, Robert, Jean Claflin, and Richard—and two grandchildren.

Dorothy J. (Amendola) Saunders, 88, of Reading, MA, passed away on January 17, 2017. She was born on December 7, 1929 in Cambridge, MA, the daughter of Joseph and Antoinette Amendola. Dottie was a stay-at-home mom and summered with her husband Court at Westways on Kezar Lake. She is survived by her four children—William, Robert, Jean Claflin, and Richard—and two grandchildren.

Thomas Clarke Smith, Jr., 87, of Hilton Head Island, SC, died on June 10, 2016. He was born in Charlotte, NC, on September 9, 1928 and graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He had a career in the insurance industry and summered for many years on Kezar Lake. He was a member of this Society. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Janet and is survived by his two children—Thomas and Laurie Ann Flynn—and four grandchildren.

Franklin Fox Stearns, Jr., 92, of Saco, ME, passed away on April 23, 2017. He was born in North Conway, NH, on August 10, 1924, the son of Franklin and Doris Stearns. He grew up in Lovell, and attended the Citadel Military Academy before serving in the Army's Airborne Division during World War II. He went on to graduate from the University of Maine Law School, and practiced law in Portland for almost fifty years. He was known as "The Dean of Criminal Defense." He was predeceased by his two wives, Dorothy and Doris, and is survived by his three children—Stephanie Frederick, Valerie Cook, and Richard—and one step-son.

Barbara (Thayer) Tripp, 91, of Westland, MI and formerly of Lovell, ME, passed away on April 8, 2017. She was born in Saginaw, MI, in 1926, the daughter of Frederick and Ruth Thayer. She raised her seven children in Rochester and Plymouth, MI, and in 1978 the family moved to Lovell to manage Westways at Kezar Lake. She was predeceased by her husband Don and is survived by her children—Nancy, Susan Burleigh, David, Mark, Paul, Barbara Calleja, and Stephen—fourteen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one step-grandchild.

Gifts and Donations

We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter: **Bits n Bytes**—computer services; **David Cadigan**—late 1800s Mantle Clock by Waterbury Clock Co.; **Chatham Historical Society**—*History of Chatham, New Hampshire;* **Linda Drew & Sam Ring Jr.** (in memory of Sam & Rebecca Ring)—driver's box for a Fryeburg-Lovell stage coach; **Wilbur Hammond Jr.**—seven pieces of pottery which are part of the "Castaways Set" made by Don Dickerman, assorted books & pamphlets on local history, matchbox from Dickerman's Hollywood Pirates' Den, pottery from Deer Country Kiln, blueprint of Proprietors Lot map retraced by Lawrence M. Gray in 1940; **Marilyn Jones**—information on Hill's Orchestra from Stoneham; **Maine State Golf Association**—*The Game Has Come to Stay: The Evolution of the Maine State Golf Association* by John Galluzzo; **Ken & Ayn Male**—acrylic painting of Chandler's Garage by Ayn Male; **Jim McBain & Family**—loan of a scrapbook owned by Bertha Keniston; **Bill & Anna Marie McCormick**—collection of slides belonging to Francis & Mary Crane; **Fred & Ruth Mitchell**—Buddy L Tool Chest with tools in original wooden box, carving set with horn handles, mirror with Frank Polke & Son advertisement; **Robert & Elizabeth Nanovic**—collection of Albra Lord baskets; **Jeanne Pounder**—bound collection of photos and remembrances recalling a stay at Hewnoaks in July 2004.

Donations for the purchase of oil have been gratefully received from: **John & Nancy Conti; John & Joan Crowe; Jennifer Duncan** (in memory of William C. Brooks V)**; Jane Gleason; John Kaplan; Janet Mason** (in honor of Camp Mudjekeewis)**; William & Kathleen Morella; Roger & Caroline Sorg; Martha Steen; Bob & Mary Tagliamonte; Ron & Elizabeth Tusing.**

Donations to our auction and raffle has been generously made by the following individuals and businesses: **Black Point Inn; Bridgton Highlands Country Club; Allen Dotson; Ebenezer's Restaurant & Pub; Todd Flagg & Good Life Adventures; Gilmore Camps; Harvest Gold Gallery; Kezar Lake Marina; Bill & Lucy LaCasse; Lovell Hardware; Richard & Linda Matte; Melanie McGraw; Molloy Energy; Old Saco Inn; Quisisana; Rod Iron Designs; Rosie's Lovell Village Store; the Semple Family; Shawnee Peak Ski Area; Catherine Stone & Peter Wert; Jim & Rachal Stone; Stone Mountain Art Center; Hal & Carol Taylor; Robin Taylor-Chiarello; Two Black Dogs Country Pub.**

Donations in memory of Jim Garcelon: **Paul Buckley; Carol Carpenter; Gene Hoy; Massachusetts Commission for the Blind DBES Unit Staff; Meg Robertson.**

Cash donations have been gratefully received from: **Glenn Allison; Steve & Mary Anderson; F. Michael Bannon; Mercer & Mary Louise Blanchard; Chris Brink; Scott & Carolyn Conti; Jeff & Amy Crowe; John Dineen; Jennifer Duncan** (in memory of Lt. Col. William C. Brooks V)**; James & Deborah Ferguson; Peter & Cary Fleming; Elmer Fox; Linda Gale; Jane Gleason; Collier Hands; Joel & Georgette Hardman; Cynthia McAllister; Howard & Veronica Mitchell; Lou & Nancy Olmsted; Dick & Betty Pilsbury; Ellen Rowe** (in memory of Page, Bob & Tim Rowe)**; Mary Semple; Brian Smith; Arthur Sumbler** (in memory of Audrey Clout)**; Bruce & Pat Thurston; Alison & Dave Tomlinson; Vincent Tortorici; Dorris Volk.**

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.

Summer Fair
Sunday, July 16, 2017

Antique and Contemporary Dealers from 10am to 3pm
Antique Boat Display
Live Auction at 11am
Antiques & Fine Art Appraisals by Bruce Buxton from 12:30pm to 2:30pm
Live Music by Alternate Ending
Delicious Barbecued Food & Pizza Oven
Raffle Drawing at 2pm
"Not to Exceed" Auction Bids Accepted if not in Attendance

Live Auction Items:

- 200 Gallons Heating Oil Fill-up from Molloy Energy
- Golf for 4 at Prouts Neck Country Club with $50 gift certificate for refreshments at Black Point Inn
- Canoeing/Hiking/Kayaking/Fishing with Todd Flagg
- Private 6 Course Beer Dinner for 4 at Ebenezer's Pub
- Day Rental of a Pontoon Boat from Kezar Lake Marina
- Framed *Cushman Pond in Winter* by Melanie McGraw
- Stone Mountain Octoberfest Bundle (3 shows) for 2
- Framed *Return to the Wild-Osprey* by Phil Scholer
- Bucket of Balls & Dinner for 2 at the Old Saco Inn
- Steamboat Cruise for 4 on Kezar Lake
- 16 ft. Old Town Penobscot Canoe
- Dinner & Show for 4 at Quisisana
- Dinner for 4 at the Oxford House Inn
- 2 Adult Lift Tickets at Shawnee Peak
- Decorative Sign Bracket by Rod Iron Designs
- 10 Rounds of Golf at Bridgton Highlands
- Pair of Hand Painted Walking Sticks
- Severance Lodge Chairs made by Ray Harmon
- Sterling Silver Bracelet by Harvest Gold
- Week Stay at Gilmore Camps on Kezar Lake

Raffle Items:

- $100 Gift Certificate for Rosie's Lovell Village Store
- $100 Gift Certificate to Lovell Hardware
- $100 Gift Certificate for Two Black Dogs Country Pub

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

If your mailing label doesn't say "6-18" or "Life,"
it is time to join or renew your membership. Thanks!