



Norway Museum & Historical Society

471 Main Street
Norway, ME 04268

norwayhistoricalsociety.org
norwaymehistory@gmail.com

June 2020

From the Board of Trustees

Dear NMHS Friends,

May is our usual month to send you greetings and news of our summer programs and activities. However, as we all know, nothing is going as usual this year. Still we do want to maintain a few things as usual and we want to keep in contact with our friends and community members. So we are sending this newsletter with information about our current status regarding the COVID19 state guidelines and with interesting articles about Norway.

First regarding COVID19, our good news is that, although we are closed, we are actively at work behind the scenes and catching up on some backlog in accessions. Sue and Charles are also very much available for reference questions via postal mail, email, telephone, Facebook, and our website.

The unfortunate news is that the museum has been closed to the public since early March, and it is uncertain if or when we might reopen. We will follow the state guidelines to determine this date. And we have also suspended the interesting programs which had been planned for this summer around the Maine Bicentennial and Norway Art and Artists. The good news is that we do expect to hold these same programs in 2021. This includes the popular Trolley Tour which would have been, and now will be, on the topic of Norway at Statehood in 1820.

Meanwhile, as it looks like this pandemic may still be around for a while, we are also exploring some new opportunities with online presentations and information. So we will keep in touch with you about these, and we hope you will stay in touch with us. Please check out our Facebook site as we will post there on a regular basis.

The state of our country as we live through COVID19 only makes us realize more intensely the things that we really value especially about our community. Those of us reading this newsletter I think probably all agree that one value we share about our community is our interest in its rich and unique history. Norway Museum and Historical Society will continue to make sure that this is preserved and celebrated both now and into the future.

Please read on for more news and articles about Norway.

Thank you for your interest,

Ann Siekman for the Board of Trustees



New Trustee Joins the Board

We are pleased to announce a new NMHS trustee, replacing Brian Otterson, who stepped down at the end of his term. Our new board member is Brian Partridge. Brian P. grew up in Norway and spent his career in restaurant management in the Pacific Northwest. Brian retired in 2019, returning to the Oxford Hills, and we're pleased he accepted our invitation to join the board.

The original Norway Liberal Institute building, at left, photo date unknown. See article on page 5.

Camp Cinnamon

More Than a Hunting Camp

By Charles Longley, Curator/Researcher



In late spring or early summer of 2018, Lee Dassler, Executive Director of the Western Foothills Land Trust, called to ask if the Society had information on a Camp Cinnamon Club. The answer was that we didn't know, but if she came to the Society there was a file on clubs and lodges that could be searched. It turned out that the file didn't contain a folder for Camp Cinnamon, but when we turned to a hand list of clubs and associations, Ms. Dassler exclaimed "There!": Camp Cinnamon was on the list. And that was all.

In 2018 the last members of the Camp Cinnamon Club decided to deed the Camp and its property to the Western Foothills Land Trust, the trust in turn sold the property and added the proceeds to the Trust's endowment. The sale was completed in the last week of 2018. As the Trust worked through the process of ownership and sale it gave to the Society copies of what few membership lists and historical summaries have come down, as well as a few photographs and a number of artifacts.

Camp Cinnamon Club was established in 1876 and at about that time built its first camp building, most likely at its present location, off the end of a side road off Shedd Road then but now on Cinnamon Camp Road. The leading spirit most likely was Clarence Smith, who was president, and who had earlier formed the Cobbler's Club in 1863, and later the Bass Island Club, in 1888. Smith noted in an article which ran in the *Lewiston Journal* in May of 1906 that the Bass Island Club built the first camp on Pennesseewassee. The Cobbler's Club was strongly athletic in nature, the ruckus of their boxing bouts leading members when asked about the noise, to say they were cobbling shoes.

The Maine state champion baseball team, The Pennessseewassee Baseball Club, winner of the Silver Ball in 1868, also met in the Cobblers Club's rooms, dubbed Cobbler's Hall, and after 1867 paid rent for the rooms, which H.S. Burnham, the team's catcher and Captain said in his history of the Pennessseewasseees, were on the third floor over "Bense Hall's Cobbler Shop." Smith was himself the team's left fielder.

The Cinnamon Club didn't own the land on which it built its first camp in 1876; members appear simply to have gotten together and built a camp on land owned by one of its members, Charles B. Cummings. The camp was torn down, rebuilt, enlarged and improved, over the years until it became a one-and-a-half-story, open-studded building with basic kitchen facilities and electricity, about 16' x 42' in size, with a 6' wide porch on the front and a central side-gable and a small shed-roofed addition stuck on the back. In June of 1896, the land on which the Camp and associated buildings were located was surveyed and deeded to the Club by various members of the Cummings family owning interest in Cummings properties. The deeds also attest that the Club had been incorporated, but documentation has not been found. The Club took its name from the cinnamon colored overalls and jumpers the club's "promoters wore." Clarence Smith was the chief equipment maintenance engineer for all the Norway shoe companies and probably wore such overalls at work; Lawrence M. Carroll, President of the Carroll-Jellerson Shoe Company, for which Smith worked, was a member of the Club.

The Club was a social organization established specifically to hunt fox; raccoons were fair game. The membership was small, a membership list beginning in 1893 and ending in 2007 listing only 39 people for a period of 107 years. It carries many of the town's prominent names: Andrews, Bradbury, Carroll, Cummings, Favor, Fuller, Luce, Luck, Packard, etc.

The club specifically gathered as a group for a one or two week period each fall to hunt fox; they also met to celebrate each member's fiftieth birthday. Otherwise, members used the Camp for individual camping trips. Fox hunting was popular, perhaps even necessary, into the 1940's.

An article in the *Advertiser* for 25 October 1901 reports that H.B. and George Tubbs were to host a fox hunt for a week at their camp at Papoose Pond. The November 1st issue reports that: "Five foxes and six coons have been credited to the hunting party at Camp Cinnamon and represents two week's hard labor for some dozen men and a few dogs. One of the coons measured fifty-one inches from the tip of his tail to the tip of his nose and would weigh fifty or sixty pounds. It might have been mistaken for a bear by a timid person." One of the Camp Cinnamon photographs (at left) to come down to the Society shows a kneeling line of 13 men and 1 dog, and mounted across the camp wall just above them, 25 coons and 27 foxes. Snow on the ground places the hunt in late fall, the hunters' dress suggests the late 40's or early 50's.

Camp Cinnamon was sold to Spencer K. Gober, Belmont, Massachusetts, in late December, 2018, and Mr. Gober was successful in having the Camp listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 30 September 2019.

We Welcome Your Artifacts

Every artifact, book and photograph in our collection was a gift to our museum, through the generosity of our members, friends and the public. Our collection contains several thousand items that tell the story of Norway and its residents.

If you own items that reflect Norway's history and you no longer want them, please consider a donation to the museum and historical society. We would be interested in most anything related to Norway and its history and culture. Our two major requirements are that we have the capacity to care for your gift and that your gift is not a duplicate of something we already have.

Gifts must be unconditional and donors will be required to transfer ownership to us.

Please note: We are not qualified to appraise objects. In fact, it is a conflict of interest for us to give a monetary appraisal for an item being donated. If a donor desires an appraisal for tax purposes, a qualified third party should be contacted.

If you have questions about a potential donation for our collection, contact Curators Charles Longley or Sue Denison at our email: norwaymehistory@gmail.com

My Favorite Things

by Susan Denison, Curator/ Collection Manager



The picture above shows a pupil's school slate, the only one we have in our collection. We've all heard the stories that in the olden days of one-room schools, students practiced their arithmetic or spelling with chalk or a clay pencil on a small slate, rather than on paper. Paper was expensive, so probably it was only used for penmanship practice with a quill pen and a bottle of ink. Our slate, with its wooden frame, measures nine inches tall by almost seven inches wide, with a loop of string so it can be hung up.



We know who this slate belonged to, because her name is carved into the frame. Flora Judkins was born in North Norway in 1871, the daughter of Isannah and Oliver Wendell Holmes Judkins. The Judkins home, which still stands, was just up the hill from the intersection of Norway Center, Patch Mt. and Morse Roads, a neighborhood of North Norway known as Swift's Corner. Flora's father was a blacksmith, like his father Perry and his son Eshburn, Flora's oldest brother. All three generations practiced their trade at the same location at Swift's Corner.

Flora would have attended the Swift's Corner school, which was a short distance up the Patch Mt. Road and she likely used this slate there. Flora grew up and married Rinaldo Cummings of West Paris in 1893. She was a longtime correspondent for the *Advertiser-Democrat* and wrote a weekly column called "Flora and Her Go-Shoes." Flora passed away in 1957 at the age of 85.

A lot can be learned from a simple student's slate.



Flora as a teenager

News from Bygone Days

Researched by Ed Staples, Trustee

The Norway Liberal Institute was founded in 1847 as a private school for Norway students. The Institute was purchased by the town in 1865 to become a public school, changing the name to Norway High School.



When the original building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1894, it was immediately replaced with this similar structure, which stood until it was demolished in the mid-1980s.

From: The Norway Advertiser

March 3, 1849 Page 3

NORWAY LIBERAL INSTITUTE

The SPRING TERM of This Institution will commence on MONDAY, the 5th day of MARCH next, and continue *eleven weeks*.

TEACHERS

J. G. EVELETH, A. B.,

W. M. HATCH, A. B., *Principals*.

I. H. Baker, *Teacher of Penmanship*.

Miss M. A. Cole, *Teacher of Music*.

Miss A. N. Deering, *Teacher of Drawing and Painting*

TUITION.

Common English, \$3.00 per term.

Higher English and Languages \$4.00 per term.

BOARD in families, for males, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per week; for females, \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Norway, Feb. 1, 1848

H. G. COLE, *President*.

From: The Norway Advertiser

March 17, 1849 Page 2

HIGH SCHOOL

The (Norway Liberal) Institute at this place, now under the charge of Messrs. Eveleth and Hatch, is in a very prospering position. The number of students is very large, though the term has just commenced. The students are marked for studious habits and gentlemanly deportment. The manner in which the school is conducted seems to be strikingly original. The mind is pleased and interested, well tasked for its development, and at the same time impressed with imperishable truths.

The Academy building is elegant, convenient and pleasant (see photo on page 1) Its internal finish is of the most improved style. Watt's patent revolving chair (Editor's note: a swivel seat, attached to the desk), with which it is furnished, adds greatly to the comfort of the scholars. The Institution is located in one of the pleasantest villages in the State.

From our knowledge of the experience, skill and faithfulness of the Teachers, we believe that parents, guardians and friends can leave their children at this institution with confidence, that they will be pleasantly situated, and that their intellectual and moral instruction will be of a high order.

We are happy to learn that the Oxford Normal Institute (Editor's note: located in South Paris, where the Fox School was), under the charge of Mr. Hinds, a talented, popular and successful teacher, sustains the high and elevated character it has so justly gained. The number of scholars, this term is large, and the high hopes of its friends are fully realized. The building is beautiful, airy and convenient, and delightfully located in the flourishing village of South Paris--- amidst an enterprising and moral population.

The course of studies in both these institutions is comprehensive and thorough, fitting the scholar for business, professional studies, or for entering college, as may be desired.

Norway Museum & Historical Society

Our Mission:

The mission of the Society is to bring people together to share, celebrate and learn about Norway's heritage, by collecting, caring for and exhibiting Norway's historical treasures; by facilitating the collection of and research into family and local history; and by providing programs that make our history meaningful that engage people of all ages.



Hunters at Camp Cinnamon

Board of Trustees:

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Charles Longley, Curator/Researcher

Susan Denison, Curator/Collection Manager

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