

Presidents Page

From the Office of the President

Reuben Lancaster

Dear Members and Friends,

A most hearty welcome to all of you for the coming season. Our staff will remain the same with Reuben as President, Grace Heath Leeman as Secretary, Marilyn Chase Kindamo a Treasurer and Jim Bryant as Curator. We are anticipating another full and wonderful summer. Jim has accepted a position with The Maine Historical Society, but he will be able to assist us and since he has done such a good job setting up new displays, we are ready to go. The biggest problem now is to find people to staff in the role of receptionists and tour guides. If you have any time on Tuesdays or Saturdays between 10AM and 3PM we welcome your help. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

AGE IS NOT A FACTOR!

OUR MOTTO: Don't throw it away, file it away with us at the MUSEUM

Reuben Lancaster



Brownville Historical Society

CURATORS CORNER

JIM BRYANT

Hello from my always disorganized corner at the Parish House Museum. Wow, What great things our Historical Society has acquired over the winter-a Brownville Bears uniform, a Canadian Pacific Railroad blanket, 3 fascinating old cookbooks originally belonging to Lillian Fredin, a number of great old photographs of Brownville houses, more items for our railroad collection, and, most incredibly, at least 300 additions to our collection of original letters, receipts, ledgers, etc. originally belonging to Jefferson Lake and E. A. Jenks. This collection of documents is from the late 1700s and the early to mid-1800s and was given to us by Member Ralph Applebee. His safekeeping of these items over the years means that our collection of early records of the town's life is second-to-none by most any standards. Most such papers were long ago thrown away or sent to other places or have just disappeared. We extend our thanks to Ralph both for his good care of the documents and for his generous gift to the Society.

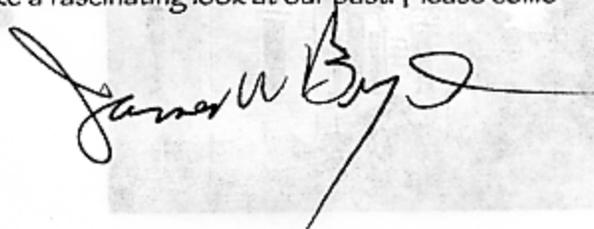
As always, we remind you to keep your Society in mind as the best place to keep Brownville's History and Heritage alive.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T THROW IT OUT!

One of our new projects this summer is becoming part of the Maine Memory Network, A Project of the Maine Historical Society. This is a web site containing documents and images contributed by local historical societies around the state to offer the best of Maine's heritage any time, anywhere. Please check out the site at www.mainememory.net you will find it a fascinating way to explore Maine's history, including images from Brownville. We are in the process of contributing photographs and documents as another way for us to connect to more people who want to learn about our unique history.

The Town of Brownville is well into the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan, assessing where we have come from, where we are and where we want to go. There is much interest in the history of the town, especially our old houses. There is need for an inventory of these buildings, some of which have been here since as early as 1812! We look forward to helping with such a project.

We are putting together a special exhibit for the summer, called WRITING HISTORY. We have so many hand-written letters and documents, a superb collection of old postcards from beginning of the 20th Century, and many of the original notes of Brownville's early historian, Susan Merrill Lewis that it should make a fascinating look at our past. Please come to the Museum to see for yourself.



Brownville Historical Society
72 Church St.
P.O. Box 750
Brownville, ME 04414

June 4, 2002

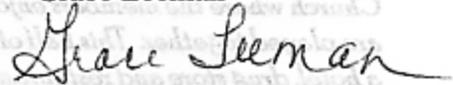
Dear Members and Friends,

We are interested in creating a larger group of volunteers to help us out at our Museum for the summer of 2002. Jim and Grace both have part-time commitments for jobs this year and it becomes necessary to ask our membership for volunteers for the days when they are working and unable to tend to the Museum. This would not be an everyday commitment for anyone, if everyone could donate just one day for this summer we could have complete coverage for the entire summer. We are open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. If you would be able to donate one day this summer please contact Reuben Lancaster at 943-2185 or Grace Leeman at 965-8584 and we will find a day which would be convenient for you and us. We are presently open and will continue through sometime in September, depending on the weather. Please consider this and let us know if and when you are available for the summer.

Our first meeting will be held, June 23, 2002 at 2 p.m. at the Museum. We hold our meetings on the fourth Sunday of every month through September, with our annual meeting around Christmas time held at Smith's Grocery with an exchange of gifts and the annual dues are paid for the next year.

We need help for filing, cataloguing, display setups, cleaning, scraping and painting and various other jobs. Anything you can do to help us out will be greatly appreciated.

Grace Leeman



Secretary

From the Secretary

We are presently working on our 2002/2003 calendar. This edition will be devoted to the Civil War Veterans of Brownville. We have accumulated many photographs of our veterans and are going to share them with the public as a tribute to their sacrifices. If anyone out there has a photograph they have not shared with us please submit them soon for our consideration on our next calendar. We cannot guarantee they will be included, but they may be used or displayed here anyway. Thanks.

AS I FOUND BROWNVILLE HEART OF MAINE 1948

By Addie Williams

Snowflakes fell on an already white world. Trees, everywhere, bending under the additional weight. At five o'clock in the morning most of the houses in Brownville are buzzing with life because this is a busy town. Breakfast must be prepared and eaten, wood boxes filled against the sounds of the whistles at the mills and the trains and the school bells.

Hills and valleys cover the little village of Brownville and it's peculiar picturesqueness is enhanced by giant heaps of waste slate. At one time slate mines were the chief industry, the now busy mills taking second place. Great yawning holes, awesome and grotesque, can be seen in the east and to the west, their steep walls, one hundred fifty feet or more, in perpendicular angle, perhaps seventy feet of water, not stagnant, partly because of small tunnels in the earth blasted years ago in search for slate. Tree, yellow birch dominant lean over the sides of the abysses, as if to draw any secrets withheld. Roads, originally used by quarrymen, are now well established "Lover's Lanes."

A few months ago gardens were at their peak and blueberries and raspberries grew in abundance. Nearly every cellar is ell stocked with the results of canning and preserving.

This a beautiful village, Brownville. A river running through cascades near the largest mill into falls, wonderful to behold. In the summer it would seem as though the Great Landscape Gardener cared for the river banks, they are green even and ever so lovely. And, of course, it is the labor of the GREAT GARDENER, for it is truly GOD'S own handiwork. Now part of the river is frozen and the snow had been pushed aside to allow for the freedom of flight on skates.

I must not neglect to mention the railroad part of their town called Brownville Jct. (formerly Henderson) inhabited by the railroad employees. In this part of the town the community appears most prosperous, as wages are better, making living conditions more desirable. A Catholic Church with an unbelievably beautiful interior is there. There is also a Methodist Church where the members enjoy music comparable to that of angels when the organ and piano are played together. This half of the town has a large railroad station, several stores, a fire station, a hotel, drug store and restaurant. A cemetery may be seen, where loved ones have been laid to rest.

The largest mill in the village half, is the U.S. Pegwood and Shank Co. and employs about one hundred and seventy men and women. Great heavy machinery, wheels turning, belts in action, turning white birch logs into wooden ribbons which are wound and then made into shoe shanks, forks, spoons, tongue depressors, decorations for food used in restaurants and various other articles. Women in dungarees and others in fancier dresses move in and out among the rugged, tired men. All are endeavoring to keep on with existence, struggling for a few extra comforts which seldom become ultimate.

Three other mills turn out boards and planks of various lengths, width and thickness and still another produces handles for an assortment of tools. Though smaller, these latter keep employees bread on their tables.

Brownville consists of about thirteen hundred inhabitants in a land circumference three and one-half by one and one-half miles. The one school in the village stands on a hill, is neither old or dilapidated, yet is not very modern. Across from the school is the cemetery, overlooking the town in its solitary way, giving quiet rest to beloved citizens.

There is a Community Church in the village part of Brownville, three large halls, the veterans, the grange and the Masonic. There is a fire station with quite modern equipment, a post office, three grocery stores, and a library. The library serves honorable mention because of its decoration and arrangement, also its wide assembly of books.

The list of the village WWII veterans appears on a marble memorial in front of the veterans building. There is also a barber shop where men meet to talk over politics and the scandals of the town.

Brownville is a town where folks live, laugh, and love.

RECIPE FROM JIMS AND JANES COOKBOOK OF BROWNVILLE, PUBLISHED 1953

ICE-BOX COOKIES BY ARGIE S. HENDERSON

2 cups of brown sugar

1 cup butter

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup walnuts

Sift together:

3½ cups flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

Mix all together until smooth, form into a roll, wrap in waxed paper, place in the refrigerator and in the morning slice very thin.

Bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes.

BLUEBERRY HILL COOKBOOK BY ELSIE MASTERSON

OWNED AND GIVEN BY LILLIAN FREDIN

YANKEE' GLORIFIED CARROTS

1 bunch of carrots, cooked and sliced

½ lb. sharp cheese, cut up

1 tablespoon butter

2½ tablespoons of flour

2 cups of heated milk

salt and pepper, to taste

Grapenut flakes

Combine butter, flour, salt and pepper. Add heated milk slowly, stirring until boiling point. Remove from heat, and stir in cheese. Cover bottom of casserole with carrots and cheese sauce, alternately. Cover top with grapenut flakes, and heat in 320 oven for 25 minutes.



*Brownville/Brownville Jct.
Historical Museum*

Our new address:
Brownville Historical Society
72 Church St.
P.O. Box 750
Brownville, ME. 04414

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Annual membership - \$5.00
- Junior membership - \$1.00
- Lifetime membership - \$100.00

NAME-----

ADDRESS-----

PHONE-----

If you have a new address because of 911, or another reason, please let us know.

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