

Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum



"We are an equal opportunity provider"

*"A museum by the people,
for the people"*

Jan-March 2022

By Karen Donato

Look for your renewal date on your
mailing label.

Mailing address: 304 Campbell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730

Tel: 207-538-9300

Email: countymuseum@hotmail.com

www.countymuseum.net

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Southern Aroostook Ag. Museum

Memories of the Littleton Bridge



Since our last newsletter we have received a framed photo by the late Bill Dunn of the Watson Settlement Bridge. Mel Hovey of Presque Isle donated the photo in memory of his wife, Phyllis McBride Hovey who grew up not far from the bridge on the Framingham Road. She and her two sisters often took their sleds and slid down the hill toward the bridge as youngsters. Mr. Hovey also gave a gift of \$2,000.

With this gift, members of the museum have decided to build a small replica of the bridge on our front lawn. If you would like to donate to this project or help with the construction please contact Barry Campbell, 532-0127 or Colby Shaw, 694-0824.

The bridge, built in 1911 was named the Watson Settlement Bridge for one of the early settlers, Francis Watson, who settled near the Meduxnekeag River.



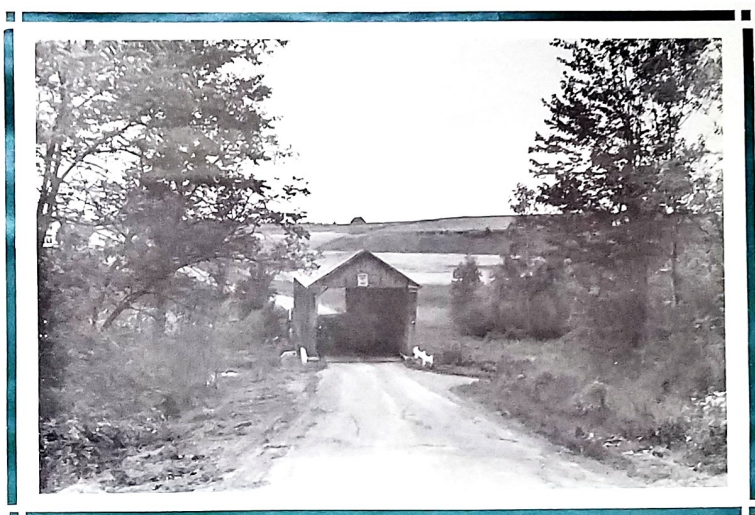
The Vernon and Olive McBride farm on the Framingham Road in Littleton many years ago. The buildings have been lost to fire and aging. The McBride's were neighbors of Cedric and Emily Shaw who contributed many items to our museum. The McBrides in turn, also gave some family treasures for our displays pictured on the next page.



A table and a grinder from the McBrides.



Another view of the bridge from the Arnold Miller farm several years ago.



The covered bridge from the Foxcroft Road side with the McBride farm in the distance. This was featured on a 1984 Soil and Water Conservation District calendar.



Fall raffle winners

Nancy Wright, one of our volunteers drew the three winning tickets for our fall raffle at our November 6 meeting. The first place winner, Jason Meuse of New Hampshire chose the cash over the Browning hunting rifle donating \$100 back to the museum. Second place winner was Josh Palmer, the winner of a \$100 gift certificate from Mac's Trading Post and Max Lynds received a \$50 gift certificate. Thank you for supporting our fall raffle. The proceeds help with our monthly expenses, since we are not able to host our monthly suppers.

Digital sign

We are in the midst of updating our signage by the road. We have used this homemade sign for 20 years to advertise our events and special times at the museum. It has been somewhat challenging in the winter months to take the individual letters off to replace them with other news. We are finally into the final stages of moving into the modern age with a digital sign that can be changed from the comfort of one's home. Rural Development is sharing some of the cost with us and has contributed about \$12,000. The cost of the sign will be more than \$30,000. At the moment it is in transit and we are hoping to have it in place by spring.



Our January membership supper has been cancelled due to the ongoing Co-vid cases. Please send your 2022 membership dues to: 304 Campbell Road Littleton, ME 04730.

Thank you for supporting us during these unique times.

Memory Corner

Our thanks to those who have given memorials to the museum.

Memorial donations received recently in memory of: Chavala Fitzpatrick, George Smith, Dana Wright, Dick Britton, Jerry Flewelling, David and Caroline Cowperthwaite, Arnold Miller, Jordan Brown and Phil Hersey.

The Drive of 1898

By Clarence A. Adams, Patten, Maine

BB

Come all ye lively shanty boys and listen to my song, t'is of the drive of '98—I won't detain you long. We were waiting for the ice to go in the mild and gentle spring. When 'long came Gagnon's river boss and thus to us did sing:

There is no work to do at all: yer always warm and dry. You lay upon the mossy banks and watch them dangle by. You have a nice warm place to sleep and lots to eat, of course. And all is gay and happy on the roaring Sebeois!

We started out from Patten, full forty lumberjacks. Each, with his longneck on his hip, his turkey on his back. Our old corked boots slung round our necks, we turned our backs on town. And started up for Gagnon's camp, to card the lumber down.

The dark had settled on the woods ere the first men reached the camp. All tired, wet, and hungry with their long and tedious tramp. And when they reached the driving tents 'fore which the fires glowed, they were strewn from h----to breakfast down the old tote road.

Next morning we started on the drive tho each man felt like sin, to pick the ice along the banks and roll the landing in. A ranting bunch of river hogs, that I feel free to state, went down the drive for Gagnon in the spring of '98.

The drive went down a'booming till the floods began to fail. The jam crew on the headworks and the sackers at the tail. When we got down big Tiger Pitch and Godfrey had passed by. We lost our good old driving pitch—the stream damn near ran dry.

We toiled in icy water, no longer river cats. But worked like mules and horses to sack them off the flats. And then at night we went to camp, each man a human wreck, to find they'd pitched the wagon tents in slush up to yer neck.

At length we reached Five Islands, another hole cussed shoals of alder flats and willow beds and dead pokelogan holes. And here the poor old river hog must show his stock of goods—Seemed like the whole darn blooming drive was stranded in the woods!

We smoked them out of that in time, a whooping raging crew. For when Sebeois mouth was reached, the drive would then be through. Each man would draw his driving pay and hit the trail for town. To celebrate with liquids—when the drive comes down!

We reached the booms at Lunksoos all on a joyous day. The whole crew gathered at the tents to draw their time and pay. This ends the sad and moving tale which to you I relate, how we drove for Gagnon in the spring of '98.

In years past many residents often wrote poems or kept diaries of the happenings around them. Sometimes communities got together to celebrate an occasion with original writings from stories that had been passed down through the generations. The spelling of certain words were not always correct, but one could usually figure out a translation. This particular one is from a resident in Patten, Maine. He may have been someone Cedric knew, as it was among the logging display in the Shaw Room.



A promotional gift from Petroleum Products

A couple of items
found in our museum.



A cutting board from the Porter family on the
Porter Settlement Road in Carys Mills, Maine.

Bits and pieces of information:

Multi-Purpose Room: Our gym & kitchen facilities are available to rent for reunions, receptions, parties or banquets.

We are a non-smoking, alcohol free facility and handicapped accessible.

Gift Certificates are available for suppers or memberships.. Great birthday, anniversary or "just because" gifts.

Regular Museum meetings are the first and third Saturdays of the month beginning at 9 a.m. Members and guests welcome

Open for tours Thursday, Friday and Saturday..1 p.m. to 4.

June 26 through Labor Day

For private tours call Francis Fitzpatrick 538-0050 or other officers listed below.



Look for your renewal date on your mailing label.

Mailing address: 304 Campbell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730

SAAM appreciates your support!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Becoming a member does not obligate you to any volunteer position, but it does help us fulfill the dream of :

"Cultivating the Heritage of the County"

Please complete the form below to enjoy free admittance to the museum and help support a great cause. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, operated solely by volunteers.

___ Single Membership \$20

___ Family Membership \$30

___ Sodbuster \$50

___ Thresher \$100

___ Farmer of the Year \$250

___ Single Lifetime—\$500

___ Couple Lifetime--\$750

___ Additional donation for:

Date _____

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: SAAM

304 Campbell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730

c/o Barry Campbell

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT..Paul Klein.....521-1874

V.PRESIDENT.....Francis Fitzpatrick.....538-0050

TREASURER.....Debbie Campbell.....538-9583

SECRETARY.....Debbie Melvin.....538- 9604

COMMITTEES

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR....Nancy Wright 538-8905

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS /Colby Shaw.....694-0824

Paul Klein.....521 -1874

EVENTS / Rae Johnston.....538-9402

Contact Debbie Campbell to reserve museum.....538-9583

HISTORIAN /open for volunteer

PUBLICITY /Karen Donato..... 694-6099

TRANSPORTATION OF DONATED ITEMS:

Francis Fitzpatrick.....538-0050

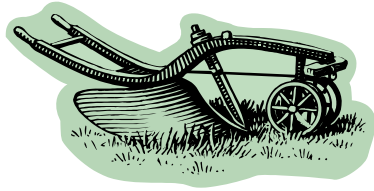
MUSEUM.....538-9300

www.countymuseum.net

E-mail— countymuseum@hotmail.com

We are now on Facebook—check us out!

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S.A.A.M

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