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VASSALBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM located at:
 327 Main Street, East Vassalboro, ME
 P.O. Box 13, N. Vassalboro, ME 04962
 Telephone: (207) 923-3505

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House at the Museum

Sunday, August 08, 2021
 Sunday, August 22, 2021
 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Vassalboro Woolen Mill

The International Exhibition was held in London, England in 1851. It was the first World's Fair and was used to highlight the industries of each nation. The Vassalboro Woolen Mill won a medal for best woolen cassimere. The Vassalboro Historical Society has in its collection the certificate signed by Millard Fillmore, chairman of the United States Committee and former President of the U. S.

The Society is currently trying to locate this medal. It is bronze and about 3 inches in diameter and the last documented holder was Sara McQuillan. She was given it by her uncle Samuel Williams, who owned the Vassalboro Woolen Mill starting in 1888. The following description was given by Miss McQuillan in a letter to Caleb Lewis of the Waterville Morning Sentinel for his column Seeing & Believing – Being the Purely Personal Observations and Experiences of One Ima Wanderer. The dates listed in the column indicate it was written in a leap-year.

The following is the description of the medal given by her to Mr. Lewis.

“The medal is stamped, “Gold medal,” on a scroll at the sides and in the center is a round golden stamp with the words, “Vassalboro Woolen Mills” on the outside. In the middle is a profile picture of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and around just inside the panel carrying Vassalboro Woolen Mills is the following inscription, “Victoria D. G. Brit. Rec. F. D. Albertus Principes Conjux.” Underneath the picture is the date

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As we recover from the long pandemic, the Vassalboro Historical Society has slowly but surely started welcoming volunteers and visitors back to the museum. We now have an online 3D tour which was recorded by Skyline Touring Services LLC. We received a grant from the Oak Grove School Foundation which is enabling us to host a Costume and Textile Historian who will help us with our Textile Conservation Priorities Project. We are hosting a gathering of other historical societies to help us all increase our strengths and learn new ideas that may work as we continue to build our society. We will soon have a new security system to further protect our collection. We continue to update displays, assist with research requests, and welcome old and new friends into the museum. We also plan to start our public programs back up this fall.

If you haven't stopped by, please do. The museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Our Open Houses are the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 1-4pm.

Hope to see you soon!

Jan Clowes
 President

“MDCCCLI.” It is certainly a souvenir anyone might be glad to own, especially a descendant or relative of one who was instrumental in winning it.”



This is an example of what it could look like.

If you know of who may currently hold it please contact the Vassalboro Historical Society so we can hopefully reunite the two pieces.

1870 Census of Vassalboro Key to the Census

1. Dwelling houses, numbered in the order of visitation.
2. Families, numbered in the order of visitation.
3. The name of every person whose place of abode on the first date of June, 1870, was in this family.
4. Age at last birth-day. If under 1 year, give months in fraction, thus 3/12.
5. Sex. – Males (M); Females (F).
6. Color. – White (W.); Black (B.); Mulatto (M.); Chinese (C.); Indian (I).
7. Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.
8. Value of Real Estate.
9. Value of Personal estate.
10. Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.
11. Father of foreign birth.
12. Mother of foreign birth.
13. If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., & etc.).
14. If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., etc.).
15. Attended school within the year.
16. Cannot read.

17. Cannot write.

18. Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.

19. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.

20. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 year of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.

Orrick Hawes was the Ass't. Marshal who took this census.

LOCAL ARTIST CONTEST

The Vassalboro Historical Society is requesting YOUR original artwork for use as the Society's thank you notes and to have available for sale at the Society.

Entries must be received by August 31, 2021.

The artwork (drawn, painted, or photographed) must feature historical buildings and sites of Vassalboro (stop by the museum for ideas - we have lots of photographs) which are suitable for printing on 4 ¼" x 5 ½" note cards.

FOUR ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED AND ARTISTS WILL RECEIVE:

\$100 for 1st place

\$75 for 2nd place

\$50 for 3rd place

\$25 for 4th place

TO ENTER:

Send your artwork or photograph to:

ART CONTEST @ VHS

PO Box #13

North Vassalboro, ME 04962

or by email to:

vhsresident@gmail.com

If you would like your artwork returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



Dr. Cates

MEDICINE IS PROFESSION BUT ADVOCATION THAT OF FARMER

Waterville Morning Sentinel – December 20, 1952

By *Fred D. McAlary*

If in these days of quick travel and communication there is such a thing as a country doctor, Samuel C. Cates, M.D., of East Vassalboro claims to be one, and is happy in his calling.

How does a physician gain title to recognition on this page? Well, Dr. Cates' vocation is that of a medical man, but his avocation is that of a farmer.

He comes into this category by good right, since his grandfather, Dr. Charles Cates, built the home in which the doctor now lives on in 1858 and conducted a farm as well. Then the doctor's father, David B. Cates, was a farmer and after his death in 1923, son Samuel continued to do some agricultural work when he could find time from his duties as medical adviser to the people of his home town and others within a wide radius.

Dr. Cates says he drives 3,000 miles a month to visit his patients and states that in the 27 years he has been in practice, he recalls missing only one day when he could not get onto the roads to make his visits.

That day was Feb. 18, 1952, which will be recalled as extremely stormy and a day that tied up traffic all over the state of Maine. The roads were just impassable that day. Old Dobbin, drawing a sleigh in days of yore, might have negotiated a trip or two, but modern automobiles could not be moved.

The Cates homestead is an old fashioned, rambling building with a big barn. It is situated away back from the road which leads along the shore of picturesque China Lake to China Neck and China Village.

On a rise of land, at the end of a long driveway, and through a tree-lined avenue, sets the old house. It is well shaded in summer, but the trees do not hinder a fine view of the lake to the south.

There are 120 acres to the Cates place, some of it is tilled land, some growing wood in which deer are frequently to be seen. There the doctor raises corn, potatoes and grain and has a large vegetable garden.

When does he work in the garden? Beginning at 5:30 a.m. is none to early for a turn of an hour and a half in digging, planting and weeding and those are the hours the doctor frequently keeps before beginning his regular day's work.

And in the house there is Mrs. Cates, alias Jimmy. She was once Miss Mae James, hence her nickname. She came from Wilkesbarre, PA., and is a registered nurse. So she and the doctor make a team that conduct a home hospital and dispensary.

A large room in the house is equipped as a hospital, with facilities for handling many cases. Then there is the room that Grandfather Cates used as his office, and which is now filled with medical supplies neatly placed on shelves. Another room contains more supplies and connected with the main office is a room that can be used for a maternity ward, complete with large bed and small crib for expected arrivals.



The house retains much of its old fashioned appearance, with old furniture and pictures, but has also many modern features. A grandfather's clock stands on the floor, too



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tall for the shelf, and keeps on aticking under a stairway which is in itself a model of the artisan's skill.

Dr. Samuel Cates was born in South China 62 years ago. With his twin brother Barker G. Cates, he entered Colby College with the class of 1912. His brother was taken ill and died in 1909, his first year in college.

While in college Dr. Cates was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and was a member of the college track team. His specialty was running the half mile and for a long time he held the college record of 2.01 1/5 for that distance. He won the event several times in the Maine Intercollegiate events.

Following his graduation from college at the behest of a fellow collegian, he taught physics for several years at the Pennsylvania State College. He was graduated from the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania in 1924 and began his practice in East Vassalboro in 1925.

Dr. and Mrs. Cates were married in October, 1923. They have two sons and one daughter. David Cates, 28, is associated with the Sprague Electric Company in Kingston, N.Y., and Howard Cates 21, is a private first class with the Marine Corps Air Force and stationed at Miami, Fla. Their daughter, Peggy Cates Carleton, lives in Wollaston, Mass.

Dr. Cates holds membership in the Masonic bodies, including the Knights Templar and the Shrine. Mrs. Cates belongs to the grange. Both attend the Friends Church in East Vassalboro.

In the first World War Dr. Cates held a commission in the medical department of the air force with the rank of first lieutenant.

The doctor's practice takes him over a wide area. He estimates that he drives his car about 3,000 miles a month, with visits in China, Vassalboro, Palermo, Montville, Albion and in Waterville where he has access to the hospitals.

In his 27 years of practice he has had occasion to meet many people and as he states, "They are not patients, but friends.



"Yes," he says, "the hours are long and the trips lengthy, but it is a pleasure to meet the folks and be able to help them." He feels that when a physician is needed he should respond to the call, wherever it might take him.

In his early practice it was the horse and buggy that took him from place to place, but he soon replaced the old transportation for the more modern gas carriage.

Babies? Surely. He estimated that he has helped to bring over 2,000 into the world.

So Dr. Cates, farmer, manages to fill out a long day and seemingly enjoys what he is doing.

The Society meets every two months. Membership is not limited to Vassalboro residents; it is open to all who are "interested in the history of Vassalboro, Maine," upon request and payment of annual dues.

Membership begins on January 1 each year. Some of our membership classes include:

- \$ 12 ACTIVE (Under 65)
- \$ 8 ACTIVE (65 and Older)
- \$ 25 Family
- \$150 Lifetime
- \$200 Business

If you are interested in helping the Vassalboro Historical Society "celebrate and protect the heritage of our community" by becoming a member, please send your name, address, contact telephone number and payment to:

ATTN: Membership Secretary
Vassalboro Historical Society
P.O. Box 13
North Vassalboro, ME 04962



Join our Facebook Community, Vassalboro Historical Society!

Also, if you are on Facebook and not yet part of the Facebook group "Vassalboro Community Events and Announcements" you should definitely consider joining! It's a great way to see what is happening in your community, your neighborhood or even your road!

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER OR A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS AND STORIES TO:

VHSPresident@hotmail.com