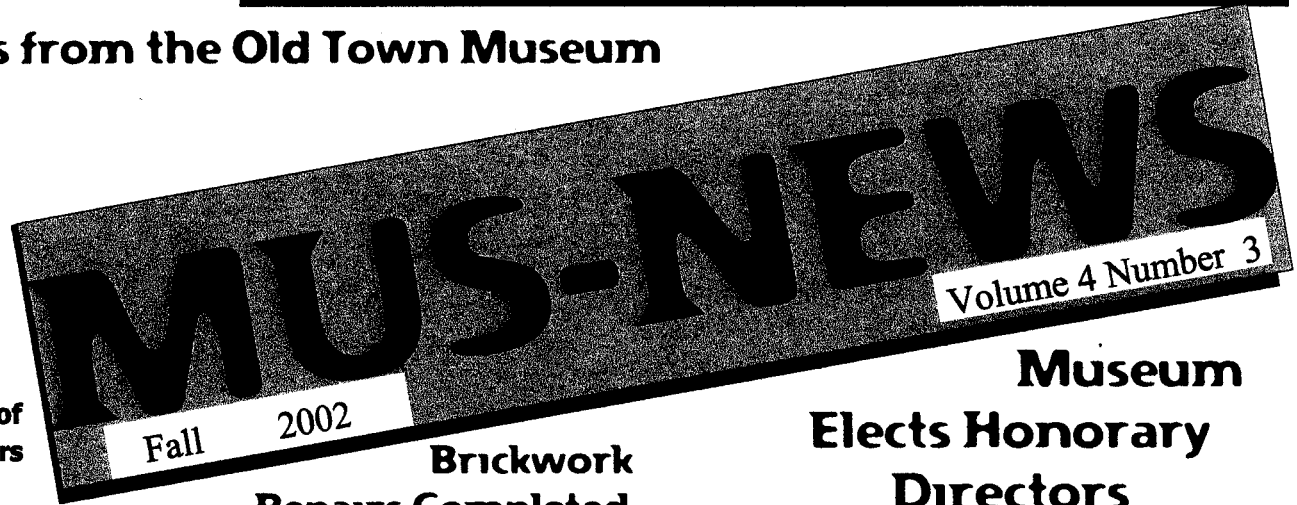


News from the Old Town Museum



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827-2238

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827-6785

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866-2434

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Harold Lacadie
827-4691

Margaret Manzer
827-3847

Howard Merrill
827-2649

Cora Paradis
827-4120

Ken Sirois
827-4833

Brickwork Repairs Completed

Even though the cold and snow arrived a little earlier than expected, the repairs to the brickwork and stonework on the bell tower and front of the former St. Mary's Church were completed prior to Thanksgiving. Hascall & Hall, a firm that specializes in brickwork restoration, removed and replaced all of the deteriorated materials, cleaned the brickwork on the bell tower and front of the building and then applied a waterproofing material to reduce future problems.

In the process of removing the face brick on the north and east walls of the bell tower, it was found that the damage to the bell tower extended back two additional courses, necessitating the installation of shoring to hold up the wall above the area being repaired. The Ames Corporation, a Bangor engineering firm came to the Museum's rescue and designed the necessary shoring so that the repair work would not be delayed.

This phase of the work is now completed but the Museum did have to take out a loan to pay for the work.

Museum Elects Honorary Directors

At the Museum's Annual Meeting held in February 2002, a proposal was made to amend the Museum's Bylaws to provide for the appointment of "Honorary Directors". The position of Honorary Director was intended to provide an opportunity for a person who had served as a "Director" to remain involved with the Museum but at a reduced level of activity. Honorary Directors could continue to attend Board Meetings, receive Meeting Minutes, and serve on Committees but they could not vote at Board Meetings. This proposal was later adopted.

At the Old Town Museum Directors Meeting on November 18, 2002, the Board elected their first two "Honorary Directors". Florence Wheeler and Harriet Woodsum. We hope our new "Honorary Directors" will remain active and attend future Board Meetings.

Ken Sirois was elected to fill the vacancy left by Florence's change in status and the Board is looking for a person to complete Harriet's term on the Board.

A Moment in Our History

Condensed and rewritten by Harold Lacadie

-Monday July 1, 1901-

Hurricane of Flames Sweeps Stillwater
Sawmills, Dwelling Houses and Lumber Piles
Eaten Up By Fire - Kimball & Adams, Sutton, and
Lewis Mills Gone - 34 Buildings and 2,500,000
feet of Lumber in Ashes

A spark ignited a pile of sawdust in the fire room of a big steam mill at Stillwater about 3 o'clock Monday afternoon and in less than an hour, \$200,000 worth of property went up in smoke.

The Burned Buildings

The burned buildings - Kimball & Adams, steam saw mill, boarding house, four dwelling houses, stable, blacksmith shop, sheds, etc. - George A Lewis & Co, shingle mill - Pierce & Sutton, saw mill and office - Otis Reed, store - Ann Orcutt, dwelling - George A. Lewis, dwelling - Samuel McKay, dwelling - Wilber Bean, dwelling - Lydia Tucker, store - Lizzie Waltz, house - Frank Quimby, dwelling - Mrs. John Wilkinson, dwelling - Charles J. McLeod, dwelling - J.J. Quimby, storehouse - William Bartlett, store - William Bean, dwelling - C.F. Lowe, carpenter shop - John K. Pooler, house - Frank Cimpher, dwelling.

The Start

The big and splendidly equipped plant of Kimball & Adams was running in full blast when a slight blaze was discovered in the boiler room. In less time than it takes to tell it, the flames spread through the whole structure. The employees ran for their lives. Many of them left their watches hanging in their clothing. Several in the lower part of the mill were driven to the river and were rescued by boats from the other side of the river.

A stiff breeze was blowing down the Stillwater valley which soon became a torrent of flames. In a half hour, twenty buildings and hundreds of piles of lumber were blazing making a chain of devastation over three-quarters of a mile in length.

North of the mill was a story and a half dwelling and a stable owned by Kimball & Adams and occupied by Alvin French. This was soon in flames. Most of the furniture was saved. This was the upriver limit of the fire. The hungry flames licked up the blacksmith shop, and store house and then commenced a triumphal march down the river, devouring the Lewis shingle mill sheds and stock and feeding on the board piles. Another division of the fire reached across to the big boarding house between Spring Street and Bennoch Road.

The fire went down Spring Street and destroyed in quick succession were the house occupied by Henry McLeod, the new Kimball & Adams stable, three cottages owned by Wilbur Bean and occupied by Mel Bean. Then it jumped to the house of Frank Cimpher, occupied by Alphonse White and the fine homestead of Mrs. John Wilkinson.

Meanwhile the fire jumped from the boarding house owned by Charles McLeod and occupied by Percy Cole to the house of Ann Orcutt occupied by William Flagg. Then it continued on the western side of Spring Street to the houses of William Bean, George Lewis and Samuel McKay.

The course of the fire narrowed as it reached the bridge. The house of Frank Quimby, on the river bank, was in the path and was soon wiped out. Then came the large store of Lydia S. Tucker, the store of Otis Reed, the storehouse of J.J. Quimby, the store of William Bartlett, carpenter shop of C.F. Lane and the little house of Lizzie Waltz on the island. The bridge was partially burned. Meanwhile the Pierce & Sutton mill was torching up in a grand bon-fire and all of the board piles in between.

In most cases the people saved but few of their goods and some, not any. Mrs. McLeod, who lived in the house next to the mill, fainted with fright and was barely resuscitated. In the streets in the upper parts of the village were piles of furniture taken out of houses by frightened owners who feared the blaze would reach them.

On Toward Lumber

The fire didn't stop at the Sutton Mill but sped toward the big lumber piles that lined almost the entire length of the Stillwater Branch of the Maine Central Railroad line. Several of these were burned for the firemen were called away to save dwelling houses. When the Bangor engine and its crew arrived by special train, two streams of water were directed to the lumber and this, after many hours of hot work, eventually stopped the spread.

A couple of cars loaded with lumber, were burned on the tracks near the Kimball & Adams mill and several car-loads of sawn material were destroyed near the Sutton mill. The railroad, besides losing its cars, suffered a loss on account of damage to the rails and sleepers. The fire twisted the rails and damaged things in general so badly, it would take several days to make the branch fit for traffic.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Help from Cities

The first Fire Dept. to arrive was the University of Maine's hose reel and hook and ladder truck.. Messages were sent to Bangor, Old Town, Milford, and Orono for assistance. Chief Gibbons of Old Town sent a steamer and hose wagon, Milford sent a hose reel. When this equipment reached the Stillwater Bridge, it was in flames so it was necessary to send the apparatus around by way of Orono.

During the worst part of the fire, the flames were so hot that it made it almost impossible for the firemen to hold the nozzles on many of the lines of hose. In some places, the blaze got so close to the ground the lines of hose were burned. The intense heat and blinding smoke almost overcame several of the men who were close to the blazing buildings and lumber. In some places the firemen were obliged to drop their hoses and run to escape the heat and dense smoke.

If you would like to learn more about this terrible fire, you can read about it in the July 6, 1901 issue of the Penobscot Times and the July 2, 1901 issue of the Bangor Daily News.

Thanks to our Volunteers

If it were not for the extensive number of volunteers, it would be impossible to keep the Museum open the amount of time that is scheduled. The Museum Board wishes to publicly recognize and thank all of the people who have given there time so that the Museum could be open for visitors. Our list of volunteers who have helped keep the museum open include: Eleanor Bagley, Barbara Blair, Katie Braggins, Mary Ann Buck, Ann Campbell, Pat Cole, Bev Clarke, Barb Csavinszky, Gloria Cyr, Virginia Fortier, Sue Gleason, Jean Guay, Phyllis Hempel, Joyce Harris, Mona Harris, Betty Keene, Francis Klitch, Jan Klitch, Helen Klocko, Harold Lacadie, Nancylee Mahan, Rita McGlinchy, Bill Osborne, Blanch Page, Cora Paradis, Betty Paradis, Ken Sirois, Betty Sleight, Roland Saucier, and Marlene Wight. We hope we have not overlooked anyone. Peggy Manzer, our Operation Committee Chair has done an outstanding job in not only finding people to volunteer but also in scheduling the volunteers. A special **Thank You** to all.

Museum Gift Shop has Items with Old Town Landmarks

If you are looking for a Gift or a memento of Old

Town, you don't have to look any farther than the Old Town Museum Gift Shop. Most of these items have reproductions of one or more photographs of buildings or scenes from an earlier era in Old Town.

Items available from the Museum include:

Item	Price inc. Tax	Ship & Handle
Magnets	\$2.10	\$0.75
T- Shirts		
sizes M, L, & XL	\$15.75	\$3.00
XXL	\$16.80	\$3.00
Sweatshirts	\$26.50	\$4.00
Cookbooks	\$7.88	\$2.00
Note Paper	\$4.15	\$2.00
Afghans		
two-tone	\$35.00	\$8.00
tapestry	\$50.00	\$8.00

Orders including payment check may be sent to: Old Town Museum, % B. Csavinszky, 18 Sewall Drive, Old Town, ME 04468. In the local area, items may be ordered and picked up by calling 827-6785 or 827-2650.

Twenty-six years and still growing

When the Old Town Museum closed for the season in mid October, it drew the curtain on twenty-six years of service to the Old Town area. the number of visitors from the local area was up from previous years. We also had one of the most successful "Sunday Program" activities that we have ever had. We also saw an increase in the number of people who supported the Museum through Membership or by donations. This past season saw the Museum Board undertake the first major maintenance project since acquiring the former St. Mary's Church when it authorized the repairs to the brickwork and stonework on the bell tower and front wall.

Even though the Board can look with pride on the accomplishments during the year, they have already begun to look at how next year can be even better. If any of our readers have suggestions of things they would like to see in the Museum or for Sunday Programs, they should forward them to the Museum Board.

Membership Drive - 2003

Membership in the Old Town Museum is one way which anyone can help in preserving the history of the Old Town area. Dues and donations are a substantial help in the funding of the Museum operations. Remember, the Museum does not charge an admissions fee nor is it supported by tax dollars. Your Membership payment or your donation is greatly appreciated.

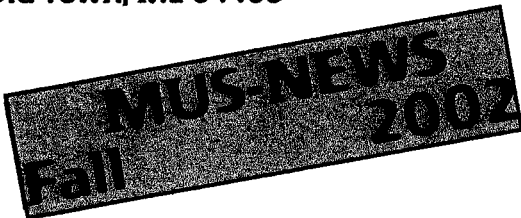
We hope the readers of this issue of Mus-News will continue their support of the Old Town Museum. We especially hope you will be generous in any donations to the Museum's "Repair Fund". The Museum is the place where the history of the area is displayed for your viewing. A place to visit to bring back old memories and a place to show your children (or grandchildren) how things were in earlier times. Please visit the Museum even if you are not a financial supporter. A visit may bring back old memories.

Remember, donations of any amount to the Museum may qualify for a tax-deduction in accord with IRS Regulations. Donations should be sent to the same address as dues.

If you would like your donation dedicated to the Museum "Repair Fund", please indicate on the Donation Form.

If you would like to donate to the Museum or become a member of the Museum, please complete and mail the form at the bottom of this page.

The Old Town Museum
PO Box 375
Old Town, ME 04468



TO:

Old Town Museum; PO Box 375; Old Town, ME 04468

Membership or Donations

Date: _____ **FINL**

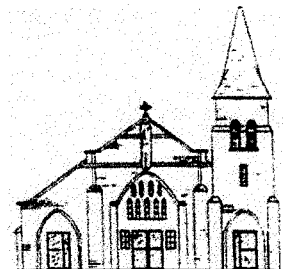
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Type of Membership or Donation
 (Circle appropriate item and if Donation, fill in amount)

Individual	\$20	Senior	\$10
Family	\$30	Life	\$250
Group or Business	\$100	Donation:	\$ _____

1976-2003
 27 years of Service
 to Old Town and it's
 Surrounding
 Communities

138 South Main St



Membership entitles you voting rights at the Annual Meeting and free admission to the Museum and it's Sunday Programs (Special Ticketed events excluded) Donations are "Tax-deductible" but Memberships are not.

____ Yes, I would like to be a Museum Volunteer, please call me at (Telephone No.) _____