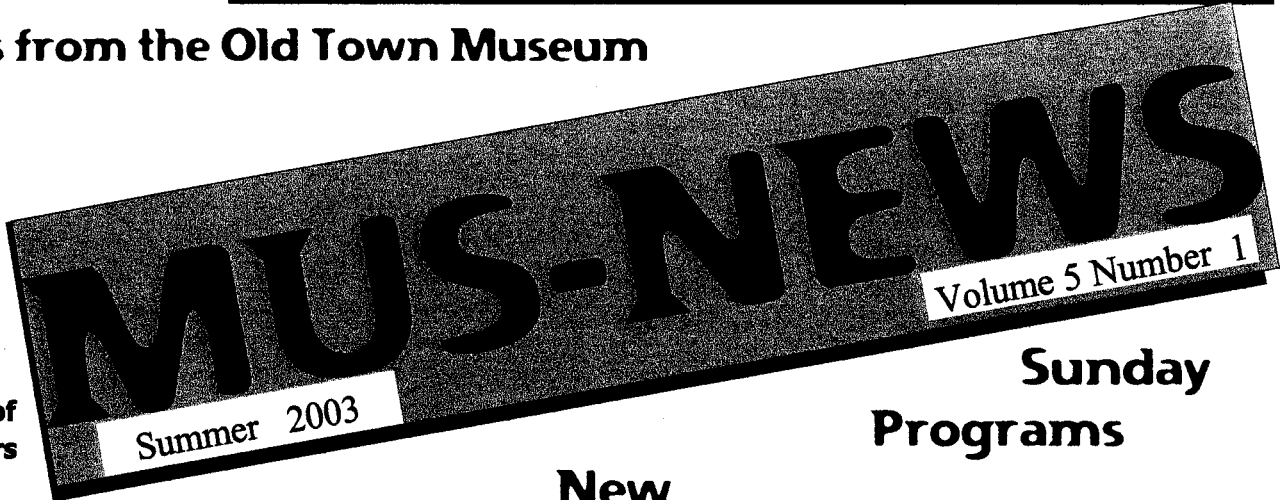


News from the Old Town Museum



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William Osborne
827-7245

Vice President

Barbara Csavinszky
827-6785

Secretary

Barbara Connors
827-3654

Members

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866-4393

Beverly Clarke
827-2650

Richard Eustis
827-2238

Virginia Fortier
827-3472

Sue Gleason
866-2434

Joyce Harris
827-2498

Harold Lacadie
827-4691

Margaret Manzer
827-3847

Howard Merrill
827-2649

Betsy Paradis
8273045

Ken Sirois
827-4833

Marlene Wight
827-3608

New at the Museum

If you have not visited the Museum this year, please stop by to see some of the new Exhibits that are on display. Our Exhibits Committee has prepared an exhibit on Bridal Gowns and Wedding Outfits from an earlier generation. There is another exhibit devoted to older "Aprons", many of the type you remember your mother having. One Museum Case is now devoted to new acquisitions that may be of interest. Add these to some of our standing exhibits on the lumbering industry and other items from the history of the Old Town area, it will make for an interesting visit.

Don't forget the Museum Gift Shop when you are looking for a gift that has special significance and special memories for current or former Old Town residents or their families. One new item in the Gift Shop this year is a wooden plaque showing the Old Town Museum (former St. Mary's Church). These were made by the same firm that makes many other plaques depicting historic or familiar buildings. There are still supplies of Magnets, Note-paper, T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Afghans, all with pictures of historic significance.

Sunday Programs

Joyce Harris, Museum Board Programs Chair, has arranged for an extensive "Summer Sunday" program at the Museum. Several interesting programs have already been presented with the following scheduled for the balance of the season. Please save this list for future reference.

All of these programs are presented at the Museum, all begin at 2 PM. and all of the listed program are free of charge.

July 13 - Art Gall: Know your antique tools.

July 20 - Duane Prugh: A Photographic Tour of Maine's Existing Cover Bridges

July 27 - Annette King: Author of "Growing Up on Academy Hill"

August 3 - Bill Osborne: Collecting Music on Vintage Records

August 10 - Bingo the Clown, sponsored by the Ground Round

August 17 - Clint Partridge and the Late Editions: Country Band

August 24 - Baycka Voronietsky: Piano artistry, Music for all

A Moment in Our History

- One man's investments

It is seldom in the history of a community that a single person who was never a resident of the community or had family ties to the community, could have such a significant impact on the development. Such is the case in Old Town where General Samuel Veazie had a major impact on the development of Old Town and his name has remained recognized for over 175 years. This is not to say that others might not have done many of the same things if Veazie had not been there and had the vision and money to invest

Samuel Veazie was born in Portland, ME and as a young lad, was a "Baker's Apprentice". He quickly saw that being a "Baker" did not result in huge wealth. He then became a sailor in the West Indies trade and under his contract was allowed to buy and sell merchandise. As the result of his skill in this business, it only took him a few years to accumulate sufficient funds to purchase a sizeable ship to expand his operations.

During the War of 1812, Veazie was active in the militia and worked himself up from the rank of Ensign to the rank of General. This military title stuck for the rest of his life.

It appears that whatever Mr. Veazie attempted, he was able to convert his skill and activity to a profit. His shipping business led to him becoming a manufacturer and vendor of cigars. His shipping interest also led him into ship-building. As ship-building required a source of lumber, he then moved into the lumber business, first along the Androscoggin River and then along the Penobscot River.

In 1826, Veazie purchased his first mill at Old Town (before Old Town separated from Orono) and expanded his holdings until he owned all of the mills on the west side of the river at Old Town Falls. This expansion including outbidding Jesse Wadleigh for a portion of the shore along the Penobscot River at an auction that had some irregularities.

Over time, General Veazie became the sole owner of the "Penobscot Boom" which proved to be very profitable. As the sole owner of a corporation, his corporate records provide some amusement as they include reports of his holding corporate meeting in his home with no one else present. These records show corporate elections, electing himself as President, Clerk, and Director. Corporate elections and all other corporate affairs requiring a vote, passed with one in favor and none opposed.

Veazie became the largest mill-owner in Maine,

eventually owning all of the mills at Old Town Falls, the Corporation Mills at Veazie, and the Basin Mills in Orono for a total of 52 in all. He was one of the very few "millionaires" in Maine at the time.

Veazie also had other business interests in Old Town. In 1832, he constructed the Veazie Block of 3 stores in Old Town Village, several years prior to the incorporation of Old Town.

Nearly all of the lumber produced at the many mills owned by Veazie had to be moved to Bangor for loading onto ships. Most of this lumber moved by rail. In 1854, Veazie had an opportunity to acquire the "Bangor, Old Town and Milford Railroad". Owning the railroad gave him much more control on the shipping of lumber and also reduced the cost. After the purchase of the railroad, it became known as the "Veazie Railroad" even though the name was never officially changed.

At the time of the purchase, the railroad did not extend to Milford even though Milford was included in the name. One of Veazie's first actions after acquiring the railroad was to construct a railroad bridge between Old Town and Milford. This bridge was considered one of the outstanding engineering feats in the State at that time. This bridge was eventually torn down when the "Veazie Railroad" was sold to the "European and North American Railroad" following the death of Samuel Veazie.

Veazie was also in the steamboat business. The State of Maine had granted the brothers Moor, an "exclusive right" to operate steamboats on the Penobscot River above Old Town. Veazie believed there was money to be made in running steamboats from Old Town to Winn on the Penobscot and further believed the State Legislature did not have the authority to grant an "exclusive right". He decided to compete for the steamship business, had a steamboat constructed and started operations in competition with the Moor brothers. This resulted in litigation brought by the Moors that eventually reached the US Supreme Court where the Court ruled the State of Maine did have the authority to grant an "exclusive right" putting Veazie out of business on the Penobscot.

The loss in the US Supreme Court did not end Veazie's steamboat business. He had his ship disassembled and transported to California around the tip of South America. When the steamship reached California, it was reassembled to serve on the Sacramento River, to great financial success. The profits in California more than compensated for all of the expense he had incurred with the initial construction, the legal battles and the shipment of the boat to California.

Old Town Residents - We need your help

If you live in Old Town, your address probably changes as the result of the city's E-911 renumbering last January. The Museum is in the process of updating our mailing list for this newsletter and we need your help. If the address label on this issue of the newsletter is different than your current address, please send us your correct address so that you will receive future newsletters. Address changes can be sent to the Old Town Museum; PO Box 375; Old Town, ME 04468. If you have access to e-mail, you can send your address correction to Dick Eustis - eustis@infionline.net .

Museum holds Annual Meeting & Board Meeting

The Old Town Museum held its Annual Meeting on February 11, 2003 for the purpose of hearing Annual Reports and the election of persons to serve on the Board of Directors. The Treasurer's Report showed that we were in a sound financial condition even though we had an outstanding loan from the City of Old Town required to cover the cost for repairs to the brickwork on the bell tower and the street face of the Museum.

Based on the report from the Nominating Committee, those in attendance re-elected Barbara Csavinszky, Virginia Fortier, Sue Gleason, Joyce Harris, and Margaret Manzer for an additional 3-year term on the Board. Also elected to fill 2-year terms resulting from the resignation of two Board Members were Betsy Paradis and Marlene Wight.

Immediately following the Museum's Annual Meeting, the Museum Board met to address specific issues.

The Board at its first meeting for the year, elected officers with Bill Osborne elected to serve as both President and Treasurer, Barbara Csavinszky was elected Vice president and Barbara Connors was elected Secretary. Virginia Fortier, Harold Lacadie, and Dick Eustis were elected to one-year terms on the Executive Directorship.

Appointments to 2003 Committees were made with the Exhibits Committee consisting of Barbara Csavinszky, Harold Lacadie, and Virginia Fortier. The Ways and Means Committee consists of Barbara Csavinszky and Bev Clarke. Peggy Manzer will serve as the Operations Committee and Joyce Harris as the Programs Committee. The Publicity Committee consists of Barbara Connors and Bill Osborne and Dick Eustis,

Howard Merrill and Bill Osborne comprise the Endowment Committee. Dick Eustis will continue to serve as the Editor of the Museum Newsletter. The Board retained Joe Ayotte as the Operations Manager for the year.

In other business, the Board adopted a Budget for the year which was slightly lower than the previous year's as the result of lower debt service and lower income from the lease of the building to the Regional School Program. The Board adopted an Operating Schedule for the years that will result in less open days during the month of October. The Board heard reports of presentations that would be made during April to the Old Town Senior Citizens Club and to the Rotary Club.

Board Meetings

The Museum Board met on March 31, 2003 for their second Meeting of the year. Several items of routine business were covered. Virginia Fortier reported on the progress on the Video History Project and indicated she expected to have some final tapes by the end of the summer. Harold Lacadie reported that he had contacted the person who makes wooden plaques of historic or familiar buildings and that it would be possible to have a plaque made of the Museum for sale in the Museum Gift Shop. The Board agree to proceed with this item. It was also reported the Methodist Church had donated an electric organ to the Museum. The organ was originally the property of Ida McKenny. As a final action item, the Board scheduled a "Work Session" to get the Museum ready for opening on April 25th.

The Board met again on June 23rd. At that time it was reported there had been increased number of people visiting the Museum this year, including more field trip visits by school classes. The Quilt Show that had been held in early June proved to be a major attraction. The Board heard a report on a possible tenant for the building formerly housing the Regional School Program and voted to delegate the negotiations of any lease to the Executive Directorship. The Board also accepted the resignation of Joyce Harris as Chair of the Programs Committee.

Introductions

The Museum has hired a University of Maine Student, Sylvia Schuler, to assist in staffing the Museum during the hours when it is scheduled to be open. Sylvia comes with excellent qualifications to assist in many of the Museums activities. Please stop by the Museum and welcome Sylvia to our community.

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.

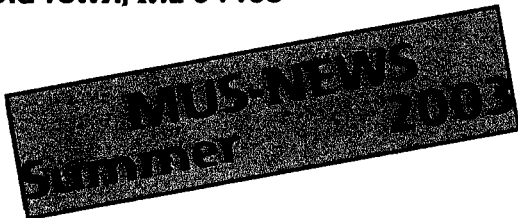
We hope the readers of this issue of Mus-News will continue their support of the Old Town Museum. We especially hope you will be generous in any donations to the Museum's "Repair Fund". The Museum is the place where the history of the area is displayed for your viewing. A place to visit to bring back 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: _____ SUNL

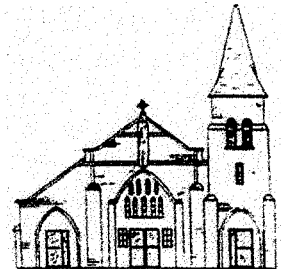
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

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

353 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.) _____