

Denmark Historical Society

P.O. Box 803
Denmark, Maine 04022

www.denmarkhistoricalsociety.org
denmarkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



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Merry Christmas from the Osborne Family

This circa 1950 Christmas Card shows Mrs. Osborne with her Denmark Congregational Church Sunday School Class



Christmas in October

Christmas came early this year for the DHS. We received two boxes of donated documents, books, and artifacts from lifetime members Tom and Carol Leach of Texas. As a member of Denmark's Thomes family, Tom's roots have a strong foundation in Denmark. The Leach's recent donations add invaluable information and new artifacts to our collection. Items included:

- Two copies of *Denmark, Maine – Past and Present* (a bound hardcopy and a paperback copy)
- A notebook of Denmark Postcards
- A 1997 article about Camp Wyonegonic (with pictures we did not have in our Camp Collection)
- Steven Berry papers dating back to 1820
- A copy of *The Mt. Pleasant Echo – Denmark High School Yearbook - 1932*
- A copy of *The Den of Mark – Denmark High School Yearbook – 1928*
- A copy of *The Town Register*, a 1907 history of Denmark and surrounding towns
- Copies of the Denmark Annual town reports representing seven years
- A book of fiction written by a Harrison man and printed by Denmark's Cardinal Printing in 1967
- A framed copy of the 1998 Denmark Lions Club Bean Hole Supper.



Work on Cemetery Records Begins

In keeping with our plans for the grant money received from the Birch Cove Fund, we have begun work on Denmark's cemetery records. Fall is an excellent time to update photos and diagrams, without summer vegetation the design of the cemetery and its individual sites are easier to see. Currently, we are researching the best type of software to use in recording our data, ensuring that people will be able to research that data for personal information.



The State of Maine lists twenty-six cemeteries in Denmark. We will work with town officials to ensure that all our information is correct and up-to-date. For each cemetery, we will provide the name, exact location, a description, and a photo; and a sketch showing the individual grave sites. For each grave site we will provide the name of the person buried, the inscription on the

marker, the condition and location of the grave within the cemetery, and we will note any military honorifics that are part of the site or the inscription. Many of our grave sites are illegible, broken, or in disrepair and in need of attention. Unfortunately, this effort will not be able to address those issues.



However, we are in hopes

that such issues will be part of future efforts. If you would like to help, please email us.

Message From the President

Hi...Well, another year is rapidly coming to an end. I hope everyone reading this has had a good year and has achieved their goals for the year. We at the Historical Society have met many of our goals, but have fallen short on meeting our goal for new board members. We did add several new members, but had hoped to add more (hint: a membership to DHS would make a great stocking stuffer and would help us meet our goals).

I want to wish everyone a great holiday season filled with joy, happiness and good health. We look forward to seeing you next April at the first meeting of the year. (7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month. Thanks and enjoy

The Draggers

The Denmark Draggers Snowmobile Club has been a part of the Denmark Community since 1969. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to providing and maintaining what is now 55 miles of groomed Denmark trails that connect riders to the surrounding towns, and are interconnected to the state of Maine trail system. In addition to the camaraderie of shared trail rides, the club works to educate its members and the public in the principles of snowmobile safety, and fosters an appreciation for the natural and scenic beauty of Denmark off the beaten path. The Draggers also are committed to helping pass legislation in the best interests of snowmobiles, while taking landowner and environmental issues into concern. The Denmark Draggers membership roster reads like a who's who of Denmark go-getters. Snowmobile trails, bridges, and equipment tell a story of those in Denmark who have given their time, efforts, and support to the betterment of our community. Three Denmark bridges built to cross waterways along the trails are named for notable members; the bridge crossing Beaver Brook in West Denmark is named for Percy Lord, the bridge crossing Beaver Brook closer to Denmark Road (Route 160) is named for Clayton Richardson, and the bridge crossing Moose Pond Brook below the dam is named for Merle Moore. A portion of the old Narrow Gauge Railroad line is now a part of the snowmobile trail system and is named the Wayne Murray Trail. These honorifics stand as testament to the incredible number of hours and expertise spent supporting the club, its mission, and the upkeep of the trail system for the enjoyment of all those who use them.



A circa 2011 photo showing Wayne Murray (sitting in the groomer) and David Waisanen, Trailmaster of the snowmobile trails in East Denmark.

Well-groomed trails are safer, provide a more enjoyable ride, and encourage riders to stay on the trail. In addition to snow conditions and temperature, grooming above all depends on the equipment at hand to do the job. In the early days of snowmobiling, trails were usually maintained by a snowmobile or other vehicles dragging a homemade groomer (sometimes an old bed spring). The Denmark Draggers are fortunate to have two groomers. One, used on trails in the West end of Denmark – called the "Marion," named for Marion Furness, who donated the vehicle for the groomer. And, the second one used on trails in the East end, called the "Dave Waisanen," for



David's years of excellent maintenance of the East end trail system.

As is the case with so many other Denmark organizations, the Draggers are family orientated and are particularly concerned with introducing younger riders to the enjoyment and responsibilities of snowmobiling. The Draggers have an agreement with local landowners for use of the trails, the trails also can be used by dogsledders, cross-country skiers, and hikers. Even horseback riders are welcome to use the trails. Other than snowmobiles, landowners have requested that other motorized vehicles do not use the trails.

Because Denmark's trail system benefits so many different types of users, is good for the overall economy, and because a lot of trail maintenance has to take place during the summer, the Draggers encourage anyone who uses the trails to join the club, become part of the team, and help out. Annual dues

are \$25.00 for an individual or family. The Draggers meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. Each year the club has a great rally on the first Sunday of February school vacation that starts at the Municipal Building. You can get great food and perhaps snag a snowmobile ride. Check out the Draggers at www.denmarkdraggers.com.

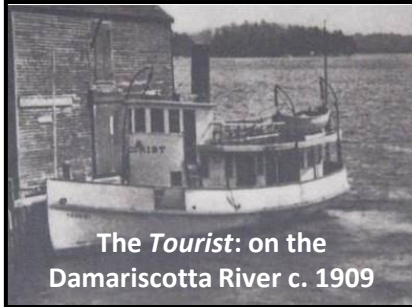
Calendar of Events

Although we will not hold regular meetings during the winter, our collection is available for research by appointment. You may call the library (452-2200) and they will relay your request, or email your request to us at denmarkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Out and About in Maine

The Sabino

From the early 1900s to 1940, coastal and riverside residents in Maine relied on steamboats as much as we do on cars today for convenient transportation. With the growth of cities and factory work after the Civil War, more working and middle-class Americans began taking regular holidays and vacations. Throughout the Northeast, summer vacationers were attracted to the coast of Maine. The lack of road connections and conditions, difficulty in crossing waterways, and weather conditions all conspired to limit travel on land. Traveling by water between coastal towns was often the most efficient means of getting where you needed to go—sometimes cutting a 20-mile road trip (on very poorly maintained roads) down to a mile or two.



The *Tourist*: on the Damariscotta River c. 1909



The *Tourist*: after the accident in 1918

The coal-fired steamboat, *Sabino*, (originally named the *Tourist*), built in East Boothbay, Maine in 1908 was an endearing and popular component of Maine's waterways transportation system. In 1918, the *Tourist* was sunk in an accident that cost the engineer his life. As the steamboat was approaching the dock, the captain signaled,

using a bell code, for the engineer below to reverse the engine. Unbeknownst to the captain, the engineer lay injured and was unable to respond to the bell. As a result, the tide carried the *Tourist* into a bridge and she began to sink. The passengers were rescued, but the engineer died in the accident and the steamboat was badly damaged.

The *Tourist* was raised, repaired, and the name was changed to the *Sabino*. In 1922, she began her career on the Kennebec River. Most of that time on the river was spent ferrying passengers and cargo between Maine towns and the islands. This coal-fired steamboat proved to be far more efficient than the side wheelers that were used to drive steamboats. On the *Sabino*, steam is produced in a watertube boiler, in which the water circulates through the fire box in a series of tubes to produce high-pressure steam. Valves direct the steam first to the small high-pressure cylinder and from there to the larger low-pressure cylinder to expand against the pistons and drive the cranks that turn the propeller shaft. The *Sabino's* screw propeller was a maritime invention of the 1840s.

The *Sabino* is the last remaining wooden, coal-fired steamboat in operation in the United States. She has changed hands several times in the interim years, has had spousons added to her original narrow hull to provide more stability in open waters, and has undergone changes to increase passenger capacity, but the *Sabino* engines remain unchanged. She is still powered by the two-cylinder, Paine compound steam engine installed in 1908; the present boiler was installed in 1940.

Bell Code

- From Stop – Jingle = stand by to get underway
- From Stop – 1 gong = slow ahead
- Ahead followed by a jingle = faster
- Stop followed by a jingle = finished with engine
- From stop – 2 gongs = back slow
- Back followed by a jingle = faster



The *Sabino*: on the Mystic River (Mystic Seaport) c. 2010

After being restored by the Corbin family of Newburyport, Massachusetts, the *Sabino* was purchased in 1974 to serve as a working exhibit at Mystic Seaport. Acquisition of the *Sabino* was made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Deupree of Cincinnati, Ohio, who gave her in Memory of Mrs. Deupree's brother, Jesse R. Clark, III, and Mr. Deupree's father, Richard R. Deupree. She now travels the Mystic River allowing visitors to experience nearly silent steam propulsion. Her engine room is in full view and passengers can watch as the engine room responds to the same bell code—a process that has not changed for over 105 years. If you visit

historic Mystic Seaport, you can ride the *Sabino* during the warmer months, on a regular schedule. Now in her second century of operation, this Maine-built steamboat was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1992.

Troubled Schools

Included in the 1908-1909 Denmark Annual Report is a 28-page scathing report on the condition and effectiveness of Denmark's schools, selected town officials, residents, and some members of the school committee. The report was written by Reverend A.C. Boyd, Minister of the Congregational Church and the Superintendent of Denmark Schools. Reverend Boyd had moved to Denmark in 1907 to accept the Congregational parish. Apparently, the town fathers were impressed with the Reverend and his service to the Church. They initiated discussions with Reverend Boyd in the hopes that he would agree to their request to also serve as school superintendent. Reverend Boyd had children in the Denmark School system and was very concerned with the education those children were receiving. The Reverend presented the school committee with a list of problems that he thought needed to be addressed and agreed to accept the position under the condition that he be given free reign to address those concerns. The school committee quickly agreed—but apparently got more Boyd determination than they bargained for, his list of school issues included:

- Maintenance of the school buildings and infrastructure
- Acceptance of State funds under fraudulent practices
- Lack of standardization and observance of state guidelines for the schools curriculum—at all levels
- Truancy problems compounded by a lack of parental support and observance of the state law by local employers (all children between the ages of 7 and 15 must attend school)
- Deplorable behavior of the older children toward other students, the teachers, and anyone who tried to correct the situation
- Graft and mismanagement on the part of some school committee members and town officials.

For the entire year, virtual warfare existed between Reverend Boyd, his supporters, and those at the heart of the issues the Reverend sought to correct. In his report, the Reverend provides numerous specific examples of school problems and his attempts to correct them; and the treatment he received by those opposed to his efforts as a result. He reports that attacks were made on his house, his family and business, his life, and his person. It appears that there was a well-established group that did not want any changes made to the Denmark Schools. The Reverend closes his 28-page report with renewed attention to all the issues that still needed to be addressed, but not before he vented with some rather harsh words for the Town of Denmark. *This has been the trouble with the interests of Denmark both in town, school, church, and social affairs and it is not to be wondered at that the effort to advance the schools of the town would meet with resistance from those who know nothing of the world outside of their own village, and are found to suppose the way their ancestors went and did, are the only possible ways leading to the goal of uncertainty, which is the general acceptance of the skeptical.*

Reverend Boyd was replaced as Superintendent of Schools by Catherine Jewett. In her 1910 annual report, Mrs. Jewett attempted to calm the waters using less hyperbolic language, while pointing out the issues that still needed to be addressed, "... maintain standards and address requirements that must be observed." Mrs. Jewett served for two years. Reverend Boyd lost both jobs in 1909, as the church hired a new pastor that same year.

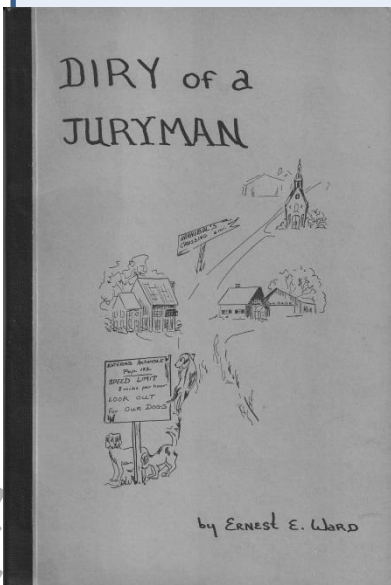
Diry of a Juryman

This small novel, *Diry of a Juryman*, was donated to the DHS by the Leach Family. It was written in 1967 by Ernest E. Ward. This 53-page novel is part of Denmark history because it was printed by Denmark's Cardinal Printing. Mr. Ward, who lived in Harrison, wrote a story about how a fictitious small town in Northern Maine (called Axhandle), selected men to serve on their jury, and how that jury was supposed to dispense justice—not always in a conventional way. Axhandle had a population of 182 people, and used decidedly unique methods in their criminal justice system. Here is an excerpt of the story:

Monday....

Well here I am at the cort hse. Plenty of time as my paper said the jury would convey at 9-30 o'clock and as you ast me would I rite you just what took plais and how I happened to be drawn on the jury at this time I will keep a kinda diry.

If you would like to read this small novel send us an email and we will make a copy available for you.



Denmark Through The Years

About 200 Years Ago

Recorded in the Town of Denmark Clerk Records
Denmark: April 17th, 1816

For value rec'd I promise to pay David P. Lord or order the sum of fifty dollars in six months from date at the rate of eight percent Interest. This note is given for one pair of oxen and said oxen are to remain the property of said David P. Lord until this note and interest is fully paid.

Jobe L. Kenison

A True Copy Attest

C.O. Pendexter, Deputy Clerk, Town of Denmark

About 50 Years Ago

By 1951, Denmark was , along with the rest of the country, trying to come to grips with the Cold War. The first paragraph of the report of the Civilian Defense Director, Kenneth Kenison, reads as follows: "It is a regrettable fact the Civil Defense has become a necessity for the survival of our country. This necessity is not of our choosing, but has been forced upon us by the motherland of Communism—Soviet Russia. There remains no alternative but to face squarely this fact, unpleasant as it may be."

Admitting that Denmark would not be a primary target, Kenison listed issues that he thought Denmark would likely have to deal with in the face of a Soviet attack – to include: receiving and caring for thousands of evacuees from cities as far away as New York City, collateral damage from being located along bombing routes to major targets, perhaps from fighter plane dogfights over our airspace, and sabotage conducted to destroy moral at the local level.

Three years later, committees had been formed, town officials and general public training conducted, and the successful participation in a State-run general alarm practice had been accomplished..

About 150 Years Ago

During the winter of 1875 all of the Real Estate records for the town of Denmark were destroyed by fire. Denmark's 1875-1876 Tax Collector, Calab Warren had his hands full that year. All the records showing the description and evaluation of property in Denmark were lost. In the Annual Report for that year the selectmen reported; "...our work has been much greater and more difficult than usual. But we have endeavored to perform our duties, faithfully, and impartially to all, and as we hope, to your satisfaction." Selectmen

Augustine Ingalls
Joseph G. Swan
George W. Gray

About 100 Years Ago

The 1906-1907 census lists 768 people as citizens of Denmark. The most numerous citizens represented by the following families:14 Fessenden's, 18 Berry's, 21 Sanborn's, 22 Ingalls', 25 Richardson's, 38 Wentworth's, and 62 Smith's.

As one would expect for this time period, the majority of our citizenry were farmers and homemakers. Other occupations were represented by: can makers – Herman W. Wood and Frank C. Jewett; dress maker – Ruth D. Sanborn; weaver – Frederick Tee; mill owner – P. M. Ingalls; mechanics – Edward B. Warren and George A. Smith; and teachers - Florence A. Ingalls, Florence M. Jewett, Amy L. Smith, Winifred C. Smith and Gertrude R. Warren.

2013: History Under Development - Gingerbread House Workshop

In addition to the delightful smells and hopeful anticipation, Denmark's annual Gingerbread House Workshop brings families together to participate in a Christmas tradition with German roots reaching back into the early 1800s. As the Congregational Church prepares to conduct its sixth workshop, this popular Denmark Christmas tradition continues to grow and certainly qualifies as important Denmark *History Under Development*. Nancy Sanborn adopted the idea from her days as a culinary college student. Pam Hale directs the project and the entire congregation turns out to help.

With serious consideration to the exact placement of gumdrops, lifesavers, and the hundreds of other decoration choices, the children decorate their own house and then wait with baited breath for the judges call. Long after licked fingers have been washed and the houses have been consumed,

Denmark children will remember this special Christmas memory. This year's event is on Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 PM at the Town Hall. While the event itself is sold out, help with the event will still be appreciated - work nights are December 4,5,11,12,13 from 5-8 PM at the Town Hall. And, Gingerbread House kits to are still available. Call Pam Hale, 207-215-7101. Next year, don't miss this developing Denmark historical event.



Denmark High School Year Book Names

Thus far, we have determined the use of four different names for the Denmark High School Year Book. We have a copy of the 1928 "The Den of Mark," the 1932 "Mt. Pleasant Echo," the 1946 "Danelaw," and the 1950 "Dehain." Does anyone know why Denmark High School students changed the name of their year book so often?

Below is a Denmark High School alma mater song, reprinted from the 1946 "Danelaw" year book. Does anyone know the tune that was meant to accompany this song? The words were written by: *Alice Colby, Class of 1949, Geraldine True, Class of 1946, and Mrs. Keyes.*

Hail to thee, Our Alma Mater
High above the little village,
Nestled in the hills,

I

Denmark High is ever standing
'Midst the rocks and hills,
The maroon and white float skyward
As we march along,
As our loyal sons go forward
As we sing our song.

II

Denmark High, Our Alma Mater
To her loyal be.
Lift your voice and sing her praises,
In rich harmony
Far beneath the rising mountain
Firmer may she stand,
As we sing and play together
Working hand in hand.



III

Denmark High will live forever
In Our hearts, so true
Our allegiance we'll ne'er sever
Loyal be to you. The maroon and white above us
While to you we sing.
Honoring the school we cherish,
Make the echoes sing.

IV

And when those who went before us
Come from far and near,
They all join the might chorus
For our high school dear.
From the North and South we hear them
From the East and West
"Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
School we love the best.

Chorus

From the hills to north and westward
Echoes back the strain
"Hail to thee, our Alma Mater"
Raise the song again.

Alexander P. MacGregor

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Alexander Paul MacGregor. Alex died on August 14, 2013 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was born on May 10, 1942. He was a professor emeritus of Classics, University of Illinois at Chicago.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Katherine (Gail), daughter of the late Dorothy M. Johnson and Thomas H. Johnson of Denmark.

Alex and Gail, were summer residents of Denmark and active members of the Denmark Historical Society. Gail's personal memories and experiences in Denmark have added much to our understanding of Denmark's history. And, Alex's many historical articles and his meticulous research skills were invaluable in bringing meaning and relevancy to our collections.

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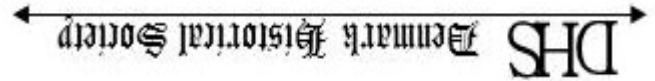
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Please remember our troops

We hope you will join us in working to keep the Denmark Historical Society Active

You may go to the DHS Website at www.denmarkhistoricalsociety.org to download a full membership form and let us know what your historical interests are.

\$10 individual, \$40 Business Sponsor, \$100 Lifetime Member

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