

Denmark Historical Society

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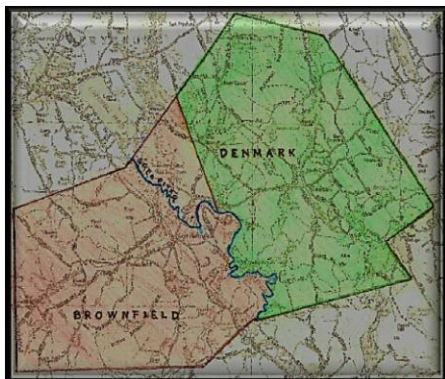
Volume 16—Number 1

March 2012

The Tale of Two Saco River Towns

The Denmark Historical Society (DHS) is cooperating with the Denmark Arts Center (DAC) on a history project with the Denmark-Brownfield Elementary School. The DAC has a grant in conjunction with local artists to introduce local history to the third-grade class at the Elementary School. The project is called, *The Tale of Two Saco River Towns*, and combines local history research, art, and a theater production.

Ms. Johnson's third-grade class will interview Denmark and Brownfield citizens to learn about the history and Experiences of both towns. A field trip to historic sites in both towns is planned



during March. The DHS has consulted with grant participants and will provide displays and background to support the field trip. The children will then discuss their interviews and what they have learned. They will work with local artists Laurie Downey to design, draw, and paint a permanent history mural for their school, and Gretchen Berg to write a play about the history of their towns. The class will preform their play on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the School. The Community is invited to attend. Check out previous local story projects at www.lauriedowney.net

Message From the President:

A new sponsor, the Granger Pond Camping Area (Paul and Sue Cady), and two lifetime member families (Richard and Mari Hook, and Stephen Becker) have joined the DHS. We welcome each of you and appreciate your support. Dale and Sandy McBurnie donated large pictures of early Denmark days. We look forward to displaying those wonderful pictures in our new display room. In the June Newsletter we will announce a date for an open house of our completed display room. We look forward to seeing everyone. We thank each of you who have renewed your sponsorship and membership dues. We couldn't do it without you. Daryl Kenison

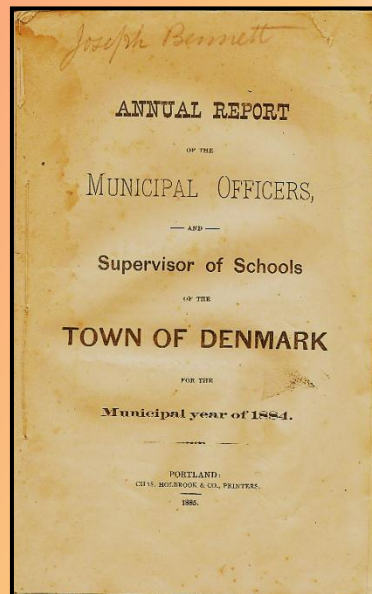
1884 Denmark Annual Report

Comes Home

Earlier this year Ms. Lydia Shaneburger sent the DHS an email asking if we were interested in having a copy of the 1884 Denmark Annual Report. Of course we gratefully accepted. We had a couple of very ratty pages of the 1884 report in our collection—now we have a complete copy in good condition. Ms. Shaneburger was browsing through a Flea Market in Forest City, North Carolina and saw the report. She hunted down Denmark, Maine on the *Internet* and found our Website. She wrote,

"I want it to be back with its people and original place, and in a place where it will be preserved."

We are very appreciative of this gift and of Ms. Shaneburger's sense of history. We now have a facility and the materials to safely store invaluable Denmark historical documents. If you have something to donate please send us an email.



The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Denmark

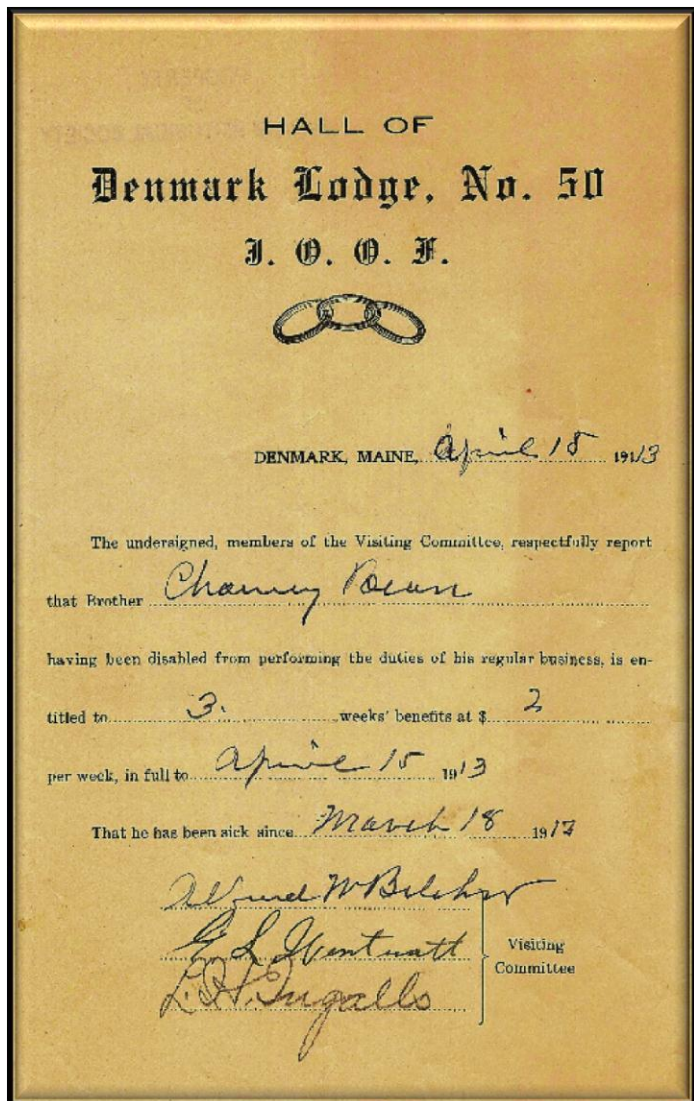
Most of us in Denmark know the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall as the Denmark Arts Center at what is now 50 West Main Street. The Odd Fellows organized Lodge #50 in Denmark in 1877. They met at the Masonic Lodge until their building was completed in December 1884 at a cost of \$1,360.12. As is the case with the houses they were built to shelter, the stables built in 1894, have long since disappeared. Additions to the main building were added in 1908 and 1915. Electricity was installed in 1918.

Odd Fellow Lodges flourished during a time when very few safety nets existed for families. In most cases, when the breadwinner was injured or became ill, the family was in serious trouble. Odd Fellows banded together to help one another.

The Odd Fellows Opening Invocation

*Brethren of our friendly Order,
Honor here asserts her sway,
All within our sacred border
Must her high commands obey.
Join, Odd Fellowship of brothers,
In the song of Truth and Love,
Leave disputes and strife to others,
We in harmony must move.*

*Honor to her courts invites us—
Worthy subjects let us prove—
Strong the chain that here unites us,
Linked with Friendship, Truth and Love;
In our hearts, enshrined and cherished,
May these feelings ever bloom—
Failing not when life has perished,
Living still beyond the tomb.*

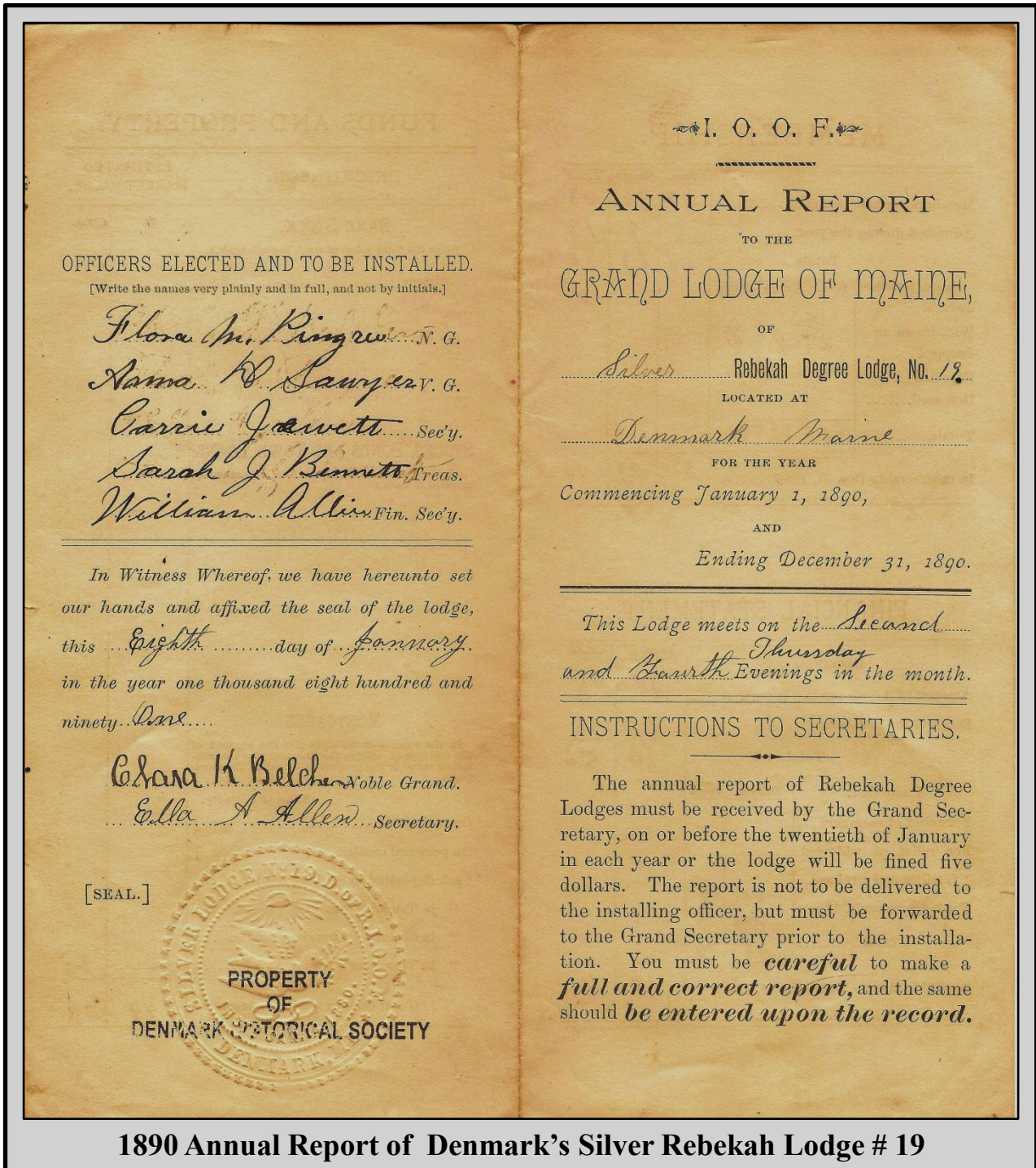


The command of the Odd Fellows was to “visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan.” The group of Denmark men who founded Lodge #50 certainly followed that command. The 1913 approval of sick benefits to a Denmark resident shown here is typical of many others in the *Denmark Historical Society IOOF Collection* that indicates that the Lodge routinely provided monetary sick benefits. Other records show examples of the delivery of food, groceries, a cord of wood, providing labor help, or paying for a visiting nurse to the very ill. Denmark Odd Fellows helped to educate orphans, bury the dead and help with the services. Modern day government social welfare programs now provide these vital services. The IOOF also provided a social center with many activities for adults and children. The Hall was used extensively.

In their day, the Denmark Odd Fellows provided invaluable services and social networking to our town. They remain an important footnote in Denmark’s history, and the legacy of their glorious “Hall” continues to give back to Denmark.

The Rebekahs

The Daughters of Rebekah, also known as the *Rebekahs*, is still an international service organization. In 1851 Odd Fellows recognized the need for a woman's touch and helpfulness in carrying out the principles of Odd Fellowship. The Degree of Rebekah was conferred on the wives and daughters of IOOF members, and eventually they were granted their own Charter. Denmark's Silver Rebekah Lodge No. 19 was officially recognized and granted a Charter in 1880. Prior to that time, Denmark woman supported the men's IOOF lodge. 1880 Denmark Rebekahs were 40 strong and involved in all aspects of service to their fellow citizens. The lodge remained active into the 1980s. We recognize many notable Denmark names on a list of 1976 officers: Noble Grand, Winnie Moore; Vice Grand, Beryl Bean; Recording Secretary, Betty Bucknell; Financial Secretary, Etta Dunn; Treasurer, Esther Dutton; they are as familiar as are the names shown on this 1890 Annual Report



History Quiz

Instead of a history question, we are asking for ideas on the use of this tool (?) It is all metal and was found



by DHS member, Alex MacGregor, buried in the yard at his house at Head's Corner.

Previous Newsletter Contest Question

The previous question was: Who was the speaker at Denmark's 175th Anniversary and 4th of July celebration in 1982? The answer: Peter Schmidt. The highly successful and well-attended affair was planned and chaired by Donald Moore. We did not have a winner for this question.

Answers to History Quiz questions can always be found at the Denmark Historical Society.

Library Stone: Grist or Well?

We have had two folks respond with information about the stone located behind the Denmark Public

Library. One is that it is not a gristmill stone, but a well-cover stone, that it came originally from the "Bean Place" on Bull Ring Road, and was placed behind the library by Percy Lord. The second response said it was a gristmill stone, originally from the Ingall's Mill, given to Nel and Bertha Berry for their front lawn, and it was they who donated it to the library. When we dig it up in the spring, we will know whether or not it has tell-tale mill stone grooves. But wherever it came from we are pleased that Percy Lord planted it at the library for us. If you have more information about the stone—let us know!



Denmark Doings

The Bridgton News: May 22, 1914. Snippets of news about what is happening around Denmark. Check out the proposed \$25,000,000 tunnel between Denmark and Sweden!

DENMARK

About two million feet of lumber passed through Moose pond on its way to the Saco river a short time ago. The spring drive was unusually large and contained many forest giants. Nearly every man in town assisted in getting the logs through. A. B. Ordway, 72 years of age, was one of the most strenuous workers.

MR. EDITOR: In your issue of May 8th, I see it stated that Denmark and Sweden are planning to connect themselves by a tunnel which will take five years to build and cost about \$25,000,000.

Why don't they just build a trolley line along by Moose Pond? This would not cost near so much and would be much pleasanter and give much finer views than looking through a tunnel.

EAST DENMARK

The friends of E. C. Chadbourne gave him a surprise party Friday, May 8, it being his 81st birthday. The birthday cake was made by his cousin, Mrs. Maria Eastman, and was the center of attention on the table that was loaded with the good things to eat. Mr. Chadbourne is able to do a good deal about the chores and light work, although he is very lame.

After having a few weeks vacation Mrs. Cook is back at D. P. Lord's.

Ames McIntire and Mrs. W. C. Douglas last visited Mrs. E. B. Dresser at Denmark last Sunday.

W. C. Ela has gone on the railroad as cook for Morris O'Connor.

Mrs. Maria Eastman is visiting at A. Cole's.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ashby of Bridgton were recent guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smith.

Mrs. Esther McDaniels of Lovell was a week end guest of her mother, Mrs. Lydia Smith.

Wm. Smith lost a nice heifer last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morrill of Somerville, are visiting at G. E. Smith's.

Miss Abbie Richardson is assisting Mrs. E. J. Brown with her work.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Wentworth of Denmark visited her sister, Mrs. W. B. Lord last Sunday.

Business in Denmark: Then and Now

The Moir Company was established in the mid-1950s in Phippsburg, Maine by Cliff Moir. The company specializes in the rewinding of electric motor armatures, fields, and stators. You ask, how did a small company with such a specialized business model find its way to Denmark, Maine?



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www.moirco.com



There in lays an interesting tale! Cliff Moir wanted to move his business from Phippsburg because he could not compete with BWI for skilled workers. He consulted the state of Maine for possible alternative locations.

Apparently, the state recommended Brownfield (still recovering from devastating forest fires). Folklore has it that Brownfield would not offer tax breaks and Moir liked the cut of Denmark's jib. The present shop and nearby house were built in 1960 or 61. Cliff Moir suffered a heart attack five years later and sold the company to a man from Baltimore. Unfortunately, the new owner could not convince his wife to move to the back woods of Maine.



In 1967, the Moir Company was back on the Market. Doug Bauer, the current owner and son of previous owner, Louis Bauer, responded to a request by his Dad to check out a "Business for Sale" ad in the back of the Wall Street Journal. Doug and his sister, Lu, drove up from Boston on a rainy day in November 1967 to take a look. Doug was sold and convinced his Dad to check it out. Louis and Babs Bauer decided to buy Moir. Their original intent was to move it back to their home area of Tennessee. However, they both loved the area and were impressed by the fact that the Denmark work force were all "prep-school" graduates.

So, there you have it! A small, very specialized company continues to be an important and successful company on a small hillside in Denmark. They have found their niche, and attract business from sub-contractors all over the world who recognize quality workmanship; and, thanks to the ever-present work ethic of Denmark employees, continues to fulfill an invaluable service at competitive prices. From father to son—a business that excels—and thanks to "word of mouth" is highly respected in its field. So, count the bars in your commutator and the slots in the laminations and give Moir a call—they will get the job done! Thanks Moir, for being an important part of the Denmark Community.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, March 12, 2012 – 7:00 PM – DHS Business Meeting
- Monday, April 9, 2012 – 7:00 PM – DHS Workshop
- Monday, May 14, 2012 – 7:00 PM – DHS Business Meeting

Denmark Through The Years

200 Years Ago - 1812

On March 28, 1812, Moses Peary (son of Stephen Peary and Rhoda Boston Peary) married Huldah Kimball Porter (daughter of David Porter and Huldah Kimball Porter) in Denmark, Maine. Moses was a farmer, a deacon of the church, and served as a Corporal in the War of 1812. Moses and Huldah produced 12 Denmark citizens: Stephen (1813-1899), Rhoda Ann (1814-1905), Tryphena (1816-unknown), Huldah Mathilda (1816-1893), Moses (1817-unknown), Samuel Augustus (1819-1890), Betsy Porter (1820-1905), David Porter (1822-1901), John C. (1824-1898), Asa Kimball (1826-1898), Charles (1828-unknown), and Alvian A. (1830-unknown). Peary's are buried in the Stephen Peary (Foster-Pingree) Cemetery on the East side of Bull Ring Road.

150 Years Ago - 1862

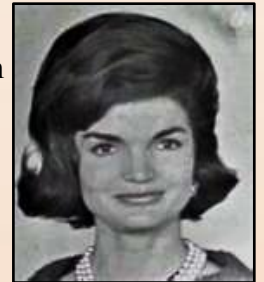
Civil War prisoner of war camps are the stuff of tragic novels and movies. It turns out that both sides had their share of atrocious camps with horrid conditions. Neither side set out to mistreat prisoners. Both sides believed that the war would not last very long, and plans to contain prisoners of war were, at best, hastily pulled together with makeshift housing, supply measures, and medical needs. As the war progressed, both sides were

overwhelmed by the masses of prisoners each had to deal with. In all, over 56,000 Northern and Southern prisoners died. Three from Denmark: Ephraim McKusick, Josephus Colby, and Asa McKusick.



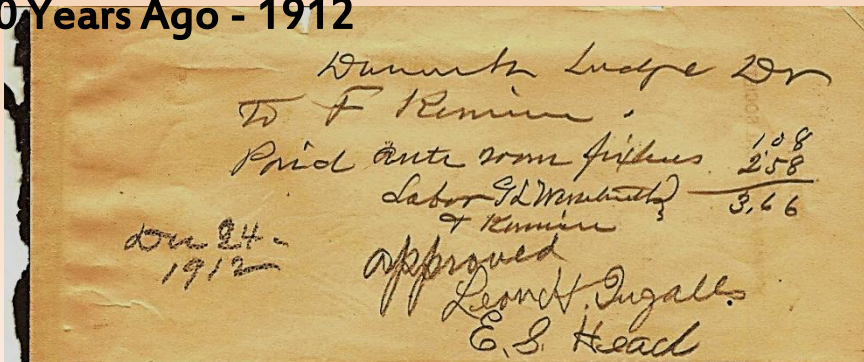
50 Years Ago - 1962

In 1962, your editor and her friends were sitting on the Senior's lawn of a Los Angeles-area high school with her Jacki Kennedy bouffant hairdo and belted bouffant skirt; thinking "we are the coolest of the cool," how can our hairstyles and clothes ever go out of style!



In Denmark, Maine, six seniors were preparing for Graduation, but because Denmark High School had closed its doors in 1952, the six students graduated from: Bridgton Academy – Francis Buck; Potter Academy – Elaine Le Goff; and Fryeburg Academy – Barbara (Janie) Barton, Larry Parsons, Claudia Schmidt, and Charles Wieseman.

100 Years Ago - 1912



A 1912 receipt paid to F. Kenison and G.L. Wentworth for repairs to the IOOF hall, approved and signed by Leon H. Ingalls and E.S. Head. Total Cost: \$3.66!

2012: History Under Development

With the help of Denmark residents, Henry Banks and Alex Stevens, the IOOF Hall became the Denmark Arts Center (DAC) in 1994. The DAC is carrying on the history of this majestic building as a focal point for Denmark. The DAC is open year-round for community and special activities, and is available for private functions. Each summer they offer a full program of art and theater, and provide an outlet for local talents and artistic expression. Summer 2012 promises to be another great season at the Denmark Arts Center, so keep an eye on their website, www.denmarkarts.org for the new program, beginning with the Denmark Sheepfest on April 21, 2012.



The Bauer's

Louis (Lou) and Barbara (Babs) Bauer moved to Denmark, Maine in 1967 when they purchased the Moir Company on East Main Street. While not a 200-year old Denmark family, they certainly have left a mark, and a standard of good citizenship that is still hard to match. Babs passed just recently at the age of 97. Lou passed away in 2007. Both Babs and Lou were active in the Denmark Congregational Church, the Lions Club, and the Bridgton Hospital Guild. Lou became the 10th member of the fledgling Denmark Lions Club and hit the ground running. He served in several officer positions



and became President in 1975. Babs was Past Regent and Registrar of the Molly Ockett Chapter of the DAR. The DHS is grateful to the Molly Ockett DAR for the 1985 work they did on Denmark Cemetery Listings.



The Bauer's often could be found organizing or supporting Denmark social activities and fund raising efforts. Both Lou and Babs are proof-positive that your family doesn't have to have been around forever To become an important part of Denmark History. They are missed.

This March 2, 1951 announcement in the Bridgton News is yet another example of the pivotal role the IOOF Hall has played in the community of Denmark. In this case, the DHS stands for Denmark High School. Wonder who had to pay the 60 cents and who got in for 35? Additional past IOOF Hall activities included: the showing of silent movies—the piano player for these movies was Florence Whitehouse Sanborn (mother of Clyde and Kermit Sanborn and grandmother of William Sanborn). And, on October 17, 1992 a "Contra Dance" was held there with an admission price of \$4.00 for adults.

Missing Silver Rebekah Robes

According to the 1977 publication of Denmark, Maine: Past and Present (by Sylvia Davis MacDonald, Rita La Mountain, and E. Blanche Warren Anthony), three IOOF 1910 robes still existed. They were called "New Degree Staff Robes."



Does anyone know what **ODD FELLOWS** happened to them? Please write us at denmarkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Western Maine BBQ Festival

SAVE THE DATE!

August 4-5, 2012

The Western Maine BBQ Festival, sponsored by the Lions Club, is important to Denmark and to



Where Good Friends Meet...

the numerous organizations and activities that serve its citizens. Our June Newsletter will report on the benefits to the DHS. In the meantime, as was the case with the festival

last year—VOLUNTEERS are essential to its success. So, please save the date and plan to volunteer your services.

IOOF Hall Doings

DHS

THIRD ANNUAL

SNO-BALL

Denmark IOOF Hall

Monday, March 5

8:30 P.M.

ROY HORNE'S ORCHESTRA
SNOW QUEEN CORONATION

Admission 60c and 35c

Wear Ski Togs if Possible Song and Dance Specialties

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