

# Skowhegan History House expands volunteer opportunities

by Melvin Burnham

Skowhegan History House is celebrating its 73rd year "preserving an increasingly valuable historic collection representing Skowhegan's legacy, and by promoting Skowhegan's cultural heritage."

History House volunteers perform a variety of essential tasks that help realize its goals.

Delores Mowat drives one hour and fifteen minutes each way from Mexico, twice a month to volunteer. Delores, an avid genealogist, became interested in the History House some

fifteen years ago while researching the Steward family. She found a vast collection of unorganized materials and volunteered to organize them into user-friendly order for researchers. She has logged hundreds of hours between visits and each winter volunteering offsite at her home.

A SAHS sophomore, Sam Wheeler volunteers at the History House three hours weekly. Sam, who lives in Skowhegan, will apply his volunteer work to his school's community service project. Sam relates that he "likes to go back to what Skowhegan was like. Some of these stories are pretty interesting."

His volunteer time has been devoted to cataloging museum material using a computerized program. He enjoys basketball, soccer, tennis and has a strong interest in professional theater.

Ellen Govoni, of Smithfield, volunteers weekly greeting visitors and conducting parts of the tour. She has also cleaned, rearranged and assisted in creating and preserving

museum exhibits. "I find it fascinating to be here and to learn about the history of the region. It's hard for me to work because I get distracted as I am cleaning." Having lived in a variety of states, Ellen finds that the nicest people live in Maine. She also volunteers as a Senior Companion and is an avid reader.

Ronda Ducret, formerly from Georgia and now of Smithfield, devotes two days a month to the History House. Ronda, a retired receptionist for a mortgage corporation, enjoys cleaning the valuable glass and ceramic displays, as well as assisting in the heirloom gardens. Ronda finds the "artifacts interesting and loves the gardens."

Barbara Giggey lives in Cornville and volunteers weekly. She has taken over the organization of the Betty Withee photo collection which has thousands of photos collected by Betty during her long career as a reporter. Barbara is arranging them in sleeved pages and labeling them. When completed, this collection will comprise eight large loose leaf notebooks. Barbara "likes doing things for the community. I like to be useful."

These volunteers and members of the board of trustees who also volunteer make up the Skowhegan History House volunteer team. If you are interested in local history, historic preservation, and enjoy working and sharing with other like-minded individuals, you should consider joining them.

Volunteer opportunities at the Skowhegan History House include cataloging artifacts and other historic materials; designing and creating displays; maintaining and cleaning the museum and research center; assisting in the Heirloom Gardens and with landscaping; assisting the curator with managing large tour groups; researching and writing articles for publication; teaching small groups of children about local history and historic preservation; assisting the board of trustees in accomplishing major projects pertaining to the History House - solicitation of funds, preparing materials for distribution or mailings, creating presentations; and assisting patrons with genealogical research or other research endeavors.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Skowhegan History House, please contact leegranville@skowheganhistory-house.org or 474-6632, or melvinburnham@skowheganhistory-house.org or 474-2162.



## SOLON & BEYOND

by Marilyn Rogers & Percy  
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P.O. Box 244, Solon, ME 04979  
Good morning, dear friends. Don't worry, be happy!

The third annual Miles Cates Family Reunion was held on August 7, at the Legion Hall in Bingham, and what a beautiful sunny day with 140 or more members attending. Coming the longest distance; and by car, was Clifford Cates and a friend Cami Miller from Hartville, Ohio. Most of the rest were from Maine with some driving many miles to attend. I heard that a few took wrong exits and drove a few extra miles.

All in all, everyone enjoyed all the good food, chatting, looking at old and new pictures and taking many more. As always, we had baked beans, dynamites, brown bread, salads, hot dogs, cole slaw, desserts, fudge and more. Gloria Beane made a special reunion cake and delicious raisin filled cookies that so many enjoy.

Special thanks to everyone



Barbara Giggey

## Road ready



Look who's riding high at 92 years old. It's Vina Goodridge, of Norridgewock, who mounted this motorcycle on August 8 at Ken's Restaurant, in Skowhegan.

Contributed photo

who helped and donated food and money to make this another reunion to remember. Thanks to Gloria Collins for the signs and banner. We hope to have another one next year if everything goes well.

This news was sent to me by Juanita Hutchings of Moscow, Maine. My many thanks for sharing your news, I think family reunions are the greatest.

Emily Quint sent me the following bit of news: Anson Historical Society will be hosting "100 Years—Taylor's Drug Store" display Saturday, August 28, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Anson Town Hall Meeting Room. The public is invited to visit while waiting for the parade.

For your information there's a new book published by Arcadia Publishing that will be available after Monday, September 20. It is entitled "The Lost Villages of Flagstaff, Dead River and Bigelow" by Alan Burnell and Kenny Wing. I found it on Amazon by "Googling" it, but I understand it may be available locally. The price is \$21.99. This information was sent to me by Carol Dolan. Many of us former residents of the towns mentioned have been waiting expectantly for the publication of this long awaited book.

The third annual Sticks & Stones Break Your Bones barbecue was held at the camp of Dave and Eleanor Rogers on Jim Eaton Hill at Flagstaff Lake on August 14, with 24 in attendance. All my children and their spouses were there: Mark and Karen, Dave and "Pete," Peter and Sherry, and Mary and Dave. Seven of my grandchildren and their spouses: Seth and Mary, Kraig, Melanie and Mike; Chandra and Eric, Amanda, Ben and Alexander also attended. There were six great-grandchildren: Lyra, Brady, Samantha, Nathan, Devin and Cole. Needless to say it was a wonder-

ful day, full of fun and laughter.

The Great Moosbealoosh Challenge II was the event of the day and it brought happy tears of laughter to my eyes as I took part in the event. Three teams were chosen by picking red, white and blue plastic chips out of a hat. The categories to challenge us were "Crazy as a Loon," "Fishing Derby," "BBBBBB (Big Bad Black Bear Bean Bag (Toss)), "William Tell Overture," "Jim Eaton Hill Country Club," "Uncle Jack's Ladder," "Hop-Along Cassidy" and "Mooselookmeguntic." Wish I had enough space to tell you what each category entailed but I will tell you at the awards ceremony that evening, the blue team that I was a member of came in at first place.

Another interesting part of the event was the annual fishing derby. Peter received the award for the biggest fish, (it was the only one caught) even though Sherry caught a mermaid! Five year old Samantha fell off the dock and Sherry rescued her granddaughter. Dave smoked his famous ribs, which everyone claimed were the best yet, and everyone brought their specialties for pot luck, "Ummm, good!"

It was indeed, a wonderful, family weekend.

But poor Percy, is not happy. But you know Percy, he never gives up in his goal of giving you good advice...Never mention the worst. Never think of it. Drop it out of your consciousness. At least ten times every day affirm, "I expect the best and with God's help will attain the best." In so doing your thoughts will turn toward the best and become conditioned to its realization. The practice will bring all of your powers to focus on the attainment of the best. It will bring the best to you. (words by Norman Vincent Peale)



Ellen Govoni



Sam Wheeler

Give us...

## Your Best Shot

Beautiful day for sailing



Tina Richard, of Clinton, took this summer photo from the Owls Head Lighthouse, in Owls Head. It was a lovely day for sailing.

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