

## **Milo Historical Society News Update**

### **June 23, 2011**

The primary focus for the Milo Historical Society over the past several months has been on maintenance and upkeep of the exterior of the museum building, home to the historical society. The society was fortunate to be the beneficiary of grant money obtained by the town of Milo in the form of a community block grant. The funding allowed the society to complete a number of projects, which included; much needed repair work to the building's bell tower, repairs to the entry of the building, and painting of the front of the building. The historical society was required to contribute a percentage of the costs and due to unanticipated repairs to the bell tower, not all planned renovation work was completed last season. It is anticipated that the society and the town of Milo will be able to obtain additional funding to complete the required renovations, which include painting the rest of the exterior of the building, along with work on the interior of the entry and replacement of lighting fixtures in the workroom. We also hope to restore and place in front of the museum an antique street lamp that originally was on Milo's Main Street. Again, as with the other renovation grant funding, the historical society will be required to kick in a percentage of the costs. Special thanks go to Virgil Valente and Paul Bradeen for overseeing and keeping this project on track. We also appreciate and thank the Town of Milo and in particular town manager, Jeff Gahagan and the selectmen for endorsing and supporting this project, displaying their commitment toward the society's mission of preserving not only a historic landmark, but also home to the collection of our community's heritage. Our appreciation goes to the many contributors of time and money that have made this project a reality. We extend our thanks to Robert Ricker who volunteered his labor and equipment to remove foundation materials that were an obstacle and removed the old asphalt from the walkway. Thanks go to the supervisors and crew from the Charleston Correctional Community Restitution program. They supplied the planning and high quality labor to replace the handicapped accessible ramp, a part of the project not covered by the preservation grant. We thank Sam Bradeen, Charleston's building maintenance supervisor, who was instrumental in getting our project into the vocational program's busy schedule. We would like to thank Ernie Case of Case Concrete for supplying his skill, expertise, and labor in replacing the approach to the museum with a beautiful and fitting new concrete walkway. A special thanks goes to J.L. Bishop & Sons for supplying the concrete for the walkway. Our appreciation goes to Bailey Lumber Company for securing supplies and materials.

Other projects that the society is working on include:

- ◆ Our society's curator, Gwen Bradeen, reports that she has been busy cataloging and organizing the ever-growing collection of donated items. This certainly is the heart of what the society does and we thank Gwen for devoting countless time and energy to seeing that this vital work is done properly. Working with assistance from society vice president (and current president) Virgil Valente, trustee, Audrey Chadwick, and member Joan Henderson, Gwen and the crew have spent hours organizing, labeling, and cataloging items as they come into the museum. They have been learning to operate our new computer-cataloging program, Pastperfect. The program is the world's most popular museum software and sets the standard for collection management. The software has many features that will make the management of the museum's collection more efficient and easier to access. Virgil was been busy over the winter copying all our newspaper articles, including obituaries, from the 1800s to present day and putting them into the Past Perfect program.

- ◆ We continue to gather and record oral histories of community senior citizens. Over the years the society has made an effort to record and preserve the stories and memories of Milo's older generation. Last summer, society members, Kathy Witham, Joan Henderson, and Allen Monroe worked with University of Maine New Media professor, Bill Kuykendall, to record a number of oral histories. It is hoped that segments of these recordings will be made available on the society's website and complete versions will be put onto a DVD that will be available for purchase from the society. The society would also encourage anyone to contribute to the society copies of their family's genealogies along with any type of individual or family records or memories.
- ◆ 2011 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The Milo Historical Society Museum is fortunate to house many Civil War artifacts, including photos, military gear, letters, diaries and other documents. We invite you to visit the museum this summer to learn more about the role of our forebears played in this significant historic event. On Thursday, July 28, at 7 PM, the society will host a public program presented by Wayne Bennett, a member and historian with the Maine Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Mr. Bennett will speak about Company M, 1st Maine Cavalry. We encourage everyone to attend this presentation at the museum on High Street (next to Bailey Lumber Co.). Refreshments will be served.
- ◆ The society hopes to add to their presentation of public programs and would encourage anyone with ideas or suggestions to contact society secretary, Allen Monroe at 23 Park Street, Milo, ME 04463, email: [amonrocart@gmail.com](mailto:amonrocart@gmail.com) or by phone at 207-943-2268.
- ◆ The museum will be open for their summer hours during July and August on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 PM to 3 PM and any time by appointment. Please call Gwen Bradeen at 943-2369 or Allen Monroe at 943-2268. We have a gift shop featuring a nice selection of area related items, including copies of the society's "Images of American" photo collection book on Milo, Brownville, an Lake View and copies of Bill Sawtell's books on Schoodic Lake and Derby Maine.