



# A Message From The Milo Historical Society

Spring 2015

\*Visit our website at [www.milohistorical.org](http://www.milohistorical.org) and "Like" us on Facebook.com

## The "Art" Of Preserving History

There are many disciplines that require precision and exactness. Examples that directly come to mind are mathematics and most of the sciences. Other fields of study allow freedom of the human spirit and expression, as seen in literature, and the performing and visual arts. Between these lie subjects that bridge the two extremes, such as the "art of medicine" or "language arts". These are studies where certain rules apply and they follow lines of logic but they also make allowance for interpretation and the application of insight that comes from experience. The field of history generally falls into this category. Granted, history is most often based on specific dates, time lines and statistical information. Although many of us might find such dry data boring, they are in fact vital for authenticity and accurate record-keeping. Artistry comes into play for many history buffs when looking back into the lives and circumstances of our ancestors, and we attempt to place ourselves into a particular time and place. Imagine how colonists felt upon arriving into the New World. How did the Civil War soldiers cope with the horrors of the battlefield? What did Theophilus Sargent, one of Milo's earliest settlers, experience as a teen, while fending for himself in the wilderness of Maine? The opportunity to relate in some way to the experiences and drama of yesteryear is what brings history alive and lends meaning to the past.

The Milo Historical Society museum is brimming with records, documents and factual information, which some might consider dry and even perhaps boring. However, our museum also contains a wealth of firsthand written accounts, photographs, oral history interviews and personal items that reflect the day-to-day lives of community members from the past. There are the everyday objects that were used in kitchens long ago, the tools that craftsmen used to build both homes and industry, along with the thousands of photographs of families, school events, and important milestones in Milo's history. The mission of the Milo Historical Society is to preserve these treasures. The methods used at times mimic an art form. Due to the constraints of limited budget, space, and time, creative judgments must be made as to the best way to conserve items to ensure their preservation for future generations. Yes, facts about objects are collected and recorded but many ingenious decisions come into play in regards to how items will be displayed and presented to the public.

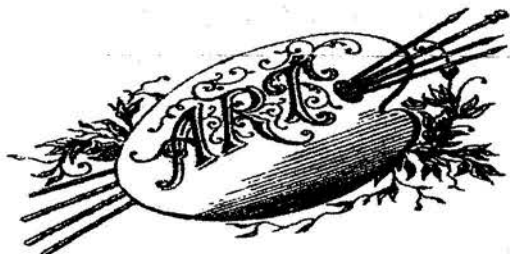
The Milo Historical Society has recently applied for a grant through the Maine Community Foundation to purchase an upgrade to our current version of the PastPerfect Museum Collection Software program. In addition, we would like to add an online website component to the program to broaden the community's access to our archive of historic records related to Milo and the surrounding area. In order to incorporate this aspect of the program, we need to install internet service at our museum site and that is included in our project proposal. To utilize the full capability of the PastPerfect program, we need additional technical equipment, specifically, a digital still camera and a digital video camera. This equipment would allow us to fully develop the potential and scope of our archives.

The Milo Historical Society has served the community for forty years, having grown from a small, informal collection of local documents, photographs, and artifacts, to what is today an extensive, organized and well-maintained collection of local history. The museum collection has been cataloged and the PastPerfect database is vital for documenting and searching the collection. The mission of the Milo Historical Society has always been to inspire an interest in the community's history with the public, most particularly with the area's youth. Teachers have used the resources of the museum for many years with local history research projects being conducted at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In recent years, the society has seen an increase of research requests. A large portion of our collection is composed of historic documents and photographs.



Technical advances now allow for the attachment of digitized images to the collection database. The PastPerfect program permits students and researchers to easily search the collections held by the museum. Placing the collection online would make it possible for the Milo Historical Society to connect to a wider community, including those individuals who have a vested interest in the heritage of the area, such as descendents, researchers, and others who wish to know more about our region's history.

Another link that the Milo Historical Society has tied to the arts is by showcasing the creative spirit of our community members. Our collections and displays proudly include many examples of handcrafts and artistry from past generations. Last summer the society hosted a display of local artists work at the museum. The majority of the presentation featured pieces by present day artists but also included work by local artists from the past, including watercolorist Ken Davis. The show was a rousing success and so well received that it was decided to expand the show with more artwork, awards, refreshments and make it an annual event. This year's show will be held on Saturday, July 25, from 3 to 8 PM at the Three Rivers Kiwanis building, 24 Gerrish Road, just off Park Street. We hope you will join us for this event. Also please plan to include a visit to the museum during the Milo High School Alumni gathering or during the summer.



The Milo Historical Soc. meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thurs. of each month, at 7:00 PM. (generally, at the museum).

All are welcomed to attend.

Please call 943-2268 if you have any questions.

***Won't You Join Us!***

**Milo Historical Society Dues:**

(Dues cover May 1, 2015 ~ April 30, 2016)

**Active Membership:**

**\$5.00**

**Student Membership:**

(under 18 yrs.)

**\$2.50**

**Patron Membership:**

**\$25.00**

Return membership dues and/or

Contributions to:

The Milo Historical Society

C/O Allen Monroe, Sec.

23 Park Street

Milo, Maine 04463

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our membership for 2015-2016 starts on May 1, 2015. In order to save expenses, we do not send out membership cards, unless a request is made with this form. Thank you for your understanding.**

The Milo Historical Society has a number of projects "in the works". We are always eager and happy to have volunteers to assist with getting things done. We have projects that involve preserving and documenting donated items, along with tasks that need attention around the museum building and displays. If you have some free time and an interest in our community's history, please give any one of us a call:

Gwen Bradeen at 943 2369

Virgil Valente at 943-2167

Joan Henderson at 943-2377

Allen Monroe at 943-2268

**We truly appreciate any financial support that will assist us in covering our operating costs. Along with your membership renewal, please consider an additional donation to assure that we can continue to preserve the heritage of Milo for future generations. All donations are tax deductible.**

***Thank You!***

The Milo Historical Society would like to extend a big thank you to all volunteers who have contributed their time and energy in a number of ways over the past year. Your efforts on projects and assistance in keeping the museum open are greatly appreciated and make the preservation and enjoyment of our community's heritage possible. A special thank-you goes to the Milo High School Alumni Assoc. for their continued and past support.

**Thank You!**