



MILO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

12 High Street - Milo, Maine

Facebook - www.facebook.com/milohistorical

Website - www.milohistorical.org

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WELCOME TO A NEW AND EXCITING SEASON AT THE MILO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As we enter this season we find ourselves with continued Corona Virus concerns. Please know that we will be following all state guidelines and ask that you plan your visits accordingly.

The Milo Historical Societies building is in desperate need of exterior maintenance; especially the bell tower being in need of painting and we are in need of storm window repair.

Our grant application last year did not receive approval. We are working on securing a grant again this year. If we are not able to raise enough funds – our plan is to enlist volunteers this summer for the project. So please consider donating \$\$ to our project and or volunteering your time and talents.



Please look to our website and Facebook for hours, activities and special meetings. We would love to have you become a member and support our efforts to preserve our towns historic past and to keep our stories and artifacts alive and available to all generations to come.

To show your support and become a member today please fill out the form included.

Stay well and thank you for your support. *Allen Monroe*

BANK BLOCK - MASONIC BLOCK BUILDING

**Originally known as
The Bank Block Building....**

**Most of us know this icon of
Milo's Main Street as
The "Masonic Block Building" –**

By; Kathie Lee



*Masonic Block Building –
Milo, Maine*

March 1st 2021 was a sad day indeed for our picturesque town of Milo, Maine.

As the roof to our iconic Masonic Block Building collapsed bowing the back wall and compromising the entire structure one question emerged "What will the future be for this historic landmark?"

As the information about the roof collapse hit the Evening News the residence of Milo were devastated.



Photo Courtesy of Blaine Chadwick

Those who live here and those who hold Milo dear to their hearts "still" remain deeply scared by the loss of a major section of our town's village.



On September 14th 2008 Milo suffered a disastrous fire which forever changed our hamlet and landscape..., and now... this...

What was to become of another part of our beloved and historic Main Street Village?

This was a question that many were asking..., and in the midst of this obvious question, memories began to emerge. Fond memories, historic memories, funny stories of childhood and verbal images of the way life used to be back in the day. A time that was a bit slower..., a time when we all knew one another, a time when – well you couldn't get away with anything... because everyone knew everyone and you would catch the dickens when you got home if you misbehaved around town.

I always refer to Milo as Mayberry RFD – That brings the perfect image to mind that I want to portray when talking about Milo and our fond and wonderful memories of raising our children here.

It is these types of memories that people began sharing amongst the fear of losing their Masonic Building forever.

Memories arose of the past hundred years of its history..., its stores, businesses, banks, lawyers, furniture and dentist. Although dentist memories were not so fond for Junior... there are many fond memories surrounding..., for one – Pullen's Clothing Store -

Fond Memory – by Kathy Witham *“My best friend Lorraine and I used to make cardboard box houses. They were pretty elaborate. We'd go down the street to Pullen's Clothing Store and Ken and his staff would give us a couple of the big boxes their freight had arrived in. Lorraine and I would drag those boxes home...up Park Street and then down Clinton Street and over the path to Albert Street. We always made our cardboard houses at her house, because her brother was older and could use a knife to cut us out windows and doors. We'd lash those boxes together and have virtual houses before we were done. I don't know how many times we made them or how many trips down street that we made to get the boxes, but in hindsight, the sight of us trudging up Park Street dragging boxes that were two or three times our size must have been a pretty funny looking. I wonder how many people were watching us and wondering what in heaven's name we were up to. Ken Pullen always took our box needs seriously. I know now that he probably had his tongue in his cheek, but he always took the time to let us look all the boxes over and pick just the right ones. He had such patience! And he'd always say, "If you ladies need any more...just come back anytime.”*

Thank you Kathy W. If that is not Mayberry RFD, I don't know what is.

The building was originally known as the Bank Block Building, but with its long association with the Masons – the building is more commonly known as the Masonic Block Building.

The Piscataquis Lodge No. 44 A. F. & A. M. received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Maine and was the first Lodge of Free Masons in Piscataquis County. In 1906 the lodge bought the second and the entire third story of the Bank Block building. The lodge held its first meeting in

its new hall on July 11, 1906. The Mason's remained here until 2008, ...102 years later when they moved to outer Park Street.

I don't think that you can find a current or former resident of Milo that does not have a story or memory associated with this grand building.

And yet..., the question still remains – “What will the future be for this historic landmark?”

I do hope that you enjoyed this little trip “Down Memory Lane”.

Best to all and Happy Trails, Kathie Lee

PLEASE HELP PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

We at the Milo Historical Society invite you to our Masonic Block Building's Facebook page that we have created to unite all things related to our beloved Masonic Block Building. In this effort we hope to collect and preserve its history through pictures, stories and memories. We invite you all to participate..., please join us in sharing your stories and pictures.

Thank you. *Milo Historical Society*

Link – Masonic Block Building

<https://m.facebook.com/Masonic-Block-Building-History-Milo-ME-102487925270377/>

Again, Thank you for considering membership and or a donation to our MHS
Your time and support is valuable and much appreciated. Thank you!

MHS - MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please check one - Active Member: \$5 Patron Member: \$25 Student Member: \$2.50

Other – Donation \$ _____ Thank you.

Please Make Checks Payable To “Milo Historical Society” and Mail to - Allen Monroe, Secretary, 23 Park Street, Milo, ME 04463