

# SANFORD SPRINGVALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018 VOL 12, NO. 1

The Dr. John Dow House  
Historic Landmark of Downtown Sanford



Now almost 200 years old, this is the last surviving house in Sanford's business district. Dr. John Dow built it in 1824. According to tradition, he arrived in town on the day of Dr. Ebenezer Linscott's funeral in December 1821. Taking advantage of the medical opening, he decided to stay. He remained here until 1834 when he moved his practice to Pittston, Maine. Thereafter, he practiced in Boston and elsewhere in Massachusetts. There is a biography of the doctor in Emery's *History of Sanford*.

The next occupant we know about was Samuel Thompson, an attorney-at-law, who had his office in the small house that once stood between the Dow House and the North Parish Congregational Church. He practiced law in Sanford from 1841 to 1861 when he moved his

practice to Boston. His wife, Mary Ann, was a daughter of William Emery. How long they lived in the Dow House we do not know, but the 1850 census shows they resided there at that time. A biography of Mr. Thompson is also included in Emery's *History of Sanford*.

Thomas Goodall rented the house when he arrived in Sanford with his family in the fall of 1867. He purchased it three years later. In the fall of 1871, he moved into his newly built mansion below the square and turned the Dow House over to his brother, Joseph. Joseph Goodall and some of his descendants lived there for the next 62 years. His sons, James and Frank Goodall, were printers and published two of Sanford's early newspapers, *Sanford Siftings* and *Sanford Weekly Ledger*. His two other children, Fred and Mary Ann Goodall, lived in the Dow House until their deaths in 1933. Joseph's only grandchild, Russell Goodall, spent his childhood there.

The next owner appears to have been William Batchelder, whose family sold it following his death to Dora MacDermain, better known as "Dora Stone". She operated a ladies apparel shop under the name of Dora Stone on Main Street in Sanford and at one time had a branch store in Springvale. She sold the house to the North Parish Congregational Church in 1963 reserving for herself a life tenancy.

How fortunate we are that the Dow House, which has witnessed so much of our history, still stands in the heart of downtown Sanford. As we celebrate

the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sanford's incorporation, we must make sure that this historic landmark is preserved for future generations.

### Programs for Children

Every May and June, the third grade students of our public schools visit the Historical Museum. The program for them in the past has been limited to a resume of Sanford's history, a tour of the Museum and a walk to the center of Springvale, where they are shown photos of what Springvale looked like before the great fire of 1905. A new dimension was added this year with a tour of the Edmund E. Goodwin House, where the recently restored dumb waiter to the basement proved to be the star attraction. Former Lafayette School Principal Thomas Gagne guided the children through the house while former Acton School Principal Carol Eddy led the tours of Springvale village. Both are members of the Historical Society's Board of Trustees.

During 2017, Board Member Duffy Gold, in partnership with Carol Eddy, organized three special events for children. The first was on April 15th when children from Sanford Christian Academy enjoyed an **Egg Hunt**. Hundreds of eggs were hidden around the Museum and the Goodwin House. There were prizes for all and refreshments in the Goodwin House barn. The next event was the **Pumpkin Fest** on October 28th for children of the Fraser-Ford Child



Development Center at Camp Waban. Games were organized for them in the Museum's parking lot followed by refreshments and a reading of *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* in the barn.

The final event of 2017 was **Holiday Fun at the Museum** on December 9th for the younger children at St. Thomas School. This was held inside the Museum, where games of every description were played followed by refreshments in the library, a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* in the entrance hall and a visit by Santa Claus with gifts for all of the children.

### New Exhibit Honors the 150th anniversary of Thomas Goodall's Arrival in Sanford

In August 1867, Thomas Goodall came to Sanford hoping to purchase a small flannel mill on Washington Street owned by William Miller. Miller was willing to sell, but Thomas considered his asking price too high. James O. Clark was hired to take Thomas to Wells where he could catch a train to his home in Troy, New Hampshire. On the way to Wells, Thomas told Clark about the reason for his visit. Clark offered to sell Thomas his family's saw mill and dam just above Miller's flannel mill and his family's grist mill and dam just below the mill. Thomas returned a week later and purchased both along with a boarding house for \$8,500. Miller then came down on his price so Thomas also purchased his mill and dam as well for





\$7,000. Thomas Goodall had arrived. A new era in Sanford's history was about to begin.

In the fall of 1867 Thomas took up residence accompanied by his wife, Ruth, his twin 16 year old sons, George and Louis, his 14 year old son, Ernest, and his daughter, Lela Helen, who died a few months later at the age of four. Their first home, as stated elsewhere in this newsletter, was the Dr. John Dow house on Main Street. Thomas's first endeavor was to triple the size of the flannel mill. The saw mill he purchased from the Clark family gave him the lumber he needed. New buildings followed and, in the 1870s, he let his boys, then in their early twenties, set up their own company. Between 1873 and 1875 they created the Mousam River Mill, near Emery Street.



The new exhibit features views of Thomas's blanket mill in Troy, New Hampshire, where he made a fortune during the Civil War manufacturing horse blankets for the Union Army. There are pictures of his boys at the military academy they attended in Vermont, numerous photos of the Goodall Mansion, the summer cottage Thomas and Ruth built at Old Orchard in the late 1870s and the winter home they built in Daytona, Florida in the 1890s. The most unusual item in the exhibit is the death mask of Thomas Goodall created in plaster following his death in 1910. It is the first time it has ever been shown. In addition to photos and artifacts of Thomas and his industrial achievements, several carriage robes that have never been exhibited before are on display.

These were the gift of Paul Lehoux of Cornish. The exhibit opened in September 2017 and will remain until the summer of 2018.



### The Flag That Never Was



One of the carriage robes given by Paul Lehoux and on display shows a thirty-nine star flag with an eagle bursting through it. There never was a thirty-nine star flag. The robe was evidently manufactured when statehood for the Territory of Dakota was being debated in Congress. It was expected to enter the union as one state - the thirty-ninth. Instead, it entered as two states: North Dakota and South Dakota. President Benjamin Harrison, when he signed their statehood documents on November 2, 1889, deliberately shuffled them so no one could ever tell which was signed first. The number of states increased from thirty-eight to forty all at once. There never was a thirty-nine star flag!



### A Remarkable Contribution by Dr. Muriel Poulin

During the opening of the Thomas Goodall Exhibit in September a major contribution by Dr. Muriel Poulin was announced. Her gift, which was made in memory of her parents, Blanche and A. Arthur Poulin, will underwrite our future exhibits and provide funds for the acquisition and care of historic artifacts for many years to come. A bronze plaque was unveiled which will remain on permanent display in the larger of our two exhibit rooms.

### Music at the Museum

Our musical offerings have expanded to include bluegrass and jazz in addition to classical. The season opened in April with Southern Rail Bluegrass who wowed their Museum audience a year ago and did so again in 2017.



Three classical concerts followed: the Neave Piano Trio in June, the Central 4 Quartet in July and VentiCordi in August. They were followed

by the Cedar Mountain Bluegrass Band who literally swept the audience away.



Sanford's own Michael McGinnis returned in September with pianist Erik Deutsch for an evening of jazz. They were joined by Michael's wife Davalois Fearon, an acclaimed dancer, and Erik's wife, songstress Victoria Reed.



Classical music returned in November with pianist Ilya Kazantsev and cellist Sergey Antonov. Music critic Dr. Morton Gold described their performance as "brilliant" and added: "It could just as easily have taken place in Berlin, Moscow, New York or any large metropolis on this planet". The final concert scheduled for the year was a program of a cappella music performed by Renaissance Voices of Portland. This would have been their eighth annual appearance in Springvale but the concert had to be canceled because of blizzard conditions.



## Upcoming Music at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum

Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
Southern Rail

*Another evening of toe-tappin' Bluegrass music*

Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
Portland Piano Trio

*Anastasia Antonacos, piano*  
*Ben Noyes, cello*  
*Jasas-Hardel, violin*

*An evening of Piano Trios by some of the great  
composers of the 18th and 19th centuries.*

June TBD

*An Evening of Western music*

Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
La Famille Leblanc Band

*An evening of Franco-American music*

Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
Cedar Mountain Bluegrass Band

*We welcome back this exciting purveyor of bluegrass.*

November TBD

Ilya Kazantsev and Sergey Antonov

*This fabulous duo performs annually at the  
Philharmonia Recital Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia  
and at the Historical Museum in Springvale.*

December TBD

Renaissance Voices

*The blending of these twenty one voices is Christmas  
magic.*

Concert information -

Tickets \$15 - Adults and Seniors

Free - Age 18 and under

The Museum is handicapped-accessible and air-  
conditioned.

## Developments at the Museum and the Edmund E. Goodwin House

The completion of shelving on the second floor of the Goodwin House in the fall of 2016 by members of the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club enabled board members to transfer major portions of the collections, formerly housed in the Museum's balcony store room, to the second floor of the Goodwin House. The front bedroom, now devoted to school and music related collections, is nearly full and the other two bedrooms are rapidly filling. The proper organization of our collections is becoming a reality.



In January 2017, the dumb waiter in the pantry of the Goodwin House was restored by our carpenter, Steve Vincent. This connects the pantry to the basement and was built for the easy storage of jars of fruits and vegetables for the winter. The cost was covered by a generous grant from Lesa and Jonathan Mapes. Children visiting the house have been fascinated by it.



The large collection of toys and games given to the Historical Society by 19th century Willowbrook Village is now housed in the room behind the kitchen. The buggy and sleigh, also the gift of Willowbrook, are now better displayed in the barn, thanks to new lighting. In November, a gift from Douglas King, son of the creator of Willowbrook, enabled us to purchase a handsome surrey with the fringe on top. This was on display in the driveway during the December openings of the Goodwin House.

The House and Museum sported new Christmas decorations thanks to the efforts of Duffy Gold. These were appreciated by the many visitors to the House in December and those who attended our annual Christmas party in the Museum, where Sanford High School's Chorus ushered in the Christmas season once again with carols.

## The Historical Society and The Historical Committee

At our November 2017 Board meeting, Richard Ford, a founding member of our Society, announced his resignation after twelve years on the Board. Dick organized our volunteers at the very beginning of our existence, welcomed the public to the Museum when it first opened in 2006, oversaw our opening hours over the past eleven years and arranged the building for every concert and program. To say he will be greatly missed scarcely expresses our gratitude for his many contributions and years of service.

Four new trustees have been welcomed to the board during the year: Rebecca Carlson, Thomas Gagne, Carol Eddy, and Duffy Gold. They have all been involved in our work as volunteers and organizers of special events.

We are sad to say that one of our long time colleagues, Ronald Morin, passed away in mid-November. Ron kept the Museum open to the public every Thursday evening for eleven years and was a member of the Sanford Historical Committee for more than twenty.

## The 2016-2017 Program Year in Review *by Claire Auger*

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society began its program year with the annual meeting in September, after which members were given the opportunity to visit the Goodwin House.

The October 2016 program was presented by Richard "Ramblin Richard" Kruppa, a retired professor and member of the New England Foundation for the Arts. His interesting and entertaining program brought to light the fascinating unfamiliar stories about some of our most beloved historic songs – songs like "Yankee Doodle," "Old Folks at Home (Swanee River)," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," and "Goodnight Irene". He tells the stories and sings the songs while accompanying himself on guitar, 5 string

banjo and baritone ukulele. This was a return engagement for “Ramblin Richard” and a very enjoyable experience for the attendees.

Linwood Dall and Steve Woodman presented an “Overview of Bicentennial Reenactments” in November 2016. They traced the beginnings of their involvement in reenactment groups, their uniforms, their travels and elaborated on the equipment, general rules of conduct and experiences involved in recreating these unique historical events.

Following the winter break, our March 2017 program highlighted Lee Burnett, a Sanford resident, who has been highly involved with the Sanford Trails Committee. He gave a history of the formation of the committee, its goals and plans for the future to benefit the citizens of our city. The information he shared greatly increased the knowledge of one of our great local natural sources of recreation, our trails.

“Polio: Its History, the Nature of the Disease and Attempts to Eradicate It” was the title of the April 2017 program presented by Lawrence Furbish, a past president of the Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale and Rotary District Governor for Southern Maine and Coastal New Hampshire. Lawrence discussed the efforts put forth by the Rotary Club to educate and to assist in the treatment and eradication of this disease.

In May 2017, “Exploring the Beauty of Mid-Coast Maine” presented by Freeport’s Michael Perry provided the audience with a colorful slide show journey from the ship-building city of Bath on the Kennebec River to the hills of Camden overlooking Penobscot Bay. This seaside summer vacation journey was comprised of tales and trivia stretching from Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay to baseball great Jackie Robinson to Oz’s Wicked Witch of the West! His humorous narration added to a very interesting and enjoyable presentation.

Our September 2017 meeting was the opening of the Thomas Goodall Exhibit and the announcement of Dr. Muriel Poulin’s generous

gift to the Historical Society covered elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In October 2017 our meeting was part of the Annual Sanford Film Festival during which “*The Town that Refused to Die*” was screened once again, along with several other films including one made during the opening of our present High School in 1970.

Our November 2017 program was Tim Caverly to took his audience by canoe down the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Caverly was a Maine Park Ranger for 32 years and is the author of seven books about Maine’s northern forest.

All museum sponsored programs from September-November and March-May are open to the public and are free of charge.

### Edmund E. Goodwin House Receives Maine Preservation Honor

Just after the publication of our last newsletter, Maine Preservation singled out the Edmund E. Goodwin House for inclusion on its 2016 Honors List, describing the house as an historic treasure. Christopher Closs, field service advisor for the organization, said, “It’s a rather rare occurrence to find a building in a downtown environment ... largely intact with virtually all of its architectural details including wall paper and paint”. The house was among fifteen properties to be so honored at the awards banquet which took place at the Portland Country Club. The other recipients were former schools, courthouses and churches. The Springvale home was the only house to make the honors list. The award honors everyone involved, the Historical Society stressed, including those whose contributions made the purchase of the remarkable house and its restoration possible. Just one year earlier the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

Memberships in the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society are our most important source of continuing support. The museum and our programs depend on you!

Name			
Address			
City		State	Zip Code
Telephone		Email	

- |                          |  |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student \$10.00 per year   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime membership per person \$400.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual \$25.00 per year  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Member \$100.00 per year     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family \$40.00 per year  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor \$500.00 per year            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Call me about how I can volunteer to assist the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society. |                          |   |

Please make your check payable to the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Mail your contribution to: Sanford-Springvale-Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Springvale, ME 04083

Sanford - Springvale Historical Society  
P. O. Box 276  
Springvale, Maine 04083