

SANFORD SPRINGVALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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Pence Family Gathers for Dedication



The family of the late David and Linda Pence gather at the Goodwin House during a special plaque dedication ceremony in May.

A few years ago, Harland Eastman asked his grandson to go start up his vehicle in the rear parking lot of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum and turn it around for him, so that he could pull onto Main Street with ease when he was ready to leave.

His grandson headed out of the museum and did just that. When he returned, he had a surprised look on his face. He told Eastman that there was something taped to the steering wheel of his car.

“What?” Eastman asked. “A check,” his grandson answered. “For an enormous amount.”

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New Membership Benefits!

Members of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society now can enjoy a discount on the cost of tickets to the concerts that the organization holds at the museum at 505 Main Street throughout the year. The organization’s Board of Directors approved the discount in July to show appreciation to members for their support and to provide them with a tangible benefit from their membership.

Normally, a concert ticket costs \$15 for individuals age 18 and older. Now, members can purchase one ticket for each concert at the museum for \$10. Other membership categories can purchase two tickets for each concert for \$10. All members have to do is present their enclosed membership card at the time of purchase in order to receive their discount.

Members also now can enjoy a 10% discount on various items, such as local histories, old business directories, Russell Goodall postcards, prints and gift cards of the Goodwin House that the Historical Society sells.

In a letter to members this summer, Historical Society President Harland Eastman said, “We are grateful for your support and hope these small gestures will meet with your approval. We look forward to enjoying with you all that the Historical Society is planning to offer in the exciting year ahead.”

Earlier that day, Eastman, the president of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society, had reached out to David and Linda Pence and asked them if they would be so kind as to contribute funds toward the purchase of 31 pairs of shutters for the newly-restored Goodwin House, next door to the Museum at 503 Main Street. A firm in Center Ossipee, New Hampshire, made shutters and had all the old equipment, going as far back as 1851, making it the right place to produce new shutters for the Goodwin House. The Historical Society had recently purchased and restored the house to its late nineteenth-century glory and the shutters were needed as one of the major finishing touches. The Pences agreed to talk it over and get back to Eastman later that day to let him know whether they could help pay for some of the shutters.

Eastman knew he had their answer when he saw that check taped to his steering wheel. David Pence had stuck it there because he didn't want to disturb Eastman.

"It was a check to pay for *all* of the shutters," Eastman said.

Eastman told this story, and others, when the family and friends of the late David and Linda Pence gathered outside the Goodwin House on Friday, May 24th for the dedication of a new bronze plaque that pays tribute to the generous couple. Eastman read the inscription on the plaque before the family headed inside the historic home to see it where it is now affixed, on the wall in the kitchen.

"In memory of David and Linda Pence, whose generous support helped bring this historic house and the Historical Museum to life," the plaque reads.

Both Pences, who lived in Springvale, passed away in 2018 – Linda in May, and David in October. He owned and operated a local insurance agency for years before he retired. For decades, she owned and operated the Upper Story Book Store in the village of Springvale. They are survived by a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Standing in the driveway at the Goodwin home that Friday last May, Eastman told the Pences' family and friends that it was a meaningful day to him and to the members of the local Historical Society. He described the organization's efforts over the past 14-plus years

to restore the old Town Hall, which is now the Museum, and the Goodwin House.

"Along the way, we found that our best friends were David and Linda Pence," Eastman said. The Pences once covered the expense of about a third or a fourth of the repairs needed on the roof of the Museum after a rainstorm had come along and exposed about 14 leaks in it that had to be fixed.

About a dozen years ago, David Pence started making donations to the Historical Society in memory of his clients after they had passed away. The organization received more than a hundred donations, all in the range of \$35 to \$50, in the years that followed.

"That adds up to a lot of money," Eastman said playfully, adding that Pence hand-delivered the checks himself in order to save money on postage.

The Pences also paid to have all the Museum's windows and doors redone after their mahogany finish had deteriorated.

The Historical Society bought the Goodwin House four years ago. Eastman had always loved the house, noting in one of his books, published 30-odd years ago, that it was "the finest surviving example of a late nineteenth-century house, with all of its original details, in existence anywhere in Sanford or Springvale," as he said at the dedication. Eastman called the house "magnificent," adding that it stayed in the Goodwin family for 115 years and remained unchanged in its period details the whole time.

Once the Historical Society got the title to the Goodwin House, the sweeping paint job it needed went out to bid and was ultimately awarded to local contractor, Steven Vincent. Knowing that the Pences were as excited about the acquisition of the Goodwin House as he was, Eastman went to them and asked if they'd be willing to contribute to the cost of one of the paint jobs. The Pences agreed to talk it over and get back to him. This, they did.

"About four o'clock in the afternoon, they handed me a check to cover the entire bill, which was fantastic," Eastman said.

There was a huge tree in front of the Goodwin House. "From a distance, it looked fine," Eastman said, "but inside it was completely hollow and in danger of falling and potentially harming someone or

causing property damage.”. The Pences paid for the tree to be cut down – and paid for the new tree planted in its place.

“David and Linda’s interest in what we were trying to do over the years has been absolutely fabulous,” Eastman said. “No other individual, firm, or anybody was ever as generous and as loyal to us as David and Linda Pence.”

At the ceremony, the Pences’ son, David, said he was proud of his parents and appreciative of the plaque dedicated in their name.

“They would be very, very pleased to know that their generosity landed so strongly, and it was received with such warmth,” he said. “I’m thrilled to have this wonderful day.”

This piece originally appeared in the York County Coast Star.

Ellingwood Collection shows Rare Glimpses of Sanford’s Yesteryear

Paul Auger looked at the image on his laptop with that mixture of fascination and discovery that often accompanies a new glimpse at history.

“This particular photo . . . we’ve never seen before,” said Auger, a member of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society’s Board of Directors.

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society has its share of shots of the fire that blazed in the village of Springvale and left destruction in its wake in 1905. This particular black and white photo provided a sweeping overhead view of the wreckage from an angle not seen by Auger and other local historians before.

The picture is but one of hundreds that the Historical Society acquired this past summer as part of a donated treasure trove that also includes 35-millimeter slides, letters written during the Civil War, old Sanford High School graduation programs, and copies of “Sanford Siftings,” a long-defunct local newspaper. Auger, a history teacher at Sanford High School, had a lot of help from his students in sorting the treasures.

The donation also includes a 1914 painting by Frank Goodall – the nephew of Thomas Goodall, the downtown mill magnate and philanthropist of the nineteenth century – depicting lower High Street at the time wealthy businessman Fred Sherburne’s



Frank Goodall's painting of lower High Street during the early 20th Century is now on display at the Historical Museum.

home and a lumber-planing mill were located in the general area where the Wolves Club and Paras Pizza are today. You can see the peak of the town hall and the steeple of the North Parish Congregational Church brushed into the distance.

Tim and Lisa DeHaven donated the collection of historical items, which belonged to Barry Ellingwood, a lifelong resident of Sanford who passed away in 2017 due to complications of ALS. Ellingwood, a cousin of Tim DeHaven, taught school in Millinockett before returning to his hometown to join his family’s plumbing and heating business, according to his obituary.

The Goodall painting is now hanging on the wall at the museum – it’s on the left, after you pass through the lobby and before you approach the exhibit rooms.

As for the pictures, there are some of the biggest blazes in Sanford-Springvale’s history, from the aforementioned one in 1905 to the one that consumed the Elks’ meeting place on School Street in the early seventies. There is one photo that Auger believes is of the blaze that destroyed the block of businesses and apartments on Washington Street during the earliest hours of New Year’s Day in 1984.

There are shots of Goodall Park during its earlier decades, as well as one of what was once Sanford High School but is now Willard School on Main Street – glimpses of the school as it existed before that too caught fire in 1940.

Speaking of schools, there are nice shots of Longfellow School, located where the parking lot across the street from the Sanford Post Office exists today.

There are lots of pictures of the Boy Scouts, of which Ellingwood had been a member as a youth. As well, the collection boasts many pictures of the Sanford High School Marching Band in parades down Main Street and School Street – images that offer peeks at such long-gone businesses as McLellan’s and Hooz’s and Saul Schalit’s pharmacy.

The collection also features high school graduation pictures, as well as one shot of Charcoal the Goat, once the SHS mascot.

There are a couple of photographs of the old speedway in South Sanford, hints of which can still be seen on your left right before you cross the border into Wells.

There is a picture that Auger believes is likely the only one in existence showing the former one-room Jefferson Schoolhouse while it was open on Oak Street in Springvale. Auger and his son went to the structure and concluded that its appearance – particularly its succession of four front windows – lines up with what the photo shows. In the photo, a teacher is seen with her students in front of the school.

A few photos remain a mystery to Auger. They show many people in canoes on Number One Pond, with crowds of people watching them from the shore and from the top of the nearby dam. Their clothes look like the style of the early 1900s, Auger believes. Are the photos of a race? Some kind of water festival?

And then there’s a photo, likely taken in the 1930s, that points to the very picture-taking culture in which we find ourselves today. It’s an underdeveloped shot of a man smiling for the camera while holding a camera in front of him. When Auger saw this photo for the first time, he leaned in and wondered what exactly the man was doing. It turned out to be the image of a mirror.

“Then I realized,” Auger said. “He was taking a selfie. This could be Sanford’s first selfie.”

This piece originally appeared in the York County Coast Star.

Historical Society acquires Thousands of Old “Sanford News” Photos

Harland Eastman removes the lid of the solid cardboard box on the table before him and starts looking through the envelopes packed neatly and single-file inside. He pulls one of the envelopes free from the pack and sets it on the table. The envelope

has a date written on the front: May 30, 1987.

Eastman, the President of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society, opens the envelope and removes a stack of black and white photos.



Some of these photos from that spring 32 years ago show snapshots of the Annual Town Meeting in Sanford. In one picture, we see Maine State Rep. Mona Walker Hale, standing with an impassioned expression on her face, speaking against a proposed increase in the school department’s budget. In another, we see Jim Drummey, then the chair of the town’s Warrant Committee, also speaking about one of the evening’s pressing issues.

Another photo shows ten local children whom the Sanford Kiwanis Club had honored as part of its “Terrific Kids” program. The children are students at the Roosevelt School, the once-white building on River Street that is now a new apartment complex. The students, now well into their thirties, are Brian Smith, Shelly Fogarty, Joseph Michaud, Ashley Hanson, Shawn Kimball, Dakota Gagne, Melissa Vachon, Candace Byrnes, Kenny Johnson, and Michael Pelletier.

Yet another photo is an out-of-town one of adolescents performing “Hamlet.”

There are more photographs, by the way – way more than are in that envelope marked May 30, 1989. There are thousands of them, spanning from 1983 through 2001, enough to fill 22 boxes. Most of them appeared in the Sanford News during this 18-year stretch. And most of them were taken by Photographer Kevin A. Byron.

“These pictures, as you can see, are very high quality,” Eastman said. “He’s a good photographer.”

The Sanford News published its first issue on March 19, 1980, and its last one on Sept. 8, 2017. The weekly newspaper had its first office on School Street,

directly across from Central Park, on an upper floor of a building that caught fire and burned in 2005. (The newspaper staff had relocated by then.) The newspaper's last office was in The Townhouse on Main Street, in the space now occupied by Town Square Realty.

At one point during its 37-year run, however, the Sanford News set up shop in a former funeral home in a brick building on Main Street, north of the downtown, directly across from the corner of Lincoln Street. It was here that all these thousands of photographs were stored – packed away in storage and gathering dust.

The Sanford News moved out of this building and into The Townhouse in the summer of 2015. Eastman said the landlord at this former location contacted him during the summer of 2018 and asked him if he'd be interested in accepting the photos and adding them to the organization's vast collection of local items from yesteryear.

Eastman reported to the former Sanford News office, took one look at the piles of photos, and immediately felt overwhelmed by the sheer volume.

"I almost said no," Eastman said.

But Eastman's a true historian. Of course he said yes. And he's glad he did.

The landlord had all of the photos delivered to the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum. Eastman and Thomas Gagne, also of the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society, sorted the photos, which were in envelopes marked with the dates of the weeks on which they were published in the newspaper. Most photos had a slip of paper attached on the backs of them; on these slips were the ol' who-where-what-when-and-why, the building blocks of captions.

"They're well documented," Eastman said of the photo collection.

As mentioned, there are 22 boxes of these photos. Boxes 4 through 19 are all filled with Byron's pictures, ones he took for the Sanford News from 1986 through 1998, a period that spans roughly one-third of the newspaper's entire run in the community.

The photos are not on public display. They're privately stored on the second floor of the Goodwin House, next door to the historical museum, on shelves built and installed by members of the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club.

"It's quite possible that there are pictures here that never appeared in the Sanford News," Eastman said.

Anyone who is interested in seeing a photo that appeared in the Sanford News between 1983 and 2001 is encouraged to contact Eastman at 324-2797.

The boxes of photos add to the Historical Society's preservation of all things Sanford. The organization has every issue of the newspaper available to the public in the research room at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum at 505 Main Street. The Historical Society has a back-up collection too – bound volumes of the newspaper that the Sanford News editor donated to the organization when the paper folded in 2017. Those bound volumes also are stored in the Goodwin House.

Contacted at his home in Arundel, Byron said he feels "quite good" knowing his Sanford News photos are now preserved by the local historical society. He added that, on a personal level, he regards the photo collection as part of his legacy.

This piece first appeared in the York County Coast Star.

In Memoriam: Muriel Poulin was a 'Loyal Friend' to the Historical Society



Muriel Poulin is seen here with Historical Society President Harland Eastman during the dedication of a plaque in her parents' honor at the museum in 2017.

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society lost a longtime friend on Friday, September 6, when Muriel Poulin, passed away, peacefully, at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough. She was 94.

Poulin was a dear and dedicated friend to the Historical Society. As the organization worked to establish its new museum back in 2005 and 2006, she served as “one of our cheerleaders, always encouraging us with her ideas and donations,” said Harland Eastman, the president of the historical society.

When the Historical Society acquired its Bechstein grand piano in 2009, Poulin became a sponsor of the concerts that the organization has brought to the museum – performances that have included world-class musicians and have offered such diverse genres as bluegrass, classical, country western, jazz and Franco-American music, according to Eastman.

“She attended almost every concert,” he added.

Poulin’s contributions have not just benefitted the Historical Society’s museum. They also have enriched the organization’s Edmund E. Goodwin House next door. The organization acquired the historic home a few years ago and set out to furnish it with the furniture that Goodwin’s descendants had donated. Some of that furniture needed upholstering – an “expensive undertaking,” Eastman noted.

“Muriel came to our rescue and covered the cost,” Eastman said.

More recently, Poulin arranged for a gift that will underwrite the museum’s upcoming exhibits and will ensure the acquisition and care of local historic artifacts for years to come, according to Eastman. She offered the gift in the name of her parents, Blanche and A. Arthur Poulin.

“Muriel loved the museum and the Goodwin House,” Eastman said. “No organization ever had a more loyal friend.”

Goodwin House A Popular Summer Attraction



Doug King and his wife visited the Edmund E. Goodwin House at 503 Main Street on June 6. It was King’s first visit there since he donated so many gifts from Willowbrook after it closed in Newfield in October of 2016 after 40 years of operation. All of the toys and games in the room behind the kitchen in the Goodwin House came from Willowbrook, along with the sleigh that was made in Newfield, the buggy used by Newfield’s Dr. Trafton, and many other items. A cash gift from Doug King enabled the Historical Society to purchase the surrey-with-the-fringe-on-top.

In addition to King and his wife, many other visitors toured the historic Goodwin House throughout the summer. The house was open for public tours every Saturday – and, for the very first time, was air-conditioned too!

Volunteers Thom Gagne and Marion Hogan hosted the visitors, providing them with tours of the home and answering questions. Harland Eastman pitched in with volunteering too when needed.

According to Gagne, a member of the Historical Society’s Board of Directors, 65 people visited the house and got glimpses of what homes were like in the early twentieth century. Gagne said many visitors offered raves about the home, which is fully furnished.

In other news, for the first time, there are three running clocks in the Goodwin House: a Seth Thomas on the wall in the kitchen; a grandfather clock in the parlor; and an ornate 19th century “gingerbread shelf clock” in the kitchen that “keeps good time, and it chimes,” said Eastman.

Photos and Other Items needed for the Museum’s Next Exhibit:

“Motor Vehicles, their Manufacture, Sales, and Servicing in Sanford and Springvale.”

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society’s next exhibit will focus on local car dealerships and garages and on motor vehicles manufactured in Sanford and Springvale. If you have any photos of old dealerships, garages or gas stations, or any related memorabilia, and would be willing to loan them to the Museum for the exhibit, please contact Harland Eastman, the President of the Historical Society at (207) 324-2797.

Mark Your Calendar!

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society will hold the following events at its museum at 505 Main Street in the months ahead.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17: Author Anne Gass will discuss her book, "Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine's Fight for Women's Suffrage," at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public and is free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21: Bernard Fishman, the director of the Maine State Museum in Augusta, will offer a unique, 3D opportunity to see Maine towns, landscapes, occupations and personal pastimes as they were after the Civil War. Fishman's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public and is free.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14: Renaissance Voices will return to the museum for its tenth holiday performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for those ages 18 and older, and \$10 for members of the Historical Society who present their membership card at the door. For more information, call Harland Eastman at 324-2797.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19: The Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas Party, from 5 to 7 p.m. Under the direction of Jane Kirton, the Sanford High School Chorus will sing Christmas songs accompanied by Dr. Morton Gold on the museum's magnificent 1886 Bechstein piano. The party is open to the public and is free.

All concerts scheduled for 2019 have been made financially possible by the following sponsors: Stephen and Cristi Eastman; Lawrence Furbish and Barbara Sutcliffe; Joseph Hanslip; Kennebunk Savings; Law Offices of Charles Nickerson; Dr. and Mrs. John B. McGuckin; Nason College Alumni Association; Bonnie and Albert Pollard; the late Dr. Muriel Poulin; Partners Bank; and the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club. For more information, call Harland Eastman at 324-2797.

The Year in Programs So Far...

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society has hosted a variety of programs at its museum all year long.

In January, the Historical Society hosted a presentation by University of New England Professor of Anthropology and Archeology, Dr. Arthur Anderson. Dr. Anderson summarized the results of

an archaeological dig in the summer of 2018 to locate the circa 1744 fortification built in South Sanford.

In March, local high school history teacher, Paul Auger presented his research on World War I and the impact that the Spanish Influenza had on Sanford residents. Auger's presentation resulted in much interest in a part of Sanford's history known by relatively few.

In April, author Mark Alan Leslie spoke about the Underground Railroad. He explained how families in the area put their lives and fortunes in jeopardy to help slaves escape to Canada. Maine residents played a crucial role in being among those who formed a network of illegal "safe houses" to hide slaves from hunters and get them to freedom.

In May, the Historical Society hosted Sanford native Brett Williams, the director of the Sanford Performing Arts Center. Williams provided the audience with an "up close and personal" look at the successful, 854-seat venue that opened at Sanford's new high school last December.

In September, the Historical Society held its annual meeting at the museum on the 19th. As he did in March, Paul Auger, a member of the Historical Society's Board, served as the evening's presenter, showing photographs from the collection of the late Barry Ellingwood. (See related story in this newsletter.)

Pay Us a Visit!

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum is located at 505 Main Street and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The museum is air-conditioned in the summertime and is handicapped-accessible.



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

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