



*Corinth Historical Society*

**Corinth Historical Society Newsletter**  
**Fall 2019**

**4-H CLUBS**  
Early Beginnings

In 1902 small gatherings in Clark County, Ohio, and across the Midwest known as “Tomato Clubs” or “Corn Clubs” started up. Clubs encouraged youth to adopt more current agricultural and homemaking practices being fostered by regional universities. In 1911 the clover emblem took shape with four H’s, symbolizing the clubs’ core education principles: head, heart, hands, and health. By 1914 most clubs abbreviated the principles to “4-H” and Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension System under the USDA and officially nationalized the 4-H. These 4-H clubs exist in both rural and urban settings . There are more than 110 partner universities, 3,000 county offices, and six million participants. Children from age 8 to 18 can work with agriculture, STEM (Science, Technology, Electronics, Mathematics), healthy living, and citizenship.



**CORINTH’S 4-H CLUB**

*Pauline Sodermark* was a member during high school and provides history as she knew it. Under Penobscot County Extension Service, Corinth’s 4-H club was called “Golden Rule 4-H Club”. Rosemary McDougall was our lead-

er. Officers were elected by the members and proper meeting procedures were learned.

Meetings began with the 4-H pledge, “I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country.” Club colors were green and white and its banner was white with a green four-leaf clover lettered with white H’s. Club projects were chosen from an official list and members were responsible for completing the work required.

At Bangor State Fair we exhibited samples of our Projects in cooking, woodworking, gardening, sewing, canning, food preservation, and we received money for our exhibits according to where they placed, first, second, third prize, and participant. Other projects were gardening, room improvement, cattle raising, chick growing, and other animal husbandry. As part of the sewing project, a competition was held at a Style Dress Revue. Girls sewed their own clothing, the garments were brought to the Extension Service office in Bangor, judged for construction, and then girls modeled their creations on stage at a Bangor school chosen in advance. As a young married woman, Pauline was invited by County Agent Corrine Blaisdell to judge garment construction at the County Extension Office.

Every Christmas a number of needy families were adopted and we provided a wrapped gift for each child. We were all encouraged to be volunteers and take part in church and community projects. Annually there was a 4-H Congress held in early spring at the University of Maine. Generally one member from each of Maine's clubs was chosen to attend. We were able to stay in dormitories in rooms of students who were on school break. This way we got a taste of college living. We ate at the cafeteria and attended functions provided by the Cooperative Extension Service. One of the most important things that we did as representatives of our individual clubs was to directly suggest new projects for 4-H inclusion.

*Beverly Craig Blackwell* and *Gay Soule Bogard* recall Sadie Chapman as their 4-H leader. Beverly remembers her "teaching us to cook and after our classes we would enjoy playing her player piano! We decorated floats every summer for local parades. Gay Soule and I did a couple of demonstrations and won awards. I remember singing at a Penobscot County review and winning first place for a dress I made (which is sort of a sad story in itself because I won second place that night but after the numbers were tallied it was discovered that I actually won and they had to notify one of the Rollins girls that she did not win, very sad for her but a happy happenstance for me) and then I went to style dress reviews at Springfield Fair in Mass." Gay added, "We demonstrated how to make a custard sauce and won the state competition in Orono". Beverly did the physical demonstration and Gay did the explaining and this worked out well and won them another competition on how to cut up chicken for the freezer. This earned them a trip to NEPCO, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to present the demonstration again. Beverly added that "Brownie Schrupp from UMO taught us how since she was a friend of our home economics teacher Jessie Oaks. I remember being so nervous because we were up against a college student doing a chicken demonstration but she was so nervous she cut herself and got disqualified I believe. We won first prize and both of us were given a beautiful watch from the Carnation Company that has a little four leaf clover in it. I still have it."

Kenlyn Hill, Betty Campbell and Judy Fowler were active in 4-H during this time and Gay remembers "several of us were doing demonstrations. Kenlyn Hill Weymouth showed us how to iron a man's shirt! Every single time I have ironed a shirt I remember her excellent demonstration" and still use the same method.

Gay credits 4-H as influencing her career which was teaching Home Economics. She demonstrated techniques to the students a great many times over the years and her practice speaking in front of groups of people in 4-H was very helpful.

There was a lot of work in 4-H, record keeping, tending animals, and being responsible for getting things done. There were also fun times as well. There was a summer meeting sleepover at the Soule's farm. They built a campfire down beside the little brook near the house, toasted hotdogs and marshmallows, sang, told stories, then slept in the hay mow in the barn.

These former 4-H members agree that experiences they had in the club made them better able to speak in front of a lot of people, be responsible for themselves, and to look for ways they could improve their area as well as the world around them.

## Museum Archives Wealth of Information

The Corinth Historical Society has an abundance of family histories and biographies. We have census information beginning in 1811 when the town was incorporated. We have cemetery list of burials in all Corinth and surrounding town cemeteries.

We welcome everyone to contact the Historical Society and let us share the records and information we have with you. We are also interested in gathering family histories for our records.

This is an example of one Corinth resident that went west and achieved much in life:

### **Bailey, Walter J.**

Born about 1863 in Corinth, son of Richard H. and Abby Bailey.  
One sister May Bailey.

Began teaching in Maine public schools at age 19 while also studying at State Normal School in Castine, Maine,

Moved to San Diego, California in 1887 and worked in the San Diego County public schools, becoming supervising principal and the School Superintendent of San Diego County.

Moved to Los Angeles County Military Academy in 1914, later becoming owner of the Academy and a leading educator in California.

Wife Flora Bailey of Ontario, Canada

Two sons and 1 daughter

### Sources:

*Men & Women in Southern California, A Volume Regarding the Lives of  
Maine Men and Women of Note and Substantial Achievement, published 1913*

*Bailey Family File, Museum Research Area*

Listed in the family of Richard in the 1870 census (fam1 28), age 7; 1880 census (fam. 226),  
age 17 *Censuses 1870, 1880*

## Ida McGraw's Poetry



Ida McGraw was born in Stetson, Maine April 26, 1902. She met and married John McGraw of East Corinth. John McGraw owned and operated the Strand Theater on Main Street and asked Ida to be the pianist for the silent movies. In spite of her initial misgivings she played full time at the theater until it burned in 1932. She was pianist at Bangor Seventh-Day Adventist Church. John and Ida raised five children. John died in 1942 leaving Ida to support the family alone. She moved to Norridgewock, Maine and also lived in New York and Massachusetts before returning to East Corinth where she bought a farm on the Ridge Road and lived with her daughter Eunice and son-in-law Lester Felt.

Ida wrote hundreds of poems, some of which were printed in small booklets that she gave to friends and family. Her writing spanned 55 years. She expresses her love of family life, life on the farm and her Christian life.

The Corinth Historical Society has 2 of her volumes with many wonderful verses.

Reprinted here is a Poem from the booklet printed in 1984.

### Old House on a Hill

There's an old, old house sitting high on a hill,  
The windows all broken, the voices all still  
    'Tis so quiet, and as I stand gazing there,  
The thought comes to me, is there no one to care?  
Is there no one to care that the windows are all gone?  
Or to pull out the weeds, or mow the big lawn?  
Then I wonder, if this old house could but talk,  
All the stories and secrets it would surely unlock.  
If a book could be written it surely would thrill any person who read it,  
    to know the lives,  
Of the children, grandparents, the husbands and wives,  
All the heartaches and sorrows, happy days, all the joys,  
I walked to the threshold, brushed the cobwebs aside,  
And I looked at the rooms, cold and empty inside,  
    An old rocker sat in one little room,  
    Off in the corner stood an old half worn broom,  
A few pictures were left hanging there on the wall,  
All tattered and crooked, nearly ready to fall.  
In one bedroom I saw an old crib standing there,  
Above it hung a picture of a child kneeling in prayer.  
Oh, it told quite a story, as most old houses will,  
But I ponder still over, that old house on the hill.

**A Special Thanks  
To the 4th graders of Central Community Elementary School in Corinth**



Our local 4th grade teachers have a great solution for gum chewing in the classroom. Every Friday students may contribute 25 cents to the “kitty” in order to buy a gum chewing privilege for the day. At the end of the school year students vote for the local charity to receive the combined “gum money” from all the 4th grade classrooms. This year, as last year, they voted for Corinth Historical Society.

On June 12th during Children’s History Tours we were presented with a box containing over \$128 in change! Thank you one and all.

**Yard Sale Fundraiser Success**



Another successful yard sale was held at the museum on June 21st and 22nd bringing \$1,000. With the help of Jan Bryan, Pauline Sodermark, Sharon Buswell, Jeanne Slasor, and Betty Laforge, the sales were brisk and the streets were lined with bargain hunters. The museum benefited from items to sell from many of our past and present members.

This year we are earmarking the proceeds to purchase a much needed upgraded laptop. We store our museum records and pictures on this master laptop and the current one is running out of memory and space.

Thank you to all who helped make this a success.



## Veteran Tribute



### PFC Lyman Craig

#### US Army

January 6, 1943 - November 18, 1945

106<sup>th</sup> QM Corps

Lyman Craig was born in Masardis September 1, 1920 the son of Harvey and Fannie (Rockwell) Craig.

He joined the US Army on January 6, 1943 and was sent overseas to serve in many of the major theaters of operation: Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and then in Central Europe.

On 15 April, 1945, 106th Infantry Division QM CO was attached to the Advanced Section, Communications Zone. Fifteenth Army directed the establishment of the Frontier Com

mand segment that setup for the Occupation of Germany.

After the war Lyman returned to Maine and was employed for many years at Holiday Inn as a carpenter.

He was a member of American Legion Post 115 Corinth, I.O.O.F. No 144 Ashland, Maine and an associate member of No 59 Corinth. Also, member of D.A.V. and charter member of the LeBlanc-Junkins VFW Post No. 9699 of Ashland.

He served the community of Corinth as a life time member of Corinth fire department and served as fire chief for 6 years.

He was married to Barbara MacDonald and they raised four children: Roland, Sally, Linda and Marsha.

Lyman's siblings are brothers Gerald, Harvey, Clyde, Vernon, Cleo and Roger and one sister Dorothy.

Lyman died July 28, 1995 at age 74 . He and wife Barbara are buried in Masardis.



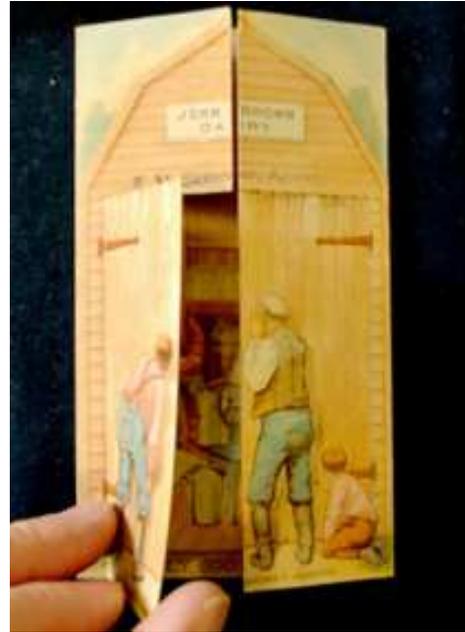
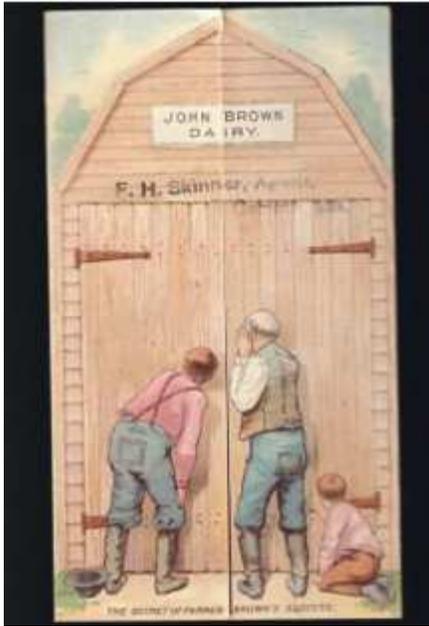
- Symbolism:

The blue is for infantry, the red represents artillery support and the lion's face represents strength and power

## FARMER BROWN'S SECRET

F.H. SKINNER, Agent

This wonderful advertising card is included in the Historical Society Skinner Collection. It was used in the advertising of Delaval Cream Separators, and shows F.H. Skinner as agent.



COMPLETE SEPARATION  
SWEET SWEETENED MILK  
PERFECT BUTTER NO DRUGGERY

THEY SAVE \$10 PER COW EVERY YEAR OF USE

\$50 to \$800 IN PRICE

NEARLY 800,000 IN USE

FOR ONE COW TO ONE THOUSAND

COMPLETE SIMPLICITY  
GREAT DURABILITY  
NO TROUBLES

SALES TEN TIMES THOSE OF ALL OTHER MAKES COMBINED

FRANK H. SKINNER, Agent

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FRANK H. SKINNER, Agent

Frank H. Skinner was born in Corinth on July 16, 1858, the son of George F. and Sarah Deering Skinner. He attended East Corinth Academy, married Eva M. Gay of Charleston on February 11, 1880, and was the father of Fred G. Skinner.

There are many references to Frank in the Skinner Diaries. He was very involved in the work of the Skinner farm as a young man, but also developed skills

in many other fields. In partnership with C.A. Robinson, he brought the “Magic Lantern” to Corinth in 1882, and demonstrated it in the surrounding countryside. He learned to build, install, and repair the telephone, setting poles and servicing phones in Corinth as early as 1882. He built ladders, screen doors, dumb waiters, sleighs, wind mills. In 1888 he began to work at the various area fairs, first as a ticket seller and then as the supervisor of ticket sales not only in Corinth and Bangor, but as far away as Lewiston.

In 1893 he began to sell knitting machines, then patent medicines for such companies as Dana Sarsaparilla Co., and fire extinguishers for a company in Bangor.

By 1897 he was distributing and servicing milk separators in Maine, and by 1900 was traveling more extensively to such areas as Boston, New Hampshire, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

After his mother died and his son married, Frank and his wife Eva moved from the farm in order to care for her parents. They are listed in the 1910 census in the household of Henry W. Gay. Frank’s occupation is shown as traveling salesman.

Frank died January 7, 1930, probably in Detroit, Michigan.

### **Familiar Terms and Their Meanings**

**Cultch**—Florence Sodermark used to say “there’s too much cultch in here”. Her meaning was there was too much trash or clutter. Cultch is primarily a New England term used for scattering of materials such as broken shells laid down to form places for oyster beds to form.

**Bitter End**—A bitt is a post fastened in the deck of a ship, for fastening cables and ropes.



## CRAYOLA Crayons

In 1884 two cousins Edwin Binney and C. Harold Smith took over the Peekskill Chemical Company based in New York and known for pigments such as red oxide used to paint barns. They changed the name of the company to Binney & Smith and a few years later went into the production of school supplies and developed the first dustless chalk. They realized the need for safe and affordable wax crayons and in 1903 created non-toxic, vibrant colored crayons. The crayons were sold for a nickel and the colors were black, brown, blue, red, purple, orange, yellow, and green. Edwin's wife, Alice, named them "Crayola" by combining the French word *crayon* meaning "chalk" and the Latin root *olea* "oleaginous" meaning "oily". During the 100 years of being in business they created 700 colors. The company was acquired by Hallmark in 1984 but continued using the Crayola brand name which people recognize world wide.



Crayola's founders Edwin Binney (left) and C. Harold Smith (right)



### Donations

A heartfelt thanks to the following people for artifacts, cash, documents donated or placed on loan and time volunteered:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Wanda Greatorex           | Beverly Blackwell    |
| Janet Nodding Blanchette  | Kenneth Chapman      |
| Margaret Chernosky        | Mary Duran Cronkhite |
| Janice Cynewski           | Roderic Johnson      |
| Cynthia Rowe              | Gary Shaffer         |
| Cathrine Sines            | Pauline Sodermark    |
| Leslee Dow Stone          | Barbara Strout       |
| Stanley Strout            | James Wilson         |
| Carolyn & Steve Chambers  | Todd Williams        |
| Eleanor Patterson Tidwell | Emera Maine          |

### Next Historical Society Meeting

September 11th

5PM

At the museum

**To contact the editor:** write  
*Newsletter Editor*  
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## ***Membership Information***

The postal address on your mailed newsletter has a small notation to the upper right of your name, showing your membership type and the dues-paid-through per our records. (Periodically, we send a status e-mail to recipients who receive their newsletter in that manner.) Dues now come due on July 1st, since our fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>. If your label says June 2020 or later you're paid up! If it says June 2019 or earlier, then please renew now. (If it still says 2019 and you know you've paid thru 2019-2020, please let us know, so we can straighten out this mistake.) If you are a **Lifetime** or **Emeritus** member, no membership year will be displayed since your dues are always paid up. If it says **Courtesy**, this newsletter is a courtesy copy sent to another historical organization, or friend of the Society

### **Dues:**

Individuals	\$10
Families (living a same Address)	\$15
Under 18 (please inquire)	
Benevolent donor	\$25
Lifetime membership	\$200
Benefactor	\$500
Organizations (50-250 members)	\$20

Periodically, we vote to elect Emeritus members. Emeritus members are over 85 in age and have demonstrated ongoing interest in the history of Corinth, Maine.

**New Members:**

