

# THE LIBBY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The John Libby Family Association

Established in 1904

Fall 2008

<http://www.libbyfamily.org>

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## Reunion News

The 104<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the John Libby Family Association was opened by Jacquelin Libby, a member of the Reunion Committee, at 10:30 on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at John Libby Hall in the Congregational Church at Black Point in Scarborough, Maine. After the Minutes of the previous year's Reunion were accepted as read, and the Treasurer's Report was read and filed, Allen Humphries reported on the Libby General Store. Sales of publications have been good this year as were sales of books. Allen is looking forward to having more publications of interest to add to the Store menu. The display of material from "Our Grandfathers" drew a lot of attention as did the Libby Hill Trails Project. Steve McPike of the Libby Hill Trails Project spoke to the group about his interest in the Project, what it is and what an asset to the community this five mile Trail is. Richard Libby spoke about the Archives Project, and a vote to endorse the resolution was cast (see next article). Jane Waterhouse and Maurice Libby are the brave souls who admitted to being the most "mature in" the group, and Clarissa Bealand was the youngest. Richard M. Libby traveled the furthest to the Reunion; all were awarded boxes of candy given by the Len Libby Candy Company of Scarborough.

After luncheon, people scurried around placing their names on Silent Auction lists before the closing time, and then we had the pleasure of hearing Patricia Corey, author of the book *Owascoag*, who had done some extra research on the Libbys who lived in Scarborough early in its formation as a town.

Wilma's Quilt Raffle brought cries of delight from the winner, Bonnie Wesson.

Bob Lindquist offered to take those who were interested on the "Libby Trail" that he runs yearly.

Cars were then loaded up with the winnings of the Silent Auction items, and many Libbys started on their way home.

A number of members met at 6 PM for dinner and conversation at the Dunstan Schoolhouse, well satisfied with a fine Reunion.

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## JLFA Archives Project

The Board of Directors of the JLFA that met on 26 Sept. 2008 resolved to pursue a partnership with the Marine Historical Society. Through this partnership, the Libby records and papers now stored at the Scarborough Historical Society would be temporarily transferred to the MHS for review, identification of value, preserved at the highest standards, and made available to the Libby Family and the public. The Board made it clear that no items considered by the JLFA Board and the SHS to have enduring value would be removed from the SHS without being returned or replaced by high quality reproductions. The JLFA further emphasized its sincere thanks to the SHS for its long and patient acceptance and storage of the JLFA archives.

The JLFA Board asked that the Annual Meeting members accept this resolution endorsing temporary transfer of the Libby papers and records to the MHS's new facility in Portland for thorough review, after which the Board will determine further action regarding permanent transfer of the material.

The Annual Meeting members unanimously endorsed the resolution.

The Association greatly appreciates the work of Vice President Richard M. Libby who labored diligently on this project, which, after many months of work, has come to fruition.

## John Libby Family Association Board of Directors

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### Committees

Agent with the State of Maine: Bob Lindquist  
Archives: Luella Libby Merryman  
Reunion: Jacquelin Libby, Jane & Bob Lindquist  
Newsletter Editor: Open – see notice  
Newsletter Printing & Distribution: Allen Humphries  
Genealogical Information: Allen Humphries  
(addresses above)

**All general correspondence for the Association  
should be sent to the Secretary,  
Charles Davis (address above).**

## Wanted: Another Good Editor

It was a sad day indeed when Rick Libbey's e-mail arrived telling the Board that he was retiring immediately from the Board and from editing "The Libby Family Newsletter". Rick is such a talented man with so many interests that it will be a difficult task to replace him. Meanwhile, we know that there will be a number of Libbys applying for this job, so please send your resumes post haste. Seriously, our Board needs new members with energy and ideas, and so does the Newsletter.

**PLEASE step forward!**

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## Photographs Needed – Help!!!!

We have great plans for the next reunion – our 105<sup>th</sup>! But we need help.

Do any of you have pictures from some of the very early reunions in your parents' or grandparents' scrapbooks?

The Board would greatly appreciate copies of anything you might have. Don't send originals – they are too precious and might get lost in the mail. A good copy would be fine.

Please send to the Secretary, Charles Davis – address from the column to the left.

**Thanks!!!**

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## What's in a Name?

It is pretty clear that "Scooter" Libby is not of the John Libby family because his daddy's surname was Leibowitz.

Sorry, "Scooter" - we can't claim you!

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## New Officers

Patricia Libbey Davis was elected to be the new JLFA President. Her husband, Charles F. Davis, is our new Recording Secretary.

## Maine Historical Society Portland, ME

All Libbys of whatever spelling will be interested in this great asset to those interested in anything Maine.

The Society's Research Library is in the process of moving into a state-of-the-art building. It has been collecting materials about Maine since 1822 and it holds personal papers, town and church records, genealogical research collections, maps and land surveys, and photographs, to mention just a few of its collections. It has over 100,000 printed books that include such subjects as Maine history as well as US history, genealogy, biography, and it has a collection of rare books as well as almost all of the published city directories of Maine towns. Maps and atlases, newspapers, architectural drawings are just a few of the other subjects collected by this fine institution that is just a hop, skip and a jump from Scarborough.

When you from out of town come to the next JLFA Reunion in 2009, there will be a great chance to visit this Society. It is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Even better news is that this is the organization that is taking the Libby papers on a temporary basis for evaluation, and will possibly be cataloging, preserving, and storing our archived documents for us as you will see in the Archives Project article.



## The First Reunion

Exerpts from the minutes of Annual Meetings from the years 1904 to 1925 were made by Prescott Libbey Brown, who was Secretary for the Libby Family Association in the 1980's.

Believe it or not, the members who attended that first Reunion decided that the name of the organization would be called the "*Sons and Daughters of Benjamin Libby*", and it was not until the second reunion the following year that the name was changed to the "*Sons and Daughters of John Libby*".

Another interesting item: the First Annual Reunion was held at Central Park, Somersworth, New Hampshire, not in Maine.

This first meeting set up a Nominating Committee that nominated twenty officers, including three vice-presidents.

The business of the day included setting the membership fee at twenty-five cents, placing the date of the next reunion at Cape Porpoise, Kennebunkport, Maine on August 23, 1905, and beginning the tradition of finding the oldest person, (Otis R. Libby of Sanford, Me.) and the youngest person in the group (Alfred Burke Spencer of Berwick).

After the picnic dinner in the grove by the pond, the reunion members reassembled at 2 PM in the Hall of the Casino (did your eyebrows just go up?) where the meeting was again called to order and the program rendered. This program included songs sung by individual members, piano solos, papers, readings, recitations, readings of letters from absent members, and songs sung by the choir.

Miss Grace Toothaker from Berwick prepared and read a "*Brief Sketch of Libbey Family*".

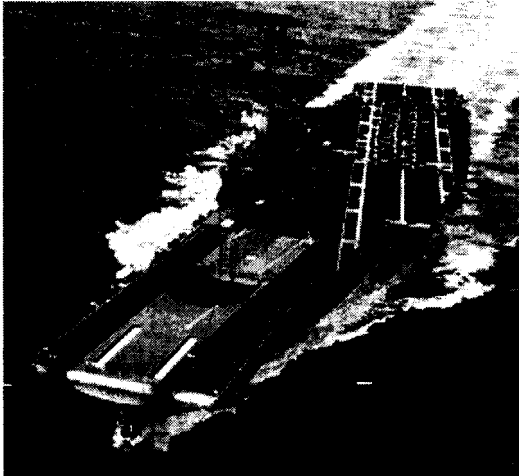
After the program's conclusion, there were remarks by the President, George Hanson of Sanford, Me., and adjournment followed.

It must have been an impressive meeting because the Second Reunion brought sixty-two attendees, almost double the number of the first meeting. And at this meeting they also doubled the number of vice-presidents!

Now..., if you are sitting on the edge of your chair in anticipation of what comes next, you can purchase "*The First Twenty-Five Years*" from our Publications List in the Libby General Store.

**JLFA Board Member  
Joanne Brogan  
has a new job at the  
Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum  
in New York City**

Congratulations to Joanne!



USS *Intrepid* (CVS-11) in the South China Sea, 1968,  
after the 1957 angled-deck conversion.

Imagine being a part of hosting over 25,000 visitors during your first week of work including President and Mrs. Bush, Bill and Hillary Clinton, two astronauts and thousands of veterans and current members of the military.

It could only have happened at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City during the first week of November 2008.

Joanne Brogan began working there just five days before the grand reopening of the Intrepid Museum after a \$115 million overhaul of the ship and Pier 86 where it is docked.

She is the new Director of Grant Management and Administration and has joined an incredible team that has moved mountains to produce a world class museum during the two years the World War II Essex Class Aircraft Carrier was in dry dock.

The Intrepid was built in 1943. She and her crew have a distinguished history of service, including tours of duty in both World War II and Vietnam, making seven trips around the globe and surviving five kamikaze attacks and one torpedo strike. The Intrepid then served as NASA's prime recovery vessel.

The Intrepid was decommissioned on March 15, 1974 and soon began a new mission: honoring our heroes, educating the public, and inspiring our youth.

New York City developer and philanthropist Zachary Fisher spearheaded a campaign to save the Intrepid from the scrap yard, and the ship opened as a museum in 1982.

In 1986 the Intrepid was designated a National Historical Landmark. It served as the temporary headquarters for the FBI during the September 11, 2001 attack investigations and for weeks thereafter.

The Intrepid Museum now has on display 30 authentically restored aircraft, a British Airways Concorde, the Growler submarine, a wonderful interactive education hall named the Exploreum, Flight simulators, the anchor chain room and fo'c's'le (pronounced folk-sell) all on a beautiful park like pier. It is a great reason to come to New York City for a visit.

But that is not all that the Intrepid Museum is about. They also have a family of foundations that care for today's military members. They have built 42 Fisher Houses on 18 military installations and 12 VA medical centers. There the families of patients who are receiving treatment can stay free of charge. They also help the families travel to the facilities with airline miles that have been donated for that purpose.

The Intrepid Relief Fund's principal project is "Operation Mend". It is a unique initiative that provides returning service members with some of the country's best plastic and reconstructive surgery. This care is provided at no cost by leading plastic surgeons, while the fund provides the soldiers transportation and lodging costs.

Also the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund will design and build the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, an advanced facility dedicated to research, diagnosis and treatment of military personnel and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury and psychological health issues.

On Veteran's Day, the day President Bush visited, he spent almost two additional hours visiting privately with members of our nation's fallen heroes. No staff. No media. Just them. He heard first hand how the Intrepid Family of Foundations is providing much needed help to our wounded and deceased service personnel. He and Mrs. Bush were extremely impressed and asked to come back and get more involved in the efforts of the Intrepid Foundations.

No, it was not just another first week of work on a new job. It was an incredible experience that Joanne Brogan will remember for the rest of her life.

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If any of you other Libbys do something Newsworthy, PLEASE let a JLFA Board member know so that we can include the information in a future JLFA Newsletter