

The Libby Family Newsletter

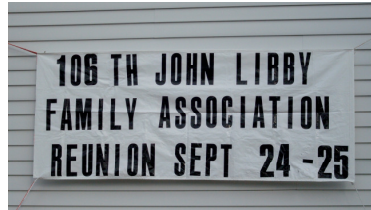
The John Libby Family Association

Fall Issue—November 2010

<http://www.libbyfamily.org>

106th JLFA Annual Reunion Overview

John Libby Hall, 167 Black Point Road, Scarborough, ME



Family Ties!

Following the Board of Directors meeting early Friday afternoon, September 24, members gathered in John Libby Hall for afternoon and evening festivities of the 106th reunion—featuring the theme of Family Ties! Members shopped at the Libby Store, mingled, and many found previously-unmet, but closely-connected Libby relatives—even up to four and five numbers in a row! After a dinner buffet, members had a choice of watching two films: one featuring artwork by Libby descendant Chesley Bonestell and one describing the logging industry in Maine (see items on pages 3 and 4); the latter was also shown on Saturday. Of course, Board Member Luella Merryman’s traditional and delicious root beer floats were served and the donations were designated to benefit the renewal of the Libby Sleigh’s artwork.

Saturday morning, the Silent Auction was set up and the business meeting featured several reports: the status of Book III (back to the publisher after additional editing by Pres. Pat), an expression of thanks to Board Member Harold Clough who cleaned up a Libby marker stone, the sales of the Libby Store, the Treasurer’s and Archivist’s reports, and the reading of last year’s meeting’s minutes. In addition, it was noted that a set of Libby ancestry books from the JLFA Store was given to the Scarborough Library for its reference room. This donation was made to honor longtime board members and volunteers-*extraordinaire* Jane and Bob Lindquist, and the librarian has stated that the set of books they already have are “among the most used in the library.” Surely, the new set will be equally popular and a fitting tribute to the Lindquists. The meeting’s reports finished with a summary of the new guidelines for dealing with monetary donation requests adopted by the board at their Friday meeting (a summary will appear in a future issue).

Various attendees then described the meanings of their “Family Ties” neckware. There was quite the variety! Maurice Libby of Milton Mills, NH, won the Most Mature Male in attendance award, while Shirley Libby of Portland, ME, won for the Most Mature Female. Nanine Libby Felton from Hillsborough, Oregon (20 miles southwest of Portland), traveled the furthest. All received Len Libby chocolates donated by Len Libby Candies. The descendants of David received recognition for having the most descendants from one of John Libby’s children attending. There were door prizes as well! The Silent Auction was very successful and the final Wilma Rodgers Memorial Afghan was won by Libby E. Brennesholtz, of upstate New York.

After a “picnic” lunch, the attendees enjoyed hearing the featured speaker, JLFA Member Sheila Libby Alexander, discuss the history of the Libby Sleigh. Sheila and her father, C. Sumner Libby, brought the sleigh to the reunion from The Skyline Farm Carriage Museum in North Yarmouth, ME. It is truly a lovely Libby artifact and having it return to its “old sledding grounds” was a special Family Tie! Many members attended a closing dinner at The Dunstan Schoolhouse restaurant and we wished all safe travels home!

In 2011, Come Again!

John Libby Family Association Board of Directors

Note: All general correspondence for the Association should be sent to the RECORDING SECRETARY

President: Pat Libbey Davis, 195 Deacon Haynes Rd., Concord, MA 01742 pittypatd@aol.com 978-369-6250

Vice-President: TBA

Recording Secretary: Charles Davis (see Pat info above) charlesdavisf@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Allen Humphries, 19 Myrtle St., Saugus, MA 01906 allenh@gis.net 781-231-1508

Treasurer: Jerre Holbrook, 185 Terrace St., Bronx, NY 10464 Jerreo@aol.com 718-885-2713

Joanne Brogan, 185 Terrace St., Bronx, NY 10464 joanneok@aol.com 718-885-2713

Lauralee Clayton, PO Box 267, Lincolnville, ME 04849 lolclay@yahoo.com

Holly Clayton, c/o 32 Indian Road, Port Chester, NY 10573

Harold A. Clough, 5 Ottawa Woods Rd., Scarborough, ME 04074 haclough@juno.com 207-839-4696

Dana Cosgrove, 54 Atlantic Drive, Old Saybrook, CT 06478 drcosgrove@comcast.net

Laurie Edberg, 74 Bear Swamp Rd., Andover, CT 06232 tedberg1@comcast.net

Dana Edgcomb, 300 Boundary Rd., Standish, ME 04084 nighthawk@psouth.net 208-642-4146

Karen Franklin (See Newsletter Editor Info)

Marcia Libby Greiner, 27 Cedar Pond Dr., Apt 2, Warwick, RI 02886 marcialg@netscape.com 401-823-4112

Harrison & Cindy Libby, 21 Exeter Circle, Beacon, NY 12508 papalib1@aol.com 845-831-3146

Hiram A. "Hy" Libby, 326 Village Creek Rd., Aptos, CA 95003 hlibby@hyjinx.com

Jacquelin Libby, 68 Essex St., Portland, ME 04102 libbylady@midmaine.com 207-773-8807

Judy Libby, 165 Ridge Rd., Wethersfield, CT 06109 860-529-0164

Jane & Bob Lindquist, 7 Blueberry Lane-C6, Falmouth, ME 04105 rlindqu1@maine.rr.com 207-781-8914

Luella Libby Merryman, 35 Grove St., Lisbon Falls, ME 04252 blueberrycake@localnet.com 207-353-4680

Loreen Potvin, czarinatx@yahoo.com

Eva "Boots" Ruckle, 107 Eight Iron Circle, Mulberry, FL 33860 quinnltd@aol.com

Lei Ruckle, 169 Samarra Estates Dr., Fenton, MO 63026 leimail@sbcglobal.net 636-349-6611

Judith Field Stuntz, 1806 Grand Ave., #31 Manitowoc, WI 54220 pjstuntz@sbcglobal.net 920-683-0264

Committees

Agent with the State of Maine: Bob Lindquist

Archives: Luella Libby Merryman

Reunion: Jacquelin Libby, Lauralee and Holly Clayton, Luella Merryman

Newsletter Printing & Distribution: Allen Humphries

Genealogical Information: Allen Humphries

WebMaster: Loreen Potvin czarinatx@yahoo.com or <http://www.libbyfamily.org>

Newsletter Editor: Karen Libby Franklin Kaf4horses@aol.com

Summer: 4780 Westcott Road, Eaton, NY 13334
Fall/winter/spring: 2571 Glenfield Drive,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Cell phone: 904-891-1798

From President Pat: Thank you to all who made this reunion so wonderful!

Vintage Libby Wedding Dress

On display at the reunion was a wedding dress worn by Martha Jane Wilson (1855-1928) when she married Willie Marrett Libby (1851-1929) on 16 January 1878. Martha Jane was born in Parsonsfield, ME, and Willie was born in Windham, ME. They lived on the family farm in Standish, ME, and are buried in the Harding Cemetery in Standish. The dress was handed down to Joyce Jewett of Standish by her mother Violet Libby Jewett. Martha Jane Wilson Libby was Violet's grandmother. The dress was brought by sisters Ardena Jewett Ackerman (11-7-1-8-2-2-1-1-3-1) and Joyce Jewett (11-7-1-8-2-2-1-1-3-2), of Rutland, VT.

The dress consists of a long, gathered skirt of black taffeta-like fabric and a top of black fabric with a small floral print, styled with a fitted waist and long puff sleeves. A bodice overlay of black lace also accompanied the dress—the latter adding to the elegance of the ensemble. Ardena discussed its history in her family and also explained that the lace overlay was a rare example of early machine-made lace. It is quite elegant and also a lovely example of clothing worn during the Libby Sleigh's era! Many thanks to Ardena and Joyce for adding to the historical "aura" of the reunion! [Ed's Note: Ardena's and Joyce's numbers connect them with Treasurer Jerre Holbrook—see Page Three—another surprise Family Tie!].

The Artistry of Chesley Knight Bonestell

by Joanne Brogan

[Ed's Note: As part of the reunion's theme of Family Ties, on Friday night Board Member Joanne Brogan described the life and artistry of Chesley Knight Bonestell (6-6-1-5-2-2-3-3), a cousin of Treasurer Jerre Holbrooke (6-6-1-5-2-6-1-4-1-1 and 11-2-2-1-3-1-5-5-3-1). The movie *Destination Moon*, with Bonestell's artwork, was shown. Her remarks are repeated here because this is a most fascinating "Family Tie"!]]

Chesley Knight Bonestell was born 1 January 1888 in San Francisco, CA. His grandmother Mary Stone Libbey, born in Edinburgh, ME, was one of the first teachers in San Francisco. When Chesley wanted to become an artist, he and his father reached a compromise that Chesley would study architecture at Columbia University in New York City. No doubt his father thought that if the boy wanted to be an artist, he could at least have a respectable career and a "real skill" to fall back on when the lifestyle of an artist left him broke.

Little did his father know that his son's paintings would electrify a generation of teenage baby-boomer space enthusiasts: aspiring artists, astronomers, physicists, and engineers. For example, G. Harry Stine—engineer, author, and creator of the hobby of model rocketry—switched his college major from psychology to physics after seeing the Bonestell-illustrated book *The Conquest of Space*. He said, "Chesley Bonestell not only changed my life but motivated two generations of people to start the human race on its way to ultimate freedom among the stars." Carl Sagan said that he didn't know what other worlds looked like until he saw Chesley's paintings of the solar system.

Other famous people were equally impressed. Joseph Cunningham, Director of the Adler Planetarium, maintained that "It might even be suggested that without Bonestell and his early space age artistry, the NASA era might have been delayed for many years, or it might not even have happened at all." And, Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction author most widely known for *2001: A Space Odyssey*, said of *The*

Conquest of Space, "To many, this book will for the first time make the other planets real places, and not mere abstractions. In the years to come it is probably destined to fire many imaginations and thereby to change many lives." Even Werner Von Braun, the preeminent 20th century rocket engineer, said: "In my many years of association with Chesley I have learned to respect, nay, fear, this wonderful artist's obsession with perfection. My file cabinet is filled with sketches of rocket ships I had prepared to help in his art work—only to have them returned to me with penetrating, detailed questions or blistering criticism of some inconsistency or oversight."

Chesley showed a talent for art at an early age and began formal instruction at the age of twelve. At ten he became fascinated with the sight of Venus in the evening and morning skies and this led him to study astronomy. At seventeen, he sold illustrations to *Sunset* magazine, which was owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad. They paid him in railroad passes, so he and a friend took an early morning train to San Jose and went to the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton. He had a chance to see the moon through the 36 inch refractor, but what most impressed him was Saturn seen through a 12 inch lens. When he got home, he immediately painted a picture of Saturn. Unfortunately, this was in 1905—a year before the great San Francisco earthquake, and the quake-caused fires destroyed his family home and all his early art work.

After three years at Columbia, Chesley stopped his classes before the mandatory mathematics classes. He returned home intending to later resume the classes but never did. He passed the qualifying exam to become a member of the American Institute of Architects and within a year he was made Chief Designer. He worked for firms that designed such projects as the Golden Gate Bridge, the 17 mile Drive at Pebble Beach, the Chrysler Building, the Supreme Court building in Washington D. C., the state capitol of West Virginia, the New York Central Building tower, the Sherry Netherlands hotel in New York, the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, the California Institute of Technology

buildings in Pasadena, and the Plymouth Rock Memorial in Massachusetts.

His interest in astronomy never wavered and in 1949 he illustrated a book, *The Conquest of Space*, written by Willie Ley, and two years later a movie by the same name was produced with Chesley doing the astronomy art in the movie. It was in 1938 that Chesley was hired by RKO Pictures to become a matte artist—at the age of 50. Over the next ten years he worked for RKO, Fox, MGM, Warner Brothers, Columbia and Paramount Pictures. His matte paintings were featured in such classic films as: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Only Angels have Wings*, *Citizen Kane* (all of the shots of turn of the century New York and Kane’s estate Xanadu are his paintings), and *The Magnificent Ambersons*.

Early classic science fiction movies he worked on include: *The War of the Worlds*, *When Worlds Collide*, *Destination Moon*, and *Conquest of Space*. He also illustrated articles and his painting appeared as covers of magazines such as: *Life*, *Astounding Science Fiction* (12 covers), *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* (38 covers), and *Collier’s Magazine* (illustrations for a series of article written by Werner Von Braun). Many books feature his artwork.

Bonestell worked as a science adviser and special effects artist on the movie *Destination Moon*. He went to work with his own ideas and changed the location of the moon landing to the crater Harpalus, in a high northern latitude, facing the Earth so that the Earth would appear near the horizon where the camera could see it and still pick up some lunar landscape. This was preferred so that the Earth would appear conventional and recognizable. Bonestell created a 14 foot long painting of the interior of Harpalus that also was turned into an enormous cyclorama by studio scenic artists for the stage backdrop. The black sky was offset to the rear a bit so that the stars would shift in parallax slightly as the camera panned across the painting, while the Earth was a painted ping-pong ball!

This movie was created almost two decades before we reached the moon in 1969.

Interestingly, the lines in the movie when the spaceship commander claims the moon for the USA on behalf of all mankind, are quite similar to the actual statement the first NASA moon-landing astronauts made famous in 1969. Without a doubt, Bonestell’s galactic artwork still inspires budding astronomers and engineers!

Logging Documentary: “From Stump to Ship”

In addition to the movie *Destination Moon*, reunion attendees also were able to see a fascinating documentary on the logging industry in Maine, “From Stump to Ship.” Brought to the reunion by Board members Lauralee and Holly Clayton, it features the narration of noted Maine humorist Tim Sample, and was produced by the University of Maine. The film used was first recorded in 1930 by Maine logger Alfred Ames, who was the manager of Howard Mills near the Machias River, and it showed logging techniques which had been developed over at least 150 years.

In keeping with “Family Ties,” many observers heard the surnames of family connections, other than Libby, as the names of the loggers were mentioned. [In the Editor’s case, the surnames Tibbetts (Bert) and Hanscom (Will and Jule) were recognized. Member Karen (Glidden) Cournoyer, who has family in the Calais area, told Corresponding Secretary Allen Humphries that she recognized a family member in the video. Allen also has Tibbetts relatives, so he is “tied” to the Editor!]

Whether watching in amazement as loggers wielded a 48 inch band saw, gasping as “rollers” jumped from log to log on a rushing river, or holding our collective breath as log jams threatened lives and property, the viewers found the documentary totally entertaining!

Gifts to Emphasize Family Ties!

The JLFA Store has many items perfect for gifts—all will increase your family’s knowledge and appreciation of its Libby ancestry! So, don’t delay—give them to celebrate family history!

Ned Libby--“King of the River”!

In the September/October 2009 issue of *Yankee* magazine, the article “The Only Habitable Island for Sale on the Connecticut River” featured Life Member Ned Libby as one of Brockway Island’s (CT) two owners. Ned, and his childhood friend Dave Hyde, were given the island as a result of their friendship and caring for Ernest Fetske, a retired naval architect. Ned (10-5-4-1-1-6-4-4-2-1) and his wife Carol attended the fall reunion! Ned agreed to an interview and Carol has provided many salient points about Ned’s life as a Libby.

Ned, whose given name is Edwin Arthur Libby, grew up in Essex, CT. He gravitated early on towards activities on the Connecticut River—becoming, as Carol says, a “river rat.” His grandfather, Ernest M. Libby, owned and operated the Libby store in Essex, having also been a high school principal. Ned learned the value of hard work, and of being tough but fair, from his relatives and the workmen on the river, and from them he also learned the marine construction business. Carol says that Ned “worked all his life as a marine contractor, building many of the marinas and docks on the Connecticut as well as on the rest of the sound” [Long Island Sound]. He also owned his own marine construction company, and was the owner and captain of the tugboat *Creole Miss*.

Through the years, Ned has taken on some unusual “projects”—usually involving water and, often, human beings. A favorite activity of Ned’s is to dig ponds. Once, a local cemetery needed a marshy spot turned into a pond. Carol says that “as a good wife,” she “volunteered Ned to dig it. Now the area and pond are quite beautiful with a fountain having been placed in the

middle.” But, his greatest projects have involved helping young people get a “jump-start” in their lives. This unassuming fellow has co-signed numerous loans for youth to get their first cars, and/or start their college educations. He and Carol have helped them by having them stay at their home, and he has taught an even more invaluable lesson by stressing to each youth that the loans must be repaid—perhaps at the young person’s own pace, but it must be done. Carol says that “not one kid has ever renege on a loan.”

Ned is affectionately known as “King of the River” for his knowledge of the Connecticut. When storms rise, local boat owners wait to see the actions Ned may take. Carol recounts that as large storms approached, the phone would ring constantly and the callers would want to know where Ned was. If she finally told them that he was on his way to the docks, “there would be a mass exodus heading for the boats and . . . they would follow him up the river to some of the back streams to stash their boats.” Ned has many commendations from the Coast Guard for his part in rescue operations. One of the most gratifying was the rescue of a group of men in Long Island Sound. Their oyster boat had gone down and a man and his brother-in-law were desperately trying to keep the first man’s elderly father from drowning—while trying to stay afloat themselves. They were close to losing the father when Ned arrived and was able to get them all safely aboard his construction barge. He later learned that the eldest man was about to become a grandfather for the first time!

Ned and Carol have four grandchildren so holidays are busy times, but at other times they love to travel. Carol bought a little camper, but that has now become a

large fifth-wheel outfit! They have driven to Alaska, across Canada, and often go to Florida in the winter months—especially to follow the dog-show circuit, because they have wonderful Corgi dogs which Carol shows. This winter they hope to go to Florida and, among other things, see the space shuttle *Endeavor* launch.

Carole says: “Ned finds retirement a bit on the boring side,” so he has kept his crane operator’s license active and is often in demand. He also loves to cut wood—he does this by cutting the wood to precise, but different, lengths for his outside boiler and Carol’s Amish stove. Carol believes this love of wood is just an extension of his early years when his family kept a span of oxen, which he and his brothers would harness and then use to go camping in the woods for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays!

The *Creole Miss* has been sold and is now in Maine; Ned travels with his wife, but he likes to take the back roads and byways. Carol believes that Ned has the ancestral “Libby survival instincts” and that, like many Yankees, he says what he has to and “that’s about it.” He loves working on the water and helping people—whatever the need might be—and tractor pulls, antique construction shows, and the countryside: “Good times to him are pretty much simple times,” according to Carol. But, we can see that “quiet” Ned Libby is a credit to our larger Libby family and that his work ethic, strength, knowledge, and kindness have helped a great many more people than will ever be known. He truly exemplifies the adage that “Still waters run deep.”

Ed.’s Note--Many thanks to Carol Libby who provided such great information about Ned’s life for this article! As a descendant of David, Ned was related to many of the reunion’s attendees—including the Editor! He is also descended from John, Jr., and Matthew. Also, if you wish to read about

Ned and the still-for-sale Brockway Island, please read: “The Only Habitable Island for Sale on the Connecticut River.” *Yankee*. Sept/Oct 2009: 112-116.

Ralph Libbey’s Descendants’ Annual Family Reunion

Past JLFA President Rick Libbey (6-6-1-2-2-3-6-2-2-1—notice that Treasurer Jerre Holbrooke and Chesley Bonestell have “old” family ties with Rick!) reports that the “Family from Ralph” (descendants of Ralph Woodford Libbey: 6-6-1-2-2-3-6-2-2) met on 7 August 2010 for their annual Libbey family get-together. Rick says that “this was about the fifteenth year for the reunion at brother Jim’s cottage in Calabogie, Ontario.” The attendees include “Ralph’s six children, spouses, and offspring. . . .a total of 30, with about six others unable to attend.” The reunion had “special guests”: five dogs, ranging in weight from 6 to 60 pounds.

Kayaking, canoeing, power boating, fishing, swimming, and reading are daytime activities, and in the evening “a large bonfire, stories, marshmallows, and sometimes homemade bannock,” are enjoyed. Some participants “built rock structures in the water and the littlest dog loved to swim after the local ducks.”

This year’s reunion was extra-special for their family because Rick and his wife Sharon celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary! Best wishes to them for many more happy years together!

Thanks to Len Libby Candies!

Len Libby Candies again donated several boxes of chocolates for prizes! The website is www.lenlibby.com and they hope to have online ordering for the winter holidays! But, you can order over the phone at the present time.

**Don’t Forget:
The JLFA Store Has Unique JLFA Gifts!**