

The Libby Family Newsletter

The John Libby Family Association

Fall Issue – November 2011

<http://www.libbyfamily.org>

“Hats Off to Libbys”: the 107th JLFA Reunion

The 107th JLFA reunion, featuring the theme of “Hats Off to Libbys,” was held in Scarborough, Maine, on September 23rd and 24th. Following the Board of Directors meeting on Friday afternoon, registration opened and attendees socialized while also viewing the Bob Lindquist video of historic Libby sites, and shopping at the Libby Store. After a delicious dinner served in the John Libby Hall, the video “The Fish Belong to the People,” produced by Glen Libby of Port Clyde, Maine, was shown. (Libby’s business in coastal Maine is Port Clyde Fresh Catch.) The dilemma between allowing unlimited fishing and preserving the stocks of marketable fish was explored. A delicate balance must be maintained, and this includes finding ways to deter other countries’ attempts to “out-fish” east coast-based fisherman, especially in New England. In addition, climate changes have “rerouted” or even depleted the normal range of several types of market fish. For example, there has been a noticeable “die-off” of eel grass—and without it, the flounder population cannot thrive. The film showed fisherman, businesses, environmentalists, and various regulatory agencies struggling to understand others’ positions and to reach agreement on future plans and regulations which would be flexible enough to achieve and maintain the critical balance needed between the fishing industry and the sustainability of natural resources. Also showing in the evening and during Saturday was a collection of short films on the ice-harvesting techniques of the nineteenth century—which was still an important business even in the 1940s.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, the Association’s annual meeting was opened and the minutes from the last meeting were accepted as read, as was the Treasurer’s report. The Libby store had an exceptionally good year, and all genealogy materials received were filed in the Libby files at the Scarborough Historical Society. Board member Judith Stuntz reported that she has over 150,000 names in her Libby database and she thanked Corresponding Secretary Allen Humphries and the general membership for sending her both updates and new information. A Parade of Hats followed which showcased members’ interpretation of various Libby ancestors, or Libby experiences, etc. The Funniest Hat category was won by the sister trio of Irene Reagan, and Mary Ellen and Joy Momburgh. The Most Creative category was won by Judith Stuntz and her family, whose hats were decorated with colored leaves, and Luella Merryman whose hat reflected the four seasons of all the years through which Libbys have endured. The Unique category was won by Nancy Bartley who sewed her hat to resemble the caps worn by early settler-women. She wore it in honor of one of her ancestors, Hester Dutch Hillwell, who was accused of witchcraft but subsequently released! It was determined that of members present at the meeting, Karen Marie Libby had traveled the farthest—from Santa Barbara, CA. The Most Mature Female in attendance was Shirley Libby (from Portland, ME) and the Most Mature Male present was Maurice Libby (from Milton Mills, NH). This year’s raffle item, a lovely quilt which was made and donated by Linda Elizabeth Tozier, was won by Fran Thurston Doucette (10-2-1-1-4-5-1-1-2-2-1) of Gorham, ME.

Following a delicious hot lunch in the basement of the Congregational church building, the featured presentation, “Ranger Companies of Colonial New England,” was conducted by Adam Spencer—a “living historical period actor” who has done extensive research into the Colonial Era. He and his wife, Mary, brought many artifacts and items of clothing representative of that era and of the military groups of the times. After the presentation, while the famous root-beer floats were available, the winning bids in the Silent Auction were announced and because of wonderful items—some sent all the way from Hawaii (and, yes, we had items sent from Alaska, too!)—the auction did very well, as did the Libby Store’s sales. These monies go towards publication of the next Libby volume. In the evening, many members met at The Clambake Restaurant for a “farewell” dinner and we wished all Libby/eys safe journeys home!

In 2012, Please Come Again!

John Libby Family Association Board of Directors

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

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Board Accepts Resignations

It is with gratitude and best wishes that the Executive Board of the John Libby Family Association accepts the resignations of Boots Ruckle, Harrison and Cindy Libby, Dana Edgecomb, Dana Cosgrove, and Holly Clayton. At its meeting in September, the Board also voted to honor Bob and Jane Lindquist as Board Members Emeriti.

Message from President Pat

Dear Libby Cousins,

The Annual Meeting this year was wonderful! Our Reunion Co-Chairs, Jacquie Libby and Lauralee Clayton, presented a well-attended supper and luncheon, and interesting programs. We are still trying to figure out whether we had any

("Pres. Pat" cont. on Page 6)

Meet Jerre Holbrook: JLFA Treasurer

Jerre Holbrook, Board Member and Treasurer of the JLFA, has two prominent Libby lineages: 6-6-1-5-2-6-1-4-1-1 and 11-2-2-1-3-1-5-5-3-1. He was born at home in Guilford, ME, on 14 October 1935 to Byron Manson Holbrook, a descendant of David Libbey, and Adeline Estelle Wyman, a descendant of Samuel Libby of Shapleigh, ME, so Jerre's parents were seventh cousins. His father worked in a woolen mill on the Piscataquis River and his mother worked in a local toothpick mill. Jerre remembers going to the ancestral Holbrook Farm (140 acres in Newport, ME) and "learning to milk a cow." His family moved to California in 1943, where his father worked in the Long Beach Shipyard to participate in the war effort. Jerre, however, recalls "being put back a grade and sent to speech class because of my New England accent"!

Graduating from high school in Compton, CA, Jerre attended community college, studying for a Certificate of Industrial Relations. At age 17, he started working part-time in a supply warehouse and as an apprentice locksmith, but Jerre says "I got my first real job with Pacific Telephone Company and worked as a reproduction operator, installer, and repairman for ten and a half years." Subsequently, he worked for California Water and Telephone Company (later General Telephone Company of California), being promoted to Outside Plant Engineer. After retirement in 1970, Jerre "went on the road" as a contractual Consulting Engineer and worked for diverse companies and on varied projects "all over the Globe," including Thailand, and many of the fifty States. He currently works for Verizon in New York City.

Wanting to serve his country, Jerre joined the United States Naval Reserve after high school and attended training one night a week for five and a half years, as well as two weeks of active duty each year. He then went on active sea duty for almost two years, followed by two more years of Reserve duty. Currently, he volunteers as an Exhibit Explainer on the Captain's Bridge of the U.S.S. Intrepid Air, Sea and Space Museum. He is very excited that the Space Shuttle *Enterprise*, one of the four retiring space shuttles (2012), will be displayed at the museum in the fairly near future! Jerre's wife, Joanne Elizabeth Brogan, is also a JLFA Board Member.

They enjoy traveling amongst several timeshares and other residences, yet their home in New York City is unique. City Island is a Bronx suburb and has about "4,500 people living in cottages, houses, and mansions. We are surrounded by water and there are hundreds of boats around the Island; the main industry is tourism and there are several lobster and seafood restaurants on the Island. At least five America's Cup racing yachts were built and the refurbishing of PT boats during World War II took place here. It is also the location of a famous sail-making company."

In addition to traveling with Joanne, Jerre enjoys fishing and golfing. He is a member of several associations, including the Masons, Shriners, Elks, Moose, Eagles, Navy League, American Legion, USS Okanogan Society, USS Intrepid Former Crewmakers, Tin Can

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Sailors, Ducks Unlimited, and the AARP. Jerre says he’s “proud to be a member of the John Libby Family Association,” and it’s clear that the JLFA is indeed fortunate to have him serve on our Board and as Treasurer!

An In-Person Aloha from the Hawaiian Islands!

Teresa Sabido (11-2-4-3-7-1-6-8-10-2/paternal, and 5-7-12-1-6-1-6-8-10-2/maternal), from Waialua in Hawaii, and members of her family arrived at the Reunion a little bit late for the meeting, but in time to be warmly welcomed by attendees who were most impressed that they made such a long trip! In addition, they had previously sent boxes of Hawaiian Islands-related items for the silent Auction and we all enjoyed bidding on them—everything from keychains to coffee mugs. The calendars featuring photos of island flora and fauna were particularly lovely! Accompanying Teresa were her mother Mary, her daughter Savannah, and her sister Michelle. Although their luggage “got lost” on their flights from Hawaii to Atlanta, Detroit, and finally to Manchester, NH, it was—fortunately—found. Thank you, Teresa and family, for the lovely donations and for making the “trek” to the JLFA reunion—it was great to meet you all!

The Album of Cousins Donated to the JLFA

In 1947, a Libbey/Hanscom descendant, Hervey Alpheus Hanscom (#1-6-5-5-9-12-2 / 1867-1968), who was about to reach the age of 80, was informed of the death of a cousin,

Attorney Fred C. Hanscom. This got him thinking – he now had just 12 cousins left – and they were all elderly. Hervey decided to collect all known data, and photos, about their family while he could.

He started with their common ancestors, Ivory Libbey (#1-6-5-5-9 / 1793-1860) and Abram Hanscom (1804-1885) and showed the interconnections between their descendants. He documented all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and included a large number of photos of them. Since this took place long after Charles Thornton Libby published *The Libby Family in America: 1602-1881*, Hervey found a lot of information that is not in CTL’s book.

Hervey was raised in Lebanon, Maine. However he lived most of his adult life in Medford, MA. Most of his relatives had remained in Lebanon but a couple of his Libbey cousins had moved to East Boston, MA. He visited with most of them in the process of collecting his data.

Hervey then prepared a book for each of the cousins detailing what he had found. He arranged for a complete set of photos to be included with each book. In the meantime Hervey’s oldest cousin, Roscoe Libbey, died – so there were 12 books created. The books were dedicated to Roscoe. Later, several of the cousins asked for copies of the book for their children. In all – Hervey prepared 100 books – most of which did not have photos included. There are four copies, two with photos, known to exist, and possibly others have survived as well.

(“Cousins” cont. on Page 5)

("Cousins," cont. from Page 4)

The complete title of the book is
"The Genealogies of the
Hanscom Family and the
Libbey Family"
Subtitled "The Album of Cousins"
In memory of Roscoe Libbey 1853-1947
By Hervey Alpheus Hanscom

Nancy Spinner (#1-6-5-5-9-10-8-2-2), a JLFA Member, inherited her grandmother's Album – with photos. She recently got in touch with JLFA Corresponding Secretary and Board Member Allen Humphries about adding this book to the JLFA Archives, in particular because of the photographs. (Amazingly, at about the same time, another copy of what appears to be the same Album was found elsewhere.) Nancy has agreed to transcribe the text, as the pages are very fragile and the print is fading. Then the text will have to be proofread against the Libby books I and II for accuracy. Allen will scan the original pages and photos. The data will eventually be passed on to Judie Stuntz for inclusion in her 'jlibby' database. The scans will be put on a CD for distribution via the "Libby Store" for a token fee. The original Album will be handled as little as possible and will be stored, with a CD, in an archive.

Through the years, since Hervey wrote his book, more data has surfaced. Judie Stuntz has data that is not in the book (ie: later births and deaths). Allen is researching the families and has also found data that is not in the book. Last month, someone posted gravestone photos and data for seven of the people in the book online. All of this extra data will be included on the CD when it becomes available.

As the project evolves, there will be follow-up articles. We greatly appreciate the generosity involved in this donation and the efforts being made by Nancy to reproduce the original album's script. We hope to have the project completed for presentation at the 2012 JLFA Reunion.

(Editor's Note: The article on *The Album of Cousins* was written by Allen Humphries, JLFA Corr. Secretary)

Photos of Libby Ancestors Donated to the JLFA

Gayle Goldrup Elliot and her father, David (Dave) Goldrup (1-5-2-5-1-5-3-1-4-2-2) brought to this fall's JLFA reunion reproductions of photos of some of their Libby ancestors. The photos were of:

Edward Francis Libby (1849-1917)
Willis "Bill" Edward Libby (1884-1950)
Elizabeth Emily Libby (1910-1995)
Laughton Pettengill Libby (1908-1932).

Elizabeth and Laughton, children of "Bill," are shown as younger children in one photo and Elizabeth is David Goldrup's mother. Dave "filled in" some information about his grandfather, Bill Libby (1-5-2-5-1-5-3-1-4). Born in Gray, ME, on 6 April 1884, he died in Brunswick, ME, on 24 March 1950. He married Anna Augusta Pettengill, whom Dave called his grandfather's "love of his life," and had three children: Elizabeth, Laughton, and Willis Edward Libby, Jr.

Bill's family was engaged in lumbering and his father, Edward Francis Libby, moved the family to Freeport, ME, to operate the E. B. Mallet sawmill. Following in his father's

(“Donated Photos” cont. from Page 5)

footsteps, Bill first worked in the sawmill. Later, he became a motorman on a trolley line, then owned a clothing store in partnership with Guy Bean—the brother of the noted L. L. Bean! Finally, in the 1930s until his passing, Bill owned and operated a Texaco filling station in Freeport, ME. According to Dave, “Bill and his father served on Boards of Selectmen for the Town of Freeport;” Bill was also Town Treasurer.

Bill was an avid fly fisherman and frequently the fishing companion of L. L. Bean—often at Crystal Lake (Dry Pond) in the Freeport Colony where both men had cottages. Dave says the Bean and Libby cottages are located next to each other and are still owned by the respective families.

The photos were given to the JLFA Archivist, Luella Merryman, who will place them in the Libby file cabinet in the Scarborough Historical Society. These fine and generous additions to the accumulated knowledge about our Libby ancestors are greatly appreciated!

(“Pres. Pat,” cont. from Page 2)

Libbys who were Rangers.

The Libby General Store sold a record number of books, pamphlets, mugs, and pins, and the Silent Auction was something to behold--it had, by far, the largest number of treasures in our history. Our Hawaiian cousins sent a box full of great goodies from the islands, our Alaskan cousin, Mabel Ulrich, sent a wonderful doll clothed in a hand-crocheted outfit, and there were items like bunny dishes and cat pitchers, and framed pictures. There was even a telescope!

The "big" news of the 107th Annual Meeting was that we are finally going to

have a John Libby Family Book III and a CD of an updated Book I. The Executive Board voted to move forward with publication. This has been a long time in coming, and it is very exciting. You will hear the details in the spring or summer newsletter.

Get your 2012 calendars out and mark the date of our 108th Annual Reunion on September 28th and 29th of 2012. You are getting this news very early, so NO excuses this time! Scarborough is very beautiful at that time of the year, and the Reunion is truly exciting and enjoyable!

Best regards to all, PLD

Book Covers for Libby Books Available

Dan Joslyn of Oklahoma has an original copy of The Libby Family Book I that was falling apart. He took it to a bookbinder who told him that it would be a shame to get all set up to rebind and re-cover only one book, so Dan had eleven beautiful new covers made up, and used only one. He sent the others to the JLFA in the hope that someone whose Book I is in need of a cover will be glad of the opportunity to acquire these attractive covers.

Contact pittypatd@aol.com

Ice Harvesting Video Shown at Reunion

At the reunion, *Ice Harvesting Sampler* (video produced by Northeast Historic Film) was shown. Featuring short films of the ice harvesting industry, it noted several Maine sites, including Portland, Hinckley, Mt. Desert Island, and Bangor. One of the most enjoyed films was “Ice Cutting in East Andover, and Work Horse Parade” (Taylor, 1927), which showed a long line of horses and wagons waiting for cut ice near Boston.