

Newsletter

of

The Lunenburg Historical Society, Inc.

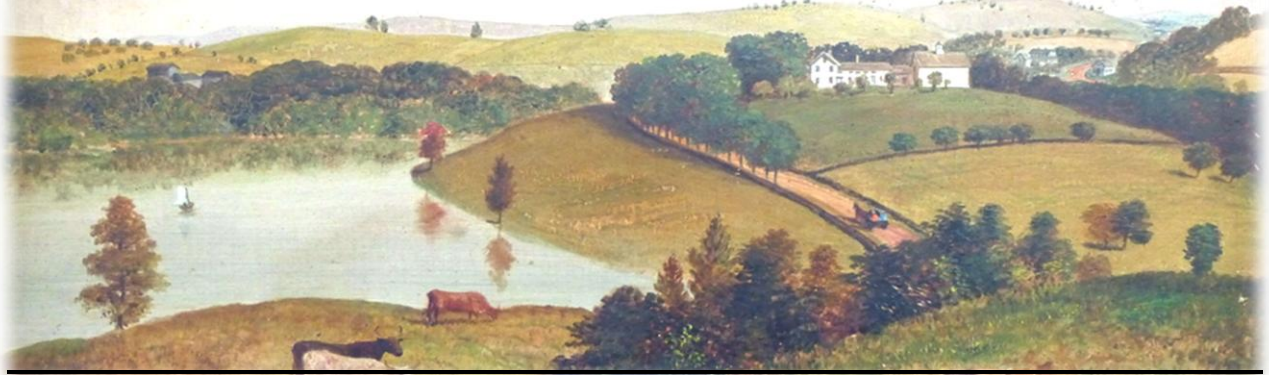
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September, 2018

Our Outdoor Display

SOMETHING NEW



Long tucked away in our storage room and only partially visible in our lower level display, we have now brought out two essential farming tools of the past. For all to view at any time, a hay grapple donated by Hiram Houghton, and an early horse-drawn plow, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ogilvie now grace the entry to our building.



President's Message

LOOKING AHEAD

I hope that all of our members are doing well as we move into the autumn months. I want to take this opportunity to present some of the ideas that we are considering for the next six months or so. These are currently just that, initial ideas. Nothing has been decided yet. This is an opportunity for everyone to share thoughts and opinions. Feel free to contact us by email at info@lunenburghistory.org, by telephone at 978-582-0858, or in person.



- We are looking for additional fund-raising ideas. Last autumn we had an Art & Crafts Fair. We are considering another such event in the spring, but without the torrential rains – please! Any suggestions for improving such an event are welcome.
- There is a movement in Lunenburg to bring back the grange. Initial meetings are in the works. We envision the Historical Society being an integral part of this effort.
- Our web site needs an update. We are investigating moving from our current hosting platform to WordPress. This would give us more flexibility, better support, and an improvement of the site on mobile devices. This will also be a good opportunity to redesign the site. Is there anything that you would like to see in the new web site?

Thanks again to Bill Lakso for all his efforts to make this newsletter possible! I hope that you all enjoy it.

Chuck Venezia

September 6 Program

COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORY



With forty or so members and guests listening intently, brothers Tom and Richard Lisi of Sterling Rare Coin, Corp. shared the stage in providing highlights of the development of coins and currency in America. With colorful details, they connected each major “money event” with historic background, from the 1700’s to modern times.

Tom Lisi

Focusing on special coinage, they explained reasons for the rarity, and therefore great value of certain coins, like the “Cheerios Sacagawea dollar” and the 1955 double-struck penny.

Audience participation, questions and answers added still more interest to the program.



Richard Lisi

Our own volunteer, Kevin Boussom, profited by being the winner by lottery of a 1928 Silver Certificate, also known as a “Funny back” or “Monopoly money” because of its simple reverse side design. For its age, the bill is in very “crisp” condition and has a retail value of approximately \$70.00.



Following the conclusion of the program, the Lisi brothers engaged in appraising currency brought by audience members.

(A special “Thank you” to Helen Brockelman for her notes for this article.)

Kevin Boussom

What’s New at the Society

By Bill Tyler, Accessions Chair

SAMPLER FROM THE NANCY BIGELOW COLLECTION

One of our latest acquisitions is from the Estate of Nancy Bigelow, a lifelong resident of Lunenburg. Nancy was an integral part of the Society for years and put hundreds of hours of research into various projects and had an extensive knowledge of the history of Lunenburg. Part of her bequest to the Society was the entire collection of research of families and homes that she compiled over the years. It is a wonderful addition to our research library. One piece of the collection is quite remarkable; it is a sampler wrought by Mary Lane of Lunenburg in the year 1816, when she was eleven years of age.



These samplers were very common during the period, as young girls would create them to display their needlework, a necessary skill at the time.

Mary A. Lane was born in Lunenburg February 4, 1806, the daughter of Eleazar and Henrietta (Dodge) Lane. She was one of nine children, at the home on Arbor Street.



Mary was later married to David Walker Day in Lunenburg by the Rev. Russell Streeter, the Congregational minister from Shirley, on December 8, 1833. The family moved to Gardner, where they had one daughter, Mary Angeline Day. Mary (Lane) Day died June 2, 1880. She is buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Gardner, with her husband, daughter and several of her grandchildren.

Note: Genealogical credit goes to Barbara Fleming, a volunteer at the Society, who is a member of the Research Committee, and whose contributions are greatly appreciated.

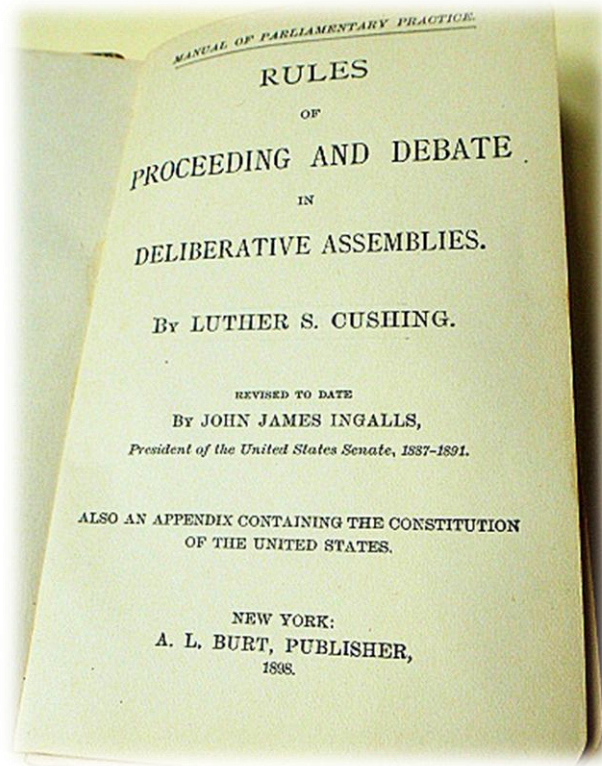
A Surprise Gift

By John Lattanzi

An acquaintance, John Byrne, a local resident, approached me recently with a small, rather old book, entitled, "Cushing's Manual" written by Luther Stearns Cushing (1802 – 1856) and published in 1845. It was later revised by John Ingalls, President of the United States Senate. Here is what Mr. Byrne said to me: "I acquired this book at the Bowerbank, Maine Fire Department's annual garage sale in August. It piqued my interest because the author was born in Lunenburg, where I have resided for about fifty years. I am offering to contribute this book to the Lunenburg Historical Society, since it adds another dimension to the Cushing family history on file at the Society."

Luther Stearns Cushing was born in Lunenburg and educated in its schools and became famous for the book, originally entitled: "A Manual of Parliamentary Practise." It remains an authority in all





doings of deliberating bodies. He was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Boston and wrote five other books, all of which are a remarkable exposition of his trained and logically expert mind. These were: "Treatise on Trustee Process" – "Treatise on Remedial Law" – "Reports of Controverted Election Cases in Massachusetts" – Introduction to Study of Roman Civil Law," and "Lex Parliamentaris Americana."

The Society has accepted Mr. Byrne's gift with gratitude.

Thank you, Brian

A huge "thank you" goes to Brian Guenard, proprietor of Brian's Oil Service & Sales, for performing annual service to our central heating system. Brian does this as his contribution to the Society, saving an expense of at least \$185.00.

We thank our sponsors for their contributions to help defray the costs of producing this newsletter. Please consider them for products and services you are contemplating purchasing.

