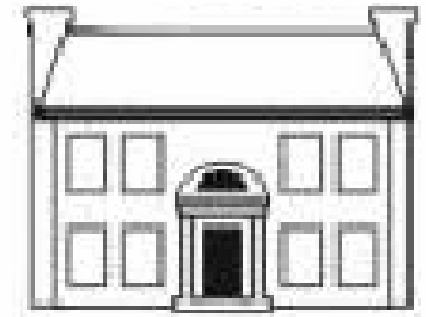


# u n i t y historical society



## AUGUST PROGRAM PREVIEW:

Join us on **Tuesday, August 28th** when UHS welcomes **Edward Cogswell**, from Albion who had ancestors on both sides at the battle of Vicksburg and chronicles the battle in his new book.

### Links of interest

**University of Maine -  
Cooperative Extension**  
[www.umext.maine.edu](http://www.umext.maine.edu)

**UMaine News Article:**  
[www.umaine.edu/news/article.asp?id\\_no=335](http://www.umaine.edu/news/article.asp?id_no=335)

**The Amazing History of Chewing Gum**  
The Straight Dope  
[www.straightdope.com/classics/a1\\_345.html](http://www.straightdope.com/classics/a1_345.html)

**The Story of Gum**  
[www.fordgum.com/story.html](http://www.fordgum.com/story.html)



Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m.  
on the  
**fourth Tuesday each month**  
from April through October

UHS Building is open by appointment  
207-948-5610

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues: \$10 per person  
(April 1 ~ March 31)

Life Membership: \$100 per person

P O Box 4  
Unity, ME 04988  
207-948-5610

[www.unitymaine.org/orgs/uhs/index.html](http://www.unitymaine.org/orgs/uhs/index.html)

Or link from: [www.UnityMaine.org](http://www.UnityMaine.org)

### 2007 OFFICERS

President	Pat Clark
Vice President	Jackie Bradeen
Treasurer	Madeline Stevenson
Secretary	Lori Roming

## August 2007 Newsletter

Welcome to our newest member

**Beverly Winship**  
Unity, ME

We are pleased to have her join and appreciate her work in the library

### **Blueberry & Rhubarb Pie**

*Pastry for 2-crust 9-inch pie*

*1 cup sugar*

*1/2 cup flour*

*1/4 tsp cinnamon*

*1/4 tsp salt*

*2 cups fresh blueberries*

*2 cups rhubarb,*

*(cut into 1/2 inch pieces)*

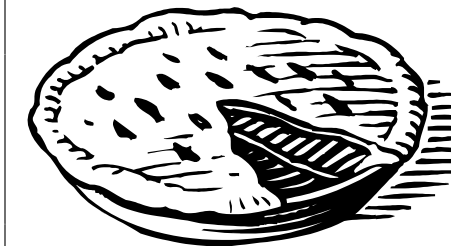
*2 Tbsp butter*

*Heat oven to 425°. Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt. Stir into blueberries and rhubarb. Turn into pastry-lined pie pan, dot with butter. Cover with top crust and seal. Flute edge; cut slits in top crust.*

*Bake for 25 minutes.*

*Reduce heat to 375°; bake an additional 15 minutes.*

*Unity Cooks: Now and Then  
~~from Margaret Vickery*



### 2007 meetings

april 24

may 22

june 26

july 24

**august 28**  
**edward cogswell**

september 25

october 23



Meetings begin at  
7:00pm

Refreshments are served  
following the Program

## UNITY'S HISTORY

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Vickery	\$15.00	\$20.00
Tabor	\$15.00	\$20.00
Set	\$25.00	\$35.00

*Ordinary, Yet Extraordinary: Six Decades in the Life of Unity, ME (Freeman/Simeone) - \$20.00*

Videos ≈ \$10.00 each plus postage

- **UHS Building and Artifacts**
- **Remembering Unity 1804 ~ 2004**
- **2004 Bicentennial Events**

### WORD OF THE MONTH

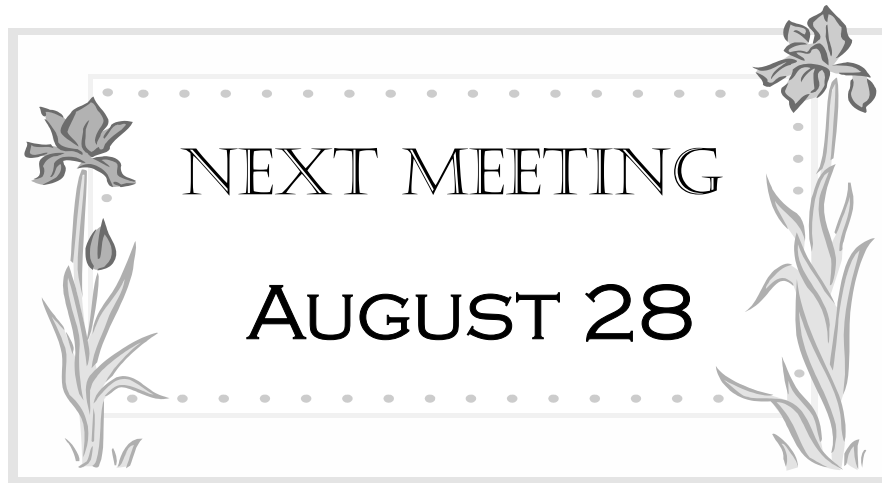
**Tiffin**

**LAST MONTH: DIMITY**  
n. a thin cotton fabric

Mission: The Unity Historical Society is dedicated to the collection and preservation of historical materials related to the town of Unity, Maine. The Society makes this information available to individuals and/or organizations interested in historical and genealogical research.

## Thank you to...

**Anni Roming** for donating a number of items, including a 146 year old newspaper, Town Office receipts from 1840, Joan's stories as a *Morning Sentinel* reporter, a 1908 calendar and a souvenir plate from Unity Union Church.



## JUNE PROGRAM NOTES

We were treated to a fun and entertaining program from **David Fuller**, Agriculture/Natural Resources Professional at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Farmington.

David became a Spruce Gum aficionado at the tender age of 4 and began his research for a book on the scarce-seen commodity about five years ago. Clearly he is a devoted fan.

First, the science. Spruce gum is the hardened pitch that flows from damaged trees - typically spruce (red, white, black, Norway and "cat" - so called because of its very strong odor). The 'gum' takes between four and five years to harden to the appropriate texture and then crumbles after 10-15 years.

Then, the industry. At the turn of the last century, approximately 300,000 pounds was harvested annually and Maine's spruce gum industry was the largest in the U.S.

A specialized tool was used to harvest the gum. It's a stick with a chisel-like head and a bag or can attached to catch the gum that is prized loose from the tree. Although a male dominated industry, David told of a woman he found who had been a harvester during World War I. Prices ranged from 25¢ to 30¢ per pound for low grade gum to \$2.00 per pound for high-grade (used medicinally).



It can be chewed, but what else? Spruce gum was used in medicine for pulmonary ailments, indigestion and cough syrup (mixed with hot pepper); boiled with [bear] fat, it's used for patching bark canoes.

David also shared great photos of the intricately detailed boxes that woodsmen/guides would carve during the long winter to hold the precious gum and give as presents to their lady loves after the harvest.

Many thanks to **David** for sharing his passion and reviving childhood memories for many of us. David is always looking for artifacts/stories about spruce gum, so if you find something, please feel free to contact him.

**JULY PROGRAM:** Due to the postponement of the July speaker, the group was treated to a video entitled "*The Story of Maine: The Nation's Playground*" from the MPBN series.

## June Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** The June meeting of 2007 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President **Pat Clark**.

**Minutes:** By a motion made by **Dot Quimby**, seconded by **Jackie Bradeen**, minutes of the May meeting as reported in the newsletter were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Madeline Stevenson** presented the Treasurer's report.

### Old Business:

The UHS building has been open on Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 for the last two weeks and welcomed several visitors.

### New Business:

- Harold and Jean (Webb) Gardner from Massachusetts dropped off a photograph of the oldest building in town - it was located on Quaker Hill Road. They plan to donate additional photographs.
- **Pat** brought in old telephone records which had been found by college students in the walls and attic of a building in which they were living.
- **Bill Tozier** donated a history of John and Charlie Reed in book form; a photograph of Fidi Ward and Edith Stevens and copies of a book on the Ward family.

Several members have opted to receive the newsletter by email.

Correction: **Grace Stevenson** was incorrectly identified as Grace Stevens in the May newsletter.

June's speaker was David Fuller, an Agriculture/Natural Resources Professional at The University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Farmington.

Many thanks to **Joyce Julian** for the refreshing and delicious goodies which followed the meeting.

## July Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** President **Patricia Clark** called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes were distributed at the meeting as no newsletter was published in July. A motion by **Anni Roming**, seconded by **Jackie Bradeen**, to accept the minutes was passed. Correction: **Bill Tozier** was erroneously identified as Ken Tozier.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Madeline Stevenson's** report was presented with no questions.

**Vice President Report:** **Jackie Bradeen** reported on the progress being made in the library. **Jackie, Betty Rogers** and **Beverly Winship** have been hard at work reorganizing and putting genealogy papers and other information together. One entire shelf of photographs needs to be inventoried and there are at least two boxes of information from Jim Vickery to be sorted and indexed (one is photographs and one is scraps of information glued to construction paper ~ anyone who knew Jim can certainly appreciate this). There are also scrapbooks and books of obituaries. Copies of these as well as fact pages from town reports will be made and stored in sheet protectors and binders for easy access and to keep the originals in good condition. Jackie also wants to encourage families in town provide family histories and genealogy to the historical society library.

**Old Business:** **Pat** reported that UHS has had several visitors each Saturday. Not always a lot, but at least people are visiting.

**New Business:** **Anni Roming** donated several items from Joan Roming's house.

Thanks to **Anni** for bringing refreshments. They were enjoyed by everyone attending.

