

U N I T Y

Historical Society

Welcome to our New Life Member

Donna Wade ~ Unity ME

And new Annual Members

Allison & Harold Fuehrer ~ Parker, CO

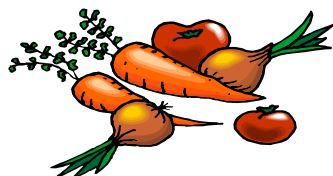
Lori O'Dell McCollum ~ Rock Island IL

2010 Meetings

April 27

May 25

June 22*



Sara Trunzo

Tim Libby

VEGGIES

FOR ALL

July 27

August 24*

September 28

October 26



Meetings begin at 7:00pm

Refreshments are served
following the Program

* 5 week month

From the Library

Dr. Rufus Burnham was a prominent man in the affairs of Unity. If a child had Rufus or Burnham as part of his name, and there were many who did, they were probably named for the doctor. Dr. Burnham was born in Scarborough on February 29, 1779, the eldest son of Solomon and Betty (Kimball) Burnham.

He came to Unity about 1807 and started practicing in the home of John Chase (currently Vern Bagley's house on Depot Street). In 1810 he married a widow, Dorcas Milliken Leavitt, and soon after built a home which in 1827 was enlarged and is now called the Taber place. As early as 1817, Dr. Burnham kept a tavern and later had a farmer in residence to help operate his farm. He served as selectman and town treasurer. From 1812-1816 and again in 1819 he was a representative to the General Court in Massachusetts. He served as delegate to the convention which drew up Maine's Constitution and 1820, Dr. Burnham was a member of Maine's first Legislature and in 1821 served in the State Senate.

He should be credited with (what is now) the Unity Union Church and was interested in education, attempting, with others, to establish Unity Academy. He was without a doubt the wealthiest man in town. Dr. Burnham practiced medicine until his death on November 4, 1854 at age 76.

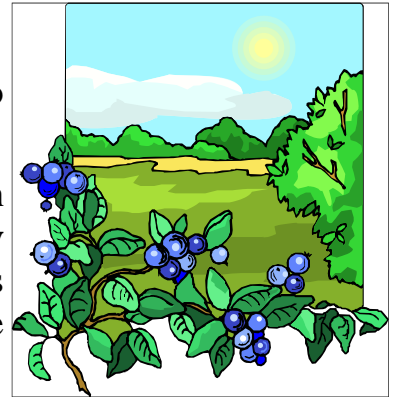
If you live in this area, you should think of Dr. Rufus Burnham whenever you hear the name Burnham, Maine -- the town that was named for the doctor. Strangely, although Jim Vickery had information on Dr. Burnham, there were no genealogical notes on him in the UHS files. ~ provided by **Jackie Bradeen**

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.

May 2010 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: President **Pat Clark** called the meeting to order and welcomed guests and members.

MINUTES: The minutes from the April meeting were accepted with clarification about the town records that **Jackie Bradeen** and **Bev Winship** have been working on. They are roughly indexing them as they proceed and although 'officially' through "F", some names have lead to others being worked on.



TREASURER'S REPORT: **Anni Roming** provided the Treasurer's report, which was accepted with no questions. The investment portfolio is under review and will be presented in June. In addition, she reported that the toilet has been replaced.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **Jackie Bradeen** reported that she spoke to the United Methodist Women's group in May.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Signs - **Anni Roming** reported that the signs have been painted and are ready to install. **Bob Fordyce's** handyman will be installing them. Once the signs are in place, we will begin opening the building on Saturday mornings.
- Refreshments - once again a call was put out to find members willing to provide refreshments. June, September and October were spoken for. July and August remain available. Anyone wanting either month can contact Pat or Lori.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2011 Calendar - **Jackie** told the group that plans were moving forward on the 2011 calendar. **Mahlon Bickford** will be putting it together. **Jackie** and **Madeline Stevenson** will chose the photographs and new member **Donna Wade** will take on ad sales.
- Promote Yourself - **Pat** reported that she would take UHS information to the upcoming UBR event -- the opening day of the farmer's market. **Lori Roming** will assist.
- Land acquisition - UHS has been offered the land adjacent to the building (with the bronze animals). It was agreed that, pending investigating the insurance, we would accept the land. A motion by Jackie, seconded by Bob was approved unanimously.
- Photographs from **Susan Simeone** were displayed.
- **Pat** also told us about visitors from Ohio and Colorado.



Thanks to **Gloria Gervais** for the tasty refreshments!

The Dorothy Webb Quimby Library at Unity College is starting to make historical college documents available online, beginning with yearbooks. We have posted the link on our web page:

<http://www.unity.edu/academic/supportservices/library/library.aspx>



Our guest in May was **Kathryn (Kate) Miles**, Associate Professor of Environmental Writing at Unity College. She holds a PhD in English Literature and is Editor-in-Chief of *Hawk & Handsaw: The Journal of Creative Sustainability*.

Kate gave us a wonderful presentation on her new book *All Standing: The True Story of Hunger, Rebellion, and Survival Aboard the Jeanie Johnston*. It will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2012.

This is a story of the 'luckiest' ship in the world. No one has ever died aboard the ship; even when it was being used as a coffin ship during the days of the Irish Famine. In the years between 1848 and 1855, the ship made 14 trips between Tralee (Ireland) and Quebec. In that time, 2,500 persons made the voyage.

With Kate's guidance, we traveled through the history of the ship as well as the circumstances in the mid-19th century that lead to the use of ships such as the Jeanie Johnston to transport approximately one million people from Ireland to North America. More than a million people in Ireland starved to death. And of the ones taking part in the "assisted immigration", it is estimated that 10%-20% died en route. Because there wasn't an immediate income from these people (unlike the slave trade), the conditions were worse than on the slave ships and it wasn't unusual for 40-50% of the passengers didn't survive.

The British government saw the transport of these people as the third leg in a three-part economic cycle -- people from Ireland were shipped to North America (mostly to what is now Canada), the timber they harvested was then put aboard retrofitted ships and sent to the Caribbean where the wood was used to make barrels and fire the sugar-making process. The sugar was then shipped to England to feed that nation's sweet tooth.

Kate's first book *Adventures with Ari: A Puppy, a Leash & Our Year Outdoors* is available at Amazon.com. Our thanks to Kate for a wonderful program! We can't wait to read the book.



Image from: iisresource.org

WORD OF THE MONTH

ATHWART

LAST MONTH: CLOWDER

A group or cluster of cats



How many families are served by the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry?

LAST MONTH: How much shoreline does Unity Pond / Lake Winnecook have?

A: 12.2 miles (*Source: Friends of Lake Winnecook*)



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

**NEXT MEETING:
JUNE 22, 2010**

Building open by appointment
~ please call 207-948-5610

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues: \$10/person
(April 1 ~ March 31)
Life Membership: \$100/person

P O Box 4

Unity, ME 04988

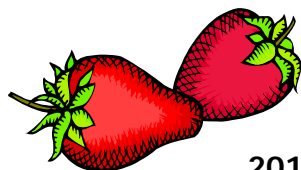
www.unityhistoricalsociety.org

Or link from: www.UnityMaine.org



Unity Historical Society
P O Box 4
Unity ME 04988

Have you
paid dues for
2010?



2010 Officers

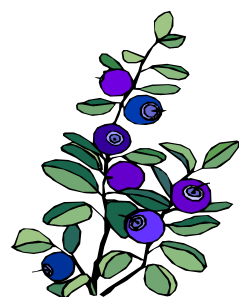
President	Pat Clark
Vice President	Jackie Bradeen
Treasurer	Anni Roming
Secretary	Lori Roming

COMMITTEES

Development
Finance
Clothing
Programs/Refreshments

Happy Summer

Book Store



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

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