

The Libby Family Newsletter

The John Libby Family Association

Fall/Winter Issue – Dec 2016

<http://www.libbyfamily.org>



The John Libby Family Association
Board of Directors and Officers
Wish all of the JLFA Members
a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

We also hope that 2017 is a good year for all of you and that many of you will be able to join us at the next JLFA Annual Reunion to be held on Saturday 23 September 2017 at John Libby Hall in Scarborough, ME.

Despite a last minute issue: the 2016 JLFA Annual Reunion was a fantastic success and enjoyed by all! Just before the Reunion; the planned Guest Speaker, Earle Shettleworth, was accidentally badly hurt and had to cancel all of his scheduled engagements. However, our newest JLFA Life Member, Jason C. Libby, agreed to take over and present us with a similar program on Old Time Photography – and ensured that it included information about our own Minnie Libby, as Earle’s presentation would have done. Jason is a very well known Maine Historian, Educator, and Author. He is extremely knowledgeable about old time photography! The magnificent presentation that he put on for us was fascinating and of great interest to all in attendance.

We all owe thanks to Jason for stepping up at the last minute and taking care of us!

The 2016 JLFA Annual Reunion was well attended. AND; there were a larger than usual number of first-time attendees – which is always great to have happen! Hopefully many of them will be able come back again!

JLFA Member Phil Morse came back again this year with another display showing the Libby Railcar “Narcissus” restoration project. As he did last year, Phil brought two students from Thornton Academy, Ann & Will – both from Vietnam, to help with his display. (Anecdote: those 2 students are ‘into’ photography and really enjoyed Jason’s presentation!) Phil told us about the status of the “Narcissus” restoration project. He also raffled off (free!) a stained glass window ‘sun catcher’ and a pen – both made from original stained glass and wood that was salvaged from materials from the ‘Narcissus’ during the restoration project, and some Teddy Roosevelt souvenir ‘buttons’.

Thanks to Phil for doing such a great job and keeping us updated!

JLFA Life Members Anne-Louise Bailey and her sister Margaret Chase had several copies of the new Libby Cookbook on display. They answered questions about the Cookbook project and sold several copies.

Thanks to Anne-Louise for all of her work to provide us with that new Cookbook!

As usual – Len Libby Candy donated several boxes of their delicious chocolates for ‘prizes’. Francena Urann Elwell, age 92, from Utah won the prize for being the ‘Most Mature’ Female.

Fred Bailey, age 80, from New York state won the prize for being the ‘Most Mature’ Male.

Ann Pismenny, age 56, won the prize for being the Youngest Female.

Ann’s son Samuel, age 12, won the prize for being the Youngest Male.

Francena’s daughter, Pam Hugie, also from Utah, won the prize for traveling the furthest to attend the Reunion.

Janet Thompson, of Glastonbury, Ct, who is the wife of JLFA Life Member Lynn Thompson, made, and donated, another wonderful handmade Afghan for us to raffle off as she has been doing for many years now.

Janet - thank you for being so generous! We all appreciate it!

Janet’s sister-in-law, JLFA Life Member and Board Member Laurie Edberg won the Afghan.

Thanks to all of the JLFA Board and the Volunteers who worked so hard to provide all of us with such a memorable Reunion!

John Libby Family Association Board of Directors

Note: ALL general correspondence and dues for the Association – or JLFA Store Orders - should be sent to the RECORDING SECRETARY

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Libby Cookbook

Thanks to JLFA Life Member Anne-Louise Bailey a long-desired Libby Cookbook is now available! Hooray!
Anne-Louise and her sister, Margaret Chase, had a display at the 2016 JLFA Reunion where they discussed and sold the books.



For further information about the cookbook, or to submit recipes, contact Anne-Louise via e-mail to upliftingpastor@aol.com.

To obtain a copy of the cookbook – send a check for \$15 to:
Anne-Louise Bailey
101 Lou Street, Chittenango, NY 13037

'Narcissus' Project Update

JLFA Member Phil Morse has informed us of the current status of the major restoration project being done at the 'Seashore Trolley Museum', in Kennebunkport, ME, on the formerly Libbey owned 'Narcissus' Railcar. He brought a wonderful display to the 2016 JLFA Reunion and told us about the project (see page 1).

It's an awful LOT of work to completely dis-assemble a complete railcar, assess the condition of EVERY component, then repair ,or make replacements for, any parts found to be in poor condition – or missing - and then put them all back into place!

Right off – they hit a snag! Usually in a project like this the first step is to elevate the body and remove the trucks (ie: wheel assemblies) and then secure the body to a solid base. That couldn't be done as, at the same time, the Restoration Shop needed a new roof and lighting. So – the Restoration crew had to do what they could until the shop roof & lighting projects were completed and the railcar could be rolled into it's secure position. Now - when the trucks are removed, and there is then adequate underneath working clearance, the major frame, sills, bolsters, etc, work can be done.

But – despite the problems – the project is advancing well!

If you would like to follow the progress of the project there is now a 'Narcissus Project Blog'. (It was recently viewed 9000 times!) It can be accessed at www.narcissus1912.blogspot.com.

Phil has informed us that he has been able to arrange for a \$40,000 matching Grant challenge from the '20th Century Electric Railway Foundation'. Once the 'Narcissus Project' has received \$40,000 in donations, then the Foundation will send a donation to the Narcissus Project' for an additional \$40,000! Currently – the 'Narcissus Project' has received \$20,000 in donations and pledges.

Any donations to them to help them meet their goal to get the grant would be deeply appreciated!

Information on how to make a donation is on the blog. Credit card or 'PayPal' payments can also be made via an email sent to: finance@NEERHS.org. Or a check can be sent to:

Seashore Trolley Museum
Narcissus Project
PO Box A - 195 Log Cabin Road
Kennebunkport, ME 04046

'A Clearer View' - A Libby and his Life-Altering Hike
(Thanks to Reggie Libby - #10-1-2-3-7-1-9-8-1 – for alerting the JLFA to this!)

Curtis Libby, son of JLFA Member Kevin Libby and nephew of JLFA Life Member Reggie Libby, has spent most of the Spring, Summer, & Fall of 2016 hiking the 2,189 mile long Appalachian Trail from Georgia, and through 14 states, to Maine. He was interviewed by Reporter Seth Nolan of the Williamsport, PA 'Sun-Gazette' soon after he had passed over the famed "Mason-Dixon" line into Pennsylvania. A superb article, with several spectacular photos, about Curtis, his previous back-packing experience, and the important lessons in life that he learned on this hike, appeared in the 'Outdoors' section of the 'Sun-Gazette' on Sunday, 31 July 2016.

Curt said, "On March 7, I woke up with the sun & hiked to the top of Springer Mountain, with 2189 miles & 14 states ahead of me." Curt's passion for backpacking started with the book "Into the Wild", by Jon Krakauer, about roaming America in the 1990s. After his father showed him the Appalachian Trail documentary "2000 Miles to Maine" he knew that he would hike it some day. Curt was brought up camping and fishing. His first backpacking trip, at age 19, was the section of the Mid State Trail from Ramsey to Ravensburg State Parks. During the next 9 years he matured into a serious backpacker and hiked many miles on many local trails. He said that his Appalachian Trail trip taught him many important lessons in life. "It's hard to explain the feeling of freedom that you get eating every meal in a different place. Or how grateful you are, after a week of trail food, when someone stops and gives you a snack. Now that I essentially have nothing but what I'm carrying on my back I'm seeing that there are some great people out there." His knowledge of backpacking has also improved. His gear is always changing due to weather, weight, upgrades, and bad decisions. "It didn't take long to discover the difference between necessary items & comfort items." "I keep my tarp on top in case of rain." He had to resupply along the way at towns. His parents were his biggest supporters. They sent food to be picked up at a Post Office. After 3 months on the trail, Curt found out about the death of a close friend. He came home temporarily. While at home he took several part-time jobs to save some money. Also, his hiking partner, Outlaw, became ill. So. he was off the trail for 6 weeks. Curt finally made it to the end of the trail, at Mount Katahdin in Maine in September. He now intends to return to normal life. However, in the future, he would like to hike the Continental Divide trail from Mexico to Canada through the Rocky Mountains.

(Allen E. Humphries can supply a PDF copy, as an email attachment, of the original newspaper article, **with photos**, as received from Reggie.)

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Looking at Living Libb(e)y's Lives

By **Terry Edberg**

(Terry is the husband of JLFA Life Member & Board Member Laurie Edberg - #10-5-2-11-4-2-4-1-2-4)

If you're a Libb(e)y reading this article, let me ask you a question. If you were to stop reading right now and walked into the bathroom and looked into the mirror, what would you see? How do you see that person staring back at you? What do you see in that person? How do you perceive that person?

Now, I'm not referring to the failure/success ratio that most people tend to judge about themselves on a daily basis. After all, if that were what I was asking of you then going on the premise that the person you are the toughest on in life is the person in the mirror, or if you have any semblance of humility, then you're probably thinking with indifference, "Not that much". But it's not what I'm asking. Not making sense yet?

Let me put it this way. Let me tell you what I see when I meet a John Libby descendant. I will tell you this because we never see ourselves as other people see us. When I meet a Libby descendant I see the very DNA of American history in living and breathing form. I see 400 years of one family's influence on the shaping of this nation. I see 400 years of Manifest Destiny which produced the greatest, freest and most prosperous Nation humanity has ever seen.

"Uh huh" you say. You're telling yourself, I am just a Farmer. I am just a House Wife. I am just a Bank Teller. I am just a Student. I just pump gas. I am just a Mechanic. I am just a Clerk. I am just a Soldier. I am just a Teacher. I AM NOTHING BUT ORDINARY! That is what you are probably telling yourself. But that's not what you are. What's more, you cannot escape it.

Ordinary is far from what you are. You can laugh and chuckle and brush aside the thought as the mindless ramblings of an incurable romantic but when I meet you, it is what it is. And as a Libby descendant, your *history* is very interesting and has had historical influence on the average American. If you don't know this and recognize this, then shame on you. Then you need to look into it. And then you need to pass it on.

That leads me to this: we want you to tell us **your** Libb(e)y history. Where did your parents or grandparents come from? What about you? What about your children, nieces, and nephews? What anecdotes about the Libb(e)y's in your life can you share with us? Do you remember something funny? How about something poignant and heartfelt? How about accomplishments? *What are all of you Libb(e)y descendants up to anyways?*

Don't send the Boo Hoo's. Send things of Libb(e)y interest we can print in our Official JLFA Newsletter. Send us a story with your name, Libby relationship, your Libby number and where you are from. If it passes muster; we will print it for ALL Libb(e)y's to enjoy! Now, don't be shy, give it a shot! We are interested in Looking at Living Libb(e)y's Lives!

I'm going to ask you again. See if your thinking hasn't changed. If you were to stop reading right now and walked into the bathroom and looked into the mirror, what would **you** see?

~ ~ In **this** issue of the JLFA Newsletter there are several great examples of what we are looking for! ~ ~

Leatherstocking Honor Flight

(Thanks to Donna Goodwin, wife of JLFA Life Member Larry Goodwin #1-6-9-8-1-1-4-1-2-4-1, for submitting the information for this article.)

In September 2016; Larry Goodwin, and his brother David, and a group of other Veterans, were selected to be flown to Washington, DC as part of the *Leatherstocking Honor Flight* program.

The *Leatherstocking* organization that flew them to Washington paid for all expenses – there was no cost to the Veterans involved! All of them received large photos of the trip, hats, shirts, pins, and a large book on DC. This is all done by volunteers and donations. There are many of these groups around the country.

They try to make their selection by those who were at, or in, a war, are disabled, and then by how much room is available.

Larry and David are both disabled Navy Veterans and both served during wartime. At one time, they were on opposite crews on the same submarine – the USS Kamehameha.

After Larry retired as a Chief from the US Navy, he joined the Merchant Marine. But, during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Military Sealift Command took his ship (and him along with it) into service with the US Navy. His ship, the 700' self-loader crane ship SS Gopher State, went to Saudi Arabia and was to go to Kuwait if needed. Larry then served again in the US Navy, as the 1st Assist Engineer on his ship, in Desert Shield and Desert Storm for 9 months. His ship, and crew, went there with provisions and later brought back Marines and Humvees. They had a dog called "Skud". Whenever they had scuds being launched at them, they sent the dog on deck to make sure the air was not contaminated. LOL. (The captain kept him.) For that service; Larry received the USMM Expeditionary Award for support of the American and International Coalition Military Forces in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He has it framed.

Larry and David left home at 4 am and drove to Latham, NY where the group was boarded onto busses and escorted by approximately 50 motorcyclists (the Patriot Guard), State and local police in cruisers and on motorcycles, and a few fire trucks, to the Albany International Airport – all in the dark with full lights and sirens.

At the airport they were greeted by about 100 volunteers and had a large flag ceremony. They then boarded the plane. (BTW: Larry was shown on the local news being escorted in his wheelchair backwards on to the plane and waving to the camera man.)

When they arrived in Baltimore they were greeted by several full dressed Naval officers and over 100 cadets from the Naval Academy. There were two other honor flights that came from other states that also landed and were greeted. They were then all escorted to busses and had an escort of DC motorcycle police to the WW II memorial. Larry said the officers had volunteered to do this on their days off. There were no red lights and no traffic (in DC?) as everything was everything was pulled over for them! They then went to Arlington National Cemetery to watch the changing of the guard and have a tour of the cemetery. (Donna's parents and brother are buried there.) They also saw the Korean and Viet Nam Memorials. Senator Bob Dole was at the WWII memorial.

On the way back to Baltimore for the return flight they all went to the *Golden Corral* restaurant. Larry said it was the largest he had ever seen. He took pictures and boy it is big. Larry and David's guardians for the trip had a cake and candle for David as it was his Birthday - quite a treat!

When they landed in Albany at 11pm they were once again greeted by over 100 folks. Amazes me for sure.

For more information, and photos, about the *Honor Flight* program: go to <http://www.leatherstockinghonorflight.org/>

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Vimy Memorial in France

(Thanks to JLFA Life Member Neil Libbey #6-3-2-1-10-5-3-3-7-2 for submitting the information for this article.)

Howard Libbey's son, David Libbey #6-6-1-2-2-3-7-4-1-1, went on a trip to France and Spain in September 2016. He visited the Vimy Memorial in France where his relative Allison Libbey #6-6-1-2-2-3-7-2 is memorialized. While he was there, David buried some soil from Allison's Alberta (1909) homestead at the Vimy site and found Allison's name inscribed on the memorial.

Pte. Allison Moore Libbey died at Courcellette, France in WWI, during the Battle of the Somme, 100 years ago on 15 Sep 1916. On the previous afternoon, while an attack was on, Allison was wounded while going through an enemy barrage. He had previously attended to several wounded men, was hit himself, and was last seen by a few men going in the direction of a casualty clearing station. No record of his going through a clearing station was received. It was concluded that he was killed by shellfire. His identity discs were turned into the Battalion Orderly Room by a man who took them off one of 3 bodies. Officially; he was reported "Killed in Action".

The family has several letters and other information about Allison's death.

The homestead, near Redwater, Alberta, Canada, still belongs to the family.

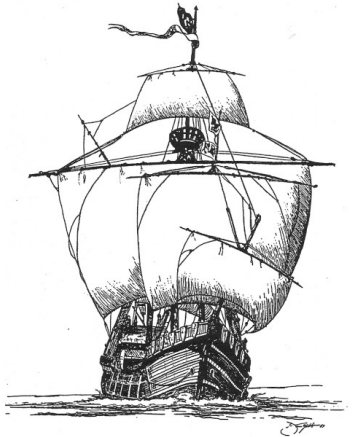
Neil also sent 5 photos showing the Memorial Wall, and showing David at the Memorial (pointing to Allison's name), and showing David placing the soil there. Those photos will eventually be posted in the Libby Family Album on the JLFA Website.

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The Hercules
(the ship that our John Libby came on)

“After the fruitcake is stale, the toys broken,
and the latest fad is old-hat, books are the
gift that keep on giving.”

Anonymous

Please consider Libby books or brochures
when giving gifts!

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