

# The Libby Family Newsletter

The John Libby Family Association

Summer Issue – August 2017

<http://www.libbyfamily.org>

## 113th JLFA Annual Reunion Schedule

**A one-day Event to be held at:**

John Libby Hall, 167 Black Point Road, Scarborough, ME



The Theme This Year Is: **“Vintage Photographs from Maine”**

Bring your autograph books so that you can collect inscriptions from your Libb(e)y "cousins"!

### **Friday, September 22: Board Meeting Day (Board Members only)**

**3:30 PM** - Board of Directors Meeting -- **Followed by** - Reunion Set-up by Board Members

### **Saturday, September 23: Libb(e)y Family Reunion (for ALL Members and interested parties)**

**8:30 AM** - Hall opens; Coffee; doughnuts; Members can set-up their family displays; etc.

**9:00 AM** - Registration opens; Silent Auction opens; Afghan Raffle Tickets available;  
Libby Store opens; Displays by Members; Socialize with other Libb(e)y

**10:30 AM** - Introductions and **Business Meeting** - followed by: Awards for the  
Most Mature Female, Most Mature Male, Youngest Female, Youngest Male,  
and Member Traveling the Furthest to attend the Reunion

**Noon** - **Lunch** (available at the Hall) - **“Chicken Dinner”** - (see Registration Page for details)

**1:00 PM** - Speaker: Kevin Johnson - noted Photo Archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum  
(See page 6 for more information about this presentation)

**2:00 PM** - Director Luella Merryman’s Popular Root Beer Floats - Chat with cousins

**2:30 PM** - Silent auction bidding closes - Look at displays & discuss them

**3:00 PM** - Libby Store closes; Silent Auction items and Afghan awarded;

“Libby Trail” tour or other Activity (tentative - depending on weather, staff availability, etc.)

**4:00 PM** - Start to pack up all JLFA & personal property and prepare to leave John Libby Hall

~ **The Hall must be vacated by 5 PM as another group is coming in then** ~

On Friday & Sunday – there will be special Libb(e)y events at the Seashore Trolley Museum.  
(See pages 2 and 4 for more information about those events)

All Libb(e)y (regardless of their personal religious beliefs) are welcome to attend the service  
at the Black Point / First Congregational Church on Sunday, September 24.

For those who can stay overnight; it’s nice to make arrangements to meet other Members  
on Sunday for a breakfast or luncheon at a restaurant of your choice!

Sunday is also a good time to poke around Scarborough to view the Libb(e)y graves at the  
Black Point Cemetery or the Dunstan Cemetery or to check out the “Libby Trail”.

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**Please Come Again in 2018 !!!**

**John Libby Family Association Board of Directors**

**Note: ALL General Correspondance – or JLFA Store Orders - should be sent to the RECORDING SECRETARY**

President: Pat Libbey Davis, 195 Deacon Haynes Rd., Concord, MA 01742 [pittypatd@aol.com](mailto:pittypatd@aol.com) 978-369-6250

Vice-President: Open; please contact President Pat

Recording Secretary: Charles F. Davis  
(see Pat info above) [charlesdavisf@aol.com](mailto:charlesdavisf@aol.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Allen E. Humphries 781-231-1508  
19 Myrtle St., Saugus, MA 01906  
[allenumphries927@yahoo.com](mailto:allenumphries927@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Lauralee Clayton,  
c/o PO Box 964, Camden, ME 04843 [lolclay@yahoo.com](mailto:lolclay@yahoo.com)

Joanne Brogan, 37 Blue Sky Path, Gouldsboro, PA 18424  
[joanneok@aol.com](mailto:joanneok@aol.com) 570-676-8628

Harold A. Clough, 18 Estate Drive, Scarborough, ME 04074  
[haclough@juno.com](mailto:haclough@juno.com) 207-303-0316

Laurie Edberg, 74 Bear Swamp Rd., Andover, CT 06232  
[Terryedberg27@gmail.com](mailto:Terryedberg27@gmail.com)

Marcia Libby Greiner, Acacia Vllg., B351, Utica, NY, 13599  
[marcialg@netscape.com](mailto:marcialg@netscape.com) 401-823-4112

Jerre Holbrook, 37 Blue Sky Path, Gouldsboro, PA 18424  
[Jerreo@aol.com](mailto:Jerreo@aol.com) 570-676-8628

Hiram A. "Hy" Libby, 17683 Pond Derosa Ln, Prunedale, CA 93907  
[hlibby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hlibby@sbcglobal.net)

Jacquelin Libby, 68 Essex St., Portland, ME 04102  
[LibbyLady15@twc.com](mailto:LibbyLady15@twc.com) 207-773-8807

Judy Libby, 165 Ridge Rd., Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-529-0164

Jane Lindquist, *emerita*, 7 Blueberry Lane-C6, Falmouth, ME 04105  
[jlindqu1@maine.rr.com](mailto:jlindqu1@maine.rr.com) 207-781-8914

Luella Libby Merryman, 35 Grove St., Lisbon Falls, ME 04252  
[lalm@roadrunner.com](mailto:lalm@roadrunner.com) 207-353-4680

Loreen Potvin, [pluviophile57@gmail.com](mailto:pluviophile57@gmail.com)

Lei Ruckle, 169 Samarra Estates Dr., Fenton, MO 63026  
[leimail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leimail@sbcglobal.net) 636-349-6611

Judith Field Stuntz, 1806 Grand Ave., #31 Manitowoc, WI 54220  
[pjstuntz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjstuntz@sbcglobal.net) 920-683-0264

**Committees**

**Agent with the State of Maine:** Harold Clough

**Archives:** Luella Libby Merryman

**Reunion:** Jacquelin Libby & Lauralee Clayton, Co-Directors;  
Joanne Brogan, Publicity

**Libby Facebook Page Administrator:** Joanne Brogan

**Newsletter Publishing & Distribution:** Allen E. Humphries

**Genealogical Information:** Judith Field Stuntz (contact Judie for information about her "jlibby" database) (Address above)

**WebMaster:** Loreen Potvin  
[Pluviophile57@gmail.com](mailto:Pluviophile57@gmail.com) or <http://www.libbyfamily.org>

**Newsletter Reporter / Editor:** We appear to have a new person for this position. Negotiations are underway. More info on page 6.

**John Libby Family Association Membership**

Dues for an **Annual JLFA Membership** are \$15 and are required to be paid at, or before, the Annual Reunion in September.

**Life Membership** in the JLFA is available for a one-time payment of \$200.

(JLFA Life Membership includes a free Book II)

The JLFA Treasurer has requested that **Dues Payments** checks, be made out to, and sent to:

The John Libby Family Association  
Att: JLFA Treasurer - Lauralee Clayton  
c/o PO Box 964, Camden, ME 04843

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**Libby Cookbook**

For further information about the cookbook, or to submit recipes, contact Anne-Louise via e-mail at: [upliftingpastor@aol.com](mailto:upliftingpastor@aol.com).

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

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**Free Passes for the Seashore Trolley Museum**

JLFA Member Phil Morse has informed us of many exciting Libb(e)y connected things going on at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport.

Phil has graciously arranged for free passes **for JLFA Life, and Dues-Paid, Members and their immediate family members**, for a Reunion weekend event. See the articles on page 4 for more information.

Phil had done the same in July for their "Teddy Roosevelt Days" - featuring the "Narcissus" Railcar.

Please do NOT compromise this by trying to "sneak in" your neighbors and friends! They are invited to attend with you – but would be expected to pay the Admission Fee. Also - please keep it in mind that these fund-raising events are held to help with the tremendous costs required to restore the "Narcissus" ("our" Libbey Railcar). So donations in lieu of the waived admission fee would be gratefully appreciated.

Many thanks to Phil and the Directors of the Seashore Trolley Museum for this very generous offer to us!

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A set of all 3 of the Libby books, and several JLFA Brochures, has been donated to the William Fogg Library in Eliot, ME.

# Scarborough Area Lodging Information

Accommodations are  
**YOUR OWN Responsibility!**

## **The Seaview Motel**

65 West Grand Ave, Box 677  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 06064  
1-207-934-4180 (in Maine)  
1-800-541-8439 (out of Maine)

<http://www.seaviewgetaway.com>

A favorite of many JLFA Members

## **Holiday House Motor Lodge**

106 East Grand Ave.  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
1-207-883-4417

<http://www.holidayhouseinn.com>

There is a kitchen room for the motel patrons, where you can go in and bring your own breakfast items to fix and eat right there.

Of course you do your own clean up for that.

## **Pride Motel & Cottages**

677 US Rt. #1  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
1-207-883-4816

Toll Free: 1-800-424-3350

<http://www.pridemotel.com>

Some of their motel rooms, and all cottages, have kitchenettes.

There is a recreation room that also has washers & dryers.

## **The Breakers Inn**

2 Bayview Ave.  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
1-207-883-4820

Fax: 1-207-883-9177

<http://www.thebreakersinn.com>

Located directly on the ocean at Higgins Beach

## **America's Best Value Inn**

(formerly Millbrook Motel)  
321 US Route 1  
Scarborough Maine 04074  
1-800-371-6005

<http://www.millbrookmotel.com>

## **Bayley's Camping Resort**

275 Pine Point Road  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
1-207-883-6043

<http://www.bayleys-camping.com>

A more extensive list of local lodging places and campgrounds can be provided to you upon request from:

Allen Humphries, 19 Myrtle St., Saugus, MA 01906-4325  
[allenhumphries927@yahoo.com](mailto:allenhumphries927@yahoo.com) or 1-781-231-1508

## **Leroy & Edith (Brett) Libby Reunion**

We were informed by JLFA Board & Life Member Luella (Libby) Merryman (#10-5-4-10-7-2-4-11) that several descendents of Leroy and Edith (Brett) Libby of Freeport, ME (10-5-4-10-7-2-4) met at Sebago Lake State Park Aug. 6, 2017 for the 40th Anniversary of their reunions. Their reunions were started by their daughter-in-law Alice Libby in 1977. Many descendents came from ME, MA, and CT.

They reminisced about other years and events of the past through pictures and memory while the younger ones enjoyed swimming and the beach. Many pictures were taken and it was made special when Sherry Libby produced insulated cups with a Libby logo for everyone.

There was a cake with 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and special door prizes. No. 3 door prize was won by Steve Chemely from MA -- No. 2 door prize was won by Grace Porter from ME -- and No.1 door prize was won by Julia Libby from MA. A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to another year.

## **Facebook Announcement**

JLFA Board Member Joanne Brogan has become an administrator for the Libby Facebook site. She will be watching over it in behalf of the JLFA.

## **Peter-Libbey Reunion**

We were informed by JLFA Life Member Leonard Sandvik (#1-6-9-12-5-5-3-5-1-1) that the closely inter-related Peter and Libbey families Annual Reunion, held at the Cresco, IA Assisted Living Facility on July 16, 2017, was a great success with about 20 cousins attending.

Sandy Libbey-Lloyd brought her husband Bill and son Joe and literally dozens of old family photos.

Rich Peter sent us a report on who the attendees were. They were all from Minnesota and Iowa. He also listed who had sent family data to be displayed -- and what it consisted of.

Their reunions are held every year in recognition & honor of the descendants of: Milton O. Libbey (1-6-9-12-5-5-3) (1861-1936) & Anna Belle Peacock (1869-1952) and Jakob Alfred Peter aka. Alfred Peter, Sr (1864-1944) & Barbara Smith (1871-1956).

## **Libb(e)y News from the Seashore Trolley Museum**

(Information provided by JLFA Life Member Phil Morse - Project Manager of Narcissus Renovation at the Museum)

Thanks Phil for all that you continue to do for the JLFA!

### **About the “Teddy Roosevelt Days” event**

As announced in the Spring 2017 JLFA News – the Trolley Museum had generously offered to give JLFA Members free admission to the Museum on July 22 & 23 to see the displays. The “Theme” was “Teddy Roosevelt Days” as he had ridden from Lewiston to Portland on W. S. Libbey’s railcar *Narcissus* in 1914. The *Narcissus* was not only on display but attendees were allowed to sit in it! Wow!

Phil had commissioned artist Wade Zaharis to paint a composite picture featuring the *Narcissus* and W. S. Libbey and his wife riding past it in his beloved (rare) 1908 K 30-hp Semi-Racer Stanley Steamer. (That Stanley Steamer is at the Seal Cove Auto Museum, Mount Desert Island, ME.)

Wade was at the Trolley Museum to unveil & talk about the painting. Phil also had gift cards printed (available for purchase – in sets of 10) that feature that painting.



Phil was thrilled to have 14 direct descendants of W. S. Libbey show up! (Phil sent photos of them and info on their relationships to W. S. Libbey.) However, sadly for us – NONE of them are JLFA Members.

However, JLFA Life Member Sally Chase (10-1-2-4-1-6-1-1-3-3) & her husband DID attend! Phil sent a photo of Sally, in the *Narcissus*, proudly displaying her JLFA “multi-name motif” sweatshirt! Thanks Sally!

All of those photos (plus more) and info are available for viewing at: <http://narcissus1912.blogspot.com>

### **About the Trolley Museum Fall Event**

On September 22 & 24 (the days before & after our Reunion) there will again be free admission to the Museum for dues-paid JLFA Members and their families. (The pass is on their Newsletter Cover Page.)

There will be plenty to see and do! If you can find the time while you are in SE Maine try to go there.

For more information on the *Narcissus* restoration visit Phil’s blog at: <http://narcissus1912.blogspot.com>

### **ANOTHER Libby connection to the Trolley Museum has been discovered!**

Early in June Phil was flipping through Trolley Museum annual reports looking for interesting tidbits of info over the past 78 years, for use in a museum display he'd be staffing at a fundraising event for the Arundel Historical Society...and there, in the 1969 annual report is a short story about shop staff member, Donald Curry, acquiring some of the early equipment for use in the restoration shop. The equipment was purchased from a Mr. Carl C. Libby of South Portland, Maine. Donald recalled that at the time (1969) Mr. Libby was 75 years old, and he drove a Mercedes. Mr. Libby lived on Stanley Street off from Rte. 77 (Ocean Street/Ocean House Road).

Two of the pieces of equipment purchased from Mr. Libby, a Hollow Chisel Mortiser & a 40-inch Band Saw, are still in use regularly at the restoration shop. Both pieces have been used on materials used in the restoration of the *Narcissus*. Phil sent photos of those tools in operation.

The other tools are a 36-knife Planer, a Large Swing Saw for cutting logs, & a Large Double-Spindle Shaper.

JLFA records show that JLFA Life Member & Board Member Hiram “Hy” Libby, of CA, is one of Carl Clarence Libby’s grandchildren as are siblings Libby and John Rust – both also JLFA Life Members & both still living in ME. Hy’s son Guy is also a JLFA Life Member.

John Rust told us: Hy lived next to the Mill on Stanley Street up to age 13, and surely has some great history.

As Phil said: the *Narcissus* is at an intersection of many Libb(e)y lives over many years!

The 2017 Afghan was made, and donated by, Janet Thompson of Glastonbury CT, wife of JLFA Life Member Lynn Thompson. It is made up of four panels done in a small chevron pattern. The color is a medium brown called "Cafe Latte". It measures approximately 42" by 60". It is made of acrylic and is machine washable and dryable. THANK YOU Janet !  
PLEASE FILL IN your name and phone information BEFORE submitting these tickets!

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*Afghan Raffle*

To Benefit the JLFA  
\$2 per Ticket

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(you do not have to be present to win)  
to be Drawn at the JLFA Reunion

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*Afghan Raffle*

To Benefit the JLFA  
\$2 per Ticket

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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to be Drawn at the JLFA Reunion

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*Afghan Raffle*

To Benefit the JLFA  
\$2 per Ticket

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(you do not have to be present to win)  
to be Drawn at the JLFA Reunion

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## 2017 JLFA Reunion Guest Speaker and his Presentation

Information provided by JLFA Life Member, Board Member, and Reunion Co-Chair, Lauralee Clayton.

Our 2017 JLFA Reunion speaker is Kevin Johnson, noted Photo Archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum. Mr. Johnson will speak at 1 p.m., directly following our chicken dinner.

He will travel down to Scarborough from Searsport in Waldo County, just to speak with us.

Kevin plans to open his presentation with a 15 minute professional documentary movie about the Museum's historic post card collection that was made for - and appeared on - Maine's public broadcasting system (MPBS).

Kevin will then share images from the museum's huge collection of vintage photographs, including the fascinating Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. antique post cards collection consisting of images of Maine people, places and notable sites, with some emphasis on the Libby name in Maine.

He will then do a talk, with images from the cards showing things our people were interested in - some with the Libby name, places of interest, etc.

He will also display many Museum owned items and his book, *Maine On Glass: The Early Twentieth Century in Glass Plate Photography*, that he wrote in conjunction with W H. Bunting and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr. (Earle was our Guest Speaker a couple of years ago.) *Maine on Glass* contains 190 postcard photos and information by three of Maine's foremost historians.

Kevin does this presentation frequently and will tailor it to us.

This is a program *not to be missed* and should interest all with Libby ancestors who lived and/or worked in the State of Maine, shaping its history!

The museum maintains one of the largest collections of late 19th to mid-20th century prints, portraits, slides and daguerreotypes (140,000 images) in the state.

There is a great explanatory paragraph or two on their website page which tells about the particulars of the great collection of photos!

[See the Penobscot Marine Museum website at [penobscotmarinemuseum.org](http://penobscotmarinemuseum.org) for more data.]

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## New JLFA Newsletter Writer/Editor

We have FINALLY found a JLFA Member who was willing to enter into discussions about taking over writing the JLFA Newsletter! Harriet Roane, from VA, will be attending the 2017 JLFA Reunion & will attend the Board Meeting to meet the Board Members & finalize this.

What the job entails has been fully explained to her and her questions have been answered. We feel that she is fully capable of doing what is needed! THANK YOU Harriet!

Hopefully Harriet will write the Fall/Winter issue of the Newsletter (with guidance - & help - if needed). If so – she can start off with a brief article explaining who she is. Watch for it!

IF you win a door prize or the afghan please tell Harriet your name, where you live, your Libby Number (if you know it), and what you won so that she can put it in the next Newsletter!

If you have information for a Libby News article please make arrangements to get it to her.

**- JLFA Annual Membership DUES Form**

Dues are a necessary part of any Association. JLFA dues are due and payable, at or before, the Annual Reunion.

Check your Newsletter Mailing Label for your current status! Thank you if you have already paid your dues.

\*For paying by mail, please send your dues directly to the JLFA Treasurer, using this form.

Enclosed are my JLFA Membership dues (Sept. Reunion 2017 - Sept. Reunion 2018):

(Print) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email / phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Print) Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership \_\_\_ person(s) @ \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ -or-

Life Member \_\_\_ person(s) @ \$200.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ includes a copy of Book 2.

Make Dues Check out to : 'John Libby Family Association'

Mail Dues check to: **JLFA Treasurer L. Clayton, c/o PO Box 964, Camden ME 04843**

[Note – Reunion Registration requires a **separate** check, sent to Charles Davis (see below). ]

\*\*\*\*\*Detach form here\*\*\*\*\*

**~ Registration Form ~**

**~ John Libby Family Association 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion ~**

**Saturday, September 23, 2017**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please PRINT clearly. Include the FULL NAMES of all persons who will attend.

\*Registration and Raffle Tickets may be paid in one check (separate from any dues check).

Adult # 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Adult # 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Children (and ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number 1- (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone # is for use if there is any question with your form.)

\$5.00 per individual - \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00 ~ or ~ \$10.00 for a family of two or more - \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00

**DINNER MEAL (Home-style): Saturday at Noon by CVC Caterers**

(A Libby Favorite: includes Roast Chicken and mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls and butter, unsweetened iced tea, decaf coffee, and Maine blueberry cake)

Meal fee @ \$14.95 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS FOR MEALS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF PREPAID AND MAILED BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 !**

*(Walk-ins can NOT be served –ALL meals MUST be pre-paid!)*

AFGHAN **DRAWING** TICKETS [optional] @ \$2.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00 (PLEASE include your **filled-in** tickets)

**TOTAL enclosed - \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

Please make your Reunion registration/meal/afghan tickets check payable to:

“John Libby Family Association” and mail to :

**Libby Family Reunion Registrations**

c/o Charles F. Davis, 195 Deacon Haynes Rd., Concord MA 01742

**Don't forget to send your Silent Auction items to Pat Davis, using the same address as for Charles.**

## **About the connection between R. S. Morse & J. R. Libby and their Morse-Libby House (Victoria Mansion)**

This information was compiled by JLFA Life & Board Member Allen E. Humphries

The Victoria Mansion was built by Ruggles Sylvester Morse. Joseph Ralph Libby, the Portland store-keeper, (#10-2-1-1-9-1-1 & #11-3-1-1-9-1-1) lived there later.

The JLFA's information (from Book I on-a-CD and the 'jlibby' database) on Joseph Ralph Libby and Ruggles Sylvester Morse and their ancestors shows that although they were (very distantly) related they were not close relatives. J. R. Libby descended from John "the Immigrant" Libby's sons John AND David. R. S. Morse also descended from John "the Immigrant" Libby's son David – but his line-of-descent deviated from J. R. Libby's. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of Jane Libby (#10-1-8-3-5) – therefore he was #10-1-8-3-5-3.

In the past, we have had JLFA Reunion presentations about J. R. Libby's store, including one about a dress that was sold there, put on by people from other places (like Maine Historical Society).

While you are in the Portland area for the JLFA Reunion – it would be worth your while to tour the house.

### **Morse-Libby Mansion (Victoria Mansion) information**

This information was sent to us by JLFA Life & Board Member Judie Stuntz but edited to fit our Newsletter

The Morse-Libby House, also known as the Victoria Mansion, carries the proud role of being one of the most important historic homes of the 19th century throughout the United States.

### **History of the Morse-Libby House**

Ruggles Sylvester Morse was born to very modest surroundings in Leeds, Maine, and by the time he became a teenager, he was already seeking his fortune. This led Morse to New Orleans in the 1840s, where he became the proprietor of the city's most extravagant hotels and grew famously wealthy.

Morse and his wife, Olive Ring Merrill Morse, returned to Maine to build their summer house in 1858. In addition to hiring 93 craftsmen to construct the house, Morse contacted New Haven architect Henry Austin, a recognized master of the Italianate style. Starting in 1858, Austin designed the home's asymmetrical villa with a square tower soaring above it all and providing breathtaking views toward Portland Harbor.

Morse's wishes were to design the house so that it would convey a blending of city and country life. By including numerous piazzas and balconies connecting the house to the landscape, Austin was able to invoke this spirit of urban in a rural space. Furthermore, the structure's asymmetrical plan, low-pitched roofs, and soaring square tower rich in detail eloquently blended with the earthy-colored Connecticut brownstone, giving the actual building a mix a city and Earth. This mansion was considered to be one of Austin's best works.

According to Morse, the house was to be a symbol of his wealth and success, while also serving as his personal retreat. During construction, it was immediately apparent that Morse's home would stand as the most luxurious (and costliest) house in the city. It is estimated that the house had cost between \$70,000 and \$100,000 (which was equivalent to between \$2,000,000 and \$2,850,000 in 2015). The Morse family lived in the mansion until Ruggles's death in 1893, and his widow sold the home to the Libby family, who lived there until 1923.

For 17 years, the house was empty, but in 1940, Dr. William Holmes bought and opened the home as a shrine and museum focusing on successful women, which explains why he named the house after Britain's Queen Victoria. A year later in 1941, Holmes opened the house as a museum.

Up until 1970, when the house was designated as a National Landmark, the Victoria Mansion showcased serious deterioration. In fact, its designation prompted community leaders and other wealthy individuals to restore the place, and nowadays, the Morse-Libby House endures as the premier and unparalleled example of pre-Civil War grandeur.

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JLFA Life Member John Rust has informed us that his high school friend Tom Johnson now manages that Victoria Mansion. He has also informed us that Tom is a fantastic historian who can answer your questions.