MEMORIES OF
MAINE
FREE
MID-COAST AND MID-MAINE EDITION / SPRING 2014

Racing Through by Claudia Diller. See artist biography on page 2.

INSIDE
The Francis Perkins Center in Newcastle/Damariscotta, Maine
Historic Maine Island Lighthouse
Living in the Past
The Classic Lyman and Antique Boat Rendezvous
Northwestern University's Maine Man
Creating Heritage from History
The Dresden Falls Archaic Site

DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF MAINE AND TO THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT PRESERVE IT
The Frances Perkins Center in Newcastle and Damariscotta, Maine, was incorporated in 2009 to make known the exemplary work and career of one of the great daughters of Maine, and to make her legacy relevant to present struggles for social justice and economic security of the American people.

Adam Cohen in his introduction to the recently reprinted edition of Frances Perkins's book, *The Roosevelt I Knew*, declares that “If American history textbooks accurately reflected the past, Frances Perkins would be recognized as one of the nation's greatest heroes—as iconic as Benjamin Franklin or Thomas Paine. Like Franklin, Perkins was a brilliant self-creation: There had not been anyone like her before and there has not been anyone like her since. Like Paine, Perkins helped start a revolution.” Lawrence O'Donnell on his MSNBC program, *The Last Word*, recently presented two segments on Frances Perkins describing her as perhaps the most consequential presidential cabinet member in history in her role as the main architect of the New Deal. When Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City was inaugurated this year on New Year's Day, he highlighted Perkins' role in FDR's Cabinet in establishing unemployment insurance and the minimum wage, both programs which are on the front burner of present political debate. None of this recent recognition of Perkins’ importance rested on the fact that she was the first female cabinet member in U.S. history, although that fact is of significance in understanding her contribution to the cracking of the political glass ceiling for women in America. Rather, these contemporary assessments recognize the extraordinary persistence and productivity of Frances Perkins' public career in the promotion of social justice and economic security.

Her political career began in earnest in 1911 in the wake of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York, lasted through the New York governorships of Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and reached its culmination in the administration of President Roosevelt where she was one of only three individuals to serve FDR during the entire twelve years of his presidency. Kirstin Downey's acclaimed biography, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins—Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, and the Minimum Wage*, begins her book with an account of the meeting between Miss Perkins and the President-elect in February of 1933 when she spelled out the conditions for her accepting his offer to be his Secretary of Labor. These conditions constituted an outline for what became known as the New Deal. Roosevelt agreed to all her stipulations and together they accomplished every one except a national health insurance system, which both Roosevelt and Perkins reluctantly dropped from the.

---

**2014 FRANCES PERKINS CENTER EVENTS**

- **March 20**: Breckinridge Long: American Eichmann - book signing and discussion of Frances Perkins' role in helping Jewish immigrants during World War II by author and historian Neil Rolde
- **April 10**: Frances Perkins' Birthday
- **May 9**: Presentation before the Senior College at USM Lewiston-Auburn
- **May 13**: Frances Perkins Feast Day - Christopher Breiseth speaking at the Parish of St. Monica and St. James
- **June 29**: Perkins Homestead Tour and Open House
- **July 20**: Perkins Homestead Tour and Open House
- **August 12**: "Celebrating Frances Perkins" Gates Auditorium, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine
- **August 14**: Sixth Annual Garden Party and Award Ceremony, Newcastle, Maine
- **September 14**: Perkins Homestead Tour and Open House

---

**FRANCES PERKINS CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Chair**: Christopher N. Breiseth, PhD, Ticonderoga, NY
- **Treasurer**: Hon. Leah W. Sprague, Newcastle, ME
- **Secretary**: Sarah M. Peskin, Walpole, ME
- **Kirstin Downey, Washington, DC**
- **Susan Feiner, PhD, Yarmouth, ME**
- **Rev. Charles Hoffacker, Washington, DC**
- **Gretel Porter, Walpole, ME**
- **Neil Rolde, York, ME**
- **Margaret R. Rotundo, Lewiston, ME**
- **Charles M. Wyzanski, Cambridge, MA**
II. Perkins inherited the property in 1927. After her death in 1965 she was buried in the Newcastle cemetery next to her husband, Paul Wilson, and near her Perkins ancestors. Her daughter, Susanna Wilson Coggeshall, inherited the property from Frances and in turn left it to her only child, Tomlin Coggeshall.

As Tomlin contemplated the long term fate of the property, including the 57 acre homestead with its 1837 brick house (the Perkinses were brick makers on this property for much of the nineteenth century), all remarkably preserved as it was during her lifetime, he and his husband, Christopher Rice, came up with the idea of establishing a Frances Perkins Center. In the Foreward to the book, A Promise to all Generations: Stories and Essays about Social Security and Frances Perkins, published by the Frances Perkins Center, Tomlin Coggeshall explains that the Center is devoted to “actively contributing to and affecting the debate over the safety net she helped create; supporting and strengthening Social Security is a top priority. My grandmother considered [the Social Security] program her most significant accomplishment.”

Developed by a group of local Maine residents under the protective nurture of Maine Initiatives, the Frances Perkins Center was incorporated as a 501 © 3 not-for-profit corporation in 2009, and has grown in both program and purpose. The emerging mission is twofold: first, to

---

Frances Perkins as a young woman, circa 1895. Photo courtesy Frances Perkins Center.

help fulfill the legacy of Frances Perkins by continuing her work for social justice and economic security and second, to help preserve for future generations her nationally significant family homestead in Newcastle. In both of these goals, the Center is committed to overcome the persistent obscurity of Miss Perkins’ pivotal role in American history.

Through programs that promote serious debate over contemporary issues, looked at in relation to Miss Perkins’s work and legacy, the Frances Perkins Center has a significant public educational role. Giving three major awards each year to individuals who
exemplify qualities they share with Frances Perkins, the Center has brought to Newcastle, and Portland, leaders from Maine and the nation for recognition. The awards have traditionally been made at a Garden Party at the Perkins Homestead in August, with occasional presentations in Portland. Through our Social Security Stories project, in conjunction with the AARP, the Center has been recording personal stories of individual beneficiaries of Social Security which are shared with the press and public officials as examples of how crucial Social Security is for millions of Americans as illustrated by these personal examples. These stories are also available on the Center’s website.

The Center’s office in downtown

PAST FRANCES PERKINS CENTER AWARD WINNERS

The Intelligence and Courage Award comes from a speech given by Frances Perkins in 1929 when she was New York State Industrial Commissioner, in which she pledged, “I promise to use what brains I have to meet problems with intelligence and courage. I promise that I will be candid about what I know. I promise to all of you who have the right to know, the whole truth so far as I can speak it.”

The Steadfast Award gets its name from the motto of Frances Perkins’ Mount Holyoke class of 1902, “Be ye steadfast.”

The Open Door Award is named after the advice given to Frances Perkins by her grandmother, that when a door opens to you, you must walk through it.

2013
- Ai-jen Poo – Intelligence and Courage Award
- Sally Greenberg – Steadfast Award
- Lynn Pasquerella – Open Door Award

2012
- Franklin D. Roosevelt III – Intelligence and Courage Award
- Dale McCormick – Steadfast Award
- Kathryn Edwards – Open Door Award

2011
- Ellen Bravo – Intelligence and Courage Award
- Peter Crockett – Steadfast Award
- Hilary Doe – Open Door Award

2010
- Brooksley Born – Intelligence and Courage Award
- Nancy Altman – Steadfast Award
- Megan Williams – Open Door Award

Frances Perkins spent every summer of her childhood at the family farm in Newcastle, and the property served as a retreat from her busy duties throughout her career in New York and Washington and until her death in 1965. Here she is pictured with the family dog Balto. Photo courtesy Frances Perkins Center.

Damariscotta has an extensive exhibit on Frances Perkins’ life and career. The office is open regularly during the summer months and by arrangement during the remainder of the year. There are also tours of the property during the summer, for which visitors must sign up in advance. Last year’s tours were all filled during pre-registration. The Center’s website, www.FrancesPerkinsCenter.org has information on hours when the office is open as well as on forthcoming programs.

The Center has recently named Michael P. Chaney its new Executive Director. Michael most recently served as the Executive Director of the Yarmouth Historical Society in Yarmouth, Maine. Before that Michael was President and CEO of the New Hampshire Political Library, devoted to the preservation of materials related to New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation presidential primary. A Maine native, Chaney earned a B.A. in history at the University of Maine in 1979 and an M.A. in history and a Certificate in Public History and Archival Management from the University of Connecticut in 1985.

Preserving the Perkins Homestead is integral to our educational mission. A nationally significant property, it has been recommended as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service and is expected to be so designated in 2014. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places thanks to a nomination prepared by Christi Mitchell of the Maine State Historic Preservation Office as a saltwater farm notable for its architecture, archeological sites and agricultural landscape in addition to its role as the place Frances Perkins called home. The Center seeks to acquire and preserve the homestead as a place where Frances Perkins’ legacy can come alive. A fundraising campaign will be launched soon for this purpose. As the future home of the Frances Perkins Center, the property will be maintained much as it appears today—little changed from 1965 as Miss Perkins knew it—with possibly some modifications to the barn and sheds to accommodate Center programs throughout all seasons. In supporting the application for National Historic Landmark status, Stephen Bromage, Executive Director of the Maine Historical Society, explained that Frances Perkins “was the primary architect of perhaps the most important and defining legislative package of the twentieth century—the effort to establish a comprehensive social safety net for the American people. That broad-based legislation expressed a clear set of social values and responsibilities that endure, both legislatively and as a defining element of the relationship between U.S. citizens and their government. Debate over these values, in fact, remains at the center of political discourse today.”

Balancing the Center’s Maine story with the national story of Frances Perkins is one of our central challenges and opportunities. I personally live in Ticonderoga, New York, and was drawn to the Center by my relationship with Miss Perkins at Cornell University.
Each summer, the Frances Perkins Center celebrates the life and accomplishments of Perkins in the gardens of the Brick House, the Perkins Homestead in Newcastle.

where she spent her last ten years teaching in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. We asked her to live with us at the Telluride House which she did for her final five years. She and I put on two seminars for students in the house, one with Henry A. Wallace, the other with James A. Farley, two of her close colleagues on FDR's Cabinet. In return for her free room and board, which appealed to her Yankee frugality, she treated the members of the house each year to a fresh Maine lobster dinner. The privilege of this association with one of the giants of 20th century America motivates me today to do what I can to make known her legacy which is as timely now as it was during the 1930's when she and others in President Roosevelt’s administration struggled with the human problems stemming from the Great Depression. [My essay

on these Cornell years, “The Frances Perkins I Knew,” is available on the Center's website.]

When Kirstin Downey and I edited A Promise to All Generations (available through the Frances Perkins Center or on Amazon), we selected a quotation from Frances Perkins which characterized her philosophy—and which is at the center of the debate today over the role of government in America: “The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life.”

VILLAGE TRAVEL
“Making Dreams Become Memories!”
18 Years Experience
Booking Tours, Travel & Cruises
Ruth Etheridge
207-529-2298 • villagetravel@roadrunner.com

Scarborough’s Collision
Locally Owned & Operated by Jim Scarborough
COLLISION WORK • INSURANCE CLAIMS
FRAME REPAIR • PRECISION PAINTING
LOANERS AVAILABLE
“We Take The Dents Out Of Accidents”
563-5281
77 Biscay Rd., Damariscotta • 3/10 of a mile past McDonald's

Lake Pemaquid Camping
Quiet, wooded sites on beautiful Pemaquid Lake
Near the ocean in coastal Damariscotta

RENTAL CABINS & COTTAGES
• 1 Mile of Lakeside Camping • Tennis Courts
• Sauna, Swimming Pool & Jacuzzi
• Sandy, Shallow Beaches • Rental Boats with Motors
• Rental Canoes • Fishing Licenses and Bait
• Snack Bar • Lobsters • Beer & Wine

For Free Brochure, Write or Call:
Lake Pemaquid Camping
Box 967, Damariscotta, Maine 04543
(207) 563-5202

The Brick House was built in 1837 as a wedding gift to Frances Perkins’ grandparents, built of bricks from the family brickyard on the Damariscotta River. The 57-acre property is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been nominated as a National Historic Landmark.