

A Fair to Remember – Monmouth Fair 1917

The Lewiston Evening Journal September 27, 1917

Monmouth, Me., Sept 27. (Special). – A beautiful day, as warm as July, brought out a crowd of people to attend the 11th annual cattle show and fair of the Cochnewagan Agricultural association at Cumston Park, Monmouth, Wednesday. The folks came not only from the home town but from Wales, Litchfield, Winthrop, Leeds, Wayne and other towns and by afternoon the attendance was a record breaker. The fair was a big success. The officials spared no pains to make it so and were untiring in their work throughout the day. Many improvements in the arrangement of exhibits were noted which added greatly to the general effect and convenience and which will tend to encourage exhibitors to participate in the fair.

Cumston Park is an ideal exhibition ground. The hall crowns a gentle rise of land and from here you can see a sort of panorama of the fair. Automobiles and carriages enter the southeast corner of the grounds and wander at their own sweet will anywhere that there is room for them. In the east foreground is the pump where one can get pure cold water, actually free of charge. Wednesday there was a constant pilgrimage to that pump, for as the day advanced it, fairly sizzled with heat. Trees in the Northeast side of the park offer cooling shade. At the north, stands the restaurant building owned and managed by Cumston Library association. A glance westward, shows the baseball or basketball teams at play and the grandstand; near the hall, the pulling horses and cattle are doing their stunts. Southward, down the hill, lines of ribbons show the location of horses and cattle. Near the hall on the east side are the tents and stands where refreshments and the usual whips, canes and pennants are sold. The absence of a midway is refreshingly noticeable.

The Officers: The officers of the fair are: Pres., H. H. Witherell; vice pres., H. S. Bates; sec., W. E. Reynolds; treas., Charles H. Berry; trustees: U. S. Emery, John Robinson, Frank Bickford, Leeds; Luther Goding, I. H. Pettingill, W. J. Leavitt, C. M. Randlette. Superintendents: Grounds, Henry Simpson, hall, U. S. Emery; cattle, C. H. Berry; horses, H. S. Bates; pulling, I. H. Pettingill; sports, C. M. Randlette; poultry, John Alden, Winthrop; tickets, George B. Pottle.

Hall Display: The hall display was exceedingly good this year although there was a notable lack of competition in some departments. There was an excellent showing of fruit and farm products and these were tastefully arranged. The canned goods were very fine and the display of fancy work one the best ever held in the hall. A silver cup offered by the Cochnewagan Agricultural association for best herd of cattle added interest to the cattle department and one of the principal events of the afternoon was the baby show.

Among the farm and garden products were the following exhibits: T. I. Hallowell, Curtis Corner; W. E. Reynolds, Richard Brindley, Winthrop. Secretary Reynolds had 40 varieties of farm produce, including fine specimens of field and sweet corn, oats, beans of several varieties, buckwheat, turnips, carrots, beets, tomatoes, peas, onions, potatoes, cucumbers and alfalfa. Richard Brindley had cabbage, citron, potatoes, squash and other vegetables. Flint corn was shown by George Longfellow, L. S. Goding, W. E. Reynolds, G. E. Frost, E. M. Mann, Max Willard, I. H. Pettingill and James Longwood. Potatoes were shown by W. J. Leavitt, W. E. Reynolds, W. B. Fowler, Byron Shaw, J. H. Gilman, Hartley Richardson, Leeds Junction, Charles Richardson, Leeds Junction. I. H. Pettingill had three varieties of fine potatoes: Green mountain, early rose and early queen.

Yellow corn was shown by J. H. Gilman and W. E. Witherell. Fruit displayed was of good quality. D. M. Benner exhibited 1 barrel, 2 boxes and 28 plates; W. E. Reynolds, 2 barrels, 2 boxes, 27 plates; H. H. Witherell, 1 barrel, 1 box, 27 plates. Fruit on plates: W. J. Leavitt, 27 varieties; U. S. Emery, 24 varieties; W. B. Fowler, 23 varieties.

Dainty Needlework: The fancy work department was very fine and unusually full, Miss Hazel Drake had some pretty specimens of tatting, and also showed embroidered centerpieces, pillowcases, bureau scarf, table runner. Mrs. W. W. Drake exhibited fine examples of filet work embroidery and hemstitching. Mrs. Ralph Goss, Litchfield, table runner with elaborate crocheted insertion; Mrs. George Peterson, tray holders, embroidery; Mrs. A. L. Whitehouse crocheted yoke and three towels with crocheted ends; Mrs. H. B. Frost, handsome table runner with crocheted work; Miss Dorothy Reynolds, tatting collar and yoke; Miss Jennie Fowler, 13, embroidered apron, centerpiece and sofa pillow; Mrs. F. O. Flanders had two very

daintily made tatting collars. Miss Grace Clough had pretty crocheted collars. Mrs. A. J. Loon, crocheted yoke, three towels with crocheted ends. Mrs. Bert Foster, centerpiece, luncheon cloth and doilies, bureau scarf, pair pillow cases, night dress; Doris Chick, age 10, had a lovely dolly's outfit with nice hand-sewing; Mrs. Lester Austin showed a table of crocheted work which included a baby dress, baby cap, pillow case ends, doilies, bag, and night dress yoke. Miss Mary Allen, Litchfield, had a fine display of needlework consisting of bedspread, sheet and pillow cases, table cloth, centerpiece, and bureau scarf in solid embroidery and cut work. Miss Leola Curtis, 15, embroidered towels, crocheted pillow slip ends, pin cushion. Miss Helen Flanders had one of the most beautiful collections in the hall. With exquisite embroidery and crochet-work, including sheet and pillowcases to match, buffet scarf, luncheon cloth and napkins, guest towels and doilies. Mrs. G. H. Stetson, table runner with applique work. She also had a handsome sofa pillow embroidered with flags. Mrs. A. S. Wilcox also had one. Mrs. W. F. Lord had quest towel with crocheted work on ends and general needle work. Miss Ruby Wheeler, crocheted cords. Miss Marion March had a beautiful centerpiece and table runner with solid embroidery, and cut work. Mrs. George Frost showed pillow cases with embroidery and insertion, guest towels, infant's dress and lace. Miss Emily Coffin pretty crocheted work and cross-stitch embroidery. Oil paintings, one exhibit each, were shown by Mrs. L. T. Shorey and Miss Inez Marston. Miss Leola Curtis and Miss Jennie Fowler exhibited sofa pillows. There were only a few quilts and rungs but they were very handsome. Mrs. N. B. Cram had one, rising sun pattern; Mrs. E. C. Hayford, one quartered orange pattern also a braided rug; Mrs. Lena Whittier Carr had a silk quilt. Mrs. Eben Mann, a drawn rug.

Luscious Canned Goods: The showing of canned goods was excellent. There was a fine exhibit by members of the girls' canning club, Mrs. W. J. Leavitt had 50 varieties of fruit and vegetables; Virginia Richardson, (12 years) 31 varieties; Doris Chick, (11 years) 37 varieties; Dorothy Reynolds, 36 varieties; Florence Berry, 18 varieties; Helen Prescott, 5 varieties. Cooked food was also shown in glass cases, a fine general exhibit being made by Mrs. W. B. Fowler; butter and cheese of splendid quality were shown by Nathan True, of Litchfield. Flowers were shown by Mrs. W. W. Drake. Alto Harris, Jennie Fowler and Dorothy Reynolds had fine displays of bread.

Some Fine Poultry: Probably the best poultry display ever held here, although not the largest was that of Wednesday. The fowls were all clean, handsome specimens of unusual size. White Dirigos were shown by John Alden, Winthrop; R. I. Reds, E. D. Baird; White Wyandottes and Leghorns, Richard Brindley; Black Spanish chickens, 3 ½ months old, Charlie Richardson, Leeds; R. I. Reds, I. H. Pettingill; R. I. Reds, King Witherell and Gerald Witherell; White Wyandottes, Harold Tillson; brahmas, H. H. Witherell; Guinea fowl, Scott Higgins; White Plymouth rocks, Wallace True of Litchfield, age 10; rabbits, Charles Henry and Wesley Robinson, 1st award.

Cattle Exhibited: The cattle exhibited was very good, showing several young herds: L. S. Goding, a prominent cattle man had seven Guernseys, Charles H. Berry was there with 12 head of the same breed; G. P. Benner had 15 head of the Holstein-Freisian stock from City Valley farm; I. H. Pettingill, 5 Holsteins; W. F. Higgins and Will Cressey showed matched oxen; Bert Robinson, Durham steers, 1 year old; Scott Higgins, yearling steers; James Raymond and L. C. Berry, matched Herefords, beauties; F. E. Bickford of Leeds Junction had a herd of 12 jerseys. Draft mares and colt were shown by Alton Harris, Bert Robinson, G. M. Haynes and G. P. Benner. Gerald Hall showed a handsome grade Belgian stallion, 2 years old.

Sheep were exhibited by Scott Higgins. C. H. Berry exhibited a Poland China sow and litter of pigs; Bert Robinson, a Chester White sow and litter.

The Baby Show: The baby show, in charge of Mrs. H. H. Witherell, was held in the afternoon and aroused much interest as the crowd of onlookers testified. Ten babies only were entered in the contest. How the judges arrived at their decision in the brief time given was a mystery, as all the babies were fat and beautiful and proper in every respect. However, the prizes went as follows: Fattest baby, Roger E. Smith, son of Clinton Smith of Monmouth; youngest baby, Marjorie, 3 weeks old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A.

Waterman, Auburn, who won the Vanta baby outfit offered by the manufacturers; nosiest baby, Donald E., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Ham, Wales; stillest baby, Clement H., son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard

Smith, Monmouth; baby with the straightest hair, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith, Wayne; bluest-eyed baby, Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Anderson, Monmouth; prettiest baby, Norma Additon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Additon, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Additon, Greene; curliest-haired baby, Roscoe S., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson, Monmouth; strongest baby, Alfred Earl, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Pease, Monmouth.

Prizes Awarded: Awards were as follows: Class 1 – Cumston Hall Trustees' prizes: Best exhibit garden products, \$5, \$3, \$2: T. J. Hallowell, Curtis Corner, 1st. Best general exhibit farm products, \$5, \$3, \$2: W. E. Reynolds, 1st; Richard Brindley, Winthrop, 2nd. Best exhibit fruit in boxes, barrels and plates, \$5, \$3, \$2: W. E. Reynolds, 1st; D. M. Benner, 2nd; H. H. Witherell, 3rd. Best exhibit potatoes, 3 varieties, in one-peck lots, \$3, \$2, \$1: W. E. Reynolds, 1st; I. H. Pettingill, 2nd. Best exhibit corn, \$3, \$2, \$1: W. E. Reynolds, 1st; popcorn, Gerald Witherell; J. H. Gilman, 2nd. Best trace flint corn, special entry, \$3, \$2, \$1: L. S. Goding, 1st; W. E. Reynolds, 2nd; G. W. Longfellow, 3rd. Best exhibit canned goods, \$5, \$3, \$2. Mrs. W. J. Leavitt, 1st. Best exhibit canned goods by girl under 16, \$3, \$2, \$1. Virginia M. Richardson, 1st; Florence Berry 2nd; Mrs. George E. Frost, 3rd. Best exhibit art work, oil and water color paintings and crayon drawings by exhibitor, \$2, \$1. Mrs. L. T. Shorey, Miss Inez Marston, 2nd. Best display of potted plants and cut flowers, not less than six varieties, grown by exhibitor, \$2, \$1. Mrs. W. W. Drake, 10 varieties, 1st. Best exhibit of wood grown in Maine, exhibited by boy under 16, \$3, \$2, \$1: Gordon Witherell, 1st; Gerald Witherell, 2nd. The silver cup offered by the Cochnewagan Agricultural Association for the best breeder's young herd, any breed was won by F. E. Bickford, of Spring Brook Farm, Leeds Junction with his heard of Jerseys. The cup is to remain the property of the association until the contestant has won it three years in succession. Class 5 – Pulling Horses Pair 2800 lbs. and over, C. R. Parker, Leeds, 1st; Caldwell & Farmer, Leeds, 2nd. Pair 2600 lbs. and under 2800 lbs., Caldwell & Farmer, Leeds, 1st; C. R. Parker, 2nd; C. E. Tompkins, 3rd. Pair under 2600 lbs., Wing & Parker, 1st; Pettingill & Robinson, 2nd; W. E. Carr, 3rd. Class 6 – Draft Oxen – Best pair 7 ft. or over, S. Cressey, 1st. Best pair of oxen under 7 ft., W. S. Higgins, 2nd. Best pair steers.

M. L. Getchell Co. exhibited a fine line of Monmouth moccasins, showing the great improvement in work and wide variety of styles of the present time. The exhibit was in charge of Harry E. Merrill of the firm.

Cumston Library Association served dinner in its building and sent out many lunches. Monmouth Troop, No. 1, Boy Scouts, had a neat tent and did a thriving business selling ice cream, lemonade, home-made candy and peanuts. Scout master, Roy Woodbury and his assistant, Horton Blake, were in charge. The Winthrop Fruit Co. and other stands did good business all day.

President Witherell and the other officers of the fair expressed great satisfaction at the exhibition and attendance.

Note: *The Lewiston Daily Sun* of September 27, 1917 ran a shorter article with slightly different details. The Cochnewagan Hall, exhibition hall, had its' 100th Anniversary in 2009.