



## Centennial Hall And Denmark Historical Society Information Sheet

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Denmark Historical Society is to collect, preserve and make available through exhibits, educational programs and publications, historical and genealogical material relating principally to the Town of Denmark and its citizens so that people now and in the future, will have resources to study their heritage.

### Details

Denmark Historical Society first met at Denmark Public Library Wednesday, November 8, 1989 at 7:30 PM for the purpose to collect, preserve, and make available historical and genealogical material relating to Denmark through exhibits, educational programs and publications.

We appreciate the vision of our charter members to preserve Denmark's past.

Since the first meeting the historical society has called Denmark Public Library home. We store our artifacts in a section of the basement and use the library's meeting room for events and display of artifacts.

We maintain a presence on the internet with our website and Facebook page Denmark, Maine Memories to talk about all things Denmark!

The Historical Society houses larger items at Centennial Hall. In 2016 we created a Memorandum of Understanding. We work together not only displays of items from the collection and on programming too.

In 2017 the library agreed to display our book collection in the reference section of the library's book stacks. With this agreement patrons are better able to research Maine and New England history and genealogy during library hours. Soon the historical society's book holdings will be searchable with Maine State Library's online catalog.

The historical society has begun the ambitious program to professionally digitize much of its collection. When complete our collection of images, albums, scrapbooks, diaries, ledgers and documents will be searchable from Maine State Library's online catalog. Many of the items will be able to be viewed from computers around the world!



We have created an Acquisitions Fund to purchase artifacts pertaining to Denmark's past, a Collections Fund to preserve and protect our holdings and a Digitization Fund to pay for the costly process of digitizing the collection.

Along with our bylaws we have a collections policy which defines our collections plan and procedures. We have created a catalog and numbering system to locate and note information about each item in the collection.

### Centennial Hall

Centennial Hall was built in 1876, the national centennial. From its construction, it has served many functions, often more than one at a time. Initially it was a clothing factory, as well as the meeting place for the Knights of the Maccabees, a fraternal organization in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The upstairs was used as a coffin factory in the 1930s, and from the 1920s until 1982 a portion of the downstairs was the US Post Office. After it ceased being the Post Office, the building was used as storage.

For the last several years, Centennial Hall has hosted public events for the historical society. The hall, as well as the adjoining farmhouse, barn, and outbuildings, are owned privately by Terry Rhoads. The hall and barn are being restored and improved, with the goal of creating a museum of artifacts relating to Denmark's past. A particular focus is on water-powered machinery, as was used in the mills which were once common along Denmark's streams.

Although Centennial Hall and Denmark Historical Society work very closely together, it should be noted that they are separate entities. The two created a Memorandum of Understanding, which allows the historical society to display and/or store items at Centennial Hall. The society would otherwise be unable to preserve and protect larger items, due to the limited space available in the basement of the library.

### Collection

What does Denmark Historical Society collect – all things about Denmark, Maine. Photos, postcards, posters, ledgers, scrapbooks, diaries & journals, items from each organization and municipal entity. We collect tools and equipment. In our collection are beautiful quilts and woven blankets. We have a wedding dress and a World War II uniform and medals of its owner. We have movies of Denmark and its people.

<https://denmarkhistoricalsociety.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DenmarkMemories/>