

The Origins of New Auburn

Historic Walking Tour

“A Planned Maine Manufacturing Village”

Reported in the August 8, 1872 Lewiston Evening Journal, “Mr. J.P. Norton has contracted to put in at once the stonework on the canal on the Little Androscoggin, the wheel pit, wheel house, etc. The water will be turned into the river opposite the mill....Brickwork on the mill will be completed and in running order in March. The class of goods to be made will probably be sheetings. It will employ about 400 hands, and will at once create a demand for more houses in Auburn. There will doubtless, be a good many houses started this fall in anticipation of demand, This one mill will increase the population of Auburn directly and indirectly at least one thousand. 16,000 spindles have already been ordered for the new mill.”

And on November 22, 1872 it was reported, “The new Auburn cotton mill is to be called “**Barker Mill**” in honor of C.I. Barker Esq. of this city, and a tablet inscribed with the name of the mill will be placed in the brickwork of the tower.”

Join the City of Auburn’s Economic Development Specialist, Alan S. Manoian, for a fascinating & informative historic walking tour of the New Auburn Neighborhood around the Barker Mill & the Little Androscoggin River.

6:00PM-7:00PM

Wednesday, August 28th

Tourists meet at the Little Androscoggin River Bridge

Come listen and learn of the “Father of New Auburn” Augustus M. Pulsifer; how 300 acres of wild forested land at the confluence of the Androscoggin & Little Androscoggin Rivers was purchased in 1870 to create a planned cotton textile manufacturing village; of the original worker’s ferry boat between Lewiston & Auburn; of the source of the Barker Mill’s 2.5 million bricks; of how the new village street system was designed and laid out; of the arrival of various immigrant peoples into the new manufacturing village; the building of the 1874 “South Bridge”; and of how a compact, walkable, connective, distinctive, vibrant, diverse, and memorable neighborhood of quality homes, small businesses, schools, houses of worship, social-civic-fraternal clubs, and lively urban streets came to be the place known as “New Auburn”.

This Historic Walking Tour serves to encourage the residents of New Auburn and Auburn to directly participate in the ongoing
“New Auburn Village Transportation & Land Use Study”.

For additional info contact Alan S. Manoian, Economic Development Specialist at Auburn City Hall at 333.6601 X1214 and/or amanoian@auburnmaine.gov.