



STAGE CURTAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

The New Hampton Historical Society had the first meeting of the fall on October 22nd at the Gordon-Nash Library in New Hampton. This was a very informative and exciting meeting to learn about the history and charm of the vintage Stage Curtains of this area. The New Hampton Stage Curtain Restoration Project is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This community project will work to restore two painted stage curtains found in the New Hampton Grange Hall and the Town House.

Nearly every town hall, grange and opera house had a stage curtain during the early 1900's. Yet, for the last eighty to one hundred years, they have been hidden away in vacant buildings, in barns, and forgotten.

Under the watchful eye of the Burlington, Vermont based preservation company, "Curtains Without Borders", the two New Hampton curtains are on their way to being cleaned and restored under the watchful eye of Christine Hadsel, the director.

Ms Hadsel's work with historic stage scenery began in 1996, when she procured a grant from the National Trust to search for and inventory Vermont's painted theater curtains. As of January, 2011, all 185 curtains in the Vermont statewide inventory have been stabilized by a team of conservators and assistants, with the help of local volunteers. The collection of Vermont curtains has been awarded the status of "National Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the work to conserve them on-site has received national and international recognition. In 2008, she worked with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to identify historic painted scenery in New Hampshire. She has now identified and catalogued over 150 New England Stage Curtains.

The Town of New Hampton and the NHHS are proud to be undertaking this historic project. The work on the curtains will be done "on site" in the Town House during the last week in May, 2014. The committee welcomes any volunteers to help with this project. Please call Carole Curry 744 -9798 or Barbara Lucas at the town offices for more information.



NEW HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 422

NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

Do you want to know more about the history of the town of New Hampton and support its educational programs and historic preservation efforts?

Visit our website to learn more or contact one of the board members.

NEW HAMPTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



FALL 2013 EDITION

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Introduction to the New Hampton Historical Society Thirteen Years Ago

Shortly after my wife Nancy and I moved to New Hampton from Laconia we received a notice from the New Hampton Historical Society about a very interesting program (which I don't even remember now). The one problem with the notice was that it was several days late. I thought pompously to myself, "This organization needs to be better organized." With that thought in mind I wrote a letter criticizing the organization for their late notice and offered the suggestion of having someone more responsible in getting out the announcements.

After sending the letter I received a phone call from Bud Moore, asking if he could meet with me. I said sure, and when he arrived in a small sports car,

we drank iced tea and talked for some time about life in New Hampshire, family and of course, the New Hampton Historical Society. Bud very kindly pointed out to me that I could help to be a solution to the problem. I thought to myself, "Oh boy, why did I write that letter?" When Bud left our house, a few hours after he arrived, I had agreed to join the Board of the Historical Society. Little did I know, at that time, I would still be a part of the organization I was critical of 13 years ago. Because of Bud Moore, I became an active Board member and Bud gave much of himself to the organization as he did for so many other organizations and individuals, like myself. He and his wife Jinga gave incalculable hours of their personal time to the Historical Society. The Board and members of the New Hampton Historical Society owe a great deal to Bud for all he gave to us.

His presence at our annual meetings and monthly programs will be missed, but his spirit will continue to bring new faces to our organization. Thank you, Bud Moore, for being a part of my life and thank you from all those who benefitted from your wise words and community spirit.

Gordon DuBois,
President



NHHS NOVEMBER PROGRAM -STORIES OF OUR TOWN

Wednesday
November 20th
7:00 PM

Gordon-Nash
Library

Program is free & open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



The history of any community can best be told through the voices of people who have lived that history. Over the past year, elder residents of New Hampton, NH have been interviewed as part of the New Hampton Oral History Project, funded in part through a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Their stories, about life in their community, provide a unique look into life as it was lived in a small rural New Hampshire Community. Several of these town members will share their individual stories, revealing the values that shaped the character of the community.

Topics will include the Hurricane of 1938, the New Hampton Grange, Old Home Day, the one room schools, town governance/services, and cultural and demographic changes in the town over the past 70 years. Audience members will also be invited to share their own stories. New Hampton residents are strongly encouraged to attend and share their own stories of life as it was lived in the early 20th century

Contact: Gordon DuBois, 279 0379

THE HEMLOCKS-CAMP FOR BOYS, 1933-1967 *and beyond*

By Amy Rand MacDonald



In the late 1920's my grandparents, Charles and Thrina Rand, began coming to New Hampton as summer visitors. They had immigrated (Charles from England, and Thrina from Norway) to the United States and lived in Newton Massachusetts. Charles taught woodworking in Boston area private schools and had the summers off. When visiting New Hampton, they were guests of 'Auntie' Alice Blood and 'Auntie' Ula Dow in the village, staying in Miss Blood's house, currently the home of Mark and Theo Denoncour. They were called Aunties, but were not related. The Rands knew Alice Blood and Ula Dow, who were professors of nutrition at Simmons College in Boston, because the 'Aunties' were their third floor tenants in Newton. In 1934, Charles and Thrina bought the Hemlocks property from Minnie Marsh, widow of John Marsh Sr. By that time the Ayers Dam in Bristol had been built and the fast flowing Pemi became the dammed river we see today.

The Pemigewasset River borders one side of the property and a brook flows into a bay on the other creating a peninsula of approximately 8 acres. The majority of the property was a cow pasture. One small barn stood near the top of the hill. In appreciation for introducing the Rands to New Hampton, Charles built a row boat where he taught shop at The Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge, MA for the two 'aunties' to use on the river. The property became a summer home for Charles, Thrina and their three children, Stuart, Ted, my father, and Randy (Marshall). Rand relatives would drive the five hours from Greater Boston to enjoy the 'fresh New Hampshire air'. They fished, often catching pickerel, swam in the river, and helped remodel the barn into living quarters. Charles and Thrina slept upstairs with Randy, Ted and Stuart slept in a newly built 'log cabin'. Visitors slept downstairs on the floor of the barn. There was a fireplace for cool evenings, and a wood stove for cooking.

Ted and Stuart began inviting friends to New Hampton as summer guests. In 1935, The Hemlocks Camp for Boys was established. Additional cabins were built to house the growing number of campers. Among the many activities, the boys enjoyed swimming, exploring, boating, woodworking and arts and crafts. Charles ran the camp until 1950. During the summer of 1951 Charles and Ted ran the camp together resulting in Ted becoming the Director in 1952. During the transition, Charles and Thrina built the log house at the gate called Elvebakken that is Norwegian for river bank. They continued to summer there and often came down to the camp to see the boys and eat in the dining hall. In 1979, the Elvebakken property became the retirement home of Randy and Howard Marshall. It is now owned by their children. Lucy (my mother) entered The Hemlocks family in the summer of 1947 when she and Ted's sister Randy ran a 'Nursery Camp' for four to six year old children. Ted and Lucy married in June of 1948. When Ted took over The Hemlocks, it was both Lucy and Ted that ran the camp. Lucy worked closely with the cooks, planning the meals and putting in the weekly food orders. She filled in for the nurse, purchased needed supplies, was Mom for homesick boys, and picked up loose ends to keep things running smoothly. My brother Jon, sister Faith and I spent lovely summers with the baby sitter, and have many fond memories of camp life. When we were old enough, Faith and I went to a girl's camp. My brother Jon, became a Hemlocks camper.

In 1967, after a total of 32 years Ted and Lucy decided it was time to stop operating the camp. In that year Ted became the Headmaster of the Meadowbrook School in Weston, MA, a private elementary school. The property is now used by the Rand extended family and guests for vacations, swimming, cookouts, boat rides, maintenance jobs and family time together.

At the Hemlocks 1957



Happy campers 1964



Thank you, Amy, for hosting the Historical Society's annual Summer Outing at the Hemlocks this year. We had a marvelous time. Pat and Manfred arrived by canoe with cooler on board! Relaxing by the pool and sharing the beauty of the Hemlocks was a wonderful experience.

Editor notes: Some content of the article was omitted due to space limitations and will be included in the next newsletter in a continuing story about the History of the Hemlocks.

Upcoming Programs:

November 20th-Stories of Our Town

January 23rd –The Romantic Period and British Literature

February 18th-Historic Art of Floor Covering

March 20th-The Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War-Vanished Veterans: New Hampshire's Civil War Monument and Memorials

April 24th-A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes

May 13th-Contra Dancing in New Hampshire-Then and Now

May 27th-May 30th-Stage Curtain Restoration Project

Programs are @7:00PM

Held at Gordon-Nash Library except: Contra Dancing and Stage Curtain Restoration will be at the historic New Hampton Town House(circa 1788)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?



Sighted in front of the Gordon-Nash Library on June 1st! Participating in the Historic Homes of Main Street Walking Tour. Introduced himself as Levi Carter(or direct descendent). Very convincing. Knew all about Levi. I actually didn't know who he really was—do you?

The Historical Society's Museum attracted many visitors on Old Home Day!

Stacy and Julie take a break after a full day greeting 75+ people from all over and of all ages. Some local families returned a couple of times to show their kin pictures of relatives. Dana Torsey spotted his picture in a school album collection that Carole put together and brought several people back to see his find! A big attraction was the Walking Tour Exhibit Carole and society members put together with booklets available and a DVD running throughout the day.



The Traveling Trunk starts out once again!

There are probably no more questioning young minds than those of fourth graders in the New Hampton Elementary School class taught by Mr. Scott McCann. These are the future historians and questioners of our day! Beginning in late September and progressing through the school year until early June, Bob and Carole Curry will be bringing The Traveling Trunk to this class with stories, facts, and interesting ideas to discuss and think through. "Who lived here first?", "What was a winter on the farm like in 1790?", "Who were the first kids to go to a one room school in this town?", "What do you mean they rolled the snow?" These and many other subjects will be shared. An old trunk is the center attraction for each visit the Currys make. In it will be artifacts of some type from the New Hampton Historical Society's museum on Dana Hill Road. Small items like an old ink well, larger items such as a wooden pin used to hold fast the timbers in a covered bridge, or perhaps an early map showing the town's first "subdivision"! Stories will emerge from an old bottle found under a rock in a stone wall, or perhaps a present day student will discover that his/her family name dates back to the very first settlers on this small gore of land known as New Hampton. Three field trips will also be part of this educational year's planning with the entire class visiting the museum come spring. It is a great privilege to be invited into this classroom, and it's great fun to see the interest of young minds come out in colorful opinions and questions.

Bob Curry, Historian
Carole Curry, Curator