

STORIES OF OUR TOWN: NEW HAMPTON, PART II



On October 23, 2014, the Society hosted Part II, Stories of Our Town. Six long-time residents of New Hampton shared reflections on their experiences of life as it was lived several decades ago. These stories revealed the values that shaped our community. Topics included: the grange, farm life, the community church, New Hampton School, politics, and the neighborhood schools. This story circle was one of two culminating events from the Oral History Project conducted by the Historical Society from 2012-2014. The program was attended by many community residents who also shared their stories of a by-gone era.

Pictured above from left to right are: Bob Smith, Ed Huckins, Jane Willingham Smith, Ethel Kelly Schofield, Lucien Schofield, and Joan Smith Blake. Our sincere appreciation goes to these New Hampton residents and others who participated in our Oral History project.

DVD copies of the personal interviews, as well the two story circles, are available from the Historical Society by emailing Gordon DuBois at forestpd@metrocast.net. There is a \$10.00 charge for each DVD.

In late May, the Historical Society will finalize our program offerings for 2015-2016, and we will let everyone know what's on the agenda via email and program cards. If you aren't already receiving our email notices and would like to be on the list, please email: newhamptonhistory@gmail.com with your request and email address.



NEW HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. 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.



The New Hampton Historical Society, established in 1945, is a not-for-profit educational organization, whose mission is to research and preserve the History of the Town of New Hampton through collections and preservation of historic material and its buildings, and to share the rich heritage of the town with residents, visitors and students through exhibits, programs, interpretation and preservation.

Newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER 2015 EDITION

President's Message: What's in the Future for us?

We reflect on our activities since last Summer and are ever so grateful for the support and attendance at our programs. The repeat of the "Our Town" program with a different group of participants gave our residents another hearty experience on how life used to be in our town. All the other programs have also been well attended. As we plan for the next year and manage our programs and care of our museum, I wonder what our visions and obligations for the future should be. Will there always be a desire or need for what we provide at present to the community? Do we need to change to keep what we do viable and worthy of interest? How can we attract younger generations and what are our obligations to them? Meanwhile, we would like to promote more interest and invite active participation. Everyone can help in some way. Tell your friends and neighbors about us and invite them to our programs. Thank you for your support, and have a wonderful summer,

Manfred Hoertdoerfer,
President

Visit our Museum! New Display features Vintage Vehicles



Historical Society Board Member, Tom Smith, has collected model vintage cars and trucks for many years. We have put together a wonderful exhibit that will be on display at the museum.



The museum on Dana Hill Road will be open this summer on Saturdays June 20th through August 29th from 10:00AM until 12:00 Noon. Please be sure to stop by on Old Home Day when we will be open all day. Visits may also be scheduled with our Curator, Carole Curry, by calling 744-9798.

The Museum has a great deal of history of New Hampton, the people who lived in Town, the workshops and businesses that kept the Town running and collections of pictures and stories. It is a children friendly museum and they can have a wonderful and imaginary time.

Hope to see you there,
Carole Curry, Curator

NHHS Membership Year: JULY 1, 2015—JUNE 30, 2016

New and past members, please see the insert in our Newsletter and send your membership donation to the New Hampton Historical Society. Membership forms are also available at our programs, at the NHHS Museum and with our newsletters and program material at the Gordon-Nash Library.

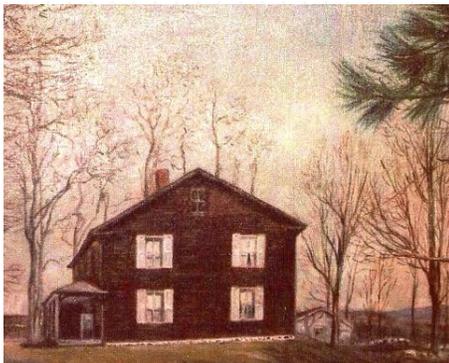
Historical Sketch of Dana Hill, Part I

Edited by Gordon DuBois from paper presented by Raymond C. Smith
At Old Home Day, August 25, 1951

Captain Peter Hanaford, a native of Stratham, NH, moved to New Hampton in 1784, after selling his farm to the Canterbury Shakers. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and fought in the battles of Bennington and Stillwater under the command of General John Stark. He bought his first parcel of land on Dana Hill, a tract of 100 acres just north of the old institution on Dana Hill Rd. He later bought other tracts and became a large land owner. The Captain, as he was called, became an important leader in the early history of New Hampton. The First Free Will Baptist Church was organized in his home, after the Rev. Winthrop Young had conducted a memorable eight month revival in 1799. Dr. Frank Kelly in his Reminiscences, gives us a picture of Capt. Hanaford as a man of great energy and determination, "who cleared his land by day and burned the logs by night and harvested his grain by moonlight and husked corn all night long."

Captain Peter and his sons and grandsons tilled the acres on top of the hill for many years. As Peter Hanaford grew into his elderly years he bequeathed his property to his family members. His son Benjamin was allotted the farm now owned by Alden Hofling. Benjamin operated a shingle mill on the stream below his home. Winthrop Hanaford, grandson of Peter, became the owner of a large tract of land that we now know as the Huckins family farm. Winthrop lived to be 92 and after his death his son Rockwood inherited the property and was the last member of the Hanaford family to occupy this property, as it was later sold to George E. Huckins. The Hanaford Family cemetery is located on the Magoon Rd, which leads to the Huckins family property and dairy farm now run by Mattie Huckins.

At end of the Magoon Rd. is the farm known as QuietSide, which was owned by Ralph Huckins. This property was settled by Josiah Magoon who came to New Hampton in 1783 from Kingston, NH and was a Revolutionary War veteran. He was an early leader in the church and an Elder. He and his family carried out extensive farming and lumbering operations and had a mill near the brook that crosses what is now Rt. 132. There once were two houses between the Magoon farm and Rt. 132. Both were abandoned long ago, but the cellar holes and lilac trees are still present. Three generations of Magoon's lived on this homestead until it was purchased by William Dearborn who in his waning years sold it to Ralph Huckins. None of the Magoon descendants now live in New Hampton. Further up Dana Hill Road from the Huckins farm is the Hanaford School House, also known as the District 3 School, now a private residence. This was the second school house in the district, the first was located just a short distance from the Dana Meeting House. The Dana Meeting House was built in 1800 by the Free Will Baptists. The unique pews were built a few years later by Stephen S. Magoon for \$300.



Smith Homestead—Dana Hill Road
Built "20 minutes to the sun"

Across the road from the Meeting House is the Robert Smith residence. In the early 1800's Capt. Peter Hanaford purchased the farm from Captain Jeremiah Sanborn and then gave half the property to his daughter Nancy and sold the other half to her husband Stephen Magoon. Being a carpenter, he built the main house. The house was built, "20 minutes to the sun," that is to say, it was placed so the sun would strike the west end of the house at 20 minutes before 12 o'clock. This was done, so we've been told, because Nancy Hanaford Magoon had the unfortunate failing of habitually being late in preparing the noon day meal for the menfolk.

Dana Hill, Part II, will be published in the
2015 Fall/Winter Newsletter

The Horse Picture Mystery

An intriguing request for information was sent via email to the society in January of this year. A woman in Virginia wrote to ask us if we could be of assistance and she related the following story:

About 20 years ago, she attended a silent auction at a Fox Hunting Club fancy dress ball. She purchased this sketch of a race horse. She recently discovered a map behind the sketch when she was re-framing the art work and wrote: "I have tracked the geographic region to New Hampton, N.H., by looking up the names of land owners of farms in the area. The "mystery" map does not include road names. We have a copy of the map, but it



cannot be legibly copied for this article. The map at left is copied from "A Small Gore of Land", to show area depicted on the mystery map.

At the top is printed the following: ***On this road about(5) miles long and its branches is located by owners' names the farms along the same when C.C.S. was a boy, and now the last of such owners have died and only the 2nd generation to stay on is at the Berry Farm. March 15, 1927.*** It starts with "Road to New Hampton Village" that would be Dana Hill Rd, with Drake and Dana named, then encompassing landowners north to Ashland Village with many names around the Oxbow area back to Beech Hill with last names on that road being Orlando Huckins and Smith Huckins. Names on the map in Oxbow area include Berry and Smith. As the message

at the top of the map refers to C.C.S., when he was a boy, we are asking our readers to please assist us in identifying C.C.S.. Our research has discovered that Charles C. Smith was married to Sally Berry. Also, in the 1870 census, Clarence C. Smith, age 5, resided on the D.H. Smith farm. Is there a connection between the horse sketch and a family named on the map? The sketch was done by C.W. Anderson, from Mason, NH, a famous horse artist, and we wonder if the artist had any connection to New Hampton? The inquirer from Virginia is a history buff and is eager to know who C.C.S. was. When was this map made and who drew it? Please contact us if you can assist in solving the mystery, and if you would like to see our copy of the map. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Tom Smith, NHHS Board Member

GORDON-NASH LIBRARY updates services and website



Understanding the history of the Gordon-Nash Library is critical to understanding the culture of the library, its relationship to its neighbors, and its relationship with the community.

Moving forward with the times, while preserving historical significance, we are continually upgrading services, and embracing new technology. Thanks to a recent project by students from the New Hampton School, we have a new website! Scheduled activities and classes are posted at the library and on the site, and include Yoga, Art and Beading classes, Young Writers group, children's story and

project time, star gazing with the Library's telescope, Summer reading program, and more! We offer free Wi-Fi and access to Ancestry.com, on-line magazines, books on CD and DVDs. Passes are available for Squam Lakes Science Center, Currier Art Gallery and McAuliffe Planetarium. Our popular Gift Shop showcases local arts and crafts, and the Nash Gallery offers exhibits and programs, including the Historical Society's monthly programs.

Thank you to the Friends of the Gordon-Nash Library, who sponsor services, supplies and programs to supplement the ongoing library activities. Social media is important to our communications and we are constantly updating our Facebook page and blogs. Check the website www.gordonnashlibrary.org and please visit the library to see what's new!

Cathy Vincevic, Director
Gordon-Nash Library