

UPCOMING APRIL & MAY 2016 PROGRAMS

Tuesday, April 19th: WWI in the Eyes of a Mid-Westerner 7:00 pm at the **Gordon-Nash Library**

Kate Donahue will present a program about World War I and her grandfather's experiences, as a Corporal with the 2nd Division, Sixth Regiment Marines, on the Western Front under the command of General John "Black Jack" Pershing. Kate's grandfather, Stanley "Stub" Ellis Wall, fought at Chateau-Thierry, the Meuse-Argonne, the Aisne-Marne sector, and near Belleau Woods, France, among other now-famous WWI battle sites. She will share a power point presentation, letters her grandfather wrote home to his parents from the Western Front, and interviews she conducted with the sons of the men who enlisted with her grandfather in Holland, Michigan, on April 23, 1917.

Tuesday, May 17th: Old Show and Tell 7:00 pm at the **New Hampton Town House** Many of us have family relics or heirlooms stored away in our attic, garage or barn. These relics have a story to tell about our family, our community and times gone by. We invite people of all ages to bring an item or two to share the story behind each. These relics are not only an important part of our personal family's past, but have a lesson to teach all of us about life as it was lived years ago.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEWS

Our oral history project gave us fascinating interviews with many long-term residents of New Hampton. DVDs (\$20) and written transcripts (\$10) are or soon will be available. Interviewees include Joan Blake, Barbara Chase, Ed Huckins, Bud and Jinga Moore, Bob and Elizabeth Moulton, Pat Schlesinger, Ethel and Julian Schofield, Bernard and June Smith, Bob Smith, Jane (Willingham) Smith, Tom Smith, Gene Wallace and Marilyn Woodward. Send your request(s) and check to New Hampton Historical Society, P.O. Box 422, New Hampton, NH 03256.

In late May, the Historical Society will finalize our program offerings for 2016-2017, 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 new 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 2016 EDITION

President's Message:

First, let me thank all of you who have supported the Historical Society this past year. We hope that we have presented programs of interest. We try to do local histories, but some of our programs deal with people who have had adventures outside of New Hampton during their lifetimes. We also try to schedule programs that deal with past crafts such as Canvas Floor Coverings. We hope that you will bring your keepsakes and old treasures to our "Old Show and Tell" to be held at the Town House on May 17th at 7:00 pm. Carole Curry, NHHS Museum Curator, has been an inspiration to all of us with her cataloging and presentations of pictures and other donations from our membership. Thank you to our other board members for their dedication and contributions to the society: Ruth Gulick, Stacy Nawoj, Bob Curry, Gordon Dubois, Tom Smith, Bob Smith and Julie Kirzner, who has put a great deal of time and talent into our newsletters.

If you have any ideas for future presentations, please feel free to make suggestions and contact any of our board members. Again, thank you, and we look forward to your continuing support,

Peter L. Gulick, President

Visit our Museum! New Theme "Message In A Bottle"



This summer we will feature a display entitled "Message In A Bottle", featuring bottles of all types from ink wells, perfume and medicine to ancient gin and whiskey. Information and books about collecting and identifying bottles will be available. There is so much history hidden in old bottles. Many were found in the walls of houses in New Hampton and other towns. There is nothing quite like going on an "old bottle dig"!

The Museum on Dana Hill Road will be open this summer on Saturdays, June 24 through August 27 from 10:00 AM until 12:00

Noon. Please stop in 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. Drop in sometime and see how the museum has developed over the last ten years. There have been many folks who have lived in New Hampton for decades and yet have never been in to see our collections. Recently, I came across this quote: "If you don't know where you have been, then you won't know where you are going." Come in and see where we have been in our town, New Hampton!

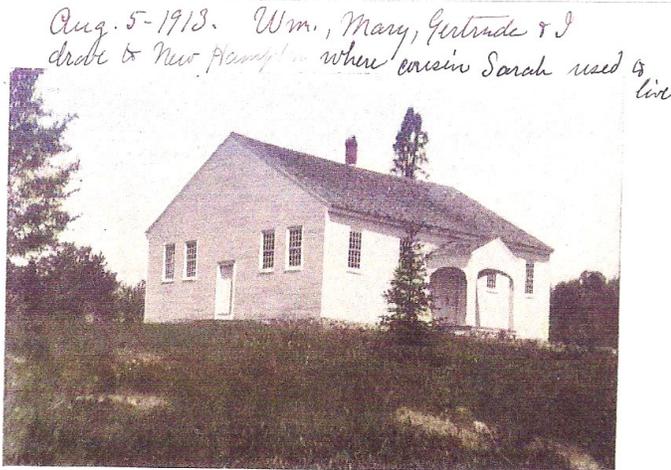
Hope to see you there,
Carole Curry, Curator

NHHS Membership Year: JULY 1, 2016—JUNE 30, 2017

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, with our newsletters and program material at the Gordon-Nash Library and on our website newhamptonhistory.org.

Historical Sketch of Dana Hill, Part II

Edited by Thomas R. Smith from a paper presented by Raymond C. Smith
At Old Home Day, August 25, 1951



"Dr. Dana" Church, Built in 1801, New Hampton, N. H.

Part II is a continuation of Part I that was published in the 2015 Fall/Winter Newsletter. This series is a condensed version of the original paper and space does not allow mentioning everyone's name that has occupied the properties listed. The previous article covered up to the Dana Meeting House and the Smith Homestead. The next farm on the hill is what was known as the James Gordon Farm, now owned by Edwin Huckins. In the early days this was the Jeremiah Marston farm. Legend has said that Jeremiah Marston was a lumberman and agent of the English Crown and delegated to travel about the forests to select the tallest and best white pines for masts for the English Fleet. The westerly field on the farm is still known as the Parade Field and was used by the local militia companies for a training ground. The original house burned in 1927.

The next farm along the road was the Abraham Drake farm, known today as Rockledge Farm and Orchard. It is been told that before the meeting house was built and during winter months, meetings were held in the Abraham Drake's barn. For many generations the farm was owned and operated by ancestors of Bernard and June Smith, who were the seventh generation to own and operate the farm. Today it is owned by the Flowers family.

The next farm, past the Huckleberry Road was the Nathaniel Drake farm, and is currently owned by the Buzzell family. It is said that the Drakes were personal friends of Col. Jonathan Moulton, the original proprietor of New Hampton. Col. Moulton was granted the tract of land that now includes the towns of New Hampton and Center Harbor in return for a fattened ox that he presented to the colonial governor, Benning Wentworth.

At the top of the hill was the Dr. Simeon Dana place. Dr. Dana's service as a pastor and physician to New Hampton and surrounding towns is well known. There are many stories of Dr. Dana's abilities and qualities. It is said that he placed a lighted candle each evening in the window to guide those who might come for aid during the night. So lasting was his impression that he made on the community, this section of town and the Meeting House were named in his memory. The house was in disrepair and removed a few years ago. For many years it was occupied by the Ziba Smith family and is now owned by Glen Smith.

Beyond the Dana place was a farm tilled by Joseph Young. It was occupied for years by members of the Plaisted family. The buildings have been gone for many years and the forests have reclaimed the fields. (The farms on Huckleberry Rd, Huckins Rd and Little Hollow Rd will be covered in a future newsletter).

PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!

In past years, our web site was offered and serviced by the New Hampshire Historical Society. We were informed late last year that they would no longer be able to provide societies with this service.

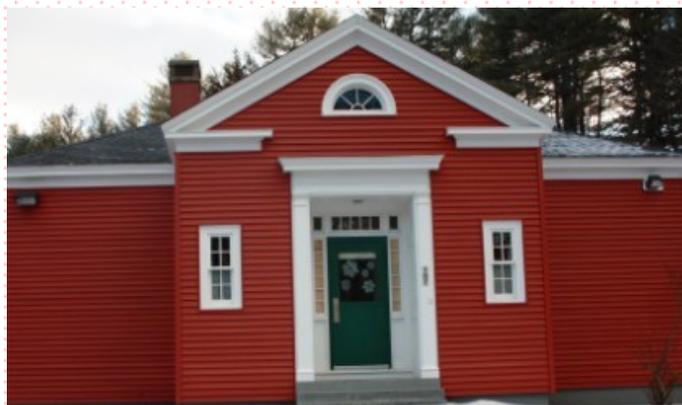
Zac Morel (son of our Treasurer, Stacy Nawoj) came to our rescue and designed and set up our new site:
www.newhamptonhistory.org

Thank you, Zac, for a wonderful job!

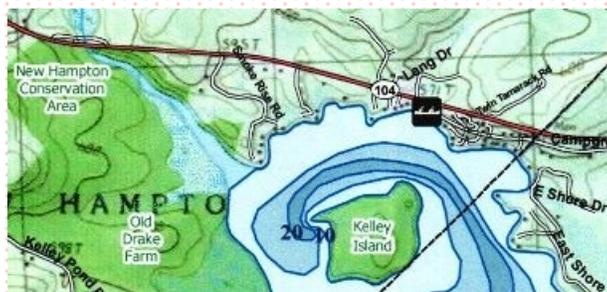
Also, thanks to Stacy, who keeps our Facebook page updated. [Facebook.com/NewHamptonHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NewHamptonHistoricalSociety) where there are many great pictures and the latest news. Visit to find new and old friends and share your New Hampton history!

NEW HAMPTON'S RED SCHOOLHOUSE KINDERGARTEN 1972

Once upon a time (over 40 years ago, in 1972), I was the parent of a prospective kindergarten student and, without prior experience, took on the responsibility of organizing and preparing the little red schoolhouse (next to the elementary school building) for a new kindergarten class. Years later, the SAU took over the kindergarten, but for a long time before and after 1972, parents were the resource that kept it going, both financially and with dedication. We cleaned and painted and raised funds. I put together a campaign raising \$250.00 and due to persistence received \$100.00 from the Japanese government along with the *caveat* NEVER to ask them again. The most serendipitous of my efforts was the hiring of the fabulous teacher, Trudy Powers. The pay was embarrassingly low. But Trudy soldiered forward and loved the work! The kids were terrific; the parents contributed by bringing snacks, financing a telephone for the school, painting, cleaning, etc.. Trudy drew up curriculum plans and let the parents know what their kids were doing and working towards, and tried to have as much fun as possible with academic objectives by utilizing things like finger paints and water pistols. They took trips to the library and the fish hatchery and picked apples, and the irrepressible babble of kids happy to be outdoors was a noise Trudy remembers and cherishes. She also financed supplies on her own. One time, she actually bought socks for those that weren't wearing any in mid-winter. Eventually Trudy moved on to a position in Secondary Education. But, it had been a happy time for her and the kids and a blessing to our Town.



By Ruth Gulick



Kelley-Drake Conservation Area *Historic & Cultural Treasure*

By Gordon Dubois

In 1775 Samuel Kelley (1733-1813) brought his wife and two young sons from Exeter, NH to New Hampton and built a log cabin at the base of what we now refer to as the Pinnacle. Over time he acquired large tracts of land in and around New Hampton. He moved his family to the summit of "the Pinnacle" and gave

his sons William and Nathaniel land at the base of the hill, a part of which is now the Kelley-Drake Town Property. Around 1820 this land was sold to Abraham and Nathaniel Drake. The Drake family farmed this property of over 240 acres until 1952 when the farm burned down. In 1966 the land was purchased by J. Wilson Brown from the estate of Luther Drake. In 1978 New Hampton acquired the property through funds made available by the Federal Government's Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Town of New Hampton's Conservation Commission has begun work to improve the property and will be designing, creating and maintaining a system of walking trails.

Julie and Stacy of the Historical Society received an email inquiry from a Drake family descendant (Dorothy Drake Dodge) wanting to know if the society knew of a Drake family cemetery in town. Last November, they led Dorothy and her husband to the conservation area, stopping at the Drake homestead cellar hole and continuing to the cemetery plot behind a stone wall. The Dodges had brought a small broom to gently clear the pine needles and leaves from the stones, in order to read and photograph the inscribed names.

In the 2004 Kelly Drake Stewardship Management plan, George Frame wrote: "The land is a museum of artifacts, from old saw blades, cemetery, orchard, stone piles, (cellar holes and stone walls) are symbols of past life of our predecessors. (They) should be revered and protected where found." The Historical Society has volunteered to assist the Conservation Commission as they continue this project. This land will serve as a community resource by not only preserving the historical nature of the property, but also developing its recreational potential.