



HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wheeler House

20 Main Street, P.O. Box 754

Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

(603) 465-3935

<http://www.hollishistoricalsociety.org>

Fall 2013

Dear Members,

We hope all of you had a wonderful summer full of relaxation, time with family and friends, perhaps a vacation, and, hopefully, a few good books to read.

Here are a few things that we've been up to.....

EXHIBITS:

We've been busy at the two museums:

- At the Wheeler House, we've had an exhibit of children's clothing and toys, and Marion Howe's salt dish collection, on loan from Sharon Howe, continues to be on display in the Wheeler House dining room.



- At the Always Ready Engine House, the upstairs display is "Tools of the Trade."



See metal working, agricultural, and shoe making tools. Plus sewing, spinning and kitchen tools, as well as gardening tools. Also, the downstairs display, the "Grange Exhibit," has been expanded, and our

wonderful old cornerstones, the fully restored Hollis horse drawn hearse and the fire pumpers hold center stage. You can see all these nifty exhibits on the following Sundays: September 8th, September 15th, October 6th, and October 20th, from 1pm to 4pm. The Wheeler House will be open these same days as well as their regular year round days of Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

Your Board of Directors has continued to meet monthly throughout the summer. Some of the activities they have been working on include the following:

- The Wheeler House roof has been checked out by Joe Harlin, Bruce Hardy, and roofer Mark Cahill. The good news is that "the overall condition is not too bad." YIPEE! The plan is to fill in the major cracks with tar (no feathers) and paint the area with silver paint.
- The proposed by-law revisions were presented, voted on, and passed at our annual meeting on May 16, 2013, as was the slate of officers.
- The website has been re-done and now offers a lot of new features, thanks to Bette Finner. Please check it out. We're getting some interesting inquiries. And now Bette is working on making it more interactive, including a forum so everyone can add information, ask questions, and respond to queries.
- Accessions computer upgrading is still in the works. We're just not rushing into anything and are taking our time to make sure we design and purchase exactly what we need.
- The New Member Campaign, headed up by Marilyn Wehrle, Sue Birch, and myself, has been on a summer hiatus, but we're starting up again this Fall, now that we have our new Program List for 2013-2014. During the Winter/Spring Drive, we welcomed 66 NEW MEMBERS!!
- Hollis Brookline Journal newspaper articles continue on a monthly basis with various Historical Society members as authors. They are wonderful pieces, and we hope you're enjoying them. We're always open to suggestions for topics, and if you'd like to write an article yourself, please let us know.

Production Staff

Design: Fredricka Olson
Editing: Dick Lates
Dotty Hackett
Layout & Photography:
Bette Finner

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING *(continued)*

- The Tinklepaughs' donated their old (actually not very old) Apple computer to us, complete with huge monitor, and it's completely loaded with Hollis family genealogy information which Joan has researched and compiled over the years. What a wonderful gift! And I should mention, our past genealogy computer also came from the Tinklepaughs. They give these computers to us, loaded with wonderful material, they set them up for us at the Wheeler House, and they give us lessons on how to use them. Is that incredible or what!? THANK YOU so very much, Joan and Bob!!
- Our broken fence by the Lucie Beebe Garden has been replaced by the folks who inadvertently damaged it. All is well and peaceful in the garden kingdom, thanks to Diane Rizzo, who also makes sure our Wheeler House front porch planters, and Always Ready Engine House planters, always look in tip-top condition.
- The Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing our Accessions Policy.
- Fund Raising ideas are discussed at each and every board meeting. Suggestions include: a Colonial Dinner and Music, an Antique Appraisal Day, an Antiques and Art in the Garden Day..... AND.....(fanfare please!!)....our OCTOBER 19, 2013, EVENT.

Restoration Celebration

Hollis Historical Society Fundraiser

October 19, 2013

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Whiting/Poole/Hackett House Tour

19 Main Street

Hollis, New Hampshire



Enjoy wine, cider, homemade delicacies, live music.....and a feast for your eyes of nine exquisite rooms of beautifully restored history. The grounds and adjacent barn will also be open.

Tickets: \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Tickets are available by calling Freddi at the Historical Society at 603-465-3935 or Sharon at 603-882-4087. (Tickets will be held for pick-up the day of the tour).

Visitors to the recently restored Whiting/Poole/Hackett House will be able to view, at their leisure, nine rooms that underwent extensive renovation work after a November 2008 boiler explosion in the basement damaged much of the main floor. The lovely interiors and antique furnishings have been meticulously maintained by the current owner. The general contractor in charge of the restoration will be on hand to answer questions. Photos of the extensive damage will be on display and docents will be available throughout the house to answer questions.

The house itself is a most interesting one. It has two separate cellars, three attics, seven outside doors, nine fireplaces, and two brick ovens.

The two story, hip-roof, Georgian style dwelling was constructed in 1771 for Benjamin Whiting, High Sheriff of Hillsborough County in the Province of New Hampshire. Whiting lived here with his brother, Captain Leonard Whiting, during the stirring years just before the Revolutionary War. Leonard Whiting was a commissioned officer under the British Crown and remained loyal to that government. (Yes, he was Tory). As a result, he was imprisoned in the Amherst jail for a time during 1777-78. He did not leave the country, but returned to Hollis where he lived many years. Benjamin Whiting, in the enforcement of the unpopular Pine Tree Law, became so objectionable to the townspeople that in 1776, he left his family, town, and state and died in exile.

From 1794 until 1850, a tavern sign hung before the door to this gracious home. The license was granted in 1794, to Capt. Leonard Whiting; in 1795, to Leonard Whiting, Jr.; in 1796, to Benjamin W. Parker; and in 1821, to Dr. Noah Hardy, who practiced

in Hollis until 1850; and the tavern sign was out all that time. (The Whitings moved away from Hollis in 1796). After Dr. Hardy left, William F. Poole, youngest son of Benjamin Poole and Rebecca Eastman, bought the property and his parents ended their days in this house. This was followed by William Poole, who passed the property on to his sisters, Miss Caroline Poole, Mrs. Susan Poole Smith, Mrs. Isabel Poole Hackett, and Mrs. Marion Poole Nichols, daughters of James V. Poole, second son of Benjamin. The sisters fitted up the house into apartments as a summer residence for themselves and their children. At various times, parts of the house had been rented to tenants. Then, in 1958-59, Robert Hackett, a grandson of Isabel Poole Hackett, started restoring the house to its old-time beauty. Then, in 1962, further improvements were made.

This fund raiser will benefit the Hollis Historical Society Capitol Fund, to maintain the Society's two museums. We are a self-sustaining, non-profit organization, and the primary organization in Hollis that

collects and preserves artifacts, books, and documents that reflect the entire history of the town of Hollis. It is our mission to stimulate interest in the history of Hollis, to present interesting and informative programs for our members and the community, and to maintain the structures and collections of the Ruth E. Wheeler House and the "Always Ready" Engine House museums. A big responsibility!



NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!

The House Tour Committee needs your help in selling tickets. If every member would pre-sell five tickets, we will do very well on this critical fund raiser. To pre-buy your ticket, mail your check for \$20 per ticket along with your name to:

**Hollis Historical Society
P.O. Box 754
Hollis, NH 03049**

If you have any questions, please call Sharon Howe at 603-882-4087. Tickets will be held at the door until the day of the tour. You may also be called for donations of food and/or help for our October 19th fund raiser. We hope you'll be willing to lend a hand. EARLY TICKET SALES are very important, not only to help us financially, but to help us plan how much food is needed on the day of the event.

TRIBUTE

In tribute to old houses and to ***DOTTY HACKETT***, who is so generously opening her home for all of us to enjoy on October 19, 2013, the following poem:

*He who loves an old house
Will never love in vain.
For how can any old house
To lilac and to larkspur;
And arching trees above
Fail to give its answer
To the heart that gives it love?
(Paraphrased from Isabel Fiske Conant)*

NEW SEASON

Now we start heading into the busy season....are you ready? We are. Our President, Dick Lates, and Vice President and Program Director, Bruce Hardy, along with input from the Board, have been busy putting together a slate of interesting programs for 2013-2014...and the programs sound great!! We hope you don't miss a single one.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us throughout the year: to docents, maintenance, exhibit folks, gardening, weekly volunteers, refreshment people, and for donations and dues....to everyone who helped make this such a fun, productive, and interesting year!

We look forward to your visits and input. This is **YOUR** Society, so please let us hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Wishing you an great fall!

Fredricka Olson

Fredricka Olson, Curator

P.S. Please don't forget all the great books we have for sale. They're listed on the program folder. They make wonderful holiday, birthday, housewarming, anniversary, and thank you gifts.

**The Wheeler House is open
Monday and Wednesday afternoons
from 1 to 4pm, year round.**

**As well as the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the
month, June through October.**

**The Always Ready Engine House is open
the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month,
June through October.**

**Both museums are available for tours
at other times, by special arrangement,
by calling (603) 465-3935.**