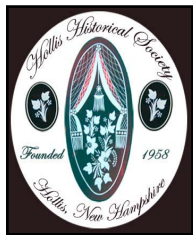


HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Wheeler House
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www.hollishistoricalsociety.org
<https://www.facebook.com/hollishistoricalsociety>

Autumn 2015

“An inexhaustible good nature is one of the most precious gifts of heaven, spreading itself like oil over the troubled sea of thought, and keeping the mind smooth and equable in the roughest weather.”

Washington Irving

Dear Members,

Wishing you all smooth sailing through this glorious autumn season.

It has been a busy summer at the Wheeler House and Always Ready Engine House, and we have a lot of exciting programs planned for you in the 2015-16 season.

- **ATTIC TREASURES YARD SALE:** Our ‘yard sales’ in the ice house behind the Wheeler House have been a huge success! In fact, we’ve made enough to re-shingle the ice house! YIPEE!!! Now, we can start saving for some conservation projects on some of our artifacts and perhaps, if Attic Treasures keeps going well, a roof job on the Wheeler House in a few years.

Folks have been wonderful about donating ‘treasures’....and the sales have been constant. What kind of items have been coming and going in the shop? Well, to list but a few: hand thrown pottery, pewter, glassware and dishes, birdhouses, copperware, jewelry, paintings, prints, baskets, sconces, punch bowls, seasonal decorations, vintage items, linens, small furniture, and much, much more. Every week, new items are added. In fact, we’re not only selling out of the ice house now....we’ve expanded into the garage, as well. With tables set up outside on nice days.



We’ve been open the first and third Saturdays of the month, 9AM to 1PM, starting last June and ending the third Saturday of this October, the 17th. So,

please continue saving ‘goodies’ for us; we’ll be doing this again starting in the Spring (If you have some items you need to part with BEFORE Spring, just give us a call and we’ll make arrangements).

Oh, and, by the way... October 17th... will be SALE DAY at ATTIC TREASURES! Our already low prices will be slashed on many items... so don’t miss out on any of the FABULOUS BUYS.

To everyone who donated items... and purchased ‘treasures’... a sincere THANK YOU! And to all the Hollis Historical Society Board Members who donated, priced, arranged, hauled, lugged, and sold items... WOW! What a team.... thank you all!

- **GARAGE DOOR:** We have a brand new garage door, thanks to the generosity of **Carl Fimbel** at **Fimbel Garage Doors** of Merrimack, New Hampshire (He’s

Debbe Shipman’s brother). We all owe him a huge THANK YOU for this beautiful new door! (Our old door helped build muscles and create hernias... but that’s about all we can say about it, at least, all that’s printable). The new door is a joy to behold and use.

- **ON A SAD NOTE:** We lost a good friend and faithful volunteer to the Historical Society; **Jan Burtt** passed away and will be sorely missed. She was always ready to lend a helping hand and she was a dedicated docent. A year ago, Jan helped create a Hollis History Contest along with **Sharon Howe**, that folks tried their hand at Old Home Days 2014. (The winner in 2014 was **Carolyn Hackett**).

So in Jan’s honor, we’re going to give you a chance to put on your thinking caps and come up with the answers to some of Jan’s HOLLIS HISTORY QUESTIONS (presented in her own words on the following page). The ANSWERS are at the end of the newsletter. NO peeking ahead of time!)

Hollis History Questions

WAIT A MINUTE! You need to promise that you'll finish reading the newsletter after you look up the answers. Deal?

Questions:

1. Who was the first settler in Hollis?
2. In what year was Hollis incorporated?
3. The first spelling of Hollis was?
4. Hollis was originally part of?
5. When was the current Town Hall built?
6. Where was the town fire station located before the newest one on Ash Street?

Multiple Choice:

1. Before 1877, how many small 'district' schoolhouses were around Hollis?
4, 6, 9, 12, 14, none
2. Another town was almost established in northern Hollis, but failed. What was it called?
North Hollis, Township #19, Dunstable Heights, South Milford, New Hollis, None of the above
3. Agriculture in town once had farms growing a high percentage of _____?
Peaches, Melons, Apples, Roses, Tulips, Petunias
4. Hollis has had veterans from which war?
Revolutionary, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean, all 5 wars

True or False:

1. The Hollis Historical Society was founded in 1858.
2. Hollis once had a railroad station.
3. In the mid-1900's Hollis had a jail.
4. A Hollis dairyman also raised a few deer for venison in a fenced pen.
5. A former New England governor lived in a Main Street house in later life.
6. A small grass airfield once served small craft in the west end of town.
7. In the mid-1800's a regional 'healing sanitorium' was built at Rocky Pond.



Gould Emerson Worcester House Tour

The House Tour fund raiser at the Gould-Emerson-Worcester House, 28 Main Street, on September 12th, was a great success. Folks attended from near and far. Each of the ten rooms open for the tour had a knowledgeable docent to answer questions and point out interesting features and items. All the while, flute music provided by **Suellen Davidson** and **Dee Wagner**, wafted through the house, with another flutist, **Miki Ferland**, playing under a tree in the backyard. After touring the house, attendees enjoyed a selection of wines and cider, plus delectable homemade sweets and savories, all served at white cloth covered tables under the tent. And all donated by Society members and the Board. Plus the weather couldn't have been nicer! A great day indeed! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this possible. This fund raiser will go toward conserving artifacts in our collection. With your help, we'll start 'checking off' pieces on our list. We invite you to stop by and see the items that are on our list to conserve.

If and when we do another House Tour, it would be wonderful if we could have a few houses, perhaps five or six, on the tour. Would you consider opening a portion of your home? It doesn't have to be the whole house.... perhaps just the downstairs, or an ell, or a couple of rooms. And you wouldn't have to provide refreshments.... that could be done at another location. Please let us know if you have any interest in opening your home for a fund raising tour for the Hollis Historical Society.



Historical Tidbits

Ever hear of **Joseph Wheat**? Well, he was quite a character. According to the History of Hollis by **S.T. Worcester** and the **History of Concord, New Hampshire**, by **Rev. Dr. Bouton**, Joseph Wheat came to Hollis as a young person with his father soon after the Revolution. He was a cooper by trade, and built and owned the house on the main road leading from Hollis to Amherst, which, in 1796, he sold to Deacon Enos Hardy. Soon after this sale, Wheat moved to Amherst and became the owner and driver of a line of stages running from Concord and beyond to Boston. The following humorous anecdotes of Joseph Wheat, stage driver, are from Rev. Dr. Bouton's, **History of Concord**. It is to be noted at this time that Joseph Wheat had a VERY LONG NOSE. At one time, being complained of by the people of Amherst (one of the towns on his stage route) that he did not give the customary notice of his approach by blowing a tin horn, he replied to this complaint through the Amherst Cabinet, 'that he was too poor to buy a tin horn, but that, in the future, when they should see his nose they might expect the stage in ten minutes.' (Don't you just love this man's sense of humor!?)

Upon another occasion, stopping for his breakfast one frosty morning, a somewhat dainty passenger, sitting at a table opposite to him, and observing the effects of the cold coming from his nose, rudely requested Wheat to wipe it. 'Wipe it yourself,' coolly answered the driver, 'my nose is closer to you than to me.'

Mr. Wheat was also gifted at verse making. From the good old dram drinking days by patrons of public stage coaches, we quote the closing stanza of one of Mr. Wheat's notices announcing to the public his new line of stages:

"Come my old friends, and take a seat
In this new Line with Joseph Wheat,
And when to your journey's end you've come,
Your friend will treat with good old Rum."

And from Mr. Wheat's coopering days, we have another "poetic effusion":

"My advice to farmers all
Is – pick your apples as they fall
And if your cider's pure and sweet,
Please buy your casks of Joseph Wheat."

By the way, we also have a Wheat Lane in Hollis!

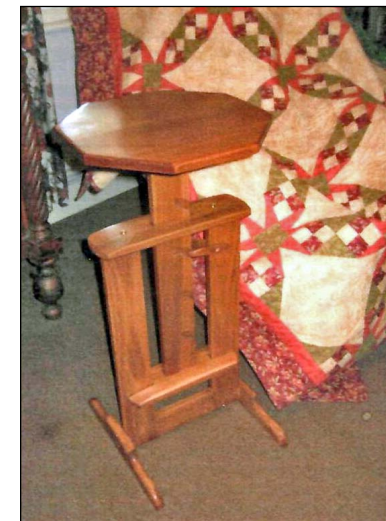
(The above information is taken from the History of Hollis, NH, 1730-1879, by S.T. Worcester)



Raffles

We have two exciting raffles going on now through our Annual Meeting in May 2016. One raffle is a beautiful quilt made by **Nancy Parkhurst Bell** of Hollis. The other raffle is for a reproduction trammel candle stand, handmade by **Art Rockwell**, also of Hollis. Both Nancy and Art are Hollis Historical Society members, and extraordinary craftspeople, who donated these items to help out our fund raising efforts.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can purchase tickets at the Wheeler House, Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, or at any of our upcoming programs now through May 2016. The winning tickets will be drawn during our Annual Meeting in May.



Save the Date!

October 15, 2015

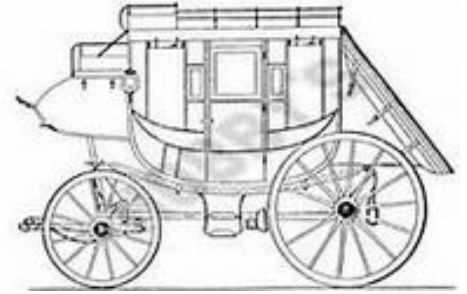
7:30 PM at the Lawrence Barn

Our first program of the new season! **Peter James** of the Abbot-Downing Historical Society present a slide show and talk about the famous Concord Coach and the company that built them, Abbot-Downing.

Concord's Historic Claim to fame was a factory on Main Street, the Abbot-Downing Company. This is where the famed stagecoach, the Concord Coach was built. The stagecoach that opened the American West and then circled the globe. Abbot-Downing also built horse drawn vehicles of all shapes and sizes and finally motorcars, trucks, and even fire engines. (I wonder if our Mr. Wheat had a Concord Coach in his stage line?)

Don't miss this fascinating program! All of our programs are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. So bring some friends. The topics are fascinating and the refreshments yummy.

Note: Our full line-up of programs will be mailed to you shortly....so watch for it!



**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.**



In closing, we hope to see you at our programs this 2015-2016 season. And if there are any special topics you would like to have presented next year, please let us know. We'll do our best, as we aim to please.

We hope you'll visit us at the Wheeler House this fall and winter....there's always something new to see and hear about. We're open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm. For special times or group tours on other days or times, please contact us.

And don't forget all the wonderful books we have for sale, as well as interesting ephemera. They all make great gifts.....and the holiday season is fast approaching.

Best regards,

Fredricka Olson

Fredricka Olson, Curator

Remember...*"Poor is the Nation that has no heroes,
but shameful is the Nation that has them and forgets."*
(Author Unknown)

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Answers to the Hollis History Questions

Q&A:

1. Peter Powers
2. 1746
3. Holles
4. Dunstable
5. 1887
6. Town Hall

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. 14
2. None of the above. It was Monson
3. Apples
4. All 5 wars

TRUE or FALSE

1. False. It was 1958.
2. True - Hollis Depot
3. True
4. False
5. True - Endicott "Chubb" Peabody of Mass.
6. False
7. False