HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wheeler House
20 Main Street, P.O. Box 754
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
(603) 465-3935
http://www.hollishistoricalsociety.org

Spring Newsletter, 2013

Dear Members,

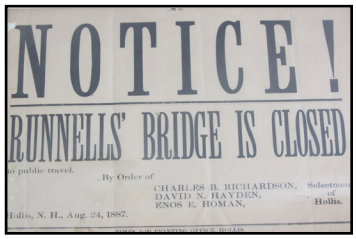
All of us at the Wheeler House hope you've had a great winter. I, for one, am eagerly awaiting warmer weather and the gardening season, however, at this writing (March 19th, snowstorm #5283!) turning over the soil seems a bit premature. But good weather is coming…

So, what has been going on at the Hollis Historical Society? Things are alive, well, and bustling. Let me fill you in:

EXHIBITS:

- Board member, Sharon Howe, took us up on our offer to "bring in a small, portable collection of historical items to display at a meeting or for a short term exhibit at the Wheeler House." So please stop in and see a huge selection of Marion Howe's salt dish collection in the Wheeler House dining room. They're beautiful, all different shapes, and a variety of colors and sizes. And we have an array of her salt spoons as well. Thank you, Sharon, your Mother's collection is lovely!

- We have a new wall display upstairs in the hall at the Wheeler House. It's a combination of photos, artifacts and artwork, put together and displayed by Martha Davis and Joe Harlin. Great job!



NOTICE!

RUNNELLS' BRIDGE IS CLOSED

to public travel.

By Order of

CHARLES B. RICHARDSON, DAVID N. HAYDEN, ENOS E. HOMAN, Selectmen of Hollis.

Hollis, N. H., Aug. 24, 1887.

- More artifacts have been added to the newly refurbished dining room at 20 Main Street, including Runnells Bridge items. Two members paid to have a painting of Runnells Bridge re-matted and covered with conservation glass. A friend from Nashua, Mr. Mooney, gave us a 'Runnells Bridge Closed' notice dated 1887. Two more pictures of Runnells Bridge have been put on display and there's no telling what else may turn up! Please come see it. Runnells Bridge played a huge part in the lives of Hollis residents….and when you think about it, still does.

- **A Collection of Joseph Emerson Worcester Artifacts**: Joseph E. Worcester, of DICTIONARY WARS fame and our April program topic (April 18th @7:30 PM at the Lawrence Barn) will have a presence during a display at the Wheeler House, thanks to Worcester descendants, brothers Tom and Charles Worcester, and cousin Fredricka Olson. See original dictionaries, advertising items, and other books and letters written by famous hometown Hollis boy, Joseph Worcester. You'll even see a few items by that other dictionary guy….I think his name was Webster. Plus, there will be letters to Worcester, complimenting him on his dictionary, from CHARLES DICKENS, THACKERY, and COLERIDGE which are owned by your own HHS. These will be on display at the Wheeler House for a couple of weeks after April 18th. Don't miss it!

- See a comprehensive collection of children's clothing and toys this summer at the Wheeler house, which will be compiled by Martha Davis, Phyllis Houle, and Sharon Howe.

- If you like TOOLS, you're going to love the exhibit that Martha Davis is cooking up for you at the Always Ready Engine House this summer. I wonder if you can guess what some of them were used for? Plus there are some other interesting displays in the works for you, too. The Always Ready Engine House is open the 1st and 3rd Sundays, June thru October, from 1 to 4pm. (The Wheeler House is open these Sundays as well).

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Marilyn Wehrle, Sue Birch, and myself have been working on a mailing to increase our membership. As of this writing, we have 41 NEW members. We are so pleased to welcome all these new folks into our Society and THANK YOU! And THANK YOU also to all our regular members for your continued support! Without you, we wouldn't exist. In this newsletter, we'll print a list of all our members. It's fun to know neighbors who share our common interests.

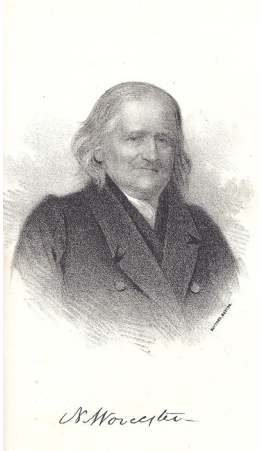
Production Staff

Design: Fredricka Olson
Editing: Dick Lates
Martha Davis
Layout: Bette Finnern
Photographer: John Finnern

NEW HAPPENINGS:

- The Hollis Brookline Rotary Club has asked the Hollis Historical Society to join forces with them to help present an ANNUAL NOAH WORCESTER PEACE MEMORIAL PROGRAM. The 2012-2013 Presidential theme of Rotary International is "Peace through Service." Per Peter Webb of the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club, "In the case of our two communities….one of our native sons, Noah Worcester, is known to history as the 'Apostle of Peace' and a pioneer in the American Peace Movement.' " Webb continues that, "...in 1758, eleven years before Brookline would be created out of a portion of the west side of Hollis, Noah Worcester was born. His ancestral home is part of a house which stands today at the corner of Depot and Richardson Roads in Hollis. An unusually strong and large young man, Worcester's energies were devoted to the demanding physical work required to sustain a family at that time. As a result, his formal schooling was only seasonal and ended once and for all when he was 15.

In 1775, when Noah was 16, he was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and at 18, was at the Battle of Bennington. Worcester recalled that the most difficult part of the battles was what he saw on the field afterwards. Despite his limited formal education, Worcester had an unusual capacity for rigorous thought, as well as an independence of opinion and a compulsion to express himself in writing. He was a devout Christian, but his opinions were somewhat controversial. One noteworthy opinion which Noah Worcester formed from his careful study of the Bible was that war was fundamentally antithetical to the principles of his religion. Worcester made his public argument against war in a short treatise entitled 'A Solemn Review of the Custom of War,' published in 1814 under the pseudonym 'Philo Pacificus.' The text, which has been called an 'epic-making classic in the history of peace literature,' was widely read in the United States and was translated into several languages in Europe. For 13 years, Worcester edited and wrote for a Boston journal, 'The Friends of Peace.' Worcester died in 1837, and in a eulogy for Noah Worcester, William Ellery Channing wrote that 'to spread peace on earth became the object of his life.' " Attorney Webb noted, "both Brookline and Hollis, like other towns, have war memorials. Neither town, as is also the case in other towns, has a commemoration of any kind dedicated to peace, a cause which would probably be especially dear to those whose names figure most prominently on the war monuments. While we periodically espouse the cause of peace, we don't honor it as we do war."



Hence, the FIRST ANNUAL NOAH WORCESTER PEACE MEMORIAL PROGRAM will be held Wednesday, May 22nd, 2013, at 7 PM, at the Lawrence Barn in Hollis. And one of our HHS members, and descendant of Noah Worcester, will give a brief presentation on Noah Worcester. Charles Worcester will represent our Society during this exciting joint venture between the Hollis Brookline Rotary Club and the Hollis Historical Society. Folks in the audience will then hear from noted guest speaker, Dr. Donna Hicks of Harvard University, creator of the dignity approach to conflict resolution. Dr. Hicks is the author of the new book, "Dignity." Hicks shows that by choosing dignity as a way of life, we open the way to greater peace within ourselves and to a safer and more humane world for all. Please attend this enlightening program and help support this first joint effort between the HHS and the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club.

- We've started having a "WHAT IS IT?" table of vintage items at our program meetings. Folks are invited to bring in an item or items that they DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. Or maybe you know what an item is, but don't think other folks will know its use or purpose. Even old photos of Hollis folks make a fun guessing game. So look around your house, your attic, your barn….and bring in those "What Is It?" articles to our program meetings. It's great entertainment!

- If you haven't checked out our new website, HTTP://WWW.HOLLISHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG, please do, it's a beauty, and we have Bette Finnern to thank for it.

ACCESSIONS:

- A list of all 2012 accessions will be available at our Annual Meeting, May 16th. Or stop by the Wheeler House and pick one up.

- Dotty Hackett does an incredible job overseeing our accessions. She is a whiz at the process of accessioning (trust me, it's a thought provoking and often times a laborious process) and she's a great teacher to me. For which I thank her immensely. In addition to accessioning new acquisitions, we have also accessioned hundreds of FIC (found in collection) artifacts. Accessioning an item takes a lot of time and involves a great deal of paperwork and often research work as well. Also helping is Bob Cushman, who comes to the Wheeler House on a regular basis and enters all our accession worksheet information into the computer, which is no small task. When time permits Martha Davis and Phyllis Houle also lend a hand listing items in our collection. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

- Joe Harlin refinished the frame on our portrait of Arthur Gilman, author of "My Cranford," a book about Hollis, complete with photographs, published in 1909. Joe also put new backing and new glass on the portrait. It looks fabulous!! Thank you, Joe!

NEWSPAPER COLUMNS:

Have you been reading our monthly newspaper columns in the Hollis Brookline Journal? We've had some great ones with more to come! If you've missed any or would like copies, we have them on file at the Wheeler House. Remember, if you have any ideas for columns, or would like to write one yourself, please contact Freddi Olson, at the Wheeler House, (603) 465-3935. (Go ahead, pick up the phone and call now. Who knows, a budding career for you as an author may be just around the corner).

Hollis Historical Society Members

Doug & Deidre Adams
Peter & Ellen Allen
Denise April & Joshua Robey
* Tom Army & Gail Harrison
Kent Bailey
Frank & Dolores Ballou
Ted & Liz Barbour
Michael & Tricia Bates
Jayne Belanger
Jim & Sandy Belanger
Nancy Bell
* Anna Birch & Chris Volpe
Richard & Nancy Birch
Sue Birch
* Mike & Hannah Boyd
Florence Broden
Elizabeth Bucknam
Jan Burtt
Shirley Cohen
Pat Coughlin
Rebecca Crowther
Robert & Sibyl Cushman
Thom & Tonda Davies
Martha Davis
Lawrence & Debi DePaulis
Catherine Doherty
Richard & Katherine Drisko
* William & Lori Dwyer
* Farm Design, Inc.

* The asterisk denotes our newest members

Roderick & Micki Ferland
John & Bette Finnern
* Randy & Julie Forgaard
* Diane Foster
Lou & Carolyn Gargasz
* David & Peggy Gilmour
Honi Glover
Robert & June Glover
William & Susan Gorham
Robert Gould
C.A. Graham
Carolyn Hackett
Dorothy Hackett
Priscilla Hamilton
Bruce Hardy
Joe Harlin
* Tom & Pat Harris
Janet Hicks
Yve Hines
Betsey Hopkins
Phyllis Houle
Thomas & Barbara Hovious
Sharon Howe & Chip Harris
Tom & Nancy Jambard
Dr. John Janeiro
Milton & Joyce Janosky
* Tom & Mary Jeffery
Sandy Johnson
George King

Phyllis King
Dick & BJ Lates
Robert & Susan Leadbetter
* Ray and Joan Lorden
* John Lumbard
Fred & Millie Lyford
* Richard & Josey Macmillan
Basil & Sandy Mason
Don & Judy McCoy
* John & Kat McGhee
Leo & Terry McKillop
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mills
Larry & Inez Morrison
* Peggy Murdock
* Doug & Cyndy Nye
Freddi Olson
* Hugh & Jane O'Neill
* Robert Oot & Carol Robey
Mary Pease
* Dorothy Pitarys
Dot Pitman
Thelma Pollard
Ann Porter
Randy Prozeller
Matthew & Linda Reiner
Alan & Kristen Retter
Diane Rizzo
* Lorin & Nanci Rydstrom
Roger & Addie Saunders
Lydia Schellenberg

Jim & Judy Seager
Wayne & Shirley Sharpe
Debbe Shipman
Ann Siglin
Rudy & Theresa Slosek
Rev. Larry Smith
* Pete Smith
Jeanne Smith-Cripps
Jackie Sommer
Sheila Spooner
Dr. James Squires
* The Svirk Family
Bob & Joan Tinklepaugh
Barbara Townsend
Chris Trow
Lou & Julie Tyska
Edward & Anita Walker
Lauraine Walker
Nancy Wall
Mary Lou Ward
* Sharon Watson
Marilyn Wehrle
Mary Ann Wesoly
Mr. & Mrs. Willard White
Frank & Eleanor Whittemore
* Stephanie Winchester
Charlie & Norma Woods
Charles & Janet Worcester
* Tom & Jeanette Worcester
* Chad & Cora Zingales

FIRST QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' DISCUSSIONS:

- Bruce Hardy & Joe Harlin repaired our kitchen plumbing problem, which had been the #1 priority on our Capitol Improvements list.
- Roof repair needs on the Wheeler House will be determined by Bruce Hardy & Joe Harlin once the snow has melted.
- As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have been tweaking the by-laws. Your Directors' proposed changes will be ready for your consideration at our May 16th Annual Meeting. Dick Lates has worked tirelessly on this endeavor typing and presenting revision after revision. And Bruce Hardy has helped us iron out all the wrinkles and put the changes in proper form. We owe them both a huge thank you!
- Curator duties were discussed and noted as a by-law revision.
- A resolution regarding voting of members present was voted on.
- Our beautiful new fence in front of the Lucie Beebe garden was broken over the winter. We will have to discover the cause and try to remedy the situation.

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.

BOOKS:

We have a nice selection of new re-printed books available for purchase plus some wonderful old post cards, photos, pamphlets and booklets, of which we have many duplicates that are also for sale. They make great gifts. If you want a fascinating, first person description of Hollis in the 1820's, pick up a copy of "*Hollis, Seventy Years Ago*" by Henry Gilman Little. It covers Hollis street by street, house by house, family by family, business by business. It's a fabulous firsthand look at old Hollis, and it's only $20.

Another great read is "*Peter Powers Pioneer*" by Rudge Nichols and Caroline Poole. The story of the first settler in Hollis. I just read, for the second time, the chapter on Old Tusky. You've got to read it! Old Tusky is my hero! And Narragansett, the horse, is terrific too! Just $10. and it benefits the Hollis Social Library.

$$$$$$$ MONEY: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?... and ....WHERE DOES IT GO? $$$$$$$

The Wheeler House is supported entirely by membership dues, gifts, donations, book sales, and fund raising activities by our members. The money generated by the Wheeler Trust in 2012 was only $938.00 for the entire year. That means house maintenance including roofing, plumbing, painting, monthly electric bills, fuel oil, telephone, and insurance, in other words, most of the expenses you have in your own home..... we have too. On top of that we have printing, postage, program fees, office supplies, etc. So MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS, AND FUND RAISING ARE BECOMING MORE CRITICAL TO US. If you have any ideas for fund raising, please let us know. Don't be bashful ---- we need your input! The Always Ready Engine House building is maintained by the town of Hollis.

FUND RAISING:

- **Save the Date** --- ***October 19, 2013*** --- we're having an OPEN HOUSE GALA at Dotty Hackett's house, from 1 to 5 PM, and we NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE! We need people to:
  - bake and/or donate finger foods and wine and cider
  - act as room docents
  - sell tickets
  - set-up and clean-up, etc.

  Please call Freddi Olson at the Wheeler House if you can help (603) 465-3935.
- We're toying with the idea of a colonial dinner accompanied by period music. Does that sound interesting to you? Please tell us your thoughts.
- Dinner at a local restaurant that offers a percentage of the cost of your dinner back to the non-profit organization is also under consideration.

We look forward to your visits to the Wheeler House and the Always Ready Engine House. And, as always, please let us know your thoughts on programs, displays, newsletters, columns and fund raising ideas.

Wishing you a wonderful spring and summer!

Fredricka Olson

Fredricka Olson, Curator

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

Thursday, May 16, 2013
Lawrence Barn

Dinner at 7:00PM
Program at 8:00PM

LADIES NIGHT 1920

written by Joan Tinklepaugh

A select cast will offer vignettes of career women in early 20th century Hollis. The program will highlight stories from the lives of Abbie Flagg, Emma Van Dyke, Etta Flagg, Bertha Colburn, and Minnie Colburn.

For dinner reservations, please call Lydia Schellenberg at (603)465-2495 by Monday, May 13.

Please bring either a salad or main dish. Dessert will be provided by the Board.