



HOLLIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Spring 2017

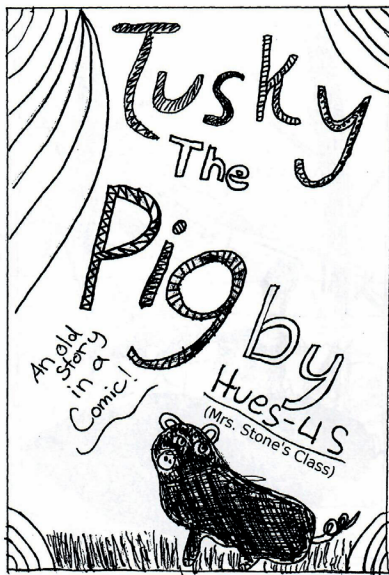
"A man's mind, once stretched by an idea, never goes back to the original dimensions"
Oliver Wendell Holmes

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! I hope the winter treated you all kindly. Now it's time to throw open the windows, shake out the rugs, and get out into the fresh air. And.... oh yes, come visit us at the Hollis Historical Society museums.

We've had some exciting things happening at the Wheeler House:

- Artist in Residence, for Hollis 3rd and 4th grades, **Marek Bennett**, came to the Wheeler House with **Anna Birch** to gather information on interesting Hollis stories. The students would learn about the various historical events and then create a comic book from what they had learned. And you should see what the 4th graders came up with -- the eight-page comic books are fabulous! Some of the material the information the Historical Society provided the students included:



- * The story of Tusky the Pig from the Peter Powers book
- * Emma Van Dyke's Speech
- * The story of Daniel Emerson and the Dog Letter
- * World War II in Hollis
- * Beaver Brook Association

What a splendid way to teach history to young students! So stop by the Wheeler House and/or the Always Ready Engine House (when it opens in June) and check out the comics.

A native of Henniker, NH, Marek Bennett draws comics and plays music wherever he goes. His webcomic, **Live Free and Draw**, explores forgotten stories from New Hampshire history. Marek also plays Civil War era banjo music with his band, The Hardtacks. Also by Marek Bennett: **The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby** drawn by Marek, **Hour 72**, **Breakfast at Mimi's**, **Nicaragua Comics Travel Journal**, and **Slovakia: Fall in the Heart of Europe**. Learn more about Marek at <https://marekbennett.com/>.

Hold It!

Submitted by **Martha Davis**

We hope the title of our new exhibit (Hold It!) at the Always Ready Engine House this summer got your attention.



Our program meeting in March at the barn (see photo below) was a great program led by **Tom Worcester** and **Brad Wild** on Shaker boxes and their uses.

We decided to continue that theme and have our summer exhibit on CONTAINERS of earlier days and what they used for all their possessions. They had very few closets and cupboards in their simple homes, so they made do with whatever they could make or find.

From their ingenuity and craftsmanship, and out of necessity, they found answers and ways to hold just about everything: "A place for everything and everything in its place."

It should be a fun exhibit for all ages, especially families. Come and share stories of earlier times with your children.

This special exhibit is being put together by Martha Davis and Lynn Schur and is open the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, June through October, from 1PM to 4PM.



Historical Tidbits

LIFE WAS TOUGH....AND SO WAS CHURCH! (*continued...*)

To pick up where we left off in our winter newsletter "Life Was Tough and So Was Church"we'll continue with the third Hollis Congregational Church/Meeting House built in 1804.

By 1800, the population of Hollis had increased to 1,550, the town was prosperous, and the meetinghouse was outgrown. For some years, the question of rebuilding was considered, and, in 1804, the third church/meetinghouse was erected. Our canny forefathers managed, by selling the pews at a sufficient price, to raise money enough to pay for the erection of the building. The plan for the new building was copied from that of the meetinghouse in Billerica, with some modifications.

This new (third) meetinghouse continued to be occupied, as originally constructed, until 1849. Then there were big changes.... the building was turned! That's right, its west end was turned around to the south... its south side to the east....and the whole building remodeled, renovated, and altered substantially. It stood upon the same spot as the first meetinghouse. It was 68 feet long and 54 feet wide, two stories in height, clapboarded, and painted white. Windows had 24 panes each, with each pane measuring 9 by 12 inches. The pews were 6 feet long and 5 feet wide, paneled, painted, and with the top boasting a miniature balustrade. In all, there were 95 pews as well as long, unpainted free seats for men on one side and women on the other. The seats in the enclosed pews were on hinges, and were lifted during prayer, when everyone stood. When the minister said "Amen," it was the signal for careless dropping of the seats into their places with "a noise and rattle not unlike a musketry salute of a raw, poorly drilled militia company." (My goodness, my ancestor, S.T. Worcester, certainly had a way with words!)

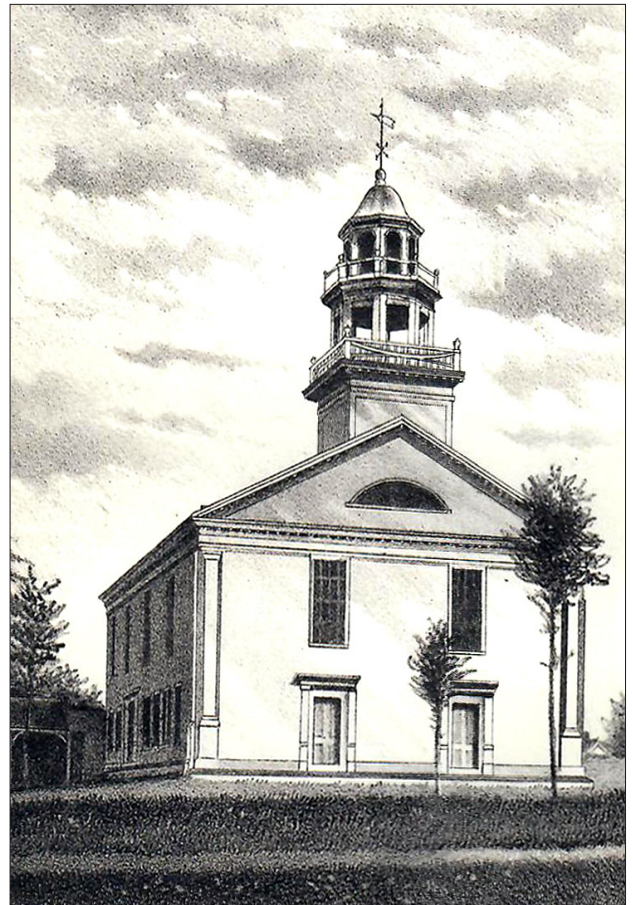
A bell for the belfry, weighing 1,263 pounds, cost \$740 and was installed in 1821. Approximately 20 years later, the bell cracked, it was taken down and a new one was hung in its place. AND, the ceiling of the church?!!! Wow! It was slightly arched, painted a light sky blue.... But, in its northwest corner..... WAIT FOR IT NOW.... it was painted with a dark, angry, portentous thundercloud! (Do you think there was maybe a little hellfire and brimstone preaching going on here?)

There was no heat in this church either. For ladies

who could afford it, it was fur muffs and tippets for the hands, arms and neck....and thick socks of fur or wool for the feet. But mostly it was the small, hand carried foot warmers (stoves) that were quietly slipped from one pair of cold feet to another.

On the morning of October 16, 1923, DISASTER STRUCK. The church bell rang out its last fire alarm and its own dirge, for the meetinghouse, near and dear to every native of the old town burned to the ground. Strong men wept unashamed at the sight, but their tears strengthened a determination to replace the structure by one that should fill all modern needs. That new church is the main part of the beautiful church which stands today in the center of Hollis.

(*The material for this article is from the **History of Hollis** by S.T. Worcester*)



Third Meeting House

Attic Treasures

Our popular ATTIC TREASURES SHOP at the Wheeler House, re-opens for the season on the first Saturday in June (June 3) at 9am. We've got some great buys waiting for you!

And if you're interested in donating items.... we're open Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm for drop off.... or you can leave donations on the porch. (No large pieces of furniture nor large appliances, please). If you need help moving donations, just give us a call and we'll come to you. If you're uncertain as to what types of items we can accept, just give us a call.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity!

Hollis Historical Society Members

Deirdre Adams
* Louise Allaire
Peter & Ellen Allen
Barbara Amos
Denise April & Joshua Robey
Ted & Liz Barbour
Michael & Tricia Bates
* Mike Beebe
Jim & Sandy Belanger
Nancy Bell
Anna Birch & Chris Volpe
Richard & Nancy Birch
Sue Birch
Mike & Hannah Boyd
Elizabeth Bucknam & family
* Alan & Suzannah Carey
* Deborah Cobleigh
* Peter & Susan Cobleigh
Winnie Crouse
Rebecca Crowther
Robert & Sibyl Cushman
Bob & Cathy Cutter
Martha Davis
Lawrence & Debi DePaulis
Russ Dickerman
Catherine Doherty
Richard & Katherine Drisko
Farm Design / Jack Harkins
Rod & Miki Ferland
John & Bette Finnern
Randy & Julie Forgaard
Diane Foster
* Stephen & Debra Frommer
David & Brenda Gibson
David & Peggy Gilmour
Honi Glover
Chris Graham
Paul & Maggie Grupposo
Carolyn Hackett
Dorothy Hackett
* Keith & Dorna Hamer
Priscilla Hamilton
Bruce Hardy
* Cameron & Nicole Hardy
Joe Harlin
* Bill & Kimber Harmon
Tom & Pat Harris

Janet Hicks & Jon Muurmann
Tom & Kathryn Hildreth
Joel & Aurelia Hooks
Betsy Hopkins
Phyllis Houle
Thomas & Barbara Hovious
Sharon Howe & Chip Harris
Stephen & Nicole Jambard
Tom & Nancy Jambard
Dr. John Janeiro
Milton & Joyce Janosky
Tom & Mary Jeffery
Ann Jennings
Sandy Johnson
George King
Phyllis King
Kenneth Labaugh
Clark & Jan Lambert
Richard & BJ Lates
Robert & Susan Leadbetter
Mark & Julie LeDoux
Kathi Lewis
Raymond & Joan Lorden
Richard & Linda Lovering
John Lumbard
Jedd & Lucille Lupien
Fred & Millie Lyford
The MacDonough family
Richard & Josey Macmillan
The Mahan family
Basil & Sandy Mason
Don & Judy McCoy
John & Kat McGhee
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mills
Bill & Lynn Moseley
* James Mossman
Peggy Murdock
Doug & Cyndy Nye
Karyn Oakes-Keeper
Freddi Olson
Hans & Kathleen Olson
Kurt Olson
Hugh & Jane O'Neill
Robert Oot & Carol Robey
* Richard Pascar
Mary Pease
Dot Pitman

Thelma Pollard
Ann Porter
Randy Prozeller
Alan & Kristen Retter
Vincent & Diane Rizzo
Art Rockwell
Lorin & Nanci Rydstrom
Sally Sadler
Roger & Addie Saunders
Carole Sawdon
* Lorraine Schell
Lynn Schur
Robert & Danielle Scott
Wayne & Shirley Sharpe
Debbe Shipman
John & Marie Sias
Ann Siglin
Vivian Silva
Pete Smith
Jeanne Smith-Cripps
Sheila Spooner
Jim Squires
The Svirk Family
* Art Sweed
Andrew Tinklepaugh
Bob & Joan Tinklepaugh
Barbara Townsend
Chris Trow
Edward & Anita Walker
Lauraine Walker
Lisa Walker
Nancy Wall
Pat Walsh
Gene & Mary Lou Ward
Sharon Watson
Marilyn Wehrle
Mary Ann Wesoly
Bill & Kathy White
Marcia White
The Whitehead family
Frank & Eleanor Whittemore
Kimberly Whitworth
Ann Williams
Charles & Janet Worcester
Tom & Jeanette Worcester
* The Wuerdeman family

* The asterisk denotes our newest members

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

Thursday, May 18, 2017

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

at the Lawrence Barn and is open to the public

As seen on New Hampshire Chronicle...

FRED MARPLE

...presenting Yankee humor, music, & assorted nonsense for the whole family

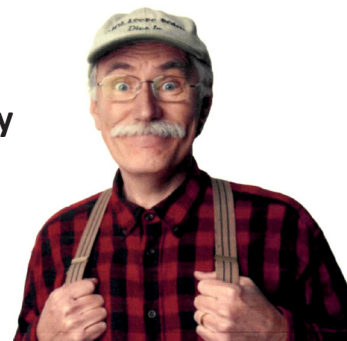
Here's what people say about Fred Marple's programs:

"...laughed so hard my face hurt..."

"A great evening enjoyed by all."

"A hoot!"

"Fred shows potential of being the voice of NH as Bert & I once were to Mainiacs."



RAFFLES: The drawings for our raffles will also be during the evening of the Annual Dinner. You'll have time before the drawing to buy tickets for these three terrific raffles.

IMPORTANT: For dinner reservations, please call Dotty Hackett at 603-465-2231 by Monday, May 15th, and let her know if you are bringing either a MAIN DISH, SALAD, or VEGETABLE.

Dessert will be provided by the Board of Directors.



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

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

The Always Ready Engine House will be open
the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month,
June through October, from 1 PM to 4 PM.

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



In closing, I hope your summer is full of sunshine, family fun, and new and interesting adventures. And, yes, please find time to visit us at the Always Ready Engine House, the Wheeler House... and if you like good buys... our Attic Treasures Shop.

Best regards,

Fredricka Olson

Fredricka Olson, Curator

Production Staff

Writer: Fredricka Olson
Editing: Sue Birch
Marilyn Wehrle
Layout: Bette Finnern

HELP WANTED:

- **WRITERS:** If you're interested in writing, we'd love to have contributions to the newsletter. If it helps, we have all sorts of interesting research material from which to draw ideas. Or use your own. Hollis history is the name of the game. It's fun! Give us a call and give it a try.
- **ATTIC TREASURES HELPERS:** Sales helpers on our open Saturdays. Help set-up at 8:30am, sell, have fun meeting nice people, then help put unsold items away at 1pm.