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<http://www.hollishistoricalsociety.org> <https://www.facebook.com/hollishistoricalsociety>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPVHSOP8tjHeGvkxkb-F8CA/videos>

“The ‘control of nature’ is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man.” Unknown

Hello Everyone,

I sincerely hope this finds everyone well in this strange, new world we’re all living in. It will be interesting to see how the history books record this time.

Since most of us are stuck at home, I understand that many folks are cooking more, trying new recipes, and getting family members involved in food preparation. Which led me to pull out an old handwritten cookbook that I believe belonged to either my grandmother Helen Worcester Bell, or **her** mother May Tenney Worcester. And I want to share a few of the old recipes with you.

Raspberry Shrub -- A Drink



4 quarts crushed raspberries
2 quarts vinegar – pour over berries

Let stand overnight. In morning, strain through cloth and boil up with EQUAL PARTS SUGAR. Dilute with water for drink. *Pretty simple -- Even I can handle this!*

Peanut Butter Cookies -- Agnes Tenney’s Recipe

(Agnes was my great, great aunt. When I was a young child, she worked in the Hollis Social Library)

1 C brown sugar 1 C flour (scant)
1/3 cup butter 1 tsp. baking powder
1/3 cup peanut butter Raisins and nuts
2 eggs



Cook to chewy stage. Sheet cookies. *Oh dear! Aunt Agnes, you’ve really let me down. No oven temperature! No cooking time! Now what? Never mind, let’s move on.*

Mabel Hinckley’s Sponge Gingerbread

Yumm! sounds good!

½ C molasses ½ C milk 1 tsp soda
½ C butter 1 egg 1 tsp ginger
½ C sugar 2 C flour



WHAT?!! Now wait a minute! What type of pan do I use? What’s the oven temperature? How long does it bake? This is why I DO NOT cook! Too many unknowns!

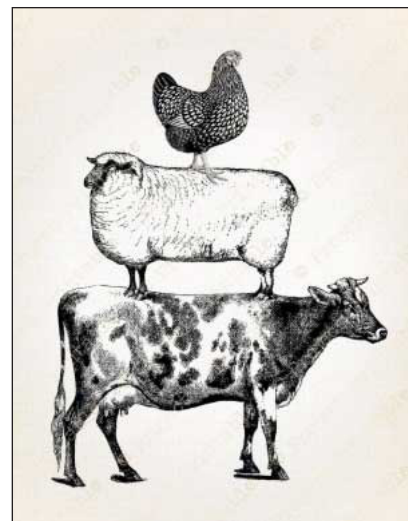
Bad enough we’re stuck in the house, we don’t need the added stress of all these mystery recipes with no oven temperatures, no baking times! Now that I take a hard look through this cookbook..... NONE of the recipes give a temperature for cook-

ing or amount of time to cook. Of course, with wood stoves, there was no temperature control dial. Obviously, these ladies knew exactly

what they were doing and were skillful cooks. They didn’t sweat the small stuff like times and temperatures. No sireee, they just marched on.

I must be a huge disappointment to my ancestors since I don’t cook at all (if I can help it!)...but I do love to READ recipes. Does that count at all?

And speaking of reading, one old book I find fascinating, and probably a book many Hollis farmers owned in the early and mid-1800s, is called **The New England Farrier and Family Physician**. It has over 450 pages and lists recipes for remedies for human and animal diseases (and some were used for both!), provided by a “*very learned, skillful and pious author.*”



One of the authors was Doctor Williams, Family Physician. “*This man was two years with the Indians, and was assisted in that time by a young Indian educated at one of our best Medical Colleges.*” The book was compiled by Josiah Richardson and published by same in Exeter, NH, in 1828. I acquired this book from a terrific lady, and a good friend, **Dottie Bean**, who lives on a wonderful old farm in Farmington, NH, and belonged to the original owner of her farm. (The spelling and wording of recipes is ‘as found’ in the book).

- The recipe (treatment) is for a human “*with a humour (not the ha-ha type of humor) in the Leg by a hurt or strain.*” DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT, under any circumstances, try any of these recipes on any person or animal....EVER! They are being related only for a matter of interest.

(By the way, these are the same warnings I give dinner guests at my home).

“There was a man amongst us about sixty years of age, that travelled in the snow and strained his leg, by which the humour settled, and in a little while it was useless. The doctor of the town attended it without success; and there was a doctor consulted in an adjacent town, of uncommon information. His direction was, to go to a spring and get frogs sufficient to cover his leg, when they were baked well in brandy in an earthen pot, so as to stir them up like a thin pudding, spread other.”

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Hollis Historical Society
20 Main Street
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
(603-465-3935)

The Hollis Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of New Hampshire.

The mission is to provide an opportunity for all ages to connect with the history and heritage of the Town of Hollis and its residents to gain knowledge and perspective from the past and to find inspiration and purpose for the future. We do this by:

- Acquiring, preserving, and making available to the public, memorabilia and historical materials significant to the Town
- Conduct research and make available historical and genealogical information to interested persons and organizations
- Present educational and informative programs and exhibits for our members and the community
- Maintain the structure and collections of the Ruth Wheeler House and the Always Ready Engine House

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Old Homes

In our Winter newsletter, we discussed a few architectural terms pertaining to old homes. Folks who are interested in their antique houses usually want to know when their house was built and who has owned it and/or lived in it from then until now. Other homeowners may want to dig deeper and start researching deeds. Either way, researcher or not, I think everyone, old homeowner, new homeowner, renter, etc., will find some humor in the following.

A Humorous Look at an Old House Deed Chain

A deed chain is the stringing together of deeds, chronologically, to determine a house's owners from the present back to the earliest. It's a key part of compiling your home's history. Historian Sally Light, in her book, **House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home**, shared the following tale in a 2006 issue of **Early American Homes**.



A New Orleans lawyer sought a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan for a client, but the FHA advised him a loan could be granted only if he proved the title to the property could be offered as collateral. Since the title dated back to 1803, the lawyer spent three months verifying it.

The FHA responded, *"We compliment you on the able manner in which you prepared the application. However, you did not clear the title before 1802. Before final approval can be given, we must have the clearance on the title prior to that year."*

The annoyed lawyer replied, *"I note you wish titles further back than I presented them. I was unaware that any educated person was ignorant of the fact that Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803. That title was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain. Spain possessed the land by right of discovery in 1492 by a sailor named Columbus, who was privileged to seek a new route to India by the then-reigning monarch, Isabella. The good queen, being a pious woman and careful about titles – almost as careful, I might say, as the FHA, secured the blessing of Pope Innocent VIII before she sold her jewels to sponsor the voyage. The Pope, as you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God is commonly accepted as having made the world. I believe it is safe to presume that He also made that part of the world called Louisiana. I certainly hope this information will enable you to grant my client's loan."*

CHAIN OF TITLE INTO McTEER - (Marshlands, continued)		
Plat of Henry G. Judd (referenced in grant)	8/13/91	"Sinking Fund Misc. Plats" pp. 298-299 S.C. Archiver & History
Charles H. Lyman to St. Helena Co.	12/21/91	DB 19/87 (3rd tract, shown at top of 19/88)
St. Helena Co. to J. D. Cameron	2/21/14	DB 32/182-3-4-5
Fidelity-Phila. Trust Co. & J. Gardner Bradley to J. E. McTeer	3/31/52	DB 70/556

The Census in Hollis... in 1775

Since this is a CENSUS year, I thought it would be interesting to see what the census in Hollis reflected in 1775 (from **The History of Hollis, NH 1730-1879**, by S.T. Worcester):

"Holles (spelled Holles in the town charter as well as all the early town records) was on the south side of the province, adjoining Pepperell, about forty-five miles northwest of Boston and twenty three from Concord, Massachusetts. By the census taken in September, 1775, the whole number of its inhabitants was 1,255, of whom 174 were males between the ages of 16 and 50, 71 males over 50, 60 of its men then in the army, besides the eleven who had before been killed in the service or died of sickness. There were also in the town one hundred and thirty-one fire-arms, and one hundred and eleven pounds of powder, the property of private persons, but none at that date in the town store, the ammunition of the town having been all exhausted the spring previous."

(Wow, I wonder who did all the cooking in town, made and mended clothes, tended the gardens, made candles and soap, watched over the children, as well as a myriad of other duties)?!!!

it on a woollen cloth sufficient to cover his leg – he was commanded to wear it several days – he thus did and his leg was soon restored, and was well as the other”.



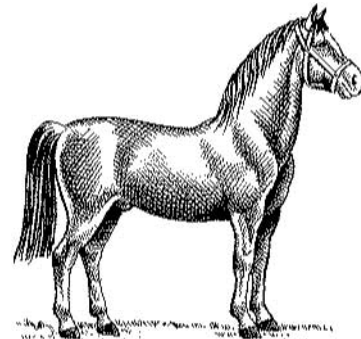
Now, “For the Ague Fever – Men have it sometimes when they come from sea. Take a junk bottle and fill it with his urine, just as the shake is coming on; cork it tight and bury it two feet deep. This has given entire relief in this difficulty. Whether it would operate thus in the fever ague, I cannot say.” (I believe the last fever ague is different from the one afflicting men from the sea). Do you ever wonder what kind of person thinks up a remedy like this?!

• A Windy Rupture -- “Warm cow dung well; spread it on thick leather, strewing some cumin seeds on it, and apply it hot. When cold, put on a new one. It commonly cures a child (keeping his bed) in two days.” That cow dung would have me out of bed in about two SECONDS!

• “Star in a Horse’s Forehead” (As in making a star on a horse’s head). Good grief! Whoever heard of making a star on a horse’s head?! “Take pickled Mackerel, and confine it on, in any shape you please, three or four days repeating, and it will produce a white spot.”

• And an old English treatment for colic in a horse:

“Ether and chloroform, ½ oz each
Tincture of opium, 2 oz
Tincture of cardamom, 1 oz”



It’s truly amazing that any humans or animals survived these so-called remedies. Of course, bleeding of humans and animals was also big in the old days (*Thank goodness, that hideous practice is no more!*). Phases of the moon were also taken into account for various practices. And I noticed that lots and lots of alcohol.... as in wine, beer, brandy, and rum were included in these old recipes. It probably didn’t cure a thing, but the patient wouldn’t care.



YouTube Videos

Have you seen our YouTube videos yet? These terrific videos were created by Jill Arabas of Hollis. She interviewed many long-time Hollis residents, used an array of photos of old Hollis scenes from the Wheeler House, then added a complimentary music background....and VOILA...MAGIC!

We suggest first watching three short documentaries: **Hollis the Way It Was**, **World War II**, and **Fun as Kids**:

• Click on the link below for the **Hollis Historical Society YouTube channel**:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPVHSOP8tjHcGvkxkb-F8CA/videos>

• When the YouTube page appears, all of the interviews will be shown

Just Because We’re Closed for the Time Being....

...there are still things you can do:

- If you’re spending some of your time organizing and de-cluttering your attic, cellar, garage, and closets, how about packing up some of those items that you think might sell at Attic Treasures. Attic Treasures isn’t operating right now and we can’t accept items at the present time....but you could box up the things you want to get rid of and have them all ready to donate once we’re up and running again. It would be appreciated!
- Do you live in an old house? Please consider writing about it, including discussing its’ history, past owners, and changes that have been made to the house over the years. Do you have an ancestor that’s had an exciting life or history that would make for an interesting story. Then send it to us for publication in a future newsletter.
- Take a walk (at a safe distance from one another) around the Town Common and Veterans Park and read the names on the monuments. Many of the names on the monuments are now street names in Hollis...and many of the descendants of those folks still live in Hollis.

Do You Keep A Diary or Journal?

If you keep a diary or journal, it would be a huge help to us if you'd record what is going on right now in your lives. Jot down what you hear in the news, what you do every day, every week, to keep busy. What do you feel? What do you do for fun? How do you get your groceries, mail, prescriptions. Nice things people have done for you...or you have done for them. Do you exercise and, if so, what do you do for exercise. What are you using for a facemask?

We have some wonderful old diaries at the Historical Society. People recorded the daily weather, what they did for chores, who they visited, what they planted in their gardens, how much various food items cost, what may have been going on in their town, their church, or the world. It's fascinating reading!

It's important that we record what is happening now....in our personal lives, in our town, our country, even around the world. So PLEASE, write it down for us. Everyone's story will be different. There is no right or wrong. We need to record this for future generations. Every little detail is important.

In closing, in these uncertain times, we don't know when we'll be back to 'business as usual' at the Hollis Historical Society, but we'll keep you posted.

If you have an email address and haven't provided us with it, please do, because much of our correspondence will be via email for the next few months. Besides being able to provide more timely notices and information, it's more costly to have material printed and sent out by the U.S. Postal Service. Currently without income from Attic Treasures, we need to conserve our resources. Your dues and donations are what help keep us afloat.

Thank you in advance for keeping the Hollis Historical Society in your thoughts! We wish you only good things! Stay well and safe! And remember, this too shall pass.

Best regards,

Fredricka Olson

Fredricka Olson, Curator



"To a man all things are possible but one... he cannot have a hole in the seat of his breeches and keep his fingers out of it." Mark Twain

Reminder: Membership Dues Are Due!

Don't forget to send your annual dues to the Society with the attached Membership Renewal form. Your additional capital improvement donation this year will be applied to general maintenance fund for replacing the porch of the Wheeler House and other projects in the near future with our gratitude.

Your continued support is crucial to our efforts to support our museums and the preservation of maps, documents, photographs, and artifacts. We appreciate your help in preserving and promoting the rich history of Hollis. Thank you very much!