



Washington Historical Society Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SPRING 2011 EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, I suppose that most of you have had enough winter by now and are thinking about spring, flowers and anything but white.

We have a dedicated number of members who have been working diligently with Gwen on the Hurd diaries. And they are making great progress.

The program committee has also been working, and has done a wonderful job of lining up a nice variety of programs for our enjoyment and enlightenment this year.

The Town Hall documentary is coming together nicely under the direction and guidance of Carolyn Russell.

Gwen and I made a trip to Maine to pick up a fireproof safe/file cabinet which I located. This will provide another secure storage unit for the archives.

I want to thank all of the people who have been working on the society projects through the winter. And encourage everyone to come out for the monthly meetings and suppers. These begin in April, the second Monday, through November. Bring your friends, neighbors and relatives.

You might also consider volunteering to be a museum host. Or if you have another interest let us know.

I look forward to seeing you,
Phil

Museum Report

by Archivist, Gwen Gaskell

The museum has spent the winter well tucked in by snow but that has not slowed the gifts of items added to our collection. We have a picture post card of a scene, from the top of Draper Hill looking down onto Half Moon Pond, after it was clear cut in the early 1900s, an embroidered shirt patch of the Seventh Day Advent Church Sabbath Trail, an April 24, 1940 Concord Monitor, electric oven with side units which fold up against the oven, enamel combination cook stove and a 1940 wooden child's play pen. After all, small children had to be kept safe from the hot stove! For the Archives area Phil located a safe, which is a 4-drawer file cabinet. It was a great buy for \$50. For a tank of gas and the use of my son Larry's truck, Phil & I made a pleasant day trip to Maine to get it.

From California we just received the gift of one of our Bicentennial Plates.

June 25th will be orientation day at the Museum. Please mark your calendars for the date at 2 PM and come check out the display for the summer and sign up to host the museum, barn or schoolhouse for the months of July & Aug. It is only for 2 hours on Wednesday or Saturday afternoon and if we each take a turn or two it will not be a burden to anyone.

WANTED: If you have any 3- ring loose- leaf notebooks that you aren't using, we can make good use of them for the diary work. For the diaries they need to be 2 or 3- inch binders, however we can make good use of narrower ones for other projects. They can be dropped off at my home, or at the museum during the summer.

The following are excerpts from a newspaper clipping belonging to the Historical Society and dating sometime prior to 1885 about "how some of the Nashua boys spend their vacations . . . the following account of a trip that a party of ours took to what is known as the Nashua camp at Half Moon pond, in Washington N.H."

"Half Moon pond is a beautiful sheet of water, covering about 100 acres, and for fishing it cannot be excelled by any pond the the State. The scenery at and around the pond is very beautiful. On the opposite side of the pond from where our camp is situated is Read's Hill, which is owned by Warner Read, of Hollis, and is used as a pasture by him. On the top of the hill there is a very large and thrifty sugar orchard, being one of the best in the State."

"Another pleasant drive from our camp was to Oak Hill, and from there around Mellin's pond, which is situated about a mile from the village and which is, we think, the prettiest pond in the State.

One of the principal points of interest at Oak Hill is the lead mine, which is situated near the top of the hill, and from it they obtain a very good quality of plumbago, such as is used in manufacturing lead pencils."

"On the 17th inst. the people of Washington held a picnic at our camp, which added very much to the pleasure of our trip. There were about 65 persons present and the day was one that will long be remembered by the Nashua campers, (especially the cook.) On the evening of the 18th they gave a social party and dance at the grove near the village, expressly for our benefit. On the morning of the 19th inst. we commenced to break camp, very much to our regret, and at 9 p.m. we started for Nashua, where we arrived at 9 a.m. the next morning, after two weeks of rare enjoyment that will always remain fresh in our minds."

Diary Update

By Gwen Gaskell



The collection of Clara's Diary transcribers has now grown to 10 and there is room for many more. You don't have to type or have a computer – there are other things you can help with. The stormy winter has kept some of us in and this work has helped with the winter doldrums. To date we have worked from 1872 through 1884 and have started on 1885. This is great progress for 10 month's time! A huge thank you to every one who is involved in this project. In turn, Tom is saving the transcribed work in a searchable data base on the museum computer. I get the scanned copies back along with the transcribed pages and put them into plastic pages, then a notebook for each year. I am going through the notebooks, looking up information on names, families, businesses and anything that will add information or insight to what was happening at that time.

We have found that in 1884 there was a diphtheria epidemic here in Washington that hit the young and old especially hard. The Safford family was the hardest hit and 10 yr. old Lizzie was among the fatalities. A quilt she made is in the museum collection.

I have been privileged to the information that "Clara" is going to pay a visit to the Society Meeting on April 11. You may want to make an effort to attend to see what she has to offer; bring a friend.



Taking a Washington winter in stride.

Feb 27, 2010

Heading into the Notch on Rt. 31, weather watcher Phil Barker spends much of his winter rearranging snowflakes for the State of NH with his 1973 (antique?) Oshkosh plow.

Total snowfall in Washington this winter (so far!) was 8.5 feet
thankfully not all at once!

Lowest temperature was 30 below zero on Jan. 24th at 7:45 AM.

Photo and caption from the Town of Washington official web site:
www.washingtonnh.org
Courtesy Phil Barker and Police Chief Steve Marshall.

Memories

By Richard Crane

Years ago when I was in the auction and real estate business, I was asked to go to a house in East Washington to do an appraisal and to look for two items in particular.

There was a problem with the electric bills the Estate received each month, even though the place had no one living there. It was rumored that the person who had lived there kept their money in a hidden strong box. Taking 3 employee's with me one evening, we went to the house and soon found the strong box—but somebody had found it ahead of us and it was EMPTY.

The electric bill was another story—we looked down cellar-upstairs and everywhere else to no avail. We were all in the kitchen when suddenly a small light appeared on the kitchen counter, beside the sink. It turned out that someone had left the coffee pot plugged in, the coffee had all evaporated and the pot was still heating and cooling, like a thermostat. This had been happening for a few months. Lucky a fire had not started and burned the house down.

Another house- Another place

After several people had searched a house for important papers to no avail, we were able to locate the hidden papers. They had been fastened to the office window shade, revealed when it was pulled down but completely hidden when the shade was rolled up. A great idea!

Maple Sugar Time

People in the maple business have been very busy shoveling out the equipment from the good old fashioned snow fall we have had this winter.

Some areas of the state were hit last week with a heavy ice storm taking down trees and the plastic pipelines that maple sugar producers use. This year several sugar makers are using a new sap spout with a check valve in it. This spout valve opens to let the sap drip out and closes when the sap stops running, thus keeping the air from entering the tap hole and drying up the hole in the tree. This invention is thought to increase a sap flow 17 %. What next?

Editors note: Last fall when the newsletter was being printed Richard was in the hospital. He had a valve replaced in his heart and we are glad to report that he is doing GREAT. He is planning his garden and ordering more berry bushes to plant this spring.

Keep up the good work Richard.

Washington Meetinghouse/Town Hall Documentary Video



We have more good news to share! The New Hampshire Humanities Council has just awarded us a second grant in the amount of \$10,000 to complete our documentary video. It is pretty exciting to learn that so many people far beyond Washington share our enthusiasm and agree that our building which has been the center of 225 years of town life certainly deserves to have its story told.

We are happy to report that the Script Development Phase, which was partially funded by the initial New Hampshire Humanities Council Project Grant has been completed. Live interviews have been conducted, many hours of research have been contributed, photos and memorabilia have been collected and the documentary is well on its way to completion.

The Production Phase is now underway and will work through the summer to coordinate all the elements of our story leading to the actual creation of the video. Completion is scheduled for November, 2011, with an anticipated Sneak Preview in the late autumn.

At the 2011 Town Meeting, initial funds for a 225th birthday celebration were approved. It is our hope that many town institutions and organizations will join in to make it a memorable event and that the introduction of the "The Heart of Washington: Portrait of a New England Meetinghouse" will be the centerpiece of the celebration.

Breaking News -- We have just received news from the NH State Council on the Arts that they have awarded us a grant of \$2,250 to help with the video production.

Washington Historical Society Programs for 2011

2nd Monday of each month, April through November at Camp Morgan

Meeting Times:	6:00 - 7:00 P.M.	Pot Luck Supper
	7:00 - 7:30 P.M.	Business Meeting
	7:30 - 8:30 P.M.	Program

April 11	Clara May Hurd pays a visit
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="margin: 0;">May 9</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Rebecca Rule will present the program: That Reminds Me of a Story: Yankee Humor and the New England Storytelling Tradition. Ms. Rule tells and gathers stories of New England, especially New Hampshire. Her books include “The Best Revenge: Short Stories”; “Could Have Been Worse: True Stories, Embellishment, and Outright Lies”; and a new book “Live Free and Eat Pie: A Storyteller’s Guide to New Hampshire”. She also writes a book review column for three New Hampshire newspapers and hosts the New Hampshire Authors Series on NH Public television.</p> </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="margin: 0;">June 13</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Glenn Knoblock will present the Program: Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. Mr. Knoblock is an independent scholar, author of ten books and over 70 articles and a researcher on projects relating to New Hampshire history and African American military history; serving as the main military contributor to the Harvard and Oxford landmark African American Biography Project. He is an advisory member of the mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee in Portsmouth, NH, a group devoted to racial diversity and promoting NH African American history.</p> </div> </div>	
June 25	<i>Orientation for Museum Host, 2 pm at the Museum. Refreshments served.</i>
July 2	Snowriders’ Flea Market on the Town Common, 9 am - 2 pm. The Historical Society will have another Pie Sale fund raiser, as well as participating in the flea market.
July 11	Gil Shattuck & Tom Talpey will present a program on: Washington & East Washington Images from the Manahan-Phelps-McCulloch Collection of the Hillsborough Historical Society, including some aerial photos of Washington taken over 50 years ago.
Aug. 8	Stephen Gray will present, The History of Snowplowing in New Hampshire. Mr. Gray worked for the State Department of Transportation for more than 34 years, working his way up to the position of State Maintenance Engineer, specializing in snow and ice control. He will discuss the many changes which have taken place in winter road care, describing the early methods and hardships leading up to the present techniques. He is currently retired and lives in Sunapee.
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Sept. 12</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Charles A. Kennedy will present A Short Course on Islam for Non-Muslims. Dr. Kennedy holds a PhD from Yale University Divinity School; Professor Emeritus, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has published widely on the subject of the Bible and early Christian life; teaches adult education classes at Colby-Sawyer College on such varied topics as vaudeville, Islam and the Wesleyan movement in England. Dr. Kennedy is on the board of the NH Council of Churches.</p> </div> </div>	
Oct. 10	To Be Announced.
Nov. 14	Clara May Hurd returns.

Museum & Barn Hours:	July & August, Wed. & Sat. 2-4 P.M. or by appointment anytime. Call Gwen (603) 495-3231 or Tom (603) 495-3284
District #5 School Hours:	July & August, Sat. 1-3 P.M. or by appointment anytime. Call Gwen at 495-3231 or Charlotte Treadwell at 495-0800

ITEMS FOR SALE

FEATURING FAVORITE LANDMARKS OF

WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Please order by mail, or call: Tom Talpey (603) 495-3284. ttalpey@gsinet.net
 or: Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 jimngwen@gsinet.net

Visit our website for pictures of these items: <http://www.ultimate.com/washington/whs/>

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Tote Bag. This custom designed tapestry tote bag depicts the much photographed buildings on our Town Common. Tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors, it measures a generous 17 1/2 inches square. Long 25 inch handles are easy on the shoulders. Lined, with inside pocket.	\$30.00
Pillow. Featuring the East Washington Baptist Church, the pillow is covered in tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors. It measures a generous 16" x 16" and is offered with hunter green backing.	\$25.00
Puzzle. Our 494-piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill S. Pierre. As a limited edition collectible, each of the 200 puzzles is individually numbered.	\$5.00
Mug. White ceramic mug with sketch of the three steepled buildings in the center of Town. They are 11 ounce and can be used in the microwave and dishwasher. White mugs with black print.	\$5.00
Trivet. A 6" x 6" ceramic trivet, or tile, suitable for hot or cold, with a leather backing, featuring a color photograph of the three steepled buildings in the center of town. Gift boxed.	\$15.00

All items can be shipped for an additional charge. Call or email Tom Talpey at the contact info above to ascertain the amount required. It will be in the range of \$4 to \$10 per package, depending on your zip code.

Gustine Hurd Images



Two postcards have been generated, using copies of very old photographs taken in the early 1880s by Gustine Hurd. 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches. For sale at 50¢ each. We can also furnish these as single fold notecards packaged in sets of four, at \$5 per set, including envelopes. Two of each or all four of the same image.



By AGNES BARNEY YOUNG

WASHINGTON, N H, Aug 7—On Aug 21, 22 and 23, Washington, the first town in the United States to be named for Gen Washington, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation in conjunction with Old Home Day.

The initial settlement was on the northern shore of Millen Lake, a charming body of water not far from the centre village, and now surrounded by Summer homes and camps, among them the Worcester Y M C A and Camp Tapawingo for girls.

Washington might well be called "The town of many ponds" for 27 sparkle within its borders; some are secluded and ideal havens for all kinds of feathered tourists, sharing with reynard the isolation coveted. Long Pond, partly in Stoddard, is six miles long and the largest.

Along the various streams in the early days were situated 21 mills, manufacturing cloth, cotton yarn, stove castings, powder kegs, clothspins, bobbins, lumber, shingles, tubs, pails, spades, hoe handles, washboards, pulp wood and grist.

Old Town House Standing

The old Town House on the Village Green at Washington Center remains as a memorial to the rugged, honest, far-seeing pioneers, one of whose first acts for the new town was the erection of this age-old structure, that has served as meeting house, Town House, Grange Hall, Community House (here the Old Home Day celebrations are held) and for long years it sheltered in its ample rooms Tubb's Union Academy, at one time a famous school, listing 200 students.

What memories between its walls—
What keen debates—what essays fine—
Have been hurled forth from earnest lips
To echo down the "road of time"!

In close proximity to the Town House we find a well-kept Congregational Church and graded school. In the list of Washington's teachers are the names of Dr A. A. Miner, president of Tufts College, and Sylvanus Thayer, organizer of West Point Military Academy.

Across the street stands the first monument to be erected in New Hampshire to the memory of the fallen heroes of the Civil War.

The town library attests the ability of Sara Shedd and Luman T. Jeffs.

History tells us Sara Shedd early came under the influence of Mary Lyon. The incident of the bridegroom paying the parson's fee in beans occurred here, and Sara Shedd, in a poem, ably tells the story of the bride anxiously waiting outside while her lover puts through the deal—the poem ending.

"He leans far o'er the window sill and screams,
'Come in, he says he'll take the beans!'"

The two stores sell everything from tacks to ice cream, including putty for the Town House, which has 40 7 by 9 squares to each window.

Southeast of the Center are two roads, one leading to Hillsboro, the birthplace of President Pierce, and the other to the cozy village of East Washington. To the north of these is the Mountain road, the first road laid out to East Washington from the Center, and so-called because it takes you to Mt Lovewell, in the center of the town, and, if you have the patience, on to East Washington.

Mt Lovewell Accessible

Mt Lovewell soon is reached, and the summit easy of access. Its altitude approaches 3000 ft. and from its crest of solid granite may be seen, to the west the Green Mountains of Vermont, to the northwest Cardigan, further north Kearsarge, and in the dim distance the peaks of Franconia, while to the southeast rise the rounded Uncanoonucs. Sweetzer's Guide Book says, "Mt Lovewell in Washington, N H, is plainly visible from the peak of Sandwich Dome, that monarch of the White Hills."

Fifteen ponds, mostly in Washington, may also be counted from Lovewell's crest.

From here the descent begins, and in a gem of a valley with a Swiss setting one may discern East Washington. At the right, in a hollow of the mountain's ridge, rests Island Pond; fed by springs, its waters are unusually clear and cold. Through East Washington, it sends a tributary to the Contoocook. In this delightful environment many Summer places are found, one on the largest island.

On Ayer's Hill just north of Lovewell is the famous Tilting Rock. Of several tons weight, yet so delicately balanced in a small hollow of the rock on which it stands, that a strong wind moves it.

In the center of the village is Lovewell Lake, noted for its unusually fine reflections. Near its borders is the Summer home of MacGregor Jenkins, publisher of the Atlantic Monthly. On the hillside rests the home of George S. Jones, long connected with the old Quincy House of Boston.

In the village square, Grange Hall, to which place tempting pumpkin pies, frosted cakes, ice cream, etc., find their way when community suppers are in progress (at a recent meeting they reset the tables eight times), keeps guard over the farming interests.

Nightly, at the village store, the "orators" from cracker-box perches argue the merits and demerits of George H. Moses, or unravel the latest mystery in their favorite daily, the Boston Globe.

Crowning the Common Hill, rises the Baptist church, flanked by the churchyard with its well-kept little green tents. Only two voices are left that a long-gone generation knew, the voice of Gardner Millen, in his 99th year, born in the shore of Millen Lake in Washington, and the voice of the old church bell. Keeping them company at the Monroe Place on Schoolhouse road is a white rosebush over 100 years o'd.

In researching for material to be used in the Documentary video about the Town Hall, Gwen Gaskell came across this newspaper article. It was written in 1926 by long time local school teacher Agnes Barney Young, and lists some of the joys of living in Washington.

Used desk donated for sale
as a fundraiser.

Solid wood construction,
excellent condition.

If interested, make an offer.

Call Gwen at 495-3231.



A BUILDING FOR THE SHEDD FREE LIBRARY

by Tom Talpey

Details provided by Gwen Gaskell and her team of diary transcribers

One hundred and thirty years ago this February the wheels were set in motion which eventually led to the construction of a fine brick building in town that we now know as the Shedd Free Library. We have long known that the building was the gift of Luman T. Jefts, a man who was born and grew up in Washington, made his fortune and left a permanent legacy of his love for the town. Beginning with a note “out of the blue” received by our librarian, Jo Ellen Wright, and joined by a remarkable coincidence in the work of the group of ladies working with Gwen Gaskell transcribing the Clara May Hurd Diaries, we have learned some of the details behind the creation of this landmark.

We all know the date, for it is inscribed above the door of the Library—1881. In late December of 2010, Jo Ellen received a letter from Margarite Landry, a great great granddaughter of Luman Jefts, which contained a copy of a letter written by Clara Hurd to Mr. Jefts, dated Feb 15, 1881, in which she suggested his sponsorship of a permanent library building. She stated that the idea in turn had originated “two years since” with her husband’s cousin, the photographer Gustine Hurd. (See our Fall 2010 Newsletter.) Both Gustine and Clara herself (before she was married) had known Luman from their days as classmates at Tubbs Union Academy. So, after much soul searching, Clara boldly wrote to Mr. Jefts and noted in her diary that she had secretly done so.

Clara’s letter, in its entirety, reads:

Mr. Jefts—Sir. Altho’ in life’s changes, circumstances may locate us far away from the place of our birth, and home of our childhood, yet it should not cause us to forget or lose an interest in our native place. And we believe it does not, that there always remains a love, a tender feeling for those first recollections of home, home friends and associates.

Presuming on this (if you deem it so) I want to make a little suggestion for Washington, your childhood’s home. You are probably conversant with our small history, and the changes both pleasant and otherwise, that have come to us in the last decades. Also you doubtless know that Miss Sarah Shedd very kindly bequeathed all her property to us as a town, for a Free Public Library.

Our present want and it is a pressing one, is a Library building. I have heard that you have been unusually favored in acquiring an independent fortune. Also that you are very benevolent in assisting in public benefits as well as private. Now would it be pleasant for you to help to a suitable building for our Library. Thereby you would receive our very grateful and kindest thanks: not only of this present generation but those which are yet to come—and it is pleasant to be remembered in the hearts of a people, after we have passed away.

Two years since, cousin Gustine Hurd suggested this idea to me & I have been trying to find courage to write to you about it, since then. What determined me particularly now, is Rev. Justin Burbank (you remember him) is writing a history of the town, (Washington) has concluded it, so far as collecting material, and of course if anything of this kind is done, we should want it in the history, so it might be publicly known and understood.

Mr. Jefts: you may deem me presumptuous, in what I have written: perhaps I am, but I do not mean to be. It is written “It is more blessed to give, than to receive;” hoping that you might fully believe and feel this, I have written, as I have.

If you do not feel to respond favorably to this, please do not speak of it or name myself in connection. No one knows of my writing but Mr. Hurd. May I hope to hear from you soon as convenient, as I would like to write to Mr. Burbank concerning it?

*Very respectfully,
Clara H. May Hurd*

continued on next page



L. J. Jefts

Luman Jefts, Gustine Hurd, as well as Clara May and her future husband Shubael Hurd were all students in Washington at the Tubbs Union Academy in 1849 (Gustine was Shubael's cousin.). So it is reasonable to assume that Luman and Gustine were boyhood friends and some thirty years later, Gustine, being aware of Luman's success in the business world, thought he might be a likely benefactor. Gustine had moved to Providence, RI, and became one of its early and prominent photographers, specializing in Daguerreotypes and later glass plate negative images. Luman had moved to Hudson, MA, where he became extensively engaged in the manufacture of women's shoes for sale in the south after the Civil War. The 1886 Washington Town History cites him as always manifesting "a strong attachment to his native town...." And Gustine knew that Clara, closely involved with the Shedd Free Library, had need for a permanent facility. The library had started in 1869 in an upstairs room of her house and as it expanded had been moved several times to other locations. According to library records, Clara was appointed a Trustee in 1880 and no doubt had become concerned with its future.

Clara patiently waited for a reply to her letter to Jefts, but it didn't come until March 10th.—It turns out that he had been on a trip, perhaps for his business. We don't have a copy of his reply, but Clara wrote in her diary the next night "There, I am happy! Got a letter from my Hudson correspondent last night. He is at

Jacksonvill[e] Florida. Writes that he thinks favorably on my proposition. If we can only have a good library building I shall be very happy." She adds, "Presume some will curse him for giving, me for asking. Well I don't expect any thanks, so no matter."

Commenting on a second letter from Jefts, Clara's diary on April 15th reports: "I have not slept as well for a month, as I did last night Just wonderful!.....Letter from Mr. Jefts saying that he thinks we shall have a Library building before the year is out."

In Clara's diary entry of April 25, 1881, she mentioned writing to "Hudson" again and Mrs. Landry also sent us a copy of that letter. In it she cautioned Mr. & Mrs. Jefts of the rough roads and possible snow drifts which they might encounter on a planned visit to Washington and asked if she might announce the library building. The two letters from Clara, found in the drawer of an antique desk, had been carefully preserved by Mrs. Landry's father and before that by her grandfather. When she discovered them, she thought that the contents ought to be shared with our library. A note from Mrs. Landry says that "The miraculous part is that those two letters, on small pieces of notepaper, were kept so long despite moves, deaths, and other changes. I guess Clara Hurd's spirit lives on!"

Several weeks later (May 3rd) Clara's diary reports: "Letter from Jefts with formal proposal to build library." The architect was the same one who designed Mr. Jefts' home, built 7 years later and still standing, in Hudson, MA. It is known there as the "Jefts Mansion" and there is a noticeable similarity in style between the two buildings.

The proposal was unanimously accepted at a special Town Meeting, held on May 27th, at which Mr. Jefts spoke. Ground was broken on June 13th. In the interim, Clara's diary records, "It is really trying to see the feelings displayed about the Library. Grudging even to have the town fund the foundation! And some of our best citizens too!!" On June 27th she reports that her husband, Shubael (a former Selectman), "worked on the Library foundation. It is going to cost much more than was expected but if we can't afford to pay even a thousand dollars for a building that is worth five or six thousand, then, as a town we are to be pitied."

continued on next page

On the other hand, some town people offered to buy curtains and furniture, others volunteered to work on the building, Mr. & Mrs. Jefts came to town to visit and Clara had them to tea. Clara and others were busy organizing the dedication, inviting speakers and deciding who might entertain them. And even though the furnishings were not fully completed and the chandeliers had not yet come, finally Dedication Day came, Dec. 21, 1881, just before the year's end as Mr. Jefts had predicted. There was some light snow on the ground, but Clara's diary gives a happy summary of the proceedings:

“Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1881

Such a bonnie day as Nature gives us for the Dedication. Rev. N. R. Wright made prayer, Mr. Jefts gave the presentation and Mr. Howe responded in a long and tiresome speech because we were waiting for Mr. Wright's address. It was a splendid one and worth waiting for. The singing was good and added much to the occasion.....An artist on the grounds photographed the Library and the people.”*

The “artist on the grounds” was G. W. Lincoln, from Hillsborough, and the photograph he took is reproduced here. The original 8x10 glass plate negative of the image is in the Manahan-Phelps-McCulloch Collection of the Hillsborough Historical Society, used with their permission. (Note particularly the nose of a horse peeking into the picture at the far left!) An enlargement of a section of the photograph, also reproduced here, shows Luman T. Jefts at the edge of the doorway in the bowler hat, next to the man in the top hat. To his right is Mrs. Jefts and to her right is Clara Hurd, in the center of the doorway.

For the next two days it rained and on Friday Mr. & Mrs. Jefts left in a downpour along muddy roads. Meanwhile, preparations continued with more donations of furniture, a drama was put on in the Town Hall to raise funds and books were moved in. The chandeliers, three ornate cast iron fixtures each holding three or four oil lamps (Commercial electricity didn't come to Washington until 1939.), arrived on Feb. 4th and there began to be talk around the town of “our nice library.” Finally, on Feb. 18th, the new library building officially opened for business. A week later there was an auction to sell furniture from the old library—presumably chairs, tables, shelving, etc. It brought in a total of \$4.10, the equivalent of nearly \$100 in today's prices.

Clara May Hurd was hired as Librarian in 1882, a job which she loved and served in for approximately 20 years.

*This address, extolling the life of Sarah Shedd, was given by Carroll D. Wright, the son of Rev. N. R. Wright. Carroll had grown up and was educated in Washington and later became a successful patent lawyer, a member of the Massachusetts Senate and subsequently the US Commissioner of Labor. Sarah Shedd had been a neighbor and his first teacher and he had great respect for her. An extract from this address, which so impressed Clara, is quoted in the 1886 *History of Washington* on pages 260-261. See also: *Rumors of Sainthood*, by Ron Jager, for an excellent biographical sketch of Sarah Shedd. It can be read on the internet at http://www.monadnockstories.org/harrisville_stories/sarahshedd/sarahshedd6.html



Dedication of the
Shedd Free Library
Decemcer 21, 1881.

Closeup shows
Clara Hurd
(in center of door),
Mrs. Jefts (in bonnet),
and Luman Jefts
(in bowler hat).
The man at far right
in top hat is perhaps
Carroll Wright.



Washington Historical Society Officers

President:	Phil Barker (495-3640)	⋮	Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Richard Crane, advisory
Vice President:	Jack Sheehy (495-3066)		Museum Committee:	Ann Lischke Vivian Hunter Charlotte Treadwell Gwen Gaskell
Treasurer:	Tom Talpey (495-3284)		Newsletter Committee:	Gwen Gaskell Tom Talpey Barbara Gaskell Betty Talpey
Secretary:	Elaine Crandall (495-3416)		Program/Publicity Committee:	Jack Sheehy Jim Crandall
Archivist:	Gwen Gaskell (495-3231)			
Board of Directors	Bob Evans (495-1060) Jim Crandall (495-3416) Vivian Hunter			
Auditor:	Charlie Fields			
Webmaster:	Phil Budne			

Email: washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

Website: www.ultimate.com//washington/whs/

Yes, we have an email address and would like to hear from you about any issue that you feel concerns the Washington Historical Society. We are always open to suggestions for programs that would be of interest for future meetings or things that would enhance our purposes.

Also, we would like your email address so that we might send notices of upcoming programs or events. We are considering sending future newsletters by email to make things easier and less expensive for us and quicker for you. The best way for us to get your accurate address would be for you to send us an email, Thanks for doing so.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family (including children under 16). The membership year is August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011. If you haven't sent us a payment since last June, your membership may have lapsed. In that case there will be a reminder note slipped into this newsletter; if our records are not correct please let us know. We appreciate your continued interest and support of our projects. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us as a member, please complete the form below and send to THE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 90, Washington, N.H., 03280. If you know of someone who might be interested in our newsletter, please let us know or pass this one on to them.

Name: _____

Participating family names: _____

Mailing address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone No. Winter: _____ Summer: _____

Email _____

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-profit historical society, we qualify with many companies for matching grants provided the company you work for, or are retired from, supports such benefits.



Washington Town Hall Stage Curtain

Reproduced from the Museum postcard collection.

Visit the Town Hall and ask to see it during
the 225th Birthday Celebration mentioned on page 4.