



## Washington Historical Society Newsletter

### FALL 2018 EDITION

#### *President's Message*

As the leaves displayed their fall brilliance, the WHS closed another busy summer with Ron Jager's presentation on town pounds. I had a pleasant & successful meeting with the owners of Washington's town pound. They are very willing to have the pound restored & maintain it provided the town does not continue to push sand in it during winter plowing. It was decided to wait until the town completed landscaping around the town hall before proceeding with restoration -- probably sometime next spring.

We have had some interesting presentations at our meetings with good attendance. We had a successful pie sale and a record breaking pot roast dinner thanks to the hard work & long hours from Gwen & Vivian. Thank you to all who helped with the dinner & those who came.

The board of directors has been working on updating & revising the society by-laws and have completed a version that will be distributed to members in the spring for review before voting on them.

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#### Washington Historical Society Officers

President:	Bert Bodnar	Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Volunteers needed
Vice President:		Museum Committee:	Gwen Gaskell Volunteers needed
Treasurer:	Elaine Crandall (495-3416)	Museum Aide:	Gail Revane
Secretary:	Marian Baker	Newsletter Committee:	Barbara Gaskell Gwen Gaskell Contributors welcome
Archivist:	Gwen Gaskell (495-3231)	Program/Publicity Committee:	Tom Talpey Pete Martin
Board of Directors:	Tom Talpey (495-3284) Pete Martin		
Webmaster:	Phil Budne		

### *Presidents Message continued*

Jim & Carolyn Russell pledged a \$500 gift to the society if members matched it with donations to the Meeting-house Fund. Our members exceeded it giving \$1135 to the fund.

It appears some critter decided our school house was a nice place to live & chewed a hole in the back wall. We have received some quotes for repair & plan to have the work completed before the snow arrives.

The NH preservation Alliance chose the town of Washington in which to conduct their annual meeting & awards ceremony and asked us to have our museum & barn open for visits from their members.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a safe & wonderful winter. Hope to see you at our 2019 opening meeting -- April 8th.

Bert Bodnar

### The Washington Quilt returns to Washington



In the winter of 1980, 16 people gathered together to make a "Town Quilt" to raffle off to help raise money toward the purchase and installation of a furnace in the Congregational Church. On Labor Day 1981, the ticket was drawn and Dot Reynolds of Island Pond and Connecticut was the lucky winner. It was enjoyed as a piece of art for many years by her family.

After Dot's passing, the family decided the quilt should come back to Washington and they presented it to the Historical Society. It was on display that summer. We meant to put the picture in the next issue of the WHS newsletter, but somehow, it got missed. Our apologies to the family. We truly treasure having the quilt in our collection and plan to display it every few years.

## Report from the Museum.

This summer the museum and barn had only about 30 visitors while the school house had more than twice as many. This is/was disappointing to the volunteers who gave their time to be there to greet and visit with the visitors.

We are looking for suggestions for displays next summer. Some of you must have something you would like to learn more about of the days gone by in our picturesque and historic town ?? Please send your suggestions in so we can start digging out the information during our long winter days.

In case you do not realize it, the displays in our museum building DO change each year. If you visit once, you have not seen the other years. We also have the cemetery records and vital records for genealogical research, many albums of old Home Days, old post cards, and "People of Washington's Past" as well as files of news clippings for many years back.

Many, many thanks to all those who made our annual pie sale in July and the pot roast dinner in August a success, both by baking, working and attending these fund raisers.

Have a healthy winter. Please, send in suggestions, and I look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Gwen

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### School Children visit the Museum

In June, the second and third graders from Washington Elementary School visited the Barn and School House then wrote very nice thank you notes to us. Following are some excerpts from the notes.

Courtney: "My favorite thing about our field trip is the down stairs of the barn."

Callum: "I learned that people came to Washington for it's fresh air and clean water."

Quintin: "I learned that a wire muzzle kept the oxen from eating while working. My favorite thing about our field trip is the chalk board at the school."

Eva: "I learned that the kitchen sink is made of soapstone and that soapstone was quarried in Francestown, NH."

Jaidon: "I learned that there used to be a hotel between the Gibson's house and the church. It takes longer to get here, than to go to Hillsboro or Newport. It's because of the hills."

Korey: "I learned that sheep were pastured on our rocky hillsides. A rock wall kept them in because if they tried to get over them their legs will get caught."

Christian: "I learned that the first sap buckets were made of wood. Thank you for teaching us about old stuff."

Caylee : "My favorite part was the spelling bee. Me and Mrs. Webber were the last people in but she won."

Cody: "I learned that the town used to have two hearses, the summer one and one for winter."

Korey and Christian were both impressed that "Back then you had to go straight home from school."

And more than half of the children remembered that they learned "the boys entered the school room through door on the left and the girls on the right."

Historical Finds  
by Gwen Gaskell

When the Town Hall was being readied for work last year there were items found for the Historical Society and Town Archives. These two items were misdirected to me and have since been returned to the Selectmen to go to the Town Archives where important original documents should be kept. However, I did make copies for the Historical Society and thought these two contracts would be of interest to many people. I transcribed them from original handwritten documents.

### Transcription of contract for Island Pond Rd. 1892

Contract Between M.H.Dole, Gardner Mellen, Iram F. Woods selectmen of Washington and C. S Spaulding and Charles A. Peasley for building the road from the East Washington road to Island Pond.

#### Specifications

Said road is to be 100 rods in length, to be built 14 ft between ditches, except where there is large stone on the side, but to be 10 ft bed. Graveled not less than eight inches in depth.

All stone to be removed or covered 8 inches or more. 2 stone culverts to be well built.

Entrance to said road to be 45 ft in width. Terminus to be built suitable for teams to safely turn.

Said road to be completed by the first of July, 1892.

Said C.S. Spaulding and Charles A. Peasley are to receive 300 dollars for building said road to be paid when completed.

Transcription of contract for Millen Pd. Rd. 1910  
(Farnsworth's to Ball field)

Contract and Specifications for building Millen Pond road.

The road Bed shall be built 12 feet wide including ditches and all rocks Stumps and roots shall be removed or covered sufficiently so as not to interfere with travel on the same.

Bridges and Sluices

To be built as herewithin specified as for number.

No.1 Bridge water course 6 ft wide 3 ft deep, stone siding.

No.2 Sluice water course 3 ft wide 2 ft deep – log siding.

No.3 Bridge water course 6 ft wide 2 ft deep- stone siding.

No.4 Sluice or tiling sufficient to carry water.

No. 5 Bridge water course 12 ft wide 2 ft deep -stone siding

No.6 Bridge water course 6 ft wide 2 ft deep- stone siding.

No. 7 Sluice Plank or tiling.

No. 8 “ “ “

No. 9 Bridge 4 ft. wide 2 ft deep – log siding.

No. 10 Bridge water course 4 ft wide 2 ft deep – stone siding.

No. 11 Sluice plank or tiling.

No. 12 Bridge water course 6 ft wide 4 ft deep -stone siding.

No. 13 Bridge water course 4 ft wide 2 ft deep log siding.

No. 14 Sluice plank or tiling.

No. 15 “ “ “

No.16 Bridge water course 4 ft wide 2 ½ ft deep Stone siding.

No. 17 Sluice Plank or tiling.

No. 18 “ “ “

No. 19 “ “ “

Also any other bridges or culverts found necessary.

Filling

Millens field whole width of Road ranging from 6 in to 2 ft in depth or enough to make even grade as per stakes 150 ft in length.

Farnsworths Pasture whole width of road 2 feet in depth or sufficient to make dry even grade. Distance 7 feet as per stakes. Also all other filling deemed necessary by the Selectmen.

Graveling

Whenever the Selectmen deem (necessary) the contractor shall gravel the Road bed to their satisfaction.

The contract price shall be \$1,000 contractor to furnish all tools supplies and material and have the work completed by Oct 10, 1910. giving bonds to the satisfaction of the selectmen.

Not more than 3/4 of the contract price to be paid until the work is finished satisfactory to the Selectmen.

Sumner N. Ball  
Charles F. Gage                      Selectmen  
Wallace W. Dole

Elgin G. Farnsworth Contractor

Dated at Washington NH June 15, 1910

**ITEM FOR SALE**  
**FEATURING FAVORITE LANDMARKS OF WASHINGTON, NH**

To order contact: Elaine Crandall (603) 495-3416 or [ecrandall@verizon.net](mailto:ecrandall@verizon.net)  
Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 or [jimgwen@gsinet.net](mailto:jimgwen@gsinet.net)

**Afghan. \$45.00** Featuring scenes of Washington woven into a beautiful memento of our town. It is available in green or blue on an off white background.

**Puzzle. \$5.00** Our 494 piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill St. Pierre. A limited edition collectible.

**Mug. \$5.00** White ceramic 11 oz. mg with a black & white sketch of the three steepled buildings in the center of town. Microwave and dishwasher safe.

**Trivet. \$15.00** 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.

**Postcards and Notecards of Gustine Hurd Images. \$0.50 each / \$5.00 per set.** Two photographs taken in the early 1880's by Gustine Hurd have been turned into postcards and notecards. The single fold notecards are packaged in sets of 4 with envelopes. Two notecards of each picture or four of one picture.

**Glass Medallion. \$5.00** This 3" medallion depicts the Town Hall. The picture is adapted from an early 1880's wet plate photograph taken by Gustine Hurd. Available in blue or green.

**Booklet *History of Camp Morgan.* \$25.00** A compilation of information from multiple sources brought together in one place outlining the history of Camp Morgan from it's earliest days to the present.

**DVD. \$20.00** *Meetinghouse: The Heart of Washington, NH.* Few structures say "New England" as eloquently as does a classic eighteenth century meetinghouse. The small hill town of Washington, NH claims such a meetinghouse. Erected on the 4th of July, 1787, it is still the heart of the town. In this film the town opens its heart to the world. It displays 225 years of affectionate, sometimes contentious, interplay between generations of Washington citizens and the Meetinghouse on the Town Common.

*All items can be shipped for an additional charge. Call or email Elaine Crandall or Gwen Gaskell at the contact info above to ascertain the amount required. It will be in the range of \$4 to \$10 per package, depending on what is being shipped and your zip code.*

## Report from the Treasurer

Our fiscal year ended on July 31, 2018 and it was a successful year. In summary we had income of \$17,525.50 which included a bequest of \$10,000, and donations of \$2000. Our expenses for the year were \$7202.00. So far this year we have had income of \$4868.05 which includes donations of \$2230.00 and our expenses have been \$1517.90.

We are so grateful for those who have made very generous donations. These donations supplement our dues and fund raising and make our society possible. We hope to find a painter to line up for spring which will put those donations to good use.

This year we have had a special situation with the project to restore the Upper Hall at the Meetinghouse to make it handicapped accessible and thus available for public functions as it was in the past. Jim and Carolyn Russell proposed a match of \$500. to the society if new contributions were made to the Meetinghouse. Members donated \$1185 to the Meetinghouse so both our society and the town profited. Thank you.

Elaine Crandall

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This year we need to give special thanks to Barbara Gaskell, who edits, formats and produces this newsletter. This is a labor-intensive project. And particularly this year Barbara is very very busy. She has been recently installed as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire, Order of the Eastern Star. In this capacity she travels and attends many meetings. She has very little free time but yet has managed to help us. Thank you, Barbara.

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### A Memory by Kevin Gathercole

Jack Major and I became friends some forty years ago over some cold beer. Jack stood a tall 6'4" and had a personality to match. His family had a school house cabin on Halfmoon Pond Road that he had been visiting since childhood. When he and I first became acquainted, he was in his sixties and worked in one of the tanneries in Nashua. He came to Washington every weekend like clockwork and would later retire and move into the school house cabin full time.

On one occasion he told me a story of his childhood visits to Washington in the summer. The County had decided to do some logging out this way, or at least, the inmates and draft horses from the County Farm had been enlisted to perform the task. The story is really about those teams of draft horses used to pull the logs out of the woods. He described the horses as being giants, and what boy, upon seeing a draft horse wouldn't? These were Percherons and Belgians, not the fancy Clydesdales of today.

In that era, the horses weren't for show. They worked hard daily and were well treated by their caretakers. Well, as the story goes, their food would be ready for them in the corral at the end of their daily toils. At the end of the work day, in the woods, the men would set them completely loose to run free down the road for the corral and the food that was awaiting them.

Jack told me of walking to the road to get in position, standing far off to one side, to view the spectacle. His eyes shone as he described feeling the ground beginning to shake and pound signaling that they were on their way. From the distance they came thundering, side by side, filling the little dirt road. Giant iron shod hooves pounding and digging up clods of dirt, turning the little dirt road into a cloud of dust. Muzzle to muzzle, chest to chest, and muscle to muscle, this race of giants went thundering by. A step into the road now would surely be your last. Then, just as quickly as they came, before the dust settled, they were through the gate of the corral, eating their feed, their day done.

Washington Historical Society  
PO Box 90  
Washington, NH 03280

ANNUAL MEMEBERSHIP DUES are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family (including children under 16). For those who would like to contribute more to help us cover our expenses, we have a sustaining membership for \$25. The membership year is August 1 through July 31. 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, PO BOX 90, WASHINGTON, NH 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # Winter \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level: \$10 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Email: [washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)**