

Washington Historical Society Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

FALL 2010 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we draw another busy year to a close it gives us a chance to reflect on what we have achieved.

The drainage, waterproofing, and insulating of the Museum foundation and the new door, ramp and main entrance have enabled us to make more productive use of that building. New lighting, shelves and coats of paint also enhance the productive use.

The Flea Market, Wool Arts Tour, Election Officials meals and Pie Sale have been successful fund raisers. Membership remains strong.

Our potluck suppers along with the great variety of programs with the advertising are drawing folks from locations all around us. I feel that the program committee has done an outstanding job. But they do need our suggestions and ideas to assist them in making choices.

Our collection continues to grow with some fantastic additions in recent years. Many thanks to the Museum Committee and Gwen for all of the work that goes into the recording, cataloging and display setup.

All of this would not be possible without your donations of items, funds, suggestions and time.

So my hat is off to all of you, our supporters, friends, members, donors, visitors, committee members, and volunteers. THANK YOU!

Happy Holidays and a healthy winter to all.

Phil

A Video Documentary Planned for the Washington Town Hall

Can you believe it? The Washington Meetinghouse/Town Hall will have been in continuous service to the community of Washington for 225 years in 2012. Such longevity deserves to have its story told and celebrated. That is why a documentary video that will tell the story of the life of the building is being prepared with sponsorship by the Washington Historical Society and funding by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. The building has been home to many town activities over all those years and we are anxious to learn all we can about its evolving history. In order to do this, we need your help.

Can you—or someone you know—share stories, photos, memorabilia about activities related to Town Hall? Did you attend an interesting Town Meeting, school in the Grange Room, perform on the stage upstairs, attend a play, concert, dance, card game or dinner that carries special memories you would like to share? Was your wedding reception or a special family event held in the building? Have you held office and worked in the Town Hall? Do you have a funny or interesting story to share? Do you have old family photo albums, scrapbooks, news clippings, playbills or programs?

Any and all photos, memories or souvenirs are of interest to us. If you have something to share, we will copy and carefully return your treasures. If you are not sure whether what you have would be of interest, please feel free to e-mail or call. Contact information is listed below.

At this time we are in the research and script development phase which we expect to complete by the end of 2010. In 2011 we will create the actual video which we anticipate will be part of a big birthday party for our very special building in 2012.

Please help us make this the best documentary ever. The more sources we have, the better the video will be. And please be sure to share this message with anyone you know who may have things to share.

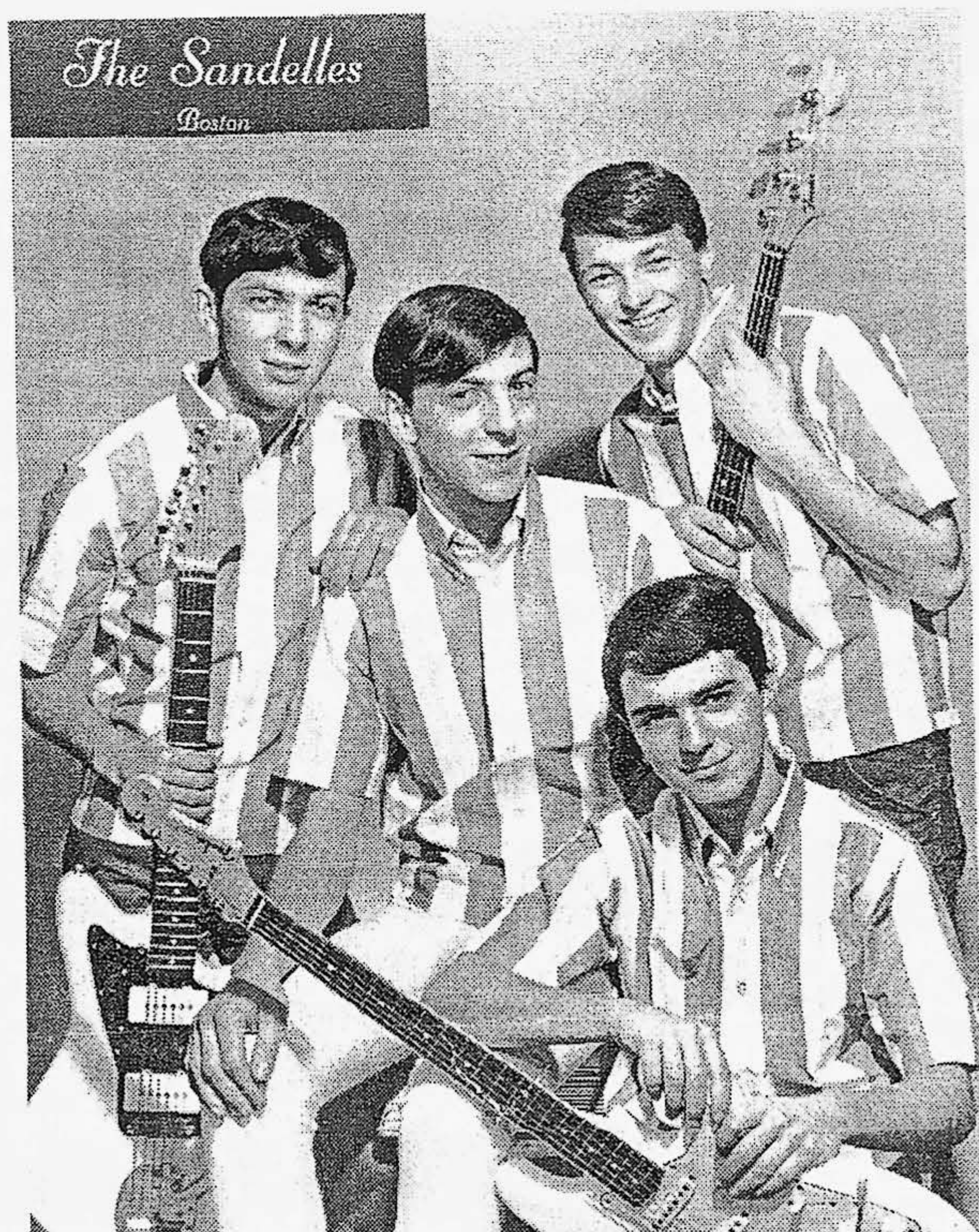
Members of the Meeting House Documentary Video Committee

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THE SANDELLES

In gathering material for the Town Hall Video mentioned on page two of this newsletter, when the initial call went out for material involving activities which had taken place in the Town Hall, one of the first responses came from long-time WHS member Dennis O'Malley. Denny and his wife Donna are summertime residents at their home along Millen Pond Road. Back in the early 1960s Denny had formed a singing and guitar playing group which gained a substantial nationwide popularity for musical vocals with harmonizing. They were called "The Sandelles." Starting with high school and college dances around Boston, they branched out to the Surf Ballroom circuit in Mass., NH and Maine, and then escalated to jobs in Battle Creek opening for the Beach Boys, engagements in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, outdoor shows, ballparks, and eventually with larger shows in Memorial Auditoriums and Civic Centers, including the Hynes Auditorium in Boston, and a couple of TV shows. (Bob Clayton's Boston Ballroom and Dave Maynard's Christmas Show on Channel 4) They traveled the country in a Ford Econoline Van, towing a small trailer. He deems the Grand Canyon Lodge in Arizona the second prettiest place they ever played—the first, of course, being Washington, NH. .



Denny is standing at the upper left, his brother Pat is seated at the lower right, their original base guitarist, Ken Cooper (who preceded Paul Ahearn in the group), is at the upper right and their drummer, Dick Thyne is in the center. Photo circa 1965

In the summer of 1965, a charter member of our society, Wendy Otterson, was on the Old Home Day planning committee and persuaded the Sandelles to detour from a gig in upstate New York to play at a Hootenanny and dance on Friday night of Old Home Day weekend in the upper room of the town hall, as well as at a concert on the common the next day. We have been searching for a photograph of the Sandelles on stage in the town hall, but so far have not been able to come up with one. We do have a picture of the group, however, lent to us by Denny and reproduced at the left.

In late 1967, turning down an offer from Mercury Records for a recording which surely would have brought them further notoriety, the group broke up, each member wishing to pursue his own separate career, although Denny's brother, Pat, continued as a musician for the next 35 years. Denny reports that he enjoyed every minute of it.

A wonderful account of how Denny and Donna came to purchase their cottage on Millen Pond Road was written in 1991 by Denny and is reprinted on the next pages, with permission.

THE MAPLES

By Dennis O'Malley

Reprinted,, with minimal editing, from a limited edition booklet, now out of print, entitled 'The Camps of Millen Pond, edited by "Stubby" Graves and published privately by "Families and Friends of Millen Pond" in

It is late September, 1956. Roy Orbison's "Ooby Dooby" is playing on the radio in my Uncle Bob's 1941 Caddy as we head northwest from Boston; destination Uncle Bob's camp in Washington, New Hampshire. I was 10 years old, newly arrived in Boston with my family from Detroit. I had no idea what New Hampshire would be like, nor could I have imagined the impact this brief, overnight trip would have on my life. Without the super highways of today, the 90 mile trip took all of 2-1/2 hours. Upon arrival, I found "The Camp" to be a small, four room cottage high on the hill above Waldo's farm overlooking Millen Pond. Shortly after our arrival, Uncle Bob took me for a boat ride on the pond. It was a red, 14 foot canvas boat he had made from a kit, powered by a 7-1/2 hp Scott Atwater. Cold, crisp air, leaves beginning to turn, and the hum of an outboard engine. I was sure I wanted more of this.

That night Uncle Bob prepared a dinner of Sloppy Joes and corn chowder. I had never eaten either of these dishes before, but I still remember today what they tasted like. Uncle Bob built a fire in the wood stove; another first for me and a delightful experience that I still enjoy today. There was no television, but a large Grundig tube radio which seemed to get stations from all over America. Accommodations were rope hung bunks in two tiny bedrooms, much like a ship.

The following morning after breakfast, we hauled water from the well (we had no running water at this time), cut fire wood to replace that which was burned the previous night, and made a walk down the hill, where I met Waldo for the first time. We toured Waldo's house and barns; I saw the milk cows and although Waldo didn't say much, I instantly felt that a 10 year old boy with a new found interest in Millen Pond was OK in Waldo's book. Another boat ride, this time with me at the tiller of the 7-1/2 Scott Atwater, a brief social call at Carolyn and Lester Small's, and it was time to leave for Boston.

For a 10 year old who had reluctantly left his friends in Detroit to move to Boston, there was now hope and something to look forward to. I had experienced so many firsts in my life on this brief trip to Millen Pond, and I looked forward to returning and experiencing other firsts and recapturing that wonderful feeling of contentment that was there that Saturday in 1956.

I did return, many times, throughout the ensuing years. My family and Uncle Bob's wife, my Aunt June, would spend most of the summers from '57-64 at what was now known as "Honeymoon Hill." So many memories, wonderful memories, from these summers. I learned basic carpentry with the help of Uncle Bob and Mark Basto. I launched my first boat, caught my first fish, swam across the lake (with an escort), rode on Waldo's milk route, and played in Waldo's hay loft. Later it was Camp Morgan, waiting for hours for a chance to ski behind Drew's boat. Barn dances in Bradford, and wonderful friendships made that have lasted now 30 plus years....Names like Perry, Eastman, Woodbury, Crandall, Johnson, Hall, Basto, Jackson, Brockway, Drew, Otterson, Cilley, Parson, Callender.

A wonderful group of kids who played like kids played 30 years ago; and when we meet today, there is a knowing glance, an acknowledgment — that we experienced something special; something that gave all our lives a foundation, a meaning, a bond. These were great friends and we did have great times. We danced to the Beach Boys at Woodbury's, and watched "The Fugitive" every Tuesday night at Johnson's (they had the only TV on the lake), played "kick the can" at Eastman's (Brookby). We even organized a rock concert on Crandall's beach, which was broken up after three numbers by Officer Fred Otterson. We water skied all day, swam, made plans, talked incessantly, and in general, had a wonderful, trouble-free time. We slept in the meadow. The mid 60s saw the kids go their separate ways: college, the Service, marriage, first jobs. Priorities had changed but the bond had been established. We saw each other less frequently, but when we did, the magic and laughter was still there.

I wanted this experience for my own family, which partly explains my own obsession with Washington and Millen Pond.

I went off to college, (Editor's note: with a prestigious hockey scholarship to Boston University!) returned in 1965 to play at Washington's "Old Home Days" with "The Sandelles", married, went to work. I had a family and whenever I could, returned to visit the lake. Once my wife, Donna, and I drove 22 hours straight from Chicago with two kids and a dog to get to spend 2 weeks at Millen Pond. When we moved back to Boston in February, 1981 from Phoenix, Arizona, I drove 2850 miles in 3 days and drove right through Boston without stopping until I was in Washington, New Hampshire. I guess I wanted to be sure it was still there. With our move back to Boston, we began the slow wait for an available cottage on Millen Pond. Our sincere thanks to the Graves, Copps, and Brightons, who were kind enough to rent to us during those years, and kept our dream alive.

A torturous day on the phone in July of 1985 resulted in our purchase of The Maples cottage from the Perkins family. The following weekend Donna and I excitedly drove up from Boston to view our purchase. John Brighton, who had arranged the sales agreement, met us in the yard of The Maples and, after congratulating us, remarked "You did know there was no bathroom in the house, didn't you?" Donna and I shrugged, noticing the outhouse, and said we would make do. Thus started another first for the O'Malleys; that being the remodeling and restoration of a 50 year old house.

The restoration began in 1987, striving to maintain the look and character of the original building, while adding more room and year round usability. The house was "finished" in the spring of 1991 (if a house is ever truly finished). It has been, in no particular order, a labor of love, a learning experience, an exasperation, an obsession, but we can now enjoy Millen Pond year round in modern comfort. Originally we were advised to tear the building down and start over, but somehow I don't think that would have been right.

I've thought many times about what makes Millen Pond so special to me and now to my family. We've been many places in many years, lived all over the country, and still Millen is number one. I think to me, the magic is that it is the one constant in my life; the one thing that has never changed (or changed very little). We grew up, we have families, we experience success and failure, our kids grow up, our hair gets gray....but every time I come up Route 31 and take a left at the bandstand....I'm ten years old again; the anticipation is overwhelming, I am going to see friends, a place I love. I'm coming Home.

ATTENDING SCHOOL IN THE WASHINGTON TOWN HALL

By Heidi Gaskell Chobot

From an email received by Gwen Gaskell after asking her daughter, Heidi, to relate some memories of her school-days in the Washington Town Hall.

Mrs. Murdough was our teacher, who most of us liked very well and also respectfully feared. Our substitutes were usually Karin Fox, or Mrs. Niven who some feared more than others due to their infamous & consistent threat of "If you don't stop it, and listen/obey I will tell your parents!" It didn't matter who you were, in a school that had an average of 70 kids 1st -8th grade ... almost everyone in the town knew each other. My brothers and I had something else against us though... because EVERYONE really did know us! Our parents ran the only general store in the town... and we worked in it too! Not only did the locals know us, but the summer people, and the people that lived 2 towns over. The way I figured it, I dared not wink an eye wrong!

- We didn't have the normal spelling test; we were allowed to throw darts at balloons that had a number of 1-20 in them. What ever balloon we broke, we excitedly read the piece of paper, and if it had an 8 on it, we only had to spell 8 words correct to get an A+. But we did try to learn all the words, because you might get the paper with 20 on it as well. (I'm pretty sure darts aren't allowed in school anymore)
- Usually everyone read the same reading book, and took the same test. We were patient when it was reading circle time, I don't remember slower readers having a special group or lesson, I think the stronger readers were asked to be reading partners with the slower ones sometimes.
- Our desks weren't in typical school rows. They were usually in groups of four, facing into each other, that way we could work on projects and help each other when we were stuck on a problem. It was hard to cheat, although a few, usually "the boys", frequently tried to. Our desks had lift tops, so everything went into the desk. I know some tried to write on the desk, but they were usually caught... and I guess their parents must have been told...it is a small town after all, and Mrs. Murdough knew our parents too.
- My friend Nina and I learned at one school recess that boys Fruit of the Loom underwear comes in more colors than white. Nina didn't have brothers, and I did, and I knew my brothers only wore white Fruit of the Looms. Well... I was corrected, and am a believer that yellow, red, and blue Fruit of the Looms did exist back then!
- This is what I believed also: Nina Otterson had the best clothes, she was lucky because she was the only child, and she had the longest hair, therefore the prettiest hair, too.
- John Eccardt was the cutest boy in town- that extended to East Washington, because he lived there.
- I walked home for lunch every day, and my mom would have it set on the table. Sometimes she would be working in the store tending to a customer, other times she would talk to me about my morning. Steaming bowls of soup were always nice with grilled cheese.
- I think they tried to serve hot lunch from the Town Hall meeting room/kitchenette... I don't remember much about it, so I'm not sure if it worked out well or not. The kids from the school house would walk over for theirs.
- We always had a Christmas play or singing event for the Holidays up stairs on the stage. We loved going upstairs, and I think we all got kinda rowdy up there because I remember it being loud, and out of order. Kids use to hide behind the stage. The plays were fun, and the town was invited to come. Our Graduations were up there too.
- My graduating 8th grade class was one of the largest classes since my mom (Gwen Gaskell) had graduated. Are you ready... it was a really, really, big class... of 12 kids!

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 jimgwen@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 17-½ inches square. Long 25-inch handles are easy on the shoulders. Lined with inside pocket.	\$30.00 plus shipping
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 plus shipping
Puzzle. Our 494-piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill St. Pierre. As a limited edition collectible, each of the 200 puzzles is individually numbered.	\$5.00 plus shipping
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 plus shipping
Trivet. A 6" by 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 plus shipping

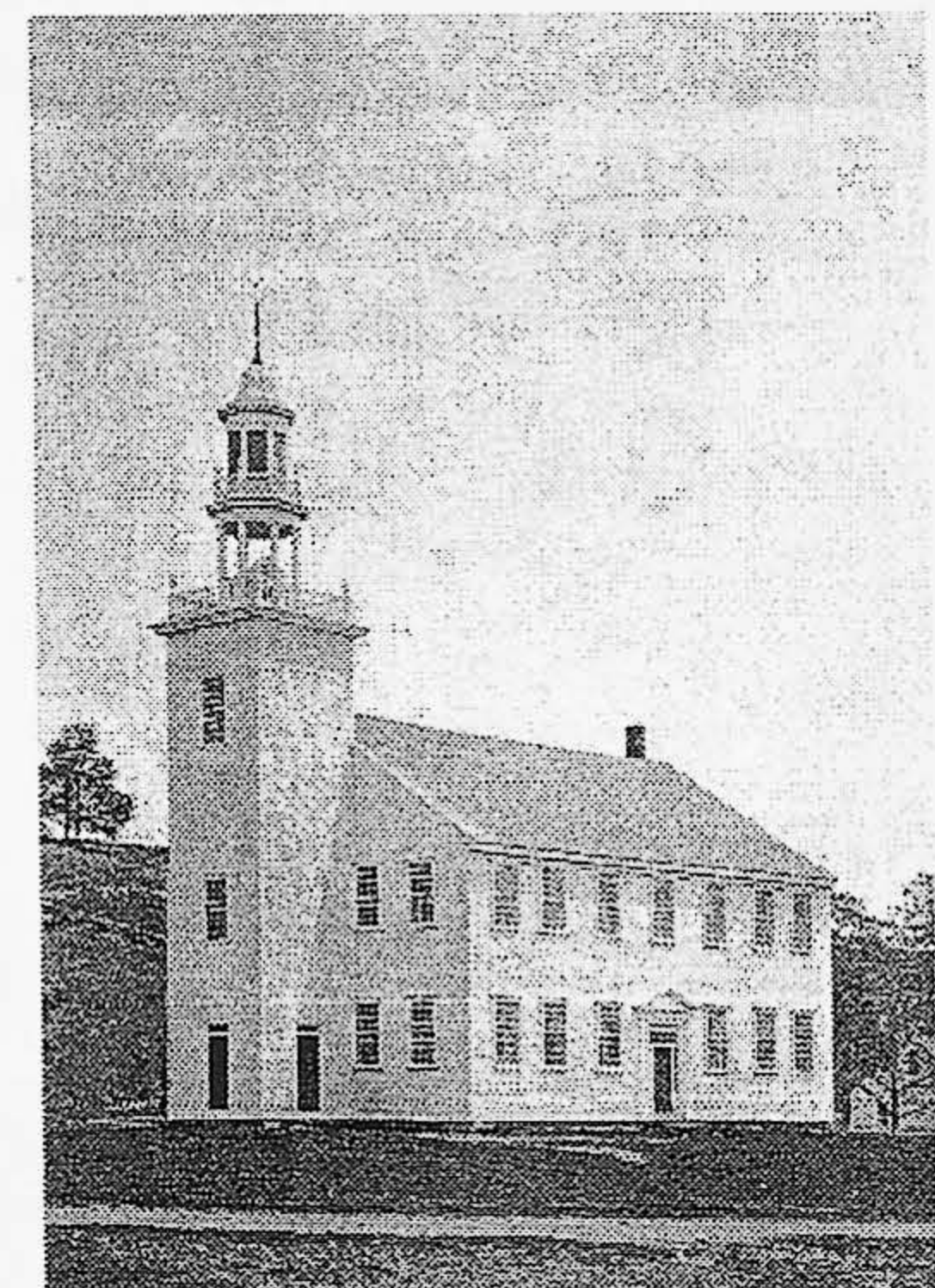
Shipping Charges: Call Tom Talpey at the telephone number or email address above, to ascertain the amount required. It will be in the range of \$4 to \$10 per package, depending on your zip code.

NEW ITEMS

Two postcards have been generated, using copies of very old photographs taken in the early 1880s by Gustine Hurd. 5 ½ x 4 ¼ 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.



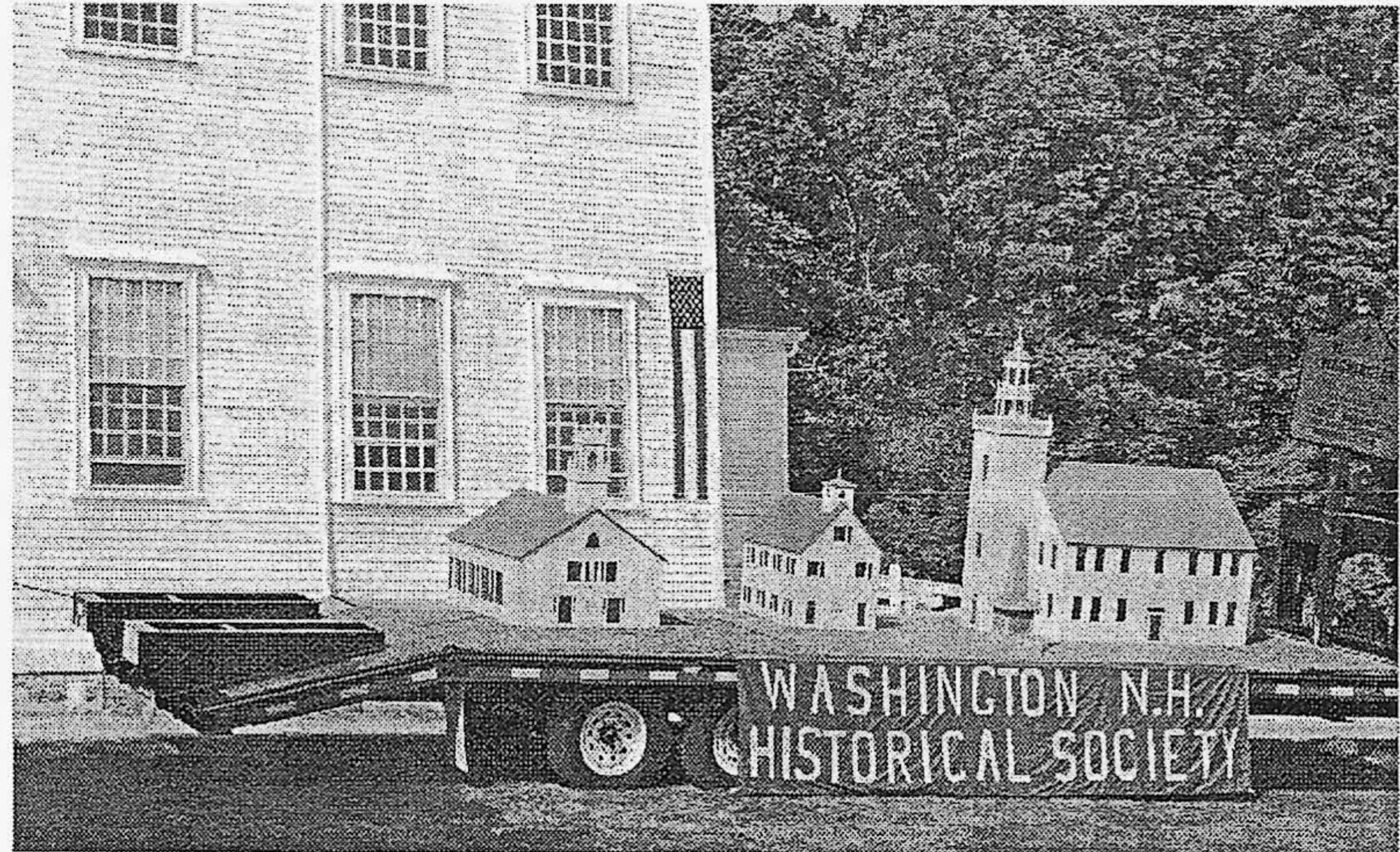
Two of each or all four of the same image.





Finished too late for our Spring newsletter, here is a photo of our new handicapped entrance ramp on the street side of the museum building, with its own entrance door at the top. This replaced our old ramp which had been damaged every winter by snow and ice sliding off the roof. Last year the old railing was dislodged beyond repair..

Parked in front of the Town Hall after the parade, this is our float in the Old Home Day Parade, July 31, 2010. Originally constructed for use in the 1976 bicentennial parade and then rebuilt with plywood, the float has been used in a number of parades since.



Two large used items have been donated for sale to raise money for the benefit of the Society.

If interested, call and make an offer. Both are in excellent condition,

Call Gwen Gaskell 495-3231

Call Carolyn Russell 495-3193



Solid wood construction, in excellent condition. Ask to see it



Avalon 990 wood stove, excellent condition, originally costing over \$1000.

Suggested price range \$100

Suggested price range \$500

The Diaries of Clara May Hurd are FASCINATING

by Archivist Gwen Gaskell

To date there are 9 people working on transcribing the diaries which we bought last spring. Most of us find them fascinating and wonder what will be the next bit of a puzzle we may find to fill in the answer to a missing bit of information. Rachel, Charley and Vivian are in a three-way tie for transcribing the most months. Great work is being done by everyone and we, the society, truly appreciate all of the effort.

We continue to be amazed at how well read Clara is for the times. She was very active in the formation of our library and has expressed the wish to have a reading school in her home. In the 1800's the mail was carried by stage and trains. Newspapers and magazines were not as easily obtained as today, yet Clara read each one she could get or borrow. They waited anxiously for the telegrams to bring news of the presidential election between Tilden & Hayes in 1876. We were amazed to have her use the word "refrigerator" in 1876. She apparently read about the German engineer, Carl von Linde, developing a process of liquefying gases and forming the basis for the technology of refrigeration. (Thanks to the computer for providing that info.) Ice boxes were the only means of refrigeration at that time yet she had read about refrigerators being developed.

Any one with time on their hands during the winter months and who would like an interesting project to work on is invited to join in the fun. There are no deadlines but when one month is done you must call me to get together to make corrections and get another month to do. I'm not a mind reader and I do want you to have fun on this project. The more workers we have the sooner we get through the 40 years of diaries and the puzzles will be more complete -we hope.

Acquisitions during the summer.

The barn received most of the new items this season with tools for tin-smithing and the donor's family came to visit and identified their uses for us. There have been some items from the 1930 & '40 era donated, an enamel kitchen range, portable electric oven, wooden play pen, the tub portion of a very early motorized washing machine, food grinders, juicer, kettles, trunk and a lovely but fragile dress which is from the era of our diary collection. Recently retrieved is a wash stand in perfect condition also from the era of the diaries. All of these items will be on display in their new homes next summer.

Next Summer

Washington has been in the news many times over the years and we have quite an extensive collection of articles and pictures so next summer we will feature "Washington in the News" as the subject for a display. Please plan to come by for a visit. You could be mentioned in an article or find yourself or a relative, in a picture.

PHIL BARKER

Profiles of the Barn Committee, continued

The Founder of the Washington NH Historical Society and four times President to date, Phil is Chairman and a very valuable member of the Barn Committee. He has knowledge and experience in post and beam construction, earth work, and stone work. He owns an adequate collection of equipment, tools and other machinery to cover all aspects of a job, and he knows how to use all of it and made it available for the barn project.

Phil recognized that the primary problem at the barn was water flowing thru the cellar, and outlined and initiated the remedy to that problem successfully. He excavated four feet of unsuitable material, installed drainage and gravel and spearheaded the construction of a section of new stone foundation under the barn. With his band-saw mill and some volunteer help at times, he sawed and donated over 18,000 board feet of posts, timbers, floor planks, wide boards, and other lumber necessary to reconstruct the barn from the cellar to the rooftop.

Phil procured a batch of clapboards and made an all night trip to Maine to bring the trailer load back. Three sides of the barn were resided and enough clapboards were left over to resell, thus recouping the entire purchase price. Thus the only cost to reside the barn was the transportation, paint, and the labor to install the high half of the backside. Phil worked continually with the contractor and volunteers throughout the project. After the reconstruction phase was done he installed more flooring in the loft areas and built in the blacksmith shop, sugar house, and kitchen areas with work benches, wide board paneling, shelving, counters, etc. He also installed the Butchers Wheel. Phil is proud and likes to boast that the Washington Historical Society Barn Museum is the only barn in New Hampshire that has a curly maple kitchen counter top! He has also done a lot of hosting at the Barn. And is likely the largest donor to the Barn project all things considered.

(He says that he has no modesty because Dick Crane has it all!)

THANK YOU PHIL !

MEMORIES OF RICHARD CRANE

Confession is Good for the Soul?

When I attended the one room school known as the "Flat School" in Hillsboro, (across from Sylvania where the doughnut shop is now), I also experienced a jokester.

One of the older boys had the job of keeping the wood stove going during the day. One afternoon he filled the stove with good dry chunks of wood, shut the cover and put some Limburger cheese and black pepper on top of the stove. Soon the place stunk to high heaven and everyone's eyes were watering and burning!!

The school teacher, Susan Pierce, (Grand Niece of President Franklin Pierce), asked the students "Who is the prankster?" No one answered.

The teacher went to the rear of the room, locked the back door, then went to the front entrance and said "I'm going out to the front hall, in the fresh air, until the joker owns up to what was done".

It didn't take long before the culprit went out to confess. Doors & windows were opened and a good lecture was given, the day's lessons continued.

President:	Phil Barker 495-3640 pbarker@gsinet.net	Barn	Phil Barker
Vice President:	Jack Sheehy 495-3066 shehewa@gsinet.net	Committee:	Richard Crane, advisory
Treasurer:	Tom Talpey 495-3284 ttalpey@gsinet.net	Museum	Ann Lischke
Secretary:	Elaine Crandall 495-3416 ecrandall@verizon.net	Committee:	Vivian Hunter Charlotte Treadwell Gwen Gaskell
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Board of Directors:	Bob Evans 495-1060 Vivian Hunter Jim Crandall 495-3416	Committee:	Tom Talpey Sue Hofstetter, advisory Barbara Gaskell Betty Talpey
Program & Publicity Committee:	Jack Sheehy Jim Crandall	Website Address:	
			www.ultimate.com//washington/whs/

Email: washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

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.

Memories of Richard Crane

One of my Uncles told me this story about a local one room School's "tickling day".

One of the older boys found that he could go out to the "out house" and take along a slender branch from a bush with him. When someone went into the girl's side of the shed, he would reach down through the seat, with the branch in hand, and over to the other side then wiggle it around till it "tickled" the girl sitting on the other side of the wall.

The victim of the tickler would run out yelling! One day the "tickler" was in his side of the out-house when he heard someone come in the other side. He soon tried his stunt once again with joy.

After a short wait he proudly opened the door and into the hands of the school teacher, who didn't think it was such a good joke! She put an end to that "situation" at once.

Washington Historical Society
PO Box 90
Washington, NH 03244

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.