

Washington Historical Society Newsletter

WINTER 2017 EDITION

After being on the board of directors for one month, I unexpectedly found myself elected president. I only hope that I will be able to serve the members as well as past presidents.

I hope that within the year, I will be able to implement some ideas to increase interest and membership in the society. I'm also seeking ideas to increase volunteerism so that those who have been shouldering the burden for years can have a little breather.

At our last meeting the membership voted to address our concerns through a letter to the selectmen for the use & preservation of town historical sites and buildings, especially the town pound and schoolhouse. On Oct. 26th, I delivered the letter to the selectmen, who welcomed our concerns and will continue to welcome our input. They will not, however, be forming a committee to study the future of the town common or historical buildings and do not fore-see a vacancy of the schoolhouse in the near future, although if such occurs, they will consider the WHS as well as the town artisans as possible occupants.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a safe winter.

See you in the Spring,

Bert Bodnar

Washington Historical Society Officers

President:	Bert Bodnar	Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Volunteers needed
Vice President:	Noah Denslow	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
Board of Directors:	Tom Talpey (495-3284) Pete Martin	Program/Publicity Committee:	Tom Talpey Pete Martin
Webmaster:	Phil Budne		

The Saga of One-Legged Capt. Samuel Jones

By Nat Taylor

I got interested in Samuel Jones from the update that appeared in the Fall 2013 Washington Historical Society newsletter. The 1888 History of Washington documents how he lost his leg, and a little bit about him: “Samuel Jones, Jr., son of Samuel and Hannah Jones [of Hillsborough] was born in Hillsborough, Sept. 30, 1777; m. Deborah Bradford; res. first in Bradford, but came to Washington about the year 1800, and res. where Charles Trow now lives. In 1804, while assisting in moving a building, his leg was caught between the building and a fence, against which the building slid, injuring it so severely that amputation was performed July 7, 1804. The operation was memorable, since it was performed before the properties of ether and chloroform were understood. Capt. Jones removed to Boston, where he was employed in the Custom House. He subsequently removed to New York, where he had a similar position. Children: Hosea, b. New Bradford (Bradford), May 25, 1799; Harry b. Washington, Nov. 27, 1800.”

People have looked for more information on this Samuel Jones for quite some time. More than one Samuel Jones have been found in New York (where the History says he moved) who turned out not to be our man from Washington. The real Samuel Jones also ended up in New York, and survived his leg by forty-seven years. The key to finding him came from following clues about his wife’s family. Deborah Bradford, his wife, was the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Flint) Bradford of Hillsborough. Samuel Bradford was a Revolutionary War veteran, having served as a lieutenant in the Continental Army. There is a lengthy federal pension file—102 pages—for Lt. Bradford, now available online at fold3.com and ancestry.com. Lt. Bradford received a federal Revolutionary War pension starting in 1820, and he died in Acworth, New Hampshire, in 1833, after which his widow, Mary, moved to Boston in December, 1836, to live with her daughter Deborah and her son-in-law, Samuel Jones. Mary started to draw her widow’s pension in 1837, while living in Boston. The file includes several affidavits signed by her and by her son-in-law, Samuel Jones. Mary signed an affidavit in New York City on February 17, 1842, notifying the government that she had moved from Boston (where she had been living for seven years) to New York City, and needed to be re-enrolled for her pension through the New York office rather than the Boston office. Another affidavit signed by her son-in-law, Samuel Jones, is attested by a New York commissioner of deeds, who says that Jones is “a person of integrity”—which presumably doesn’t mean bodily integrity, since by then he had been missing his leg for almost forty years.

Later documents in the pension file stretch all the way down to the twentieth century, mostly correspondence with descendants. One of them, an 1858 letter from another member of the Bradford family, stated that Mrs. Bradford, the matriarch with the widow’s pension, had died about fifteen years previously, therefore not long after she moved to New York City. At the end of the 19th century, published lineage papers for the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) showed lines of descent from Lt. Samuel Bradford through his daughter Deborah (Bradford) Jones, to a grandson, Bradford Jones. In the 1850 Census, a Bradford Jones was living in Ward 15 of New York City, very close to a household containing a Samuel Jones, age 70, from New Hampshire, who was living with a younger married couple, Charlotte and Charles Bell. These are our family, because the Samuel Bradford pension file contains a letter from this same Charlotte Bell in 1891 in which she identified herself as a granddaughter of Lieutenant Samuel Bradford, which would explain why Samuel Jones was living with her in 1850, since he was her father. Charlotte (Jones) Bell became one of the earliest members of the DAR, joining in 1891.

A search was undertaken in New York City records for Mrs. Mary Bradford dying in 1842, a Mrs. Deborah Jones dying before 1850 (since she doesn’t appear with Samuel in the 1850 census), and a Samuel Jones dying between 1850 and 1860 (when he no longer appears with the Bells in the census). At least three men named Samuel Jones died in New York City in that decade, and our man turned out to be one of them.

The published index to death notices in a major newspaper, the New York Herald, led to the right records, which were then found in that newspaper online. First, Mary Bradford, Jones’s mother-in-law, died in 1842 shortly after their relocation to New York. Her death notice states: “On Monday, 19th inst. [September 19, 1842] Mary Bradford, aged 89 years, relict of the late Capt. Samuel Bradford, of Acworth, New Hampshire. Funeral this afternoon at 4 o’clock, from the residence of her son-in-law, Capt. Samuel Jones, Murray Hill. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.” Then, Mrs. Deborah Jones died around the time the census was taken in 1850: “On Tuesday morning, 18th instant [June 18, 1850], Mrs. Deborah Jones, aged 69 years, wife of Captain Samuel Jones, formerly of Boston. The friends of the family are requested to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 90 Fourth avenue, on Thursday afternoon, at 4 o’clock. Eastern papers please copy.” Finally, Capt. Samuel Jones himself died on April 12, 1851: “On Saturday, April 12. Capt. Samuel Jones, formerly of Boston, aged 71 years. His friends, and those of his sons, Henry and Brad-

ford, also those of his son-in-law, Charles A. Bell, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Monday afternoon, at 4 o'clock from his late residence, 90 Fourth avenue."

The newspaper notices didn't say where they were to be buried, but that information was supplied in the New York City municipal death records, which state that all three were buried at St. Mark's in the Bowery. The Episcopal church of St. Mark's in the Bowery still stands at the corner of Second Avenue and Stuyvesant Street in the East Village, lower Manhattan. New York City was growing fast when Samuel Jones died in 1851. By the end of that same year, St. Mark's stopped taking new burials in its churchyard. Over the next few years, as Manhattan developed into a dense grid of city streets, the graveyards of many Manhattan churches were dug up and transferred to bigger cemeteries in the outer boroughs. On May 23, 1862, the bodies of Capt. Jones, his wife, Deborah, and his mother-in-law, Mary Bradford, were reburied in the Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, together with several other bodies from that parish, including other relatives. The records of the Evergreens Cemetery provide exact documentation of the location of those reburials within a section of the cemetery devoted to parishioners of St. Mark's Church. My hope was to get a photograph of Samuel Jones's other gravestone to unite with Washington's own wonderful 1804 stone for his leg. Unfortunately, when the caskets and gravestones were transferred from the original graveyard in Manhattan to the new cemetery in Brooklyn, the gravestones were not reset upright in the ground but laid in the sod and eventually buried underneath. It is my hope that someday I will visit that spot and see whether the stone might be located not far under the surface. Careful work with a trowel, a brush, and the right kind of light might get a photograph to share.

So, in one sense Captain Samuel Jones was buried three times: first his leg, right in Washington, on July 7, 1804, after the tragic accident. Then the rest of him, forty-seven years later, on April 12, 1851 (or a day or two later), in lower Manhattan. And finally, eleven years after that, on May 23, 1862, his body (minus the leg in Washington) came to rest in Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn.

(Nat Taylor is a member of the Washington Historical Society and has a vacation home in East Washington. Nat edits a genealogical journal.)

Thoughts from Gwen

The Society is pleased to welcome new board members Bert Bodnar and Noah Denslow to the team and look forward to new ideas in the coming year. New members are always welcome and indeed are needed if we are to move forward into the future.

Just a note of update on the construction projects at the Town Hall and Fire Station as this newsletter goes to print. The fire suppression cistern at the Town Hall is in place and is being back filled as is the concrete foundation under the Town Hall which is expected to be back down on solid footing by Thanksgiving. The side walls of the new fire barn are under construction and that cistern is filled and being back filled. It appears that everything is coming together just in time for cold weather.

The Band Stand is decorated for Christmas!

I/We wish everyone a very Healthy and Happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you in the spring and hearing from you anytime.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the loss of several neighbors, some of whom were members of our Society. Vivian Hunter and Natalie Jurson were long time members who were valuable transcribers, supporters and helpers. Natalie remembered us with a generous bequest. Marvin Jager and "Stubby" Graves were members we could count on being at programs when they were in town. John Tweedy, sometimes referred to as the town hermit, gave us a lovely oil painting of Lovell Mt. done by his father years ago. Just recently, Jane Wickens who used to live in Washington and has been ill a long time, died. And Jeff Lawrence, a mechanic who would help in any way he could, died suddenly of a heart attack at age 54.

Our sympathy goes out to all of these families.



Civil War Potholder Quilts

By Marian Baker

Are you interested in sewing, quilting, the civil war, or living history?

Pam Weeks, director of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA and author of *Civil War Quilts*, has recently given several NH Humanities Council programs in Washington, Hillsboro, and Newport that included one to our own historical society. I was able to hear her at three of the events, and each time I learned more, as she often based her talks on what kind of quilts were brought in by the audiences. She told about how quilts tell history. Even some of the men who came not thinking they had any interest in quilts, remarked as they left how much they discovered they are interested in quilts! Often history is about men and wars. The other part of history is what the women and the others did who were staying at home.

When some of us learned about these unique potholder quilts, that were mostly made in New England for soldiers of the civil war, and of which only 20 authentic complete ones have been found in USA, we were inspired to see if we couldn't make some replicas in time to display at the 10th anniversary of the Living History Event in Hillsboro in late August. We hope to get enough people in Washington to make a quilt, so it can then be given to our society after the Living History Event.

One way these quilts are different is they were often cot size (rather than the typical full bed size) and they are

made by each person preparing their own one foot square potholder with backing and binding at home. When you look at them from the back, you can see they are made of the many pieces instead of usual one large complete backing. They then would gather together to quickly whip stitch all their large potholders into one quilt.


Eleven out of the fifteen authentic potholder quilts researched by Pam Weeks (and described in her book on *Civil War Quilts*), were made in New England or by New England women who had moved westward. Often the quilts were signed by the maker or had quotes written on them to encourage the soldiers.

Both people who live here year 'round and those who migrate to warmer climates, are invited to join us in making squares during this winter and early spring. In late spring and early summer, we will gather to sew them together into quilts. If needed we can also offer a time to gather for those who need help on how to do the binding. Each person will make one or more of the 12" squares with its backing complete (like a large potholder). Then we'll whip stitch them together before the August 2019 event. We have gathered several simple patterns and detailed instructions to help anyone who sews one of the 1-foot finished squares. Some patterns are very easy and even beginner sewers can do one.

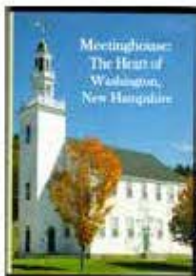
To join us, collect a set of details from the Shedd Library in Washington or from the Hillsboro Library.

**ITEMS FOR SALE
FEATURING FAVORITE LANDMARKS OF
WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Please order by mail, or call: Elaine Crandall (603) 495-3416, ecrandall@verizon.net
Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 jimgwen@gsinet.net

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
Afghan. Featuring scenes of Washington woven into a beautiful memento of our Town. It is available in green or blue on an off white background	\$45.00
Puzzle. Our 494-piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill St. Pierre. A limited edition collectible.	\$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
Gustine Hurd Images Postcards Two postcards have been generated, using copies of very old photographs taken in the early 1880s by Gustine Hurd. Also available as single fold notecards packaged in sets of four, including envelopes. Two of each or all four of the same image. Both the postcards and the folded notecards are 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches.	50¢ each \$5.00 per set
 <p>Glass Medallion – Suitable for a window hanging, depicting the Town Hall. Adapted from an early 1880s wet plate photograph made by Gustine L. Hurd. These 3 inch diameter medallions are available in Blue or Green.</p>	\$5.00 each

DVD Available



Meetinghouse: The Heart of Washington, New Hampshire

Few structures say "New England" as eloquently as does a classic eighteenth century Meetinghouse. The small hill town of Washington, New Hampshire, 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.

\$20 per DVD Shipping is: \$3 for one DVD plus \$2 for each additional.

All items can be shipped for an additional charge. Call or email Elaine Crandall or 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.

Town Hall Foundation

This fall the Town Hall was raised and a new foundation poured under it. Thank you to Tom Talpey and Kevin Lawrence for these pictures of the process.



Ready to raise



23 of these jacks were used to raise the Town Hall. It was estimated to weigh 200 tons.



The foundation was insulated and she's back on her own feet now.





Bandstand vs. Gazebo

Where is this gazebo I keep hearing about? I know where the bandstand is, though.

When I corrected someone about what that little building really is, they said “What’s the difference”? Being a stickler for calling things what they really are, here’s the answer.

A gazebo is a small, ornamental, circular or octagonal building. A bandstand is a larger, circular or semicircular structure. It both creates an ornamental focal point and serves acoustic requirements.

My take away from this intense research is: If there is a ceiling inside your gazebo, and it’s large enough to host 20 or 30 band members, it’s probably really a bandstand.

So the next time you’re in the center of Washington, check for yourself whether that building is a gazebo or a bandstand!

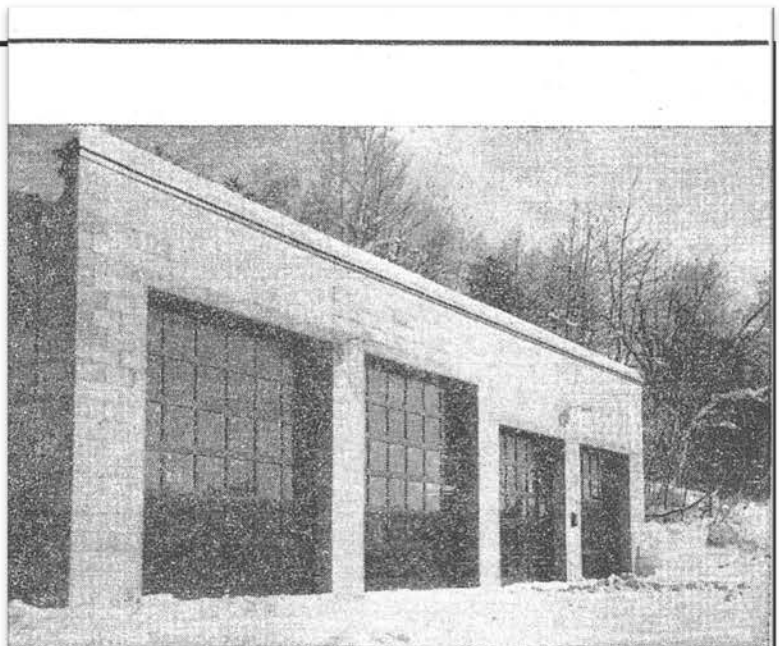
A Brief History of Washington’s Town Garages By Phil Barker

In 1929, article 22 of the Town Warrant called for the town to vote to buy a dump truck for hauling gravel and raise sufficient money to erect a suitable building to house such equipment as the Town may own. It is believed that they did not buy the truck; at this time they were hiring Harry Newman’s truck. But they did buy a garage for the amount of \$1,454.25. The garage was set on a poured concrete foundation that was 4 feet above grade. Sections of this old foundation were dug up while working on the Town Hall project this fall. The original building is the galvanized metal building that today sits behind the Crane farm.

In 1931 the town proposed to build a driveway around the Town House to the town garage to avoid going between the school and town house. This apparently did not pass.

In 1947 a question was raised about building a new garage. In 1948 a Capital Reserve Fund was started for the new garage. Then in 1957 the town voted to build a new town garage. I recall my father Abner Barker many a night sitting with a drawing board on his lap drawing the plans for a garage. Ben Davis and Bob Blaisdell reviewed the plans, made recommendations and drew up specifications.

It was decided to put the new garage in the old pit on Halfmoon Pond Road. The garage was projected to cost \$15,282.16. When the town voted to build the new highway garage on Route 31, it was calculated that the Halfmoon Pond garage had cost the town \$1 per day.



WASHINGTON TOWN GARAGE

Built 1957

RUSSELL E. McGRAY
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Washington Historical Society
PO Box 90
Washington, NH 03280

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family (including children under 16). For those who would like to contribute more to the Society to help us cover our expenses, we have a new 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, 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: _____ 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