

# Washington Historical Society Newsletter

## SPRING 2013 EDITION

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### President's Message

Well we aren't duplicating the message that we used last year, which was "the winter that wasn't" Because this winter surely has been.

We glided thru till the end of Jan with about 50% bare ground, then WHAM we were hit with 22" and it has not stopped yet. 41.5" in Feb.

Oh well, today is the first day of spring let's look on the sunny side !

We are looking forward to our first meeting on April 8th, usually not a large group but the more the merrier, bring some friends and food and we will all be happy and well fed.

The diary crew has continued to work thru the winter on all of the odds and ends and making comparisons between then and now. Clara continues to be in demand for appearances.

The Program Committee has done the usual job on lining up a good selection for our information and enjoyment.

Volunteers are always needed for various needs especially hosting the Museums during open hours. This can be very rewarding with the people that one meets and the stories that come to lite. I learned one year from a visiting gentleman that my father as a teenager had installed and hooked up equipment for hot water for his mother. I suspect that part of the reason was that the fellow had a pretty sister.

Think spring, welcome mud!

Phil Barker

## Quite a Bit of Snow This Year!



Snow curling off the roof of the Museum, March 2013  
*photo by Gwen Gaskell*

time to start a nice “sugaring” spell of cold nights and warm days. And then just as we were about to enjoy Spring, there was another snowfall of 10.5” during the last day of Winter! As we write this, there are still a couple of weeks to be wary of!

Recent records can be found on the Town web site at [www.Washingtonnh.org](http://www.Washingtonnh.org) ( Click on snowfall.) Under the picture of Phil’s snowplow, “Click here” to see some interesting summaries of winters back to 2002. (Two of our members, Lincoln Gilbert and Marcellus Liotta, used to keep records of snowfall (and rainfall) until they passed away.)

This started us wondering about snowfalls in the “good ole days.”

Washington has had a number of large snowfalls this season. The total when we went to press was nearly eight feet, still far from the total of over 12 feet we had during the winter of 2003-2004. Generally there was some melting in between storms this year. The deepest snowfall was about two feet, over two days early in February. The last week in Feb. we had 7”, followed by another 10.5” and a week later another 7.7”. This time not much melted until the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, just in



Barred Owl watching for prey  
at bird feeder on Millen Pond, Jan. 2013  
*photo by Charley Eastman*

## A Sleighride One Day in the 1870s

*In 1900, at the evening Lyceum during an Old Home Day Celebration. Ruth Safford Twiss gave a lengthy talk reminiscing about her youthful days while a student at the Tubbs Union Academy. It was found in the Museum Collection as a multi-page handwritten booklet, bound with a pink ribbon! We quote one tale from it:*

“Whether there are many sleigh rides now or not I cannot say but I have heard of few equal to the following one. One winter day in the early seventies two girls were walking up Faxon Hill on the crust. When part way up they were overtaken by Sumner Ball and his brother driving in a single sleigh. Too courteous to go by and leave the girls they straightway gave up their seats and climbed the hill on foot. Upon arriving at the top they too wished to ride and took the only available seats, namely in the girls laps. All went well until Sumner who had been away from town and was used to more spirited horses than his father’s wished to go faster. His brother warned him that the traveling was very bad but he was not to be daunted and drew the whip the whole length of the horse. For a short space they did go faster but alas for the poor old horse! We must draw the curtain after just a glympse(sic) at the direful result of that stroke of the whip. The old horse lay stretched in the middle of the road and the sleigh had lost its whiffle-tree. One girl rolled over and over on the crust until a friendly stone wall stopped her rapid descent of the hill and Sumner, poor Sumner, took a too rapid start along the road and landed over the horse’s head.”

## Some Excerpts from Clara May Hurd's Diary During the Blizzard of 1888

Sun. Mar. 11, 1888 24 [*degrees*] above zero  
.....Commenced snowing about 2 p.m.

Mon. Mar. 12, 1888 24 [*degrees*] above zero  
Snowing fast and driving hard. The hardest storm of the season. Snow so deep can hardly go thro' it. At 7 a rap at door...Joe Eaton wanting S.W. (Clara's husband, Shubael) to get a lantern & go out. Geo. Mil[en], Albert Green, Geo. Hazelton & Will Abbott with a span of horses: sleigh left by little bridge...Horses covered with snow & men's beards in solid ice...never saw such a sight..

Tues. Mar. 13, 1888 30 [*degrees*] above zero  
Still snowing hard & such drifts, even Washington never saw. Town Meeting & none from outside can get here. Met and adjourned until Friday. Democrats in majority & more. S.W.'s cold better. Those horses in the barn still. To-night snowing hard...

Wed. Mar. 14, 1888  
Snow over but the wind blows savagely...no use to open roads now...3 feet of snow fallen. This looks hard for sugar makers.

Thurs. Mar. 15, 1888  
The snow & blow seem over & breaking roads is the work. 13 men & boys shoveling. S. W. worked all day & it is hard work. The roads are terrible...no one can remember such a snow. March, I'll never trust you again. Charles Trow came in with the mail on his back from Newport. Went out Monday.

Fri. Mar. 16, 1888  
Adjourned T. M. (Town Meeting) .....

Sat. Mar. 17, 1888 24 [*degrees*] above zero. ...  
These terrible drifts threatened to keep me at home today, but I shall go. (*to work at the Library*) Worked busily all day covering newly bound magazines, a quiet pleasant day. Snow leaked thro' the plastering badly. Lizzie went up and threw it down.....

Sun. Mar. 18, 1888  
Headaches: Bright pleasant day, .....The mail from Hillsboro came in Sat. morn...first one in since last Sat.

Tues. Mar. 20, 1888  
.....Jennie's letter says, Fred started last Monday to go to Chicago...The train snowed in in Mass. & stayed for three days....he went 21 hours without food my poor boy I never supposed you would go hungry.

*(One hundred twenty-five years ago there was little or no warning when a severe storm was coming and little that could be done to cope with it.)*



## Washington's First Snowplow

In 1931, the Town acquired its first snowplow, a Caterpillar model Twenty crawler tractor with a "V" plow and double wings. There are a couple of snow-related pictures of that era from the collection used in the Jagers' book *Portrait of a Hill Town*, pictured along Half Moon Pond Road. (The "V" plow sitting at the corner of Phil Barker's driveway is the actual plow from that tractor.)



Washington's First Snowplow, 1931



Automobile along Half Moon Pond Road, 1931

## Snowfall of 1969, as Reported by Phil Barker

"I do not recall what the total for that year was but it was memorable! There was already a substantial amount on the ground at the end of January. Early in February we had a snowstorm every other day for ten days. The total snowfall for February alone was 60". There was not time to "wing back" between storms and Route 31 got so narrow that the plows were taking snow from one snow bank and depositing it on the opposite side of the road whichever way they were travelling. When going to Newport we met only a few cars and more than once had to back up as much as half a mile to find a place wide enough to pass each other. The State had a huge Hough 120 loader from Payne Construction in Keene come up and push back the banks the length of Route 31. The snow bank across from the Washington Store was 12 feet high. My new wife and I were shoveling camp roofs and boathouses at Island Pond that winter for Norman Fletcher, as he was the caretaker. We would snowshoe across the pond to get to the camps. Some of the time we could walk right onto the roof on snowshoes. We would start shoveling at the ridgeline of the roof and often by the time we worked our way down to the eaves we were shoveling snow UP onto a snow bank to get it off the roof."

### More snow statistics by Phil

Our old average (back in the 50's) we used to say, was 120 inches. In the past ten years we have had 979 inches which averages out to 97.9". Five of the past 10 years we have been above average. We are at present within 4" of the average. So I guess what it boils down to is that winter in Washington is a 50/50 proposition.

As the door decals on my plow truck express my sentiments.

STATE OF MIND

WINTER AIN'T SO BAD

I like snowflakes better than rattlesnakes !

## Washington Historical Society Programs for 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8	<p><b>Jumping from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Uganda</b>                  Marian Baker will share about the ways that women in Ugandas, with whom she works, are both behind and ahead of the United States in development.</p>
May 13	<p><b>Winning the War, Shaping Peace: Industry, Civil War, and the Birth of Consumerism</b>                  Carrie Brown explores the technological triumph that helped save the Union and then transformed the nation. During the Civil War, northern industry produced a million and a half rifles, along with tens of thousands of pistols and carbines. How did the North produce all of those weapons?</p>
June 10	<p><b>Our War - The Civil War as NH Men and Women Lived It.</b>                  Mike Pride uses letters, diaries, and contemporary newspaper accounts to shape 50 stories of death, love, bravery, and survival as NH men and women lived it from the heady days of 1861 to the costly victory of 1865. His book has two chapters about letters between East Washington's Julia Jones and General Samuel Duncan, who were married in the East Washington Baptist Church after the war.</p>
July 8	<p><b>Cannon Shenanigans and New Hampshire's Muster Day Tradition</b>                  New Hampshire's Muster Day tradition ended in 1850, as did some of the related localized rivalries that involved the stealing of cannons. Muster Day was a day of drills, marching, and sham battles for local militias in NH. Jack Noon will explore the vestiges of this tradition that survived into the 20th century.</p>
Aug. 12	<p><b>New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality</b>                  Hundreds of one-room schools dotted the landscape of New Hampshire a century ago and were the backbone of primary education for generations of children. Revered in literature and lore, they actually were beset with problems, some of which are little changed today. Steve Taylor explores the lasting legacies of the one-room school and how they echo today.</p>
Sept. 9	<p><b>The Church at Washington NH - Discovering the Roots of Adventism</b>                  Pastor Ken Brummel will show the video history of the SDA Church, largely filmed in Washington, and discuss the future plans of the church to expand its access to visitors.</p>
Oct. 14	<p><b>Hydro Power in the Monadnock Region its Past and Future</b>                  Michelle Hamm, Manager of Environmental Services for the Monadnock Paper Mill will discuss hydro power from the first dam across the Contoocook river in Bennington in 1789 to the Mills commitment to clean, "renewable" energy and water treatment.</p>
Nov. 11	<p><b>Mystery Meeting</b></p>

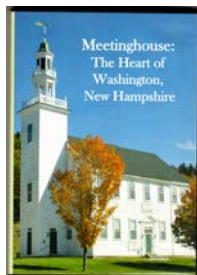
Museum & Barn Hours:	July & August, Wed. & Sat. 2-4 P.M. or by appointment anytime. Call Gwen (603) 495-3231 or Tom (603) 495-3284
District #5 School Hours:	July & August, Sat. 1-3 P.M. or by appointment anytime. Call Gwen at 495-3231 or Charlotte Treadwell at 495-0800

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

Please order by mail, or call: Elaine Crandall (603) 495-3416, ecrandall@verizon.net  
 Tom Talpey (603) 495-3284, ttalpey@gsinet.net  
 Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 jimgwen@gsinet.net

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE
<b>Tote Bag.</b> 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
<b>Pillow.</b> 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
<b>Puzzle.</b> 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
<b>Mug.</b> 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
<b>Trivet.</b> 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
<b>Gustine Hurd Images Postcards</b> 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><b>Glass Medallion</b> – 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.*

## Sugar Time Brings Spring

by Richard Crane

Maple Sugar time is here again and the trees at R.A. Cranes were tapped and sap was boiled for the first time on March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Next year we will celebrate 75 years that we have boiled sap at the “Tryon” farm.

The September 1938 hurricane blew down the maple trees at the Codman Place in Cherry Valley on Rt. 31 in Washington where my Father had a nice sugar orchard. Because of this, we moved the operation to the “Tryon” farm in Hillsboro, on Coolidge Road; now the home and farm of my son Roger A. and his wife Bets Crane. William Tryon was my Great Grandfather on my mother’s side of the family and bought the farm in 1906.

It was a sad move as we worked our way from the Codman Camp to the sugar house cutting our way through the uprooted maple trees. There were no chain saws then, just 2-man crosscut saws, axes and a team of horses to move the huge trees that would no longer produce sap. Now the trees were good for nothing but lumber or fire wood.

The old “scoot” or sap sled that the horses pulled through the orchard to gather the sap with its wooden gathering tank, as well as one of the hand crafted storage tanks now rest at the Washington Historical Society Museum Barn for people to see in the “sugar house” display there. The storage tank was made by Adin Vickery one of our local Coopers. The “scoot” and gathering tank are in the loft above the sugar house.

The sugar shack beside what was a dirt road at the Tryon farm had a 3 x 8 Grimm evaporator installed prior to 1938. It had siphons to move the boiling sap from one pan to the next. Prior to that time sap had been boiled in flat bottom pans. We replaced the Grimm in the mid 1940s when Walter Chamberlain of East Washington, was an agent for the Vermont Evaporator Company. By this time the wooden and tin buckets were out of use and Galvanized buckets and pipeline was being used.

“Wally” was known to be something of a local character and I knew that the evaporator company also purchased maple syrup in 55 gallon drums. I remember asking Walt “How dark and thick will they purchase?” His reply was “ Just as dark as you have and anything Maple as long as you can get it through the bung hole”. We shipped 8 barrels of dark syrup in 1957 that was made late in the season.

In 1950 we replaced the old shack with the present sugar house. In the 1990s we installed a 4 x 12 Stainless Steel, Steam Away Evaporator. The Wheeling galvanized buckets went into retirement as an Electric Vacuum Pump pulls the sap from the trees to a large stainless storage tank at the foot of the Mountain, then it’s trucked to the sugar house to be processed.

In 1906 there were a dozen or more huge maples around the farm buildings. Today there are only two left beside the sugar house, one is tapped and drips into a bucket inside the sugar house. Maple trees seldom live more than 100 years.

By the time this is published the season may be over but you are welcome to stop by for a visit anytime and come to the museum this summer to see the now “antique” equipment that was used in making maple syrup and sugar.





## The Story of the Lovell House

by Tom Talpey

The Lovell House, which started as a “public house” and inn along the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike, was built in 1802 by Reuben Farnsworth and operated by his brother David, who at that time had a “license to keep public house.”

There is a fascinating history of the Lovell House given in Ron & Grace Jagers’ *Portrait of a Hill Town* (pages 124-137 and 194-198), much too tangled and complicated to detail here, but the following is an abbreviated summary. The original Lovell House served for many years under various proprietors as a wayside stop along the Turnpike as well as a modest summer retreat for the wealthy, when families would come by train to Hillsborough and horse and carriage to Washington, to relax and take in the summer air. It was purchased in 1890 by Jasper T. Goodwin who had grandiose plans to turn it into a much larger resort. He immediately rebuilt the stable on the west side, renovated the bowling alley and started to add an east wing with a porch 109 feet long and 9 feet wide, reaching to within ten feet of the Congregational Church—just wide enough to fit a carriage through.



The Lovell House in Washington before the eastern addition and long porch was put on. Photo taken around 1885, presumably by J.D. Hunting who ran the Hillsborough Studio at the time.

Courtesy of Hillsborough Historical Society’s MPM Coll.



The enlarged Lovell House at its grand re-opening September, 1891.

Photo from “Portrait of a Hill Town”, used with permission

In the summer of 1891 *The Messenger* newspaper reported that the Lovell House was full and apparently a gay time was had by all. (“Accommodations for 125” according to a brochure published at the time, “at rates of \$5 to \$7 per week.”) The next few summers were the same, but in 1897 problems began to show. That year the town took it for delinquent taxes and after being redeemed, took it over again in 1898 for \$71 in back taxes. Goodwin still ran it, but patronage declined so much that in the Spring of 1900 there was an auction of the furniture and the Lovell House was closed for the summer. *Portrait of a Hill Town* reports that “ice stored the previous winter stood melting in the shed and ... Goodwin was in New York.” Goodwin eventually paid off

his back taxes but by then had lost the property to mortgage holders. He declared bankruptcy in 1904 and his involvement with Washington ceased, except that he died in 1913 and is now buried in the New Cemetery on Faxon Hill, beside his wife, Carrie L. Greenleaf, a Washington native who out-lived him by nearly 30 years. *Portrait* describes the Washington view of him as a “complex man of generous spirit and of noble purpose” but perhaps too enthusiastic in his ambitions.

Again from *Portrait of a Hill Town*: “From 1900 to 1912 the Lovell House stood on the common, a silent and empty ghost.” Early in 1913 the Town sold it to Sumner Ball, who determined to give a try at trying to revive it. .... “On July 22, 1913, there was a formal re-opening of the “Lovewell Hotel,” as it was now named by “S. N. Ball & Son” complete with a banquet for 150 guests, orchestra and ball.” They tried gamely for seven years to keep the Lovell House afloat, but with only a few guests and weekly whist parties could not make a go of it. Ball then sold, in 1920, to new owners who promised repairs and improvements, including electric lighting either by a plant of their own or by extension from the power lines which then terminated in Hillsboro Upper Village.



Three years later it was sold yet again to new owners who made similar promises but again were unable to keep them. At the same time, as stated in *Portrait*, there were summer dances on Saturday nights during this time. Meanwhile, there were legal proceedings going on as to who had promised what and when and the taxes again went unpaid. "When the ...legal dance had ended, Sumner Ball was doing nicely at the Capital House (now called the Faxon House), and, lo, the town of Washington found itself the owner of the Lovell House once more." New owners were snared in 1928, who, according to *Portrait*, were "vigorous entrepreneurs [but] lasted only until the snow melted" and then, in June 1929, sold it again to an owner who leased it to another prospect for the summer. (This is getting hilarious, if not more confusing! Not to bore the reader, I'll omit the names, but they can be found in *Portrait*, pp. 195-6..—ed.) The new owner hired Alice Barker (Read) as cook and she stayed on through thick and thin to the end (coming soon, I promise—ed.), who reported busy weekends but only 8 to 10 patrons during the week. Delinquent taxes again took over and in 1933 the property was deeded to Pearl M. Young for \$79.50 in back taxes. *Portrait* surmises that he may have felt "it was time to blow the whistle once and for all." In June of 1935 Pearl Young dismantled, board by board the huge hotel, "leaving standing only the original house and attached outbuildings."

The original Lovell House then stood there, vacant and unused, for the next 17 years. Finally, in August of 1952, Pearl held an auction in which he sold off the original "Lovell Home Hotel" property and other nearby lots, as well as a large amount of personal property. We reproduce an advertisement of that auction, taken from the *Argus* Champion of August 12, 1952,

SILAS A. ROWE, Auctioneer  
Heniker, Concord Office, 77 North Main Street

## Auction Sale!

REAL ESTATE, TOOLS, FURNITURE, AUTOMOBILES  
IN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTON, N. H.

The subscriber, realizing after many years of active service that he should unload the heavy burdens that he is carrying, will close out a vast amount with a variety that would seem to fill the needs of all at a PUBLIC AUCTION beginning on

**Saturday, August 16 at 10 o'clock A.M.**

We don't expect we can close out the entirety in one day, but will do our best and tell you of any continuation.

Four Tracts of Real Estate: A brief description of each — The Old Lovell Home Hotel property, house about 60 x 30, three floors, 14 rooms, many of the old doors and wide board floors, new cement cellar wall, large barn suitable for several car garage, 20 acres, more or less, tract known as The Metcalf Lot, on which there is a fast growing lot of timber, 15 acres, more or less, lot known as the Hall property. This lot is covered with a growth of 1500 white pines which were planted about 10 years ago. Also another lot of about 40 acres, known as the Miller lot. All real estate will be offered at a very reasonable reserved bid.

Personal Property: 1927 Willys Knight 4 door sedan, mileage about 41,000. 1929 Ford Pick-up; Snow Mobile; Cement Mixer with engine; gasoline engine; metal wheel barrow; 14 foot flat bottom boat; a good lot of doors, windows, window casings, hard wood flooring, sheathing, lathes, tool chests, tools of all kinds, two hard wood gate or swing leg tables, real antiques, chairs, dining tables, bureaus, roll top desk, square piano, and many other items not mentioned.

Terms 10% on real estate, balance in 30 days. All other property cash.

P. M. YOUNG, Subscriber and Owner

My interest was kindled when I was shown an old advertising sign which used to hang over the doorway to the registration room in the hotel. It was purchased privately from Pearl Young some time before the auction by a local teen-ager (a direct descendant of one of the first Farnsworths), who says he bought it "because I liked it!" We were recently able to photograph this sign for the Museum files. One section of the sign is of particular interest as it gives the expected departure and arrival times of the stagecoach to and from Newport. Note that the trip from Goshen to Washington took the horses half an hour more than the out-going trip. The elevation of Washington center is about 560 feet higher than the center of Goshen and the horses surely knew it!

In late 1964 or early 1965, after a tempestuous lifespan of over 160 years, the original old Lovell House itself was finally taken down. Phil Barker worked as a member of the crew from Jaffrey which dismantled it and says he used some of the old boards in building his sugar house, so in a way some of it still lives.

Ron Jager comments: "In retrospect, the Lovell House story is a Washington story full of ambition, drama, repeated failure, occasional humor, and often sadness, and it comes to its melancholy end in a cellar hole in the center of town. The story is so interesting, so affecting, that one would like to know more about the early history of this house - tavern? What was it doing during the heyday of Tubbs Union Academy?"

**WASHINGTON AND NEWPORT STAGE**

LEAVE WASHINGTON	7:30 A.M.
" " GOSHEN	9:00 ..
" " MILL VILLAGE	9:30 ..
ARRIVE AT NEWPORT	10:30 ..
LEAVE NEWPORT	3:00 P.M.
" " MILL VILLAGE	4:00 ..
" " GOSHEN	4:30 ..
ARRIVE AT WASHINGTON	6:30 ..

CHAS. TROW, PROPRIETOR.



## Past, Present & Future

*By Gwen Gaskell*

In the early days of Washington all of the churches in Washington had a "Society" which members could belong to for sociability and often to raise funds for a project. The Masonic Lodge formed and then the Grange was started in 1873, then the G.A.R. Other than these organized groups, neighbors would get together and plan a "surprise" for someone and just show up with what we now call "pot luck". It would be a pleasant evening of visiting and sharing.

The Grange existed in Washington and East Washington for many years. Some "Societies" became "Ladies Circles" then evolved into the Sewing Circle, the 4-H Club for the young people and more recently there has been Boy Scouts. Some men belong to the Masons and others join the volunteer Fire Department, Those people that enjoy the great out doors join the local Snowmobile Club.

This summer the main display at the museum will have information and memorabilia on these groups and organizations. Those who work on the displays, as well as those who visit, will find much to interest them.

Any one wishing to help with this is more than welcome. Just give me a call and when the snow melts and we can get into the museum to start.

During the February school vacation I was delighted to have Alexis Clark call and volunteer to help with computer work. We brought the vital records up to date, as well as other computer work. The young people are so comfortable and quick on the computer it makes faster work to have help. I know I need plenty of that to accomplish all there is to do.

I have contacted three gentlemen that tune pianos. Two have replied that they do not work on Square Grand's any longer, but express a great respect for the instrument. I am still waiting one answer and am open to suggestions. We do want to have our piano tuned for this summer. Information PLEASE.

Work has progressed quite well on the research of the "Diaries" this winter, as I have worked on it for 2 or 3 hours most days. When good weather gets here our "diary" computer will come back to the museum and all the added information will start to be inserted.

On April 13th "Clara" will go to Alstead to present a program for their Sestercentennial Celebration (250yrs.). They have programs and activities planned March through October this year. A very ambitious undertaking! We wish them much success.

At the May and June Meetings we will have sign up sheets for volunteers to host the Museum, Barn and School House so please set aside 2 hours sometime during July or August when you can take a turn for YOUR SOCIETY. Many hands make light work.

See you soon.

### Washington Historical Society Officers

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

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

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** are \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family (including children under 16). The membership year is August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013. 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.



## An Old Penny

by Tom Talpey

Soon after the 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of the Town Meetinghouse last August, I was taking some mail into the Museum when I felt something under my right foot. I bent down to pick it up and found an old copper penny, with the date 1822 on it.



No one seemed to have any certain idea of how it got there. It just appeared. As it has a hole drilled through it, it is possible that it was used as a pendant and worn on a necklace around the neck of one of our 225<sup>th</sup> celebration visitors, but a search of the register has not given us a hint of who it might have been. It is not in very good shape, being pretty well worn, nicked and “beat up.” One of our members, Steve Crain, who collects old coins, has told us that it is known as the Coronet Head large cent, which were minted between 1815 and 1835. However, it is in such bad shape that it has no value to a collector. However, it may have some historical significance to the town, so he suggests mounting it, together with the story of how it was found, and displaying it at the museum. (There are dozens of listings of similar pennies on eBay, all of them in much better condition than this one.)

But where on this earth has it been for the last almost 200 years? It must have some interesting stories behind it. If worn around the neck does it have some sentimental value to someone? When it was coined, the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike was a toll road through Washington and one penny would have paid for the transit of ten cattle through town; or twenty sheep; or a horse and its rider; or a carriage or sleigh drawn by one horse. In the latter part of the 1800s, Clara Hurd earned one cent from the hosiery mill for knitting heels and toes to finish ONE PAIR of stockings! And even in our lifetime there was such a thing as “penny candy.” So it once had a significant value. How many times has it been to Washington and what brought it finally to our museum last fall?

We are offering a PRIZE of a brand new 2013 penny **in PERFECT shape, with no hole drilled through it**, OR a brand new one cent postage stamp, **with original glue which has never been licked**, if the person who brought the old penny to the museum last summer will come forward. **But WAIT**, we will also give a SECOND brand new penny, **with no hole in it**, OR a brand new one cent stamp, **which has never been licked**, again each **in PERFECT shape** if he or she will let us keep the old beat up penny at the museum together with its story!

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