

Nobleboro Historical Society

PO Box 122, Nobleboro, Maine 04555

Spring 2013

Dear Members,

34TH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER - SATURDAY, APRIL 27, AT 6:00 PM

North Nobleboro Community Hall

The Hall is where North Nobleboro Day is held. From US 1, drive about 3.5 miles on East Pond Road to the first stop sign. Turn right at stop sign (on Upper East Pond Road) and drive about 200 feet.



"The Magnificent Waldoboro Rugs"

Jacqueline Hansen, long-time rug hooker and teacher, tells what makes these rugs so spectacular – the colors, designs, and detail, and the women who made them. Several of these magnificent rugs will be on display. Please bring your favorite dish to share along with your place setting. Cups and beverages are provided. *The program will begin about 7:00 p.m., so folks can come just for the talk too.*

Hosts are Margaret Wellman, Mitchell Wellman, and Dana Wilson

2013 NHS Program Calendar, Society Officers and Chairs

For your convenience, the program including a list of current officers and committee chairs are included with this newsletter. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! Currently there are about 190 Society members – and we appreciate your continuing participation. If a membership self-mailer was sent to you with this newsletter, then please enclose a check and mail it back. If you didn't get a self-mailer, then you are paid for 2013. Contact Laurie McBurnie, 563-5347 or laurie_m@tidewater.net, if you have questions.

Scholarship Applications due May 6th

Three \$1,000 scholarships will again be awarded this May. Since 1985, 66 students received a total of \$54,200 in scholarships from the Society. Eligible students (of any age) are those who live in Nobleboro or are members of Nobleboro Historical Society. Applicants must be attending postsecondary school (college or technical) for 2013 - 2014 school year. Applications are available at our website www.nobleborohistoricalsociety.org or local high school guidance offices.

Fish Ladder Festival on May 25, 26, & 27

See the alewives run up the ladder! Join us at the Fish House in Damariscotta Mills for breakfast and lunch from 10-5 and on Monday from 10-3. Pig roast on Saturday & grilled chicken on Sunday – and always music, games for the kids and Fish Ladder gear. Bake sale is Sunday. The fish are enjoying the restored ladder and there are just 14 pools to complete. See website www.damariscottamills.org

Original Maurice Day Ink Sketch

Joyce Brown has generously donated, as a fund-raiser for the Society, a Maurice Day original ink sketch of a charming waterfall with a graceful tree on one side with painted highlights. The sketch is 5.5" x 9" and is framed. We are exploring whether it would be best to put the sketch in the AppleFest silent auction or to make other sales arrangements. Our thanks to Joyce.

Needed: Hoosier cabinet, kitchen table and work benches

Without the shelves for display, NHS needs an old Nobleboro workbench or two, a kitchen table and a few cupboards, and a Hoosier cabinet would be wonderful. Please check your barns, basements, attics and outbuildings for old items with a well-worn look to enhance our displays – preferably not requiring much, if any, repairs.

Contact: Henry (563-6028) or Mary (563-5376)

What's Happening...

New display space – FINALLY

The Historical Center basement is ready for the new family, farm and craftsmen displays – thanks, once again, for many hours of hard work by Henry Simmons, Building Chair. Since the 1980s, many items donated to NHS were placed on metal shelving that filled the basement. Related items were put together, but wasn't easy to view them. This winter Henry cleared all shelves and stacked everything carefully – and then dismantled and removed the rusty shelves (see BEFORE photo). Next, the cement floor was etched and painted (see AFTER) and now the donated items can be arranged into educational displays.

Before



After



As promised for the last few years, there will be a home display area for the many pots & pans, kitchen items, spinning wheels, butter churn and the hand-wringer washer that the students love to use. The farm area will have several oxen yokes and shoes, pitch forks, scythe, thrasher, 2 corn shellers and other farm items framed by the Nobleboro Grange #555 sign. The house-building and woodworking tools and materials need a few workbenches for a better display – and there's the cobbler's bench and the shingle-maker's bench too.

Now when Nobleboro Central School classes come to the Center, the students can be divided so part of the class will experience the one-room schoolhouse upstairs and the other students see tools used 100 years ago, shell ears of corn, and learn about living in Nobleboro's history.

Thank you very much, Henry, for your independent and diligent work to get this project to this stage!

Curley House Archaeological Project Update



As many of you know, the former Connie Curley house at 21 Pond Road in Damariscotta Mills was sold and the new owners requested a demolition permit from the Town of Newcastle.

For a house thought to be built in the early 1700s, an archaeological survey is required before the demolition permit can be decided. Tim Dinsmore, local archaeologist for over 25 years, was asked by the new owners to conduct the archaeological survey.

The owners would like to take down this early house and salvage parts to incorporate into a new house. This house is purported to date back as early as 1730 when William Vaughan established a small settlement at the water power source where the water from Damariscotta Lake falls 42' before entering Great Salt Bay. Unfortunately, many of these early settlers never received proper titles to their properties and so a simple title search of the property is of no help. The late Connie Curley told people that the house belonged to settler John Deering and her logic for this was the discovery by her late husband Joseph of the initials 'JD' carved into a ceiling board in the kitchen. These initials do match only one of Vaughan's early settlers – John Deering. In the 1740s a lawsuit against William Vaughan, John Deering was named as one of the few local residents (from Cushman's book, *Ancient Sheepscot and Newcastle*, 1882).

The aims of this investigation of the Curley lot is to document all aspects of the house, to help establish the earliest occupation for the house, and to preserve for posterity a record of this early house. The documentation of the house will entail having architectural historians conduct a visual inspection of the house; having a professional photographer take interior and exterior images; drawing up floor plans of the oldest part of the house; and to sample six timbers for dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) purposes. In early April representatives from Maine Historic Preservation Commission inspected the house and stated that the house was probably from the later half of the 1700s. Maine Preservation from Yarmouth will conduct a conditions assessment of the house this month – both organizations contributed financially to the survey. The archaeological digging started in mid-April to locate cultural deposits that will help date the earliest occupation of the house as well; many pottery shards and other items were found. A preliminary report will be given to the Newcastle Design Review Board by May 31st for the next meeting concerning 21 Pond Road in early June.

While preliminary, the results of the archaeology to date strongly suggests an occupational date range of no earlier than circa 1770s and this contradicts oral tradition that the house dates to the 1730s-40s. Tim expects to conclude the fieldwork aspect of the project by April 25th and then will focus on the lab work and final report.

The Nobleboro Historical Society, a 501(c) 3, is serving as fiscal agent for Midcoast Archaeology, Tim's company, and donations for this historical project are tax deductible to the extent of the law. We are pleased to report that financial contributions by community members have helped us raise the shortfall in monies needed to conduct the archaeological survey and for this we are truly grateful. The results of this work will be presented to NHS latter this summer or in the fall.

How to Clean an Old Gravestone Safely

First – do no harm: These items should not be used when cleaning stones as they can cause irreparable damage:

- ❑ Bleach dissolves the binding minerals in stone and causes exfoliation, making the surface rough.
- ❑ Acid or acidic cleaners
- ❑ Household cleaners - soap (Ivory), detergents (liquid or powder), Borax, Clorox, TSP, Fantastik, Formula 409 or any abrasive cleaner, as they are rendered insoluble by calcium ions present in stone and hard water and cannot be rinsed off.
- ❑ Pressure washers can 'sugar' the stone (surface feels like sugar granules).
- ❑ Sealants of any kind.

What to do:

- ❑ **Remove** loose, dry material with a soft-bristled brush – **never** use a metal brush or instruments.
- ❑ **Gently** remove lichen, etc. with flat wood stick or plastic scraper. If it's hard to remove, soak with water to soften – if it doesn't come off readily, leave it there.
- ❑ **Wash** with plain water using small circular motions and a soft brush.
- ❑ **Always clean** stone from the bottom up to avoid streaking.
- ❑ Clean the back of the stone first, then sides, and lastly the front.
- ❑ **Change** water frequently; **do not** use 'dirty' water. A pump sprayer is ideal.
- ❑ **Rinse** 2-3 times with large amounts of water.
- ❑ If water alone doesn't clean the stone, use only a non-ionic soap like Orvus, found in feed stores, or Photo Flo, a Kodak product.
- ❑ **Rinse** with copious amounts of water.

Remember – this is an old gravestone, not a brand new one and should not look pristine.

Other references: *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad (at Skidompha), <http://www.ctgravestones.com/Conservation/cleaning.htm> and <http://www.sunnysidcemetary.org/monuments/>

Historical Center Open Summer Saturdays

The Historical Center is open on **Saturdays from July 6th through August 31st** from 1:30 to 4:30 or any time by appointment. A volunteer is available to answer your questions. There is information about Nobleboro history and many historic artifacts are on display. Last summer many visitors came in to see the artifacts or research their family history.

The Center can be enjoyed by all ages – and it's free. Maps, books and other memorabilia are available to buy.

Volunteer hosts/hostesses are needed – and ideas to increase the number of visitors.

Genealogy materials are available for study and Joyce Brown, our genealogist, is also available by appointment to help research your ancestors.

Please call Mary Sheldon, 563-5376, or write to PO Box 122, Nobleboro, ME 04555 to research your ancestors or get information about our history.

Mary Sheldon, President