
Nobleboro Historical Society

PO Box 122, Nobleboro, Maine 04555

Spring 2014

Dear Members,

35TH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER - SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 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.

"Plants of the Early Colonists and Heirloom Seeds"

Neil Lash, botanist and teacher, is co-founder of Medomak Valley High School's Heirloom Seed Project ~ the oldest such high school program in the country! He is a history enthusiast who is extremely knowledgeable about many periods of Maine and American history.



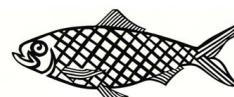
Medomak Valley High School's Heirloom Seed Project is in constant pursuit of seed with historic provenance. The project also maintains a living-history arboretum of 33 trees that includes trees from Monticello, the battlefields of Antietam and Gettysburg. Recently a tree from the historic Isaac Reed mansion in Waldoboro was added. This was where Bertha Smouse in 1820 designed the Maine State Seal. Neil leads an outstanding horticulture program at the high school about historic flowers, vegetables and trees.

His illustrated talk includes the Nobleboro white cucumber *Ephraim Hall*, American chestnut and other fun facts that link history with plants. Neil Lash and his students have been a powerful force in the seed saving efforts in the state of Maine. His knowledge, dedication, and tireless efforts to preserve biodiversity are a great source of pride to not only to the Medomak Valley High School but also to the state of Maine. He has made it possible for his students and members of the community to gain an appreciation for flowers, vegetables, and trees that played a part in the history of the local community, the state, the country, and various locations throughout the world.

Hosts are Margaret Wellman, Mitchell Wellman, and Dana Wilson



Fish Ladder Bean Supper on Saturday, March 29th **St. Patrick's Church in Newcastle** **5:15 p.m.**



The annual bean supper supports the fish ladder restoration. Often called the "best bean dinner of the year", the meal features, of course baked beans, of several varieties. In addition, the supper serves ham, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, home baked rolls and biscuits, and a variety of homemade desserts (pie, cake, and cookies...yum!). There will be a slide show showing the fish ladder restoration, fish ladder events (so we can remember how much fun we had), and historical photos of the fish ladder. This is a supper not to be missed!

2014 NHS Programs

For your convenience, the programs are listed below. Details will be found on the website www.nobleborohistoricalociety.org. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

Saturday, May 17th - PENDING 7:00 P.M.
"Local Native Americans in the Colonial Period"

Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, May 24-25-26
7th Annual Fish Ladder Restoration Festival - Memorial Day Weekend
Sat & Sun 10 to 5; Monday 10 to 3

TBA June 7:00 P.M.
"Kieve and Wavus Summer Camps on Damariscotta Lake"

Presented by Henry Kennedy, Nancy Kennedy and Priscilla Watson.

Saturdays from July 5th through August 30th 1:30 to 4:30
Historical Center Open Houses

Staffed by Society volunteers to answer questions. Society materials are available for sale.

TBA September
"Col. Dunbar 'settles' Pemaquid Peninsula to Damariscotta Mills"

Saturday, October 4th 10 to 2
AppleFest Celebration

Saturday, October 11th 11 to 3
Fish Ladder Restoration Chowder & Soup Lunch



Saturday, September 13th 7:00 P.M.
"Colonel David Dunbar and the Re-Settlement of the Bristol Peninsular"

Presented by David Andrews, Bristol

TBA Saturday, October 25th 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, November 15th 7:00 P.M.
"Glendon Revival Camp in Nobleboro"
Presented by Mary Sheldon

Dropping the US Mail at the East Neck RR Station

Joyce Ball Brown wanted to share this memory – and if you have a Nobleboro memory, please send it to Mary Sheldon

Ellzie's real name was Ellsworth Sidelinger, but as kids, we only knew him as Ellzie. He lived on a small farm on Route 1 in Nobleboro. This road was by-passed several times and in later years renamed School Street. His barn fell into disrepair and fell down. The little Cape Cod house later burned down. [Roger and Roberta Drake bought this land about 1965.]

Ellzie in later years took the job of collecting and sending off the mail for the Nobleboro Center Post Office. By 1941, we kids on East Neck would gather at the RR station to watch the process and talk with Ellzie – and to smell the horse fragrance and most likely be general pests.

After I grew up, I realized that he worried about so many kids wandering around the tracks when the train was coming. He told us that the train could pull us right onto the tracks as it passed by – so we were to hang on tight to his wagon as it went roaring by, billowing smoke and steam. Sometimes the smoke was so thick you couldn't see the train. It soon blew away leaving a smell in your nose and taste on your lips.

Ellzie drove a horse and wagon to the East Neck Road RR crossing every weekday to collect the mailbag that was tossed from the train. This bag was made of heavy canvas cloth. It was a dirty gray color and was about 3 feet long and 2 feet wide. The cloth was stamped in big letters – U.S. MAIL. The top was held together by a thick cord that ran through metal grommets with big holes. This cord could be pulled to tighten the bag or loosened to open. Two large metal rings were also on the bag – one on top, other on the bottom.

When he arrived at the crossing, he turned the wagon around to head back to the Post Office. Then he took a mailbag with the out-going mail to a post about 100 feet further south down the tracks and he clipped the bag top and bottom to a post using the 2 large rings. As the train rushed by, not stopping and heading south, a special long hook reached out from the train to grab the bag of mail to be taken on its way.

The in-coming mail was tossed in its mailbag to the ground as the train came north. In this way, Ellzie made the trip to East Neck Road Station twice a day.

Sometimes Ellzie drove his car to get the mail, but as gas became rationed during WW II, he used his horse and buggy more and more. In the winter, he came with his horse and sleigh. Sometimes we rode to Palmer's Store [now the Village Store] in the buggy or sleigh. The sleigh had a huge buffalo skin blanket that smelled awful. In fact, Ellzie had quite an aroma about him between the horse, his cows at home, his huge pipe, and the fact that he probably seldom took a bath – his smell was unique !

Membership Dues

Your membership and participation are key to the success of the Society! Please send in your check in the enclosed membership envelope.

PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, as we send email reminders for activities. If your email address has changed or you think we do not have it, please send it to Jean Vose, Corr. Secretary at godsllove@tidewater.net.

If you did not receive an envelope, that's because you are a life or honorary member or your dues are paid for 2014 – and thank you!

Scholarship Applications due May 2nd

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 2014 - 2015 school year. Applications are due Friday, May 2nd.

Details and an application are available at our website www.nobleborohistoricalociety.org or local high school guidance offices.

Historical Center Open Summer Saturdays

The Historical Center is open on **Saturdays, July 5th through August 30th** 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 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.

State of the Society

Once again, we accomplished much in 2013 with our six outstanding programs [some with standing room only], a fantastically successful AppleFest and many Historical Center visitors and folks working with Joyce Brown on genealogy.

Carolyn Hardman and Britt Hatch worked with four classes at Nobleboro Central School – and the students and teachers all thought that learning about the “olde days” in Nobleboro was wonderful.

The basement exhibits are still a work-in-progress, but we will get this done and it will be a whole new view of life in Nobleboro.

Thanks again for all your support and good cheer and participation!



Mary Sheldon, President