

The Brentwood Historical Society Newsletter

August 2021

PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

The Brentwood Historical Society will host two programs in 2021 - our first since social distancing put a hold on these gatherings last year!

On Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. Steve Taylor will present “New Hampshire’s One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality” just in time for the 70th anniversary of the opening of Swasey Central School. On Sunday, November 14 at 2:30 p.m. during the annual meeting (which will begin at 2:00), historical re-enactors Steve and Sharon Wood will present “Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale.” Sarah Josepha Hale was a New Hampshire native who conducted a 30 year effort to have Thanksgiving declared a national holiday.



“President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale”

The speakers are associated with New Hampshire Humanities, which offers “high quality cultural programming to the public.” Both programs are free, open to the public, and will be held at the museum.

Stairlift Dedication



Frank Northrup, board member, Elizabeth Harpin Markey of The Gove Group, Rebecca Dunham, board member, Joe Falzone of 3-Ponds LLC, and Dexter Swasey, president

The Brentwood Historical Society gathered on July 1 to extend its gratitude to 3-Ponds LLC and The Gove Group for their financial assistance with the purchase and installation of a stairlift at the Society’s museum. Their support also contributed to improvements in the entryway, including painting and window repair.

On behalf of the Society and visitors to the museum, Dexter Swasey, president, thanked Joe Falzone of 3-Ponds LLC and Elizabeth Harpin Markey of The Gove Group for their generous gift. A plaque was placed at the museum acknowledging the gift.



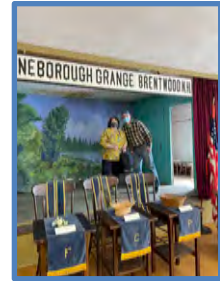
Board member Alma Vahey

The Society has long had a goal of making the upstairs of the museum, which features the Grange room, more accessible for visitors, and the stairlift makes this a reality.

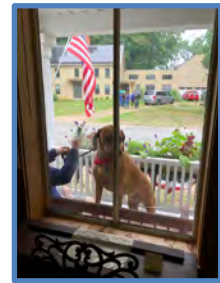
First 2021 Open Hours a Big Hit!



The Society held the first open hours of the year on Saturday, May 1. The newly configured museum welcomed over 60 people, who enjoyed seeing new exhibits of clothing, military memorabilia, school items, dairy items and much more. Both upstairs rooms were open, and some visitors who had never seen the upstairs finally had their chance! The Grange room is steadily being returned to its original set up at the time the Grange disbanded, and the room next to it is set up for one of the



Grange's fundraising family-style dinners.



Some of the many positive comments from visitors:

“I enjoyed going upstairs to see the Grange and where they had the dinners. Great work with all the displays!”

“Wonderful exhibits. Lots of hard work. It is appreciated.”

“Very well organized and nicely presented. Amazed at the large collection of artifacts.”

“Such a nice place to see our town history.”

“Woof!”

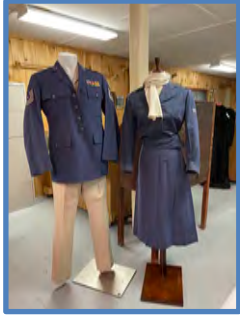
If you aren't able to make open hours, we would be happy to give you a tour when it's convenient for you! Just contact us at 642-8944. If no one is there to answer the phone, we will get back to you shortly.

New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places



The Brentwood Historical Society is honored and pleased to have received a generous donation to assist with the costs of applying for inclusion on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The donation will cover expenses for a consultation with Andrew Cushing, formerly of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, on how to approach the complex application. It will also cover photography, administrative supplies, copying, and other related expenses. “Listing on the State Register can help property owners and communities be more effective advocates for their historic properties by recognizing these resources as vital parts of a community and its landscape” according to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. We are fortunate to have donors who recognize the value of this designation.

Accession Update



As of the publication of this newsletter, 1,055 objects have been entered into the PastPerfect collection management software. We estimate at least another 2,000 objects remain to be processed. So far in 2021, we have received 219 new objects, including the pictured Air Force uniforms belonging to Alma and Bill Vahey. Alma and Bill met when they were both working at the Pentagon in communications.

The Stevens Family of Brentwood donated 119 items mostly from the family farm, including this beautiful tall case clock. A card inside the clock reads: "This clock came from the house

of Aunt Hannah Stevens, wife of Zebulon Stevens. She was born in 1790 and died in 1872. It belonged to her father Samuel Stevens and was said to be the first tall clock in Kingston."

We are honored to have these unique pieces and their stories in the collection for all to enjoy and appreciate!



Any Guesses???



Answers at the bottom of the page . . .

Yard Sale

The Society will hold a yard sale on Saturday, September 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will have a good variety of items for sale, and, of course, all proceeds will benefit the Historical Society. Open hours for September will be held at the same time as the yard sale, rather than on the first Saturday of the month. Please join us!

Mystery objects left to right: Asparagus Buncher, Butter Churn, Grange Voting Box

Thanks to These Supporters of the BHS

The Brentwood Historical Society thanks these people who have helped us in many ways: **Mary Blackwell** for taking photographs at the May 1 open hours; **the Brentwood Fire Department** for keeping our water barrel full; **Nate Ellis** for carrying, moving, lifting, and climbing; **Holly Gilbert** for transcribing some of the Mary Abbie Sanborn diaries; **Lisa Swasey** for helping us Zoom; **Russell Swasey** for making the frame for the school slate; and **Robin Wrighton** for updating the Society's letterhead. And thank you to those who renewed their membership in 2021 and those who have newly joined!

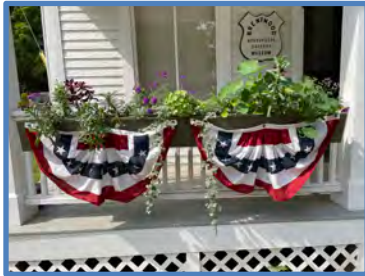


Craig Shefferts, curator
Rebecca J. Davis, and
Scott Cousins

We also extend our thanks to Scott Cousins, of Cousins Art Handling, LLC, in Merrimac, MA, and his assistant Craig Shefferts for moving the Stevens's Family clock to the museum. We knew the clock needed some special handling, and curator Rebecca J. Davis knew whom to call. We were fortunate to have Scott and Craig's expertise when moving this delicate piece. The bonnet was removed, and the base of the clock was wrapped in quilted blankets for transport in Scott's large van. Once it was installed in the museum, Scott wound the clock and set the time. It was a treat to hear it chiming!

The Society could occasionally use some help with tasks that require a commitment of just a few hours of time - things like sorting boxes of documents or photos, labeling new file folders, and organizing books by genre. If you would like to help, contact Karen Ellis at kandnellis1@mac.com. And, if anyone is interested in joining our active board, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Dexter Swasey at swaseydexter@gmail.com.

Garden Club Grant Again Awarded to the BHS



The Society was again awarded a grant from the Exeter Garden Club for beautifying the museum with flowers. The window boxes and pots are back with colorful annual plants. New this year, an arch has been built on the side entrance ramp, and climbing flowering vines will soon make a charming and fragrant passage!

Important dates:

Saturday, September 11: Yard Sale and Open Hours, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 30: "New Hampshire's One Room Rural Schools", 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 2: Open Hours, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 14: Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m.; "Our National Thanksgiving" at 2:30 p.m.

Board Member Profile - Frank Northrup, Brentwood Native



Born, raised and still living in Brentwood. Not many people can make that claim. Frank Northrup, board member and Society treasurer, can! He was born at the Mitchell Memorial Hospital, which still stands as part of the County's nursing facility.

Northrup is a well known name in town - Northrup Drive is named for the

family. Sydney and Barbara, Frank's parents, were active in the civic life of Brentwood, as selectman and on the planning and school boards. Sydney worked at the County Farm, starting as a herdsman and rising to the role of boss farmer. Barbara worked there as well, as the head cook for 20 years, and Frank's uncle was the superintendent.

Sydney and Barbara bought a house on North Road in 1944, on the current location of the Villages at Three Ponds. By the time Frank was old enough to remember, Sydney had left the County Farm and gone into farming on his own at the homestead. They had horses, cows, pigs and sheep on their self-sufficient farm, and sold eggs for two or three years until the price of eggs collapsed..

Frank fondly remembers growing up on the farm; the knowledge and experience he gained were priceless. He cleaned stalls and milked cows, and they used a Morgan horse and a draft horse to mow the land behind the house.

When Frank's parents created the 3-Ponds Campground on their property, Frank was again called upon to help with the work. They actually created the three ponds themselves with a scraper and bulldozer.

Frank attended Crawley Falls and Swasey Central Schools until sixth grade and finished his schooling in Exeter. "The kids on this side of the hill (on North Road) went to Exeter," Frank says, "and the kids on the other side of the hill went to Kingston at Sanborn Seminary."

Frank played football and baseball and ran track; he made All-State for three years. So, he was often late in leaving Exeter for Brentwood at the end of the day. This was not a problem. Frank simply stood on the side of the road and hitched a ride with people heading to Brentwood after work! Once they had supper, Frank and his friends would play baseball and football with the prisoners housed at the County Farm.

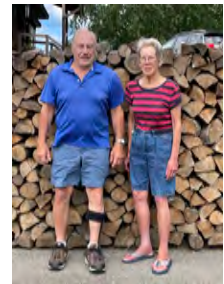
Another interest for Frank at Exeter High School was his future wife Lois Greenwood, who moved to Kensington from Miami, Florida, during her sophomore year. Frank and Lois initially lived with Frank's parents after they were married, but decided to strike out on their own for a time, living in Exeter for six months until Frank "couldn't stand it" any longer! With a growing family, they built their own house next door to Frank's parents.

Frank and Lois will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year! They have three children, Barbara Louann, Tressa Gay, and Frank Edward, Jr., and three grandchildren, Sydney, Jacob and Gabe.

Many Brentwood kids and parents remember Frank as a dedicated Little League coach.

Frank spent 40 years working with Allied Gas. It was a great job for him. He started doing street work and reading meters and finished as an instrument technician, traveling to jobs in three states. At the same time, he ran his own business installing gas lines. He has been retired for almost 19 years.

So what does a busy and energetic person do after retirement? He snowmobiles in Maine at every chance. He enjoys hunting and fishing, and he plays golf a couple times a week. Some of you have no doubt noticed Frank's incredible wood pile. He heats his whole house with this wood and burns six cords a year. It is all cut on his property. His grandkids have the lucrative job of stacking the wood in the cellar for \$50.00 a cord! Frank also found time to become active in the Brentwood Historical Society, acting as treasurer and a board member since 2006. He is our QuickBooks expert!



In closing, we'll tell you about Frank's mysterious past . . . he was born in Brentwood in 1943, but his name did not appear on the list of births in the 1943 town report . . . !?!

We salute and thank Frank for his years of dedication to the Brentwood Historical Society, and for all the Northrup family has done for this town. Best wishes to Frank and Lois on their 60th wedding anniversary!