

Newsletter December

Brentwood Historical Society



Christmas Open House at the Museum

Hello to all the members of the Historical Society. We're now entering the beautiful, busy Christmas season, with many special events to hear and see. Do put our Christmas Open House on your list – **Sunday, December 13, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Museum.**

This year the focus of our celebration will be on the many wonderful items that have been donated to the Museum in the year 2015. Many of them will be on display around the room so that you can get a good look at them. See what a variety of things make great donations! We're sure you will share our enthusiasm and gratitude to the donors.

There will also be plenty of time to sip on punch, cakes, cookies and our famous eggnog. And once you start turning the pages of our many scrapbooks, remembering this person and that, hearing Christmas music on the old 78s records coming from a vintage Victrola, you won't want to leave.

My warmest good wishes to all of you in this season and in the coming year.

Alma Vahey,

President, 679-8635

Items Donated to the Museum in 2015

This year has been especially good at the Historical Society because of the number of items donated to the Society. More and more people are thinking of us when they look at old family items and wonder what to do with them. We want to thank everyone who sent, mailed or brought articles to the Museum. We also thought you

would be interested to see the great variety of articles donated. They all add to the fabric of the story of this town. Among the donors and their donations were:

Lynn Z. Austin: Historical postcards of Baptist Church, Crawley Falls Bridge, and a keepsake card "1899 Souvenir of North Road School."

Albert Edward Belanger:

- Notes, genealogies, photos, query correspondence relating to several Brentwood families, added to the Family File folders.
- Copy of *Annals of the Congregational Church of Brentwood, NH*, with an added index of names appended. (CD and printout)
- Loose-leaf binder with a photocopy of *Deaths and Burials in Brentwood 1825-1895* – a handwritten log housed at the Town Office.
- Loose-leaf binder with facsimile copies of receipt books containing 266 Burial Permits housed at the Town Office.
- Brentwood town history extracts from various old publications.
- *Genealogical Gleanings Related to the Kelleys of Brentwood*. (Very little on Brentwood line.)
- Newspaper article and photos of old County Farm barn in 2012 and fire in 2015.
- Loose-leaf binder of *Oscar Jewell Road Layout Research, Brentwood, NH* – Scanned documents at NH State Archives detailing road construction and road repairs in Brentwood from 1774-1941 by A. Brialobrzkeski in 2013. (Copied from internet web site).
- Several binders of photocopies of Vital Statistics published in Brentwood Annual Town Reports from 1886 -2013.

Mary Bartlett Library - Framed print of young girl on country road with sheep.

Bill Dow -- 9 antique bottles dug from the foundation of the old Crawley Falls Bridge, summer of 2014.

Brenda Swasey Flanders & Barbara Swasey Keir – from the estate of their parents, Joe and Nellie Swasey:

- Mortise drill.
- Wooden box approx. 9" x 18"x 3', at least one end painted white. In the box: food grinder and wooden box of ox shoes.
- Two crosscut saws.

Donations to the Museum in 2015, continued

- Wooden box 12" wide, 6" high, 14" long, containing 2 heavy metal punches, with brand names Plymouth Rock and Ideal.
- 1 pair metal crampons with leather straps, for walking on ice
- 1 ice skate, single blade, leather strap
- Wooden feed box
- 2 double school desks with folding seats in front
- 3 sturdy bushel baskets
- 1 8-foot x16-inch single-board work table
- Wooden tool box, trunk style, empty. Stud initials WAT on the lid. Originally had blacksmith tools in it. Possibly belonged to Mr. Thyng on Deerhill Road, who was a blacksmith.
- Mounted black & white photograph, 12" x 19"– house, barn & out building.
- 2 yellow signs, black letters:
"All Persons Forbidden from Trucking Across or Taking Sand From Church Property, Under Penalty of the Law, Without Consent of Executive Committee.
Ray Pike
John Swasey
Lucy Adams"

John & Jenny Gilman -- child's ironing board & Bissell Sweeper; handmade can opener; original Edison cylinder record; tracing wheel for sewing patterns.

Sid Gove -- Album of handwritten *Recollections of Brentwood, 1941-1945*; and color photo of Gove Potato Farm on South Road – winter scene.

Kate Locke – Oriental rug, 26 x 55 inches, for the "living room" corner.

Carl Magnusson – plaque that belonged to Anna Stevens, commemorating first ship that went through the Panama Canal.

Nancy Maynard – white porcelain kettle and baking pan; sturdy baskets; other kitchen implements.

Peter Pratt (currently of San Francisco) – 1963-64 school photos; Swasey Central School, 1960; photo of BEAN farmhouse on west end of South Road; aerial photo of Drive-In Theatre behind 33 Crawley Falls Road, east side and north of South Road intersection.

Bruce Stevens – 30 antique bottles dug from the Stevens family property over the years.

Joy True of Epping Historical Society – Glass negatives: one of Royal SMITH house of 172 Crawley

Falls Rd. (once owned by Town Clerk Betty Waitt), two of Mrs. Wakefield's home at Brentwood Corner and one of the Baptist Church.

Alma Vahey- "Perfect Saw Joiner" (patent 1893): a tool for leveling the height of teeth on hand saws before sharpening them.

Remembering When

Lloyd Tibbetts, Jr. remembered that in the early days of the Brentwood Fire Department (late 1940s and 1950s) kids could jump on the fire truck and ride to the fires along with the firefighters. A great memory for a boy living in simpler times with simpler equipment.

When John Dodge, Jo Tuck and Martha Clark spoke to the Historical Society about life on Middle Road when there were still four school houses in town, they said the Middle Road people hardly knew the people on South Road. The South Road kids went to the South Road School and those on Middle Road went to the Crawley Falls School (now the Mary E. Bartlett Library) and they never saw each other. Many of the houses that are now between Middle and South didn't exist then, and there wasn't much reason to drive from one side to the other.

Lawrence Lyford would tell how his father rewarded the boys after a hot day of haying by easing the horse and wagon down the steep hill on Pickpocket Road to the river, where everyone could go skinny dipping in the cool water. When somebody asked about the hill Lawrence said, "Oh, today it's nothing like it was back then." When the family got a car, Lawrence was the first son to be allowed to drive it down to the swimming hole. Alma Vahey adds that there was a ford in the river at the bottom of that hill – you could walk or drive across at that point.

Town residents today can hardly imagine how much livestock there was, right up into the 1960s. Many, many people had free range chickens, hundreds of them. The County Farm fields contained a herd of dairy cows and also pigs. They were slaughtered on the premises, to feed the residents of the Nursing Home. Dairy cows were everywhere in large and small numbers. On Prescott Road there were actually two mink farms (which explains the name of Mink Run road off of Prescott). One mink farming couple, Ernest and Dorothy Lebreux, who lived at the present 3 Prescott Road, in 1972 were still displaying a mink coat on a mannequin in the bay window of their living room. The other mink farmers were Howard and Evelyn Floyd, who lived at the current 89 Prescott Road.

For Owners of Old Houses or Barns

Readers will remember that we wrote in the June issue that the Historical Society has become a member of the N.H. Preservation Alliance. Headquartered in Concord for the last 30 years, it is the state's best center for gathering information and resources that help property owners save and revitalize their irreplaceable landmarks. If you own an old house or barn and are committed to repairing and keeping it strong, here are some excerpts from its recent newsletters, and also the *Concord Monitor*:

For Barn Owners

"Preserving an old barn benefits everyone, but the job is costly. Typically, raze the barn and the property tax bill declines; preserve it and its increased value comes with a tax penalty. For that reason, more than a decade ago, the state Legislature enacted RSA 79-D. The law allows communities to reduce, by between 25 and 75 percent, the tax bill on a qualifying barn and the land it stands on. It also exempts, for 10 years, the increased value of the structure."

Concord Monitor, September 16, 2015

[After 10 years, the barn owner may apply for a renewal of the exemption.]

"What grants are available for saving my barn?"

"Currently, there is no funding available for hands-on reconstruction or rehabilitation. ... We are investigating sources of new funding.

"The Preservation Alliance offers a Historic Barn Assessment Grant, which is a competitive, matching grant program. It provides matching funds for an expert in the field of barn restorations to comprehensively assess a structure's needs and prepare a report. Again, the Assessment Grant does not provide funds for actual hands-on reconstruction.

"...Over 100 barn owners across New Hampshire have used these reports to address immediate stabilization and repair needs and general care and upkeep, as well as tackle re-use strategies, budgeting and long-term revitalization plans."

"What is the historic barn tax incentive/discretionary preservation easement?"

"State law RSA 79-D authorizes towns to grant property tax relief to barn owners who a) can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barns or other farm buildings and b) agree to maintain their

structures throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement. Applications are reviewed by the local board of selectmen and if they determine that the proposed preservation of the structure is consistent with the purpose of the law, they may acquire an easement on the structure for a minimum of 10 years and grant tax relief within a range of 25-75%."

"...So far, 88 of the state's 234 cities and towns have adopted the legislation."

"Do you have a list of barn reconstruction professionals?"

"The Preservation Alliance maintains a list of barn preservation contractors whose work we are familiar with. ...Contractors are added to the list after the Preservation Alliance reviews past work and contacts references. The Preservation Alliance maintains the list for informational purposes only and does not guarantee work performance. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the list or being added as a barn contractor, please Contact Us."

For Owners of Old Homes

"Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer looking for tips and best practices, or a home owner looking for an experienced preservation contractor, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is here to help you with your old house. We realize that antique home ownership comes with many questions on how to care for your home, where to turn for advice and where to find old house materials and supplies. The Alliance strives to be your go-to resource to get answers and information.

"Our Old House Program offers lectures, workshops and tours to support old house stewards and enthusiasts in their efforts to maintain and preserve New Hampshire's architectural heritage. Our educational programs focus on topics such as dating your historic home, preserving your wood windows and weatherizing your older home.

"How can I keep up to date on grants and programs for barns and houses?"

"Join the Preservation Alliance's Old House & Barn Network. We'll share breaking news regarding grants, legislation and special events. Call us at 603-224-2281 and join our Old House and Barn email network to keep informed of upcoming programs. You do not need to be a member to join the list."

The website address of the NH Preservation Alliance is www.nhpreservation.org.

Recent Photos



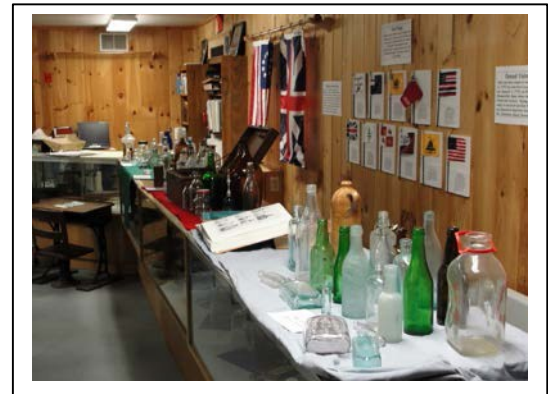
Robert Schroeder, 4th grade teacher at Swasey School, shows artifacts dug by his class in 1984 at the school site (formerly the Sanborn farm). The program, "12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State," took place at the Brentwood Library.



October 8, 2015, Bill Dow gave an excellent program about antique bottles to a small but avid audience of bottle collectors at the Museum.



The Yard Sale on October 10, 2015 at the Museum was a good place to see old friends. From left, Brenda Swasey, Thirza Lausier, Vivian Lemoine and Dick Lausier.



"Spotlight on Bottles" at the Historical Society Museum, October 8, 2015.

The Museum Wish List

- Small or medium display cases or shelves, suitable for hanging on a wall.
- Antique flags to add to our collection.

Other items in your home, basement, garage or attic that we haven't mentioned but that would be excellent for supporting our goal of showing life as it was lived in Brentwood. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have a question or want to discuss an idea you might have.

Brentwood Historical Society Museum, 140 Crawley Falls Rd
Alma Vahey, President, 679-8635.

Mailing Address: 164 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833.
Website: www.brentwoodnhhistory.org.