
Nobleboro Historical Society

PO Box 122, Nobleboro, Maine 04555

Spring 2016

Dear Members,

Maine State Historian in Nobleboro on April 23

Earle Shettleworth's presentation at our Annual Meeting about the Maine Homefront in WW I was fascinating and included photos from 1917-18 showing the enormous support from the entire state for our 32,000 soldiers and winning the war. Thousands mobbed the streets for the parades, participated in bond drives, sending care packages, shipbuilding and other war industries. By the end of the war, every man, woman, and child in the state had donated an average of \$147 to the war effort – a lot of money 100 years ago.



NHS January Board Meeting Was Great!

Many things were started at this meeting, the first one in two years. My thanks to our officers and trustees who continue to help. We agreed to:

1. Form an Investment Committee to increase the return on our savings
 2. Promote the sale of historical-style plaques for Nobleboro homes with the date and original owner's name, as fund-raiser and new item starting Fall 2016.
 3. Get fireproof files for documents – **DONE!**
 4. Update office to be primarily a research area – planning is started.
 5. Clean Historical Center – this summer.
 6. Update upstairs displays to increase information about Nobleboro as a town.
 7. Create 3 exhibit areas in basement with our artifacts (see story).
 8. Select 10 old Nobleboro photos for postcards.
 9. Add Carolyn Hardman's education work with NCS to NHS website.
 10. Create updated NHS brochures with Kim Traina.
 11. Schedule a Fall "document shredding" event as a fund-raiser.
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Passings

We are very sad that we lost Barbara Bragg and Joan Hancock earlier this year. Both were among the original members of the Historical Society who contributed much to its success. They are remembered.

Membership Dues

Your membership and participation are key to the success of the Society! Now is the time to pay your NHS dues for 2016. To renew your membership, please send your check in the enclosed envelope.

If you did not receive an envelope in this newsletter, that's because you are a life or honorary member or your dues are paid for 2016 – and thank you!

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

Two Vacuums Are Donated

Chris and Debra Sokoll, both on the NHS board, heard we needed better vacuums to clean at the Center. They generously donated two small and very handy vacuums. One is a lightweight Oreck 'stick' and the other an Electrolux canister. They already worked well to clean up after all the projects and activities at the Center. Thank you so much.

Fire-Proof Filing Cabinets – FINALLY!

Thanks to Camden Bank's surplus office furniture and Britt Hatch, our treasurer who works there and made the request, NHS has three 4-drawer fireproof filing cabinets for our irreplaceable Genealogy, Buildings and Miscellaneous files. Since this valuable information moved to the upstairs office, we've had a concern about protecting it and now we have done it. Camden's donation saved NHS at least \$4,000. The feat of moving these 500-600-pound files was done carefully by Henry Simmons, Josh Hatch and Ross Pushard in the photo with Britt.



Others who helped tidy and move files included Carolyn Hardman, Richard Roosa, Henry Simmons, Chris Sokoll, Jean Vose, Margaret & Mitchell Wellman – and Mary micromanaged.

Henry Simmons Remembers George Oliver

Note from Mary: As Henry and I worked on the old cupboard, he told me about working with George Oliver and learning about old furniture and I asked him to share the story with you.

What I remember the most about George Oliver was as an antiques dealer. He had a retail store in the basement of his house on Center Street on the Damariscotta town line. He operated a woodworking shop behind the residence to repair and refinish antique furniture.

He built the house, garage, workshop and a storage building out of lumber he milled himself while he was co-owner of the (now Libby) sawmill on Bayview Road. He built those structures very ruggedly, using tongue and grooved boards on the floors, walls and roof. He placed the subfloor boards diagonally making things even more rugged. He built the house foundation himself using concrete blocks and cement mix.



I remember him telling me that when he wanted to build the woodworking shop all he had for logs at the mill were 25 feet long. So that became the size of his building. It was 25 feet long because he didn't want to cut a foot off those logs. He told me he was doing all this building and milling while working for Bath Iron Works full time.

When he finally retired from BIW, he started full-time with his antiques shop. Originally, everything was in the basement. But he found the saws and sanders put out far too much dust and were making a mess in the upstairs living quarters. This forced him to build a separate shop - which according to the lady in his life - was a smart thing to do.

He liked repairing pine furniture best, but worked on furniture made of all wood types. He seemed to enjoy working on bureaus most of all. In the winter months he would plan on building-up the inventory in the store and working on the more time consuming pieces like the Jenny Lynd and Saratoga travel trunks. These were shapely pine boxes with black metal straps, leather handles and brass nails - once completed they were very beautiful.

Jenny Lynd Trunk
ca 1860



Saratoga Trunk
ca 1885



Also, during the winter months, he would plan on building from scratch a grandmother clock usually out of American walnut, but sometimes out of mahogany.

I got to know George Oliver during the last eight years of his life and learned a lot. Sadly, a car ran into him right there in front of his house, and he died in 1987.

We'd like to have more "Nobleboro" stories about people and places that you remember. Please send them to Mary Sheldon at Sheldon@tidewater.net or call her at 563-5376.

NCS comes again to Historical Center

Once again, Carolyn Hardman, our outstanding NHS history teacher, worked with Nobleboro Central School teachers for grades 1 thru 6 and delivered great programs at the Historical Center for these students. The 6th graders worked hard tracing some of the 11 voyages of Captain Hopkins', a Nobleboro seaman, on world maps, learned about his 12 year-old son who was Cabin boy, and used an octant.



The 1st graders thought the 1800s way of doing laundry with a wringer washer was great, made butter by shaking cream in a jar, and used a hand-crank sheller to remove kernels from a corn cob.



The 5th graders used real quill pens to write in cursive for the first time and found it was harder than a keyboard, did math problems on real slates and recited their English lessons – all with 1800s manners.



Improve the Upstairs Exhibits too

A lovely old glass display cabinet [pictured] was generously donated last year by Marty and Lee Stafford of Nobleboro. Chris Sokoll and I reassembled and cleaned it in my kitchen, and had some replacement glass installed, including for the back which had been wood. Now we have some vertical display space and can rearrange and create new displays in the schoolroom upstairs. Eventually, displays will tell more about early life in Nobleboro starting in 1788 and thru the 1800s.



Starting with an Old Cupboard

The creation of three exhibit areas – Home, Farm, Craftsman – in the large basement space was finally initiated when Henry Simmons and Mary cleaned the 8-foot cupboard [pictured] donated by Fran Gay in Damariscotta Mills.



In 2013, Henry removed the old rusty shelves, painted the walls and floor of the basement and stored the artifacts – and the exhibits were just a vision. When finished in June, the cupboard will be in the Home exhibit and the stored artifacts will be roughly arranged into the three areas. To actually create the vision, Mary is looking for funding to hire someone to help with the design and labeling.

Historical Center Open Summer Saturdays

The Historical Center is open on **Saturdays, July 2nd through August 27th** 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 Laurie McBurnie, our genealogist, is available by appointment to help research your ancestors.

Please call Mary Sheldon, 207-563-5376, or write to PO Box 122, Nobleboro, ME 04555 to research your ancestors or get information about our history.

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

Mary Sheldon, President

2016 NHS Programs

For your convenience, the programs are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Nobleboro Historical Center. Details are on the website www.nobleborohistoricalsociety.org.

PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, May 20th

7:00 P.M.

“Tide Mills In Midcoast Maine”

To harness the power of ocean tides, early settlers dammed coves and set water wheels. Bud Warren, local maritime historian and “The Tide Mill Man”, has found 200 sites and his illustrated program will tell the story of these power sources.



Saturday, September 10th

7:00 P.M.

“Old Maps that tell Stories of Midcoast Maine”

Over 400 years ago Smith sailed Chesapeake Bay and New England shore and created a highly accurate map. How did he do it? Why did he put a portrait on it?

Dr. Matthew Edney, cartography historian at Osher Map Library at USM, illustrated talk will tell John Smith’s story.



Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, May 28 & 29
Memorial Day Weekend
Sat & Sun 10 to 5

9th Annual Fish Ladder Restoration Festival

In addition to lots of alewives to view, we’ll have most of the great festival events you’ve come to know and a few new events to keep the weekend lively. Events include great food – pig roast, lobster & crab rolls, with hot dogs & hamburgers.

New events include a road race (5K and 10K) on Sunday morning at 8 am and a cool concert by the Adam Ezra Group on Sunday night, May 29.

Walk the entire fish ladder and see the fish up close, watch osprey dive, eagles in the sky above.



Saturday, October 1st

10 to 2

AppleFest Celebration

Enjoy the homemade apple goodies and turkey salad sandwiches, apples & cider from Beth’s Farm and Fondy’s donuts. There are Kieve games and activities for kids, NCS 8th grade class food table and tables for local businesses and nonprofits.

Enjoy the toe-tapping Damariscotta Lake Country Band, over 70 silent auction items, and creative crafts – with unique lobster claw witches. It’s a chance to see your friends and neighbors and to relax and chat.

Proceeds benefit NHS Scholarship Program and the School.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND JOIN THE FUN!



Friday, June 10th

7:00 P.M.

“Development of New England Maple Sugarhouses”

Arnold Aho, architectural historian, will talk about the rise and fall of the early Maple Sugarhouses, how they were constructed and how they changed. The illustrated program will include the social aspect of town and community involvement at harvest time and how the colonists learned about maple sugar from the Native Americans.



Friday, October 21st

7:00 P.M.

“The Nobleboro Winslow Family”

Sally Hough, a Nobleboro Winslow, is our speaker for this evening. The Winslows arrived in Nobleboro in the 1780s, built a home on Winslow Hill Road ca 1800. The family has been there ever since. Sally will share family stories, artifacts and who's related.

Saturday, November 18th

7:00 P.M.

“The Independent Town Academy –Lincoln Academy and the Sending Towns”

Lincoln Academy started in 1801 and was key to local education. It has continued to grow and serve the community and has plans for the next decade too.

Our guest speakers from Lincoln Academy for the evening are Jenny Mayher, Communications and Community Engagement Manager and Bryan Manahan, Head of English Department.

Saturdays from July 2nd through August 27th **1:30 to 4:30**

Historical Center Open Houses

A volunteer will answer your questions. Genealogy materials are available for study. The museum is interesting for all ages – and it’s free. Maps, books and other memorabilia are for sale.

