

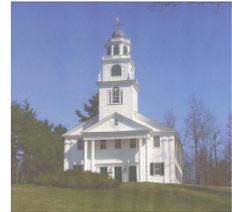


# Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Westmoreland, NH 03467

[www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org)



January

Vol. V, No. 5

2012

**Officers:** John Harris & Stuart Sadick, Co-Directors; Jan Hurley & Dawn Lincoln, Treasurers; Jan Youga, Clerk/Secretary;  
Bill Campbell & Walter Carroll, Property Managers; Jan Carpenter, Archivist.

### Message from the Co-Directors

This coming year is certain to be another great one for WPHMH&HS. Our Spring programs are lined up to provide interesting information plus a little fresh air. If you were wondering what Old Home Days was all about come hear Jere Daniell, Professor Emeritus of History at Dartmouth, give the history of Old Home Days in New Hampshire with a focus on Westmoreland. Come hear how the Revolution came next door in Westminster. Jessie Haas, will speak about her recent book “Revolutionary Westminster: From Massacre to Statehouse.” Jim Ranson will take the June meeting outside for a walk along one of the old Westmoreland rail beds. Be sure to look at the upcoming schedule of activities and put them on your calendar. Please remember to pay your annual membership dues (or Life Time membership dues so you don’t have to remember again next year). We’re always interested in speaking with members who want to get further involved, and if you have an idea for future program topics, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you in February at the General Meeting and Pot Luck.

### Mark Your Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION*
Sunday, February 12	General Meeting & Potluck	4:00 p.m.	Town Hall
Sunday, March 18	Executive Meeting	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Stuart’s House
Monday, April 2	1st Spring Program	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, April 29	Executive Meeting	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Stuart’s House
Monday, May 7	2nd Spring Program	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, May 12	Perennial Plant Sale		Meeting House Lawn
Sunday, May 20	Spring Work Day	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Corner School** and Meeting House
Monday, June 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> and final Spring Program	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, June 10	Executive Meeting	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Corner School
Sunday, July 22	Annual Meeting & Potluck	4:00 p.m.	Meeting House
Friday – Sunday, August 17-19	Old Home Day	All Day	Westmoreland
Sunday, August XX	Executive Meeting	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Stuart’s House
Tuesday, September 4	1st Fall Program	7:00 p.m.	Corner School
Monday, October 1	2nd Fall Program	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Monday, November 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> and final Fall Program	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall

\*Unless otherwise advertised

\*\* Corner School house will schedule an earlier Spring Work Day – specifics in the Spring Newsletter

## **SPRING PROGRAMS 2012**

Committee: John Harris, Paula Page and Jim Ranson

### **Monday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

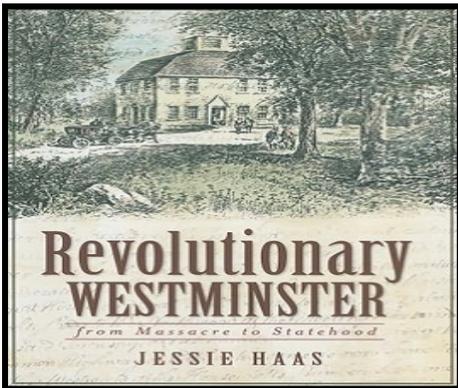


#### **New England Towns and the Origins of Old Home Day in New Hampshire**

Jere Daniell, Professor Emeritus of History at Dartmouth, will talk about the founding of towns in New Hampshire, focusing on Westmoreland. He will also talk about how Old Home Days became a New Hampshire tradition. **Made possible by a Grant from the NH Humanities Council**

*The First Old Home Day in Westmoreland 1900*

### **Monday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**



#### **Revolutionary Westminister: From Massacre to Statehouse**

Jessie Haas, will speak about her recent book “Revolutionary Westminister: From Massacre to Statehouse.” Westminister was the site where, some say, the first patriot’s blood was shed in what became the Revolutionary War. She will also talk about the early history shared with Westmoreland and its neighbor across the river in Vermont.

### **Monday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. Meet at Fellowship Hall**



#### **History Hike**

Walk with Jim Ranson along one of the old Westmoreland rail beds. Hear about the construction and early operation of the Cheshire Railroad through our town.

Plan to meet in front of Fellowship Hall.

*Gilboa Railroad Station, Westmoreland*

## Updates on Society Properties

As you may know, the Meeting House has an inadequate septic system to comfortably allow the building to be used for large events. When a large event has been held there, Porta-potties were brought in – not ideal for weddings or other special events and celebrations. This is unfortunate since the building is a landmark and a beautiful focal point for our community. Walter Carroll has been actively exploring options to install a suitable system at the Meeting House so we can increase the kind and number of events hosted there - a building that is used more often tends to be better appreciated. He has identified a system that includes a holding tank and connection to the main building and would cost approximately \$10,000.

This is a significant expense for our organization so we plan to discuss the proposal at the General Meeting on February 12 to determine if the Society members agree it is worth doing, and if so, how to fund the project.

Please plan to attend and hear more about this worthwhile upgrade to the Meeting House.

## Mid-winter Pot Luck Supper Sunday, February 12 @ 4 p.m. – Town Hall

With the holidays over and lots of winter weather ahead, the Society's winter meeting and pot luck supper is a great opportunity to come out, hear a preview of the programs for this spring, see some old friends and make some new ones. Following the business meeting, we will be able to enjoy the large variety of delicious food brought by the great cooks in Westmoreland. Please email or call one of the following to let us know if you plan to attend and your choice of contribution of a main dish, a salad or dessert to be shared:

Jan Carpenter	<a href="mailto:Daisyandme@webryders.net">Daisyandme@webryders.net</a>	399-7075
Sally Albrecht	<a href="mailto:SJAlbrecht@gmail.com">SJAlbrecht@gmail.com</a>	358-9803
Pam Carroll	<a href="mailto:pamelawcarroll@gmail.com">pamelawcarroll@gmail.com</a>	399-4482

## Old Home Day(s) returning this year



Do you remember one of these old posters from years ago advertising Old Home Day in Westmoreland? Please be sure to put August 17, 18 & 19 2012 on your calendar for this year's Old Home Day. Those days will be full of activity in Westmoreland this coming summer. A committee has been meeting through the winter months putting together extensive plans for old time games, a parade, dances, a craft sale, demonstrations, displays, music, food and more.

The WPHMH&HS will have a bus trip around town describing and visiting historic locations such as the first two settlement areas, mill sites, military camp and training sites, cemeteries, the Meeting House, and the Corner School.

[Type text]



## **Westmoreland / Chesterfield Town Line: 2011 Perambulation**

Last fall, Elaine Levlocke, of the Chesterfield Selectboard, and I volunteered to perambulate (walk) the boundary line between our two towns. My wife, Nancy, and Bob Moore also participated in this project. Bob's historical knowledge of previously walking the line was priceless. The NH statute RSA 51:2 states that each town must perambulate its

boundary lines with the adjoining towns every seven years. This straight, six mile long (as the crow flies) town line has 33 boundary markers, most of which are 80 rods (1320 ft.) apart. The actual walking distance (up and down hills) is about eight miles. The steel fence post markers are embedded in stone walls, or standing alone in a pile of rocks, throughout wooded, and occasionally, swampy terrain. We started off at boundary marker #1, 40 rods east of Rt. 9, on Chesterfield Hill. Equipped with a compass, and a description of each segment and marker from a previous perambulation, we headed west. Over a course of four days, we finally arrived at the last marker on the east bank of the Connecticut River. Near one boundary marker, we found "RWM 1969" carved into a tree from when Bob Moore had previously walked the line 42 years ago. Along the way, Elaine repainted each steel post red and white, along with the current date and marker number. For the first time, the GPS coordinates were also recorded for each marker. While walking the boundary line, I was reminded that we were walking in the footprints of surveyors, who laid out this town line over 275 years ago, before the first settlers had arrived, dragging along a 66 ft. measuring chain. I was honored to have been able to participate in this project, and look forward to perambulating our town lines with Walpole and Surry this year.

## **Membership**

If you received this newsletter in the mail, then you are a member in good standing (i.e., your dues are paid). Please ask your friends, neighbors and colleagues who have an interest in learning more about the history of our town to join the Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society by completing the attached membership form at the end of the newsletter.

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**Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes July 24, 2011**

Present: Walter and Pam Carroll, Janet Hurley, Stuart Sadick, Dawn Lincoln, Bill Campbell, Bruce and Ellen Clement, Maitland Hudson, Mark and Kathy Terry, Patti Seymour, Darrell and Darwin Corak, Cecile Goff, Nancy Fiskens, Judy and Syd Fitzgerald, Thelma Messer, Rosalie Walker, Nancy Sandahl, Elaine Keliski, Jan Carpenter, Bert and Jim Edmonds, Ernie and Medora Hebert, Jim Sandahl, Ted and April Ferguson, Jan Youga (clerk)

Minutes of the General Meeting, February 13, 2011 were approved unanimously.

**Financial reports**

**Corner School:** Dawn reported on the Corner School finances for fiscal year 2010-11. She also informed us that the Historical Society is the recipient of a trust fund from the Town Men's Club. The Historical Society will have access to the interest on this account.

**Park Hill Meeting House:** Jan Hurley reported on the Meeting House finances for fiscal year 2010-11. She also reported that the major event for the Meeting House has been the LCHIP grant for the new roof. The financial part of the project has not been wrapped up yet. They still owe us \$11,000. We have received \$47,000 so far and have spent \$55,000.

**Note:** On the financial report, there should be a footnote explaining that the bond fund reduction is not due to losses but to withdrawing funds for the roof project.

Many thanks to Darrell Corak for auditing our books.

Jan Hurley noted that our biggest job during this first year as a combined organization has been to work out the financial arrangement for both organizations and determine how the joint account works. So far, this process has gone smoothly, and the two organizations have worked together effectively.

Jan and Dawn also provided income and operating expenses for the last three years so the budgets of the two organizations could be compared.

**Revised Bylaws**

Stuart Sadick highlighted the changes that were made in the revised Bylaws. Darwin Corak proposed one additional change to the document to state that the auditor serve a two-year term. This change and the revised Bylaws were accepted.

The slate of proposed officers with the staggered terms outlined in the new Bylaws was reviewed and accepted. However, the slate lacks a treasurer for the Corner School and joint funds. Nominations from the floor were sought, but no one volunteered.

**Property reports**

**Park Hill Meeting House:**

The new roof is now in place, and the last stage of the roof was exciting because we had to decide about the copper ridge cap. The commercial one was too expensive, and so Ted Ferguson made one for us. The flashing is all copper and will gradually age to the usual green color. Now that the first stage of the project is complete and despite the cost overruns for sheathing, we now can move to the second stage, which is painting the east side of the building. Members painted the shutters, and the Village Painters will do the building and then put up the shutters. The ceiling in the downstairs meeting room will be painted in stage three of this project. Then, if we have money left, stage four is to fix the utility room floor. Once the floor is repaired, we hope to put the old floor boards back in place. If there is any money left over, we need to redo the windows. If we take care of them, we won't have to remove all of them at once and have them remanufactured. The last time we did this, the Meeting House was boarded up for six months. Once again we would like to express our gratitude to the Steinhauer legacy for the matching funds that allowed us to get the grant.

**Corner School**

The front sill on the building was fixed by Bill Hatt for \$300 under his quote. The School is now identified by a granite sign out in front, and there is a granite bench among the trees. We are also getting a shed from the Fergusons to hold our "non-historic" stuff. The storm windows were all installed with money from the Lions' Club. The next project is to scrape and paint the building again. This will be done by professionals. Members commented that the granite sign looks great.

**Membership Dues 2011-12**

Members were reminded that it is time to pay dues for the 2011-2012 year. As the new Membership and Communications Director, Patti Seymour will now be keeping an up-to-date membership list.

**New Business**

- Jan Carpenter wants to start a genealogy group and sent around a sign-up sheet for people who are interested.
- We discussed again the need for a treasurer for the School House, and Dawn described the responsibilities. Since no one volunteered, Dawn said she will continue to do the books but be a less active board member.
- We reviewed the calendar for the year, and Stuart reminded people about the tag sale, the next drop-off date, and the first speaker for the fall. Patti Seymour was identified as the person responsible for helping with publicity.

**MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM  
THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership	\$ 10.00	Individual Lifetime Membership	\$100.00
Household	\$ 15.00	Household Lifetime Membership	\$150.00
Organization or Business	\$ 25.00		

Please accept my additional tax exempt (501(c)(3)) donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Make your check payable to The Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society.

Mail check to: Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society P.O. Box 105  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

**Time and Talent**

Please check any and all ways you are willing to help out with the public events and tasks of the Corner School and the Meeting House. Most activities are for a few hours once a year.

<input type="checkbox"/> cleaning/painting	<input type="checkbox"/> baking	<input type="checkbox"/> planning events	<input type="checkbox"/> phoning	<input type="checkbox"/> publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> annual tag sale	<input type="checkbox"/> open house guide	<input type="checkbox"/> general maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> serving on a committee	

Other talents and expertise you have that you are willing to share to help the Society:

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting  
House & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 105  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

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