



Westmoreland Historical Society
NEWSLETTER #6
Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org

Spring 2010

Published twice yearly and mailed to all members and friends of WHS

President: John Harris, 399-7748
Treasurer: Dawn Lincoln, 399-7030

Secretary: Jan Carpenter, 399-7075
Editor: Patti Seymour, 399-0073

Spring Programs

By Carol Austin, Libby McKenney & Paula Page

Monday, April 5, 2010 - 7:00 PM at Fellowship Hall

THE ALTAR STONE: Westmoreland People and Places in the Darby Series presented by Westmoreland resident and award-winning author Ernest Hebert who has written the six interconnected novels revolving around the imaginary town of Darby, New Hampshire, which just happens to be located on the map about where you would find Westmoreland. A native of Keene, he is the author of eight published novels and two non-fiction books, and a professor of English at Dartmouth College. He is the first, and so far only, fiction writer to be awarded tenure at Dartmouth. He writes about change and class conflict in rural New England. One of his themes is native versus new-comer, which is the enduring and recurrent theme of North America. He has an interest in the French and Indian wars in North America, and has published *The Old American*, an historical novel set in that time period. Mr. Hebert will be bringing copies of *THE KINSHIP*, which includes two Darby books, *A Little More Than Kin* and *The Passion of Estelle Jordan* and an essay. All are welcome and you are invited to bring along your copies of his books for signing. If you have questions, please call 399-4975 or 399-7085.

Monday, May 3, 2010 - 7:00 PM at Fellowship Hall

Digging into Native History in New Hampshire presented by Robert Goodby, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University. Abenaki history has been reduced to near-invisibility as the result of conquest, a conquering culture that placed little value on the Indian experience, and a strategy of self-preservation that required many Abenaki to go “underground”, concealing their true identity for generations, to avoid discrimination and persecution. Archeological evidence shows their deep presence here, inches below the earth’s surface. The Historical Society has received a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council to sponsor this program which is free and open to the public. For additional information, please call 399-4975 or 399-7085.

Check out our website for more information!!

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org

Sunday, June 13, 2010 – noon – 5:00 PM at Corner School House (Please note: Change in day and date for our June program. A Monday meeting will NOT be held).

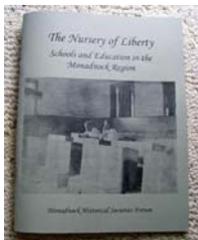
Historic Tour of Westmoreland: Settlement Years 1741 – 1800 come explore the sites of the early years in Westmoreland, from the arrival of the first settlers from Massachusetts to the establishment of the largest town in Cheshire County by 1800. The early settlers faced many challenges. They were moving to what was the frontier in 1741 and had to clear land, build shelter and provide food for their families while under the threat of Indian attack. At one point the threat became so great the town was abandoned until it was felt safe to return. Return they did and more followed. The town grew, government was established, lands bought and sold, roads and mills built. It was a turbulent time in history. There were land disputes to settle. State boundaries were established while debates of English rule versus independence led to the Revolutionary War, in which many of the men of Westmoreland participated. After the war more inhabitants arrived in Westmoreland. Some of the homes we see today were built at this time. There were mills, taverns and stores in the town. Villages with their own meeting houses were established called Federal Hill, Mutton Hill, and Taunton with farms dotting the countryside in between. By 1800 there was a population of just over 2,000 inhabitants, making it the largest town in the county.

The tour will run from noon to 5:00 pm. All are invited to bring a picnic lunch to the **Corner Schoolhouse** on the corner of Poocham and River Roads where beverage and cookies will be provided. Maps will be available there for your self-guided tour as well as at three other stops:

- **Canoe Meadow Cemetery** on River Road
- **North Cemetery** Rt. 63 and Great Meadow Ferry Rd.
- **Park Hill Meeting House**

Members of the Historical Society will be available to help interpret the early history at each site.

On this same day, the Corner Schoolhouse will be open to tour as well in conjunction with the Monadnock Historical Societies Forum tour of one-room schoolhouses.



Don't miss the **exhibit on early education** and schools in Cheshire County now through June at the Historical Society of Cheshire County (<http://www.hsccnh.org/calendar/default.cfm>). Several artifacts from the Westmoreland collection are on display. We have for sale a few of the associated booklets entitled "The Nursery of Liberty" at \$9.00 to members.

Membership and Corner School

Due to the increasing cost of postage and producing our Newsletter and the possibility of increasing the number to four per year, plus the great educational programs provided each year, it will be necessary to increase our dues in the near future. Please contact Kathy Terry (399-7183) or at the April meeting to make sure your dues are up-to-date and avoid a dues increase until next year. Consider the one-time payment for **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**. We now have 28 Life Members in the Society, and we urge all members to consider this category.

Please plan to attend all of our Spring general meetings, exciting programs and activities.

Check out our website for more information!!

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The few remaining 2010 **calendars**, “Gathering Places of Westmoreland” have been marked down to \$5.00 each.

Electricity will finally be reinstalled in the Corner School House early in April, just in time for our Spring clean-up day and additional work on the windows.

Together again?

Several times during the more than 200 year history of our town, the Park Hill district and the South Village have had disputes which resulted in church and/or secular separations. We are working currently on bringing the two “historical entities” back together by cooperating and uniting many activities of the two organizations of WHS and the Park Hill Meetinghouse Society. During the winter months several members of your Executive Committee met with representatives of the Park Hill Meetinghouse Society to discuss the benefits and feasibility of merging some or all of our currently separate groups. It seems in a small town such as Westmoreland that two separate organizations with essentially the same aims and purpose would be more successful if their efforts and membership were combined. Discussions are on-going and further information will be available at upcoming meetings.

Quotes from Dea. Otis Hutchins’ Diary, 1824-1831

In 1826 “Necessities of Life” were leather, salt, shirting, fish and tea.

Dec. 12, 1826 - a steamboat passed up the Connecticut River to Bellows Falls. The banks were lined with people. It returned downriver two days later with “great cannonading from our shore”.

Dec. 6, 1826 - Otis Hutchins and Isaac Esty with 18 other (Park Hill) church members signed a petition and presented it to Rev. Allen Pratt on Dec. 13th which asked that he “would discontinue exchanging (Sunday preaching) with ‘open and avowed Unitarians’”. Otis’ father, William, did not agree with him and they had some family arguments.

Quotes from Otis Hutchins, Jr.’s Diary, 1865-1889

Jan. 24, 1868 – “Great sleigh ride from Hinsdale to Westmoreland, 133 couples.”

Jan. 6, 1874 – [Otis lists material needed for the horse shed at Park Hill]

Aug. 25-26, 1874 – [Otis worked with his team and 2 other men on stone wall and cemetery – believe this was South Village Cemetery because he is buried there]

Jan 7, 1875 – [He mentions Annual Society Meeting and good feeling at coming together of both church groups]

Dec. 6, 1878 – “Edward Green, Town Collector, had some person enter his bedroom in the night and take 600 dollars from his vest pocket which hung on the bed post.”

Income for 1877 included \$91.13 for butter and \$12.50 for cheese which he and family made and sold. Other income from sheep, corn, tobacco, oats and lumber.

Jan 4, 1879 – “Annual meeting of the Westmoreland Insurance Company. The company agreed to pay Jasper Hall 883 dollars” [for his fire loss of barn & ell, see R15-1 in *Homes of Westmoreland*]

(Copies of both diaries are at the Westmoreland Library, the Westmoreland Historical Society and the Historical Society of Cheshire County.)

Check out our website for more information!!

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Monadnock Historical Societies' Roundtable/Forum group News

The WHS has agreed to participate in the Keene Sentinel's feature entitled "The Way We Were". We will be expected to submit two articles within the next year about buildings both public and private in our town. They should be over 50 years old and of historic interest. Anyone wishing more information and to work on this project may contact Jan Carpenter (399-7075).

Historic Designation for Town Hall

Work progresses on the application for Historic Designation of the Westmoreland Town Hall. The process for obtaining this designation was presented and explained at Town Meeting.



HOMES OF WESTMORELAND



There are copies of the *Homes of Westmoreland* still available for purchase. The book is an 8-1/2" X 11" 400+ page record of nearly all of the current homes in the town including pictures of many. A complete index by owner/builder/resident, individual tax maps of all 26 sections plus a fold-out map of the entire town, and three old maps for the years 1858, 1877 and 1892 are included.

ORDER FORM

Please send _____ copy(ies) of *Homes of Westmoreland* at \$50.00 each.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

If you wish delivery by mail, please add \$5.00. Make checks payable to:
Westmoreland Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, NH 03467

Bequests



Maintaining the Corner School House is our primary mission. We do many things to raise money for that purpose, including publishing our annual calendar. Another great way to raise money to maintain our historic treasure is to include the Westmoreland Historical Society in your will. Now that we have obtained our not-for-profit 501(c)(3) designation it would be a most welcome and beneficial gift if the Historical Society was kept in mind at those difficult times. Your donation will go to a very worthy cause and preserve a piece of history in Westmoreland for future generations to enjoy.

Check out our website for more information!!

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Goods and Services

Westmoreland Lions Club

Speakers: On the 4th Monday of most months (except July and August), we have a dinner with a speaker. The dinners are held at the Westmoreland Village Store at 6:30 for a cost of \$15 per person (advance reservations necessary). Speakers begin about 7:30 and are open to the public and free to attend.

On March 22, we will be joined by Dottie Smith to speak on the concept of being a Localvore.

On April 26, our guest will be local author Sheila Swett Thompson, author of “*Perley: The True Story of NH Hermit*”.

Ongoing projects: ~ Collect eyeglasses for delivery to developing countries (drop off box in Post Office) ~ Holiday Gift Baskets ~ Sand buckets for the elderly ~ College scholarships

Raffle: It's that time of year again – for the Duck Race! You can expect to see Walt Derjue and other Lions up at the transfer station selling tickets. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. The grand prize is \$5000!

Eye screening: In the near future, we will be holding a free eye screening for children 6 months – 6 years of age. It will be held at Lily Garden Learning Center. Stay tuned for details on the date and time!

Emergency Kits: Are you ready for an emergency? We have high quality items available for purchase to help improve your preparedness. Items include: Nuwick 20 hour candle \$12.50, handcrank radio/flashlight \$23.50, Red Cross 1st aid kits: 73 piece \$22.50 or 121 piece \$30.25; Hotties handwarmers 50 cents. Free delivery to any Westmoreland household. Cloth bags and 5 gallon buckets are available to help organize.

Contact Charlie Luebke, Secretary at email: bj-charles@webryders.net or call Jim Hillier, President at 399-4886 for more information.

President's Message

I found it gratifying to witness a strong sense of community at work in our town in the recent elections—the large number of voters turning out to make their views known is a clear sign that Westmorelanders care and participate in the life of their town. I am also enthused by the spring programming put together by the historical society staff. April features remarks by one of New Hampshire's most acclaimed storytellers, and May includes an expert focus on those who lived here before Europeans arrived. Our preliminary discussions focused on collaboration between the historical society and the Park Hill Meetinghouse Society also bodes well. All in all, these events, as well as a good sap run and the return of phoebes, orioles, honeybees, and wood frogs give us many reasons to look ahead.

John R. Harris

Check out our website for more information!!

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Westmoreland Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, NH 03467

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Membership & Donation Form

Westmoreland Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, New Hampshire 03467

Name _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Individual - \$5.00 Family - \$10.00 Business - \$25.00 Lifetime - \$50.00

Please accept my Tax Exempt (501c(3)) donation of: _____

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