



# Westmoreland Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Westmoreland, NH 03467

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

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August

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President: John Harris, 399-7748 Secretary: Jan Carpenter, 399-7075  
Treasurer: Dawn Lincoln, 399-7030 Editor: Patti Seymour, 399-0073

## Fall Programs

By Carol Austin, Libby McKenney & Paula Page

**Tuesday, September 1, 2009 - 7:00 P.M. - Corner Schoolhouse**

### A Civil War Story

Westmoreland resident Walter Sy will present a short overview of the Civil War, presenting some thoughts about the differences and the similarities between the North and the South. He will include some information (including some show and tell) about the life of the soldiers, some of whom were from Westmoreland. A re-enactor for 14 years, Walter is the Captain of Company E of the 6<sup>th</sup> N.H. Regiment (N.H. Volunteer Infantry) Historical Association, a group representing the regiment founded in Keene (and including Westmoreland) in 1861 and decommissioned in 1865. **All are welcome.**

**Monday, October 5, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship Hall**

### Old Maps of Westmoreland

David Allen, a land surveyor and “map-maker” will give an illustrated talk on the History of Westmoreland as interpreted from his collection of old maps. David, from West Chesterfield, is the owner of Old Maps of New England which publishes maps he has scanned from archives and collections. His maps of Westmoreland include the earliest maps of the town dating from the 1740’s. The focus will be on the 1805 map, the first map which locates some of the homes and sites in Westmoreland. A committee is working to create a self-guided map to explore the sites from the early settlement of Westmoreland and this talk will give us all a great introduction to our early history through the interpretation of these maps. **All are welcome.**



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**Monday, November 2, 2009 – 6:30 P.M. – Fellowship Hall**

**Where the Great River Rises, An Atlas of the Connecticut River Watershed in Vermont and New Hampshire**

Coffee and Dessert will be followed by the business meeting and program: Sharon Francis, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Joint Commission. Ms Francis will speak on “An Atlas”, a recent publication of the Connecticut River Joint Commission. “The history of New England’s longest river reaches back into time. It is the story of clashing, continental plates and glaciers, the story of Abenaki living lightly on the land, and the story of colonial settlement in villages among fields and forests, whose architectural distinction still dominates the valley today.” (from the Connecticut River Joint Commission website). **All are welcome.**

**Corner School**



**Our New Eighteenth Century Heirloom Garden**

...at the Corner School has been planted and has shown lovely blooms this spring and summer. All the rain was most helpful in getting it well established. We thank Pam and Russ Martens who worked long hours on it as well as taking a trip to Portsmouth where they purchased many of the plants during a sale at the Moffatt-Ladd Gardens. Each plant is identified and an informative brochure has been created (ask for a copy at the meetings or call Jan Carpenter at 399-7075).



**New Siding**

During a work day, Bill Campbell, Walt Derjue and John Harris installed new siding on the rear of the ell, the oldest section of the Corner School House. A thin layer of insulation was put underneath so this section is now weather tight and should keep out further entry of wild critters. Pam and Russ Martens have primed and painted the new wood to match the other siding.



**Electric Up-grade and Reinstallation**

Following the March Town Meeting during which the Historical Society was granted an amount of \$1,500 to up-grade and reconnect electric service in the Corner School House, Bernie Schatz was hired to proceed with the work. It was begun in June. Some wiring needed to be replaced, two additional outlets and a new circuit breaker panel installed, as well as new outside lights on a timer. At our next meeting on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> a discussion will take place and decision made as to when the power will again be turned on.

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## "HOMES OF WESTMORELAND" Book Publication



At last we have received the 100 hard bound and 200 soft cover copies of this long-awaited book. It 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.

This book should be of interest to genealogists, libraries, real estate companies, attorneys who deal with land transfers, researchers, historical societies, residents and people with family connections in Westmoreland. The numbered copies have been delivered or mailed to all Donor/Patrons who were kind enough to support us with advance orders. There are a few hard bound books still available for \$75.00 each.

**Notice:** If you were an advance Donor/Patron of \$100 and have not yet received your book or if you did not get a dust cover, please call Jan 399-7075.

### ORDER FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Soft bound copy(ies) of *Homes of Westmoreland* at \$50.00 ea.

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

#### **My Very Sincere Thanks to All - Jan Carpenter**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who, over the years, have contributed to the "Homes" book project. It wouldn't have happened if two sisters, Marjorie (Aldrich) Hudson and Anita Aldrich hadn't had the curiosity, interest in land history and time to research the many Westmoreland deeds recorded at the Registrar's office. They enjoyed following old discontinued roads, hunting for cellar holes and climbing over stone walls in the woods. I've "walked" with them as they described their outing on May 16, 1973 along Hunt Road (Great Road/Stagecoach Road/Northfield Turnpike) when they discovered red markings on trees, indicating the new Pierce Lane development. Muriel Robbins had the knowledge and foresight to appreciate the Aldrich sisters' work. She did not want it to be left in a box in some dusty file. She felt, if properly organized and brought more up-to-date, it could be a valuable document. Bill Howland, President of the Society at that time agreed and took on the project. After working on it at least seven years, he was tired and did not want to continue. It was at that time that our small committee took on the task of getting it printed. I am most grateful for all who have contributed time, money and effort toward the *Homes of Westmoreland*.

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## **From Town Record of August 12, 1876**

“Changed the line of School Districts #9 and #10. Annexed a part of #10 to #9, beginning on bank of Connecticut River on the division line between the land of the Cheshire County Farm and land of George W. Smith, then easterly on aforesaid farm; southerly on said farm and land of John B. Knight and westerly on land of Willard Bill, Jr. and on the old division line of the Converse place so-called and the old Abraham Butterfield place so-called and northerly on aforesaid river.”

Can you, from your new copy of *Homes of Westmoreland*, determine the area that District #9 (our Corner School House) then encompassed and approximately how many miles was the farthest family from school?

## **June Roundtable Meeting at the Town Hall**

### **Great Turnout!**

On June 18<sup>th</sup> our Society was the host organization for the spring meeting of the Monadnock Historical Societies' Roundtable/Forum group. We were rewarded with a great turnout of thirty-six from seventeen historical organizations in the County. According to Tom Haynes, the coordinator, this was the largest group ever in the seven year history of the organization. During



the morning each person was given a chance to introduce themselves and then tell briefly what their Society had recently done or was planning for the future. Chesterfield and the Historical Society of Cheshire County both reported the very successful publishing and sales of books while Westmoreland received an ovation when it was announced their “Homes of Westmoreland” was finally at the printer. Tom Haynes and Alan Rumrill from HSCC discussed their fall exhibit to open on November 20<sup>th</sup> on

One Room School Houses and received lists of school related items from most all organizations present. Alan will choose which items he would like to borrow for the exhibit. Refreshments were provided throughout the day and after the lunch break, most everyone joined in a carpooled trip to the Corner School House where a discussion took place regarding the early history of the town and its thirteen one-room schools.

## **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.

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## Goods and Services for Sale

Belt & disk sander on stand - \$125.00; Delta #46-700 12" Variable Speed Wood Lathe, ¾ hp with stand - \$425.00. Call 603-399-7075

If you would like to list Goods for Sale in our Spring *Newsletter*, please provide your ad of up to 25 words, telephone number, and a check for \$5.00 payable to the Westmoreland Historical Society and mail to:

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

**Our 2010 Calendar**, "Gathering Places of Westmoreland" is being put together and will be available by October 1<sup>st</sup> in plenty of time for Christmas gifts. The price will be the same as last year, \$12.00, plus \$3.00 for out-of-town mailing if necessary.

### News from the Depot (Sentinel 1927)

"Mrs. Felix Aldrich had the honor of entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford one day last week who enjoyed a very pleasant half hour roaming over the old farm house, the Evans Place, and examining the ancient fireplaces, carvings and quaint wainscoting in which the house abounds."

### President's Message

Although my wife and I discovered Westmoreland almost by accident twenty-four years ago, we have enjoyed making friends and contributing to community life since our arrival. We continue to be impressed by the ability of townspeople to integrate new arrivals, decades-long residents and deeply rooted inhabitants. Natural beauty, fertile farmland, quality education, and a strong commitment to history characterize the village and provide a foundation for civic pride. The publication of *Homes of Westmoreland* offers another illustration of our town's commitment to excellence. I am honored to serve with the other officers in the Historical Society, and I invite you to join us in an exploration of the people and events that have helped shape the special place we call home. *John R. Harris*

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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

DONOR/PATRON toward the publication of "Homes of Westmoreland" - \$100.00

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

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