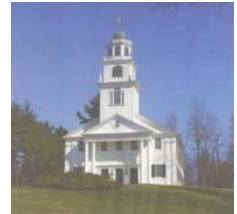




Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org



March

Vol. IV, No. 2

2011

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

We were pleased to see so many friends and neighbors attend the Annual Meeting and Potluck on February 13. While we were able to cover a number of important points of business, it was also wonderful to gather socially.

There are a number of positive developments underway at our two properties, the School House and the Park Hill Meeting House. Over the course of the next few months we look forward to watching the replacement of the slate roof at the Meeting House, enabled through a LCHIP grant. This major improvement will keep the structure sound for several generations. As always, the Meeting House is available for rentals--please let us know if you would like to learn more.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **Annual Work Day on May 22**. We will gather at the Meeting House and at the School House, and deploy volunteers as needed/available between the two properties. As those who have participated in the past will attest, this can be a lot of fun -- and makes a big difference.

Please also remember that our **Annual Tag Sale** will be coming up in **September**. Days to drop off items will be posted on the board in front of the Meeting House. Start saving your items now. This is a terrific fundraiser for us, and a great way to recycle and re-gift.

Mark Your Calendar

<u>March 25-April 10</u>		Historic on-line Auction,
<u>Sunday, May 22</u>	1-3 p.m.	Spring Work Day Park Hill Meeting House and Corner School
<u>Sunday, July 24</u>	4 p.m.	Annual Meeting and Potluck
<u>September</u>	TBD	Annual Tag Sale
<u>Late April</u>	TBD	Annual Perennial Sale



Perennial Sale

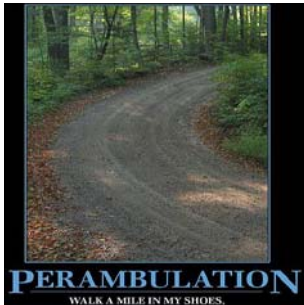
Jane Edmonds will be hosting a perennial sale to benefit the Park Hill Meeting House in late April. Participants will be able to purchase a table to sell their own perennials. Donations will also be accepted. Please watch for further postings or contact Jane with any other questions -- 603-399-7099

SPRING PROGRAMS

Committee: John Harris, Paula Page, Libby McKenney, Jan Carpenter

David Mann, Surveyor – The History of Perambulation

Monday, April 4, 2011 – 7 pm – Fellowship Hall, Rt. 63



For years this meant Selectmen tramping through the woods in search of “a certain large maple tree”, pile of stones or a stake as mentioned in a town’s charter. Mr. Mann will discuss the early history of these laws and their current status, with special attention to Cheshire County and Westmoreland. An attempt to repeal New Hampshire’s Perambulation law (RSA 51) was blocked by the General Court in 2005. We are also hoping our own State Rep. Bob Moore will relate some of his experiences in trying to carry out Perambulation requirements in Westmoreland.

Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden – Certified Master Divers

Monday, May 2, 2011 – 7 pm – Fellowship Hall, Rt. 63



This husband and wife team will describe their successful search for the remains of an historic bridge built across the Connecticut River in 1812 between Westmoreland and Putney, Vermont. This was known as the “Elephant Bridge” from its collapse when a traveling circus forced its elephant to cross with disastrous results. In addition they will talk about the log drives on the River and some of their finds relating to that industry. They have had many varied and interesting life experiences. Annette Spaulding has been a Certified Master Diver for the past 25 years and currently resides in Westminster, Vermont. Recent successful projects include the “Elephant Bridge”, “Dynamite, Whiskey and Wood”, a PBS documentary, locating a historic 19th century “bateau” used during the log drives in the Connecticut River and expeditions in locating and recovery of a historic 1928 Fokker Standard Universal aircraft in Charron Lake, Manitoba for the Western Canada Aviation Museum.

“The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Traveling Entertainer”

Monday, June 6, 2011 – 7 p.m. – Park Hill Meeting House, Rt. 63



Charles Ross Taggart grew up in Topsham, Vermont, going on to perform in various stage shows across the country for over 40 years, starting in 1895, including the famous Red Path Chautauqua circuit. As a fiddler, piano player, humorist, singer and ventriloquist, he made at least 25 recordings with the Victor, Edison and Columbia companies and appeared in a talking moving picture 4 years before Al Jolson starred in “The Jazz Singer”. Adam Boyce portrays Mr. Taggart near the end of his career, c.1936, sharing recollections on his life, with some live fiddling and humorous sketches interspersed.

From the Closet: Jan Carpenter

I was pleased recently to receive a package from Ron Trudelle who did some metal detecting during the past two or three years at what was known as Camp Jack and near the old County Jail. He sent his “finds” to us, and they include buttons dating from 1790-1820 called “tombacs”. There is an old spoon which appears to have been fashioned into another tool of some kind, a handle with an eagle on it, and oyster shells, oysters having been supplied to the Civil War camps for food.

These relics will be at our program-meeting on April 4 for your perusal and will be added to our artifact collection.

Historic on-line Auction, March 25-April 10



This year the **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance** celebrates its 25th Anniversary. They have established an Anniversary Fund which will give them the ability to continue to respond to emerging needs, and they are planning their first on-line auction to raise funds for this purpose.

In response to this request the WPHMH&HS has offered our two publications, *Ashes to Ashes* and *Homes of Westmoreland*, as auction items. The auction will run from **March 25 to April 10**. It will be promoted through the Preservation Alliance website www.nhpreservation.org, newsletter, social media, press releases, partnerships with other organizations and weekly emails to their list of 3,500 individuals. Bidding for Good, the host for the auction, has a community of 200,000 bidders who will also have access to the auction.

It is through the NH Preservation Alliance that our own Park Hill Meeting House has been fortunate enough to be awarded two grants through the LCHIP program.

Please make every effort to go on line during the auction and check out the many items they will be offering, put in your bid, and you may be lucky enough to win!

When the small portion of the Corner School building was built about a mile up the hill in 1789...

- A sailing vessel, the *Grand Turk* out of Salem, MA had been to China and returned causing great excitement.
- The population of the new United States had grown to 4 million and the first Census was planned for 1790.
- Tens of thousands of citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille, igniting the French Revolution.
- Approx. half the territory of the U.S. was still occupied by Indians, most were west of the Appalachians.
- 2/3 of the Americans lived in a narrow band along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Spanish Florida. Nearly everything else was wilderness. The most populous state was Virginia.
- There were 700,000 slaves in the country, in every state but Massachusetts, the majority in southern states.
- George Washington became President and John Adams, Vice President. Washington took the oath of office on April 30, 1789, on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. He arrived in a canary-yellow carriage pulled by six white horses. Both men wore suits of brown "Hartford broadcloth" and the President's had eagles on the metal buttons.
- Congress argued for a month on what titles should be given and how the new President should be addressed.
- There was no standard American currency, and only three banks in the entire country. In most of New England six shillings made a dollar while in New York eight shillings made a dollar.

(Taken from *John Adams* by David McCullough)

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

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Name _____

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Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Individual - \$10.00 Household - \$15.00 Business - \$25.00
Individual Lifetime - \$100.00 Household Lifetime - \$150

Please accept my Tax Exempt (501(c)(3)) donation of: _____ toward
maintenance of the Meeting House or the Corner School.