



# Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society NEWSLETTER



Westmoreland, NH 03467

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

August

2013

**Officers:** John Harris, Director; Hugh Shelley, Asst. Director, Jan Hurley, Treasurer; Patti Seymour, Clerk/Secretary; Walter Carroll, Property Manager; Jan Carpenter, Archivist.

## Message from the Directors

Hard to believe Fall is just around the corner, but here is your Fall Newsletter from the Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society. It has been a busy summer for the Society. Our Annual meeting in July was well attended and the Tag Sale was a great success! We hope to see you at our very interesting Fall programs.

**We are an active organization.**

**Please mark your calendar and join your neighbors at a few of these events.**

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
September 9	The First Settlers of Westmoreland: Richard High	7 PM	Corner School
September 28	Hunt Tavern Cellar Hole	9:30 AM	Meet at Town Hall
October 7	Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured New Hampshire through Four Centuries: Steve Taylor	7 PM	Park Hill Meeting House
November 4	In The Shadow of Cedars: The Life and Times of a Disgraced Citizen Soldier In Revolutionary Westmoreland, New Hampshire: Charles Butterfield	7 PM	Westmoreland Town Hall
September 22	Executive Committee Meeting	3 PM	Corner School
January 26	Executive Committee Meeting	3 PM	TBD
April 27	Executive Committee Meeting	3 PM	Corner School
April 27	Spring Clean up	1-3 PM	Corner School

## Annual Park Hill Meeting House Tag Sale

Many great donations were made for the Tag Sale, and there was a large crowd waiting for the doors to open at 8AM. The Tag Sale took place on **Saturday August 24** from 8AM to 2PM.



**Lots of bargain shoppers at 8 AM**



**Pam and Walter Carroll getting everything ready**



This picture shows John Harris on the ladder with a vacuum on his back. On July 20<sup>th</sup> three members of the Society were finally able to clean the line of dust off the Stage Curtain. With the border completely painted it looks as good if not better than when originally done. We wish to extend a great big THANK YOU to Bill Fletcher, school custodian, for all of his help in providing equipment and making the arrangements with the school during the summer months.

### **Cooperative Program on Old Cellar Holes**

The thrice postponed cellar hole field trip to Hunt Tavern Cellar Hole with Tanya Krajcik is now scheduled for **Saturday, September 28 at 9:30 AM**. The intent of the field trip is to teach people (a working group) how to inventory cellar holes. Please meet at Town Hall at 9:30 AM.

#### **Cellar Hole Search Jim Ranson**

I have found eight cellar holes this summer in the eastern part of town, between the old railroad bed and the Walpole town line. Some of them would definitely not have been discovered without the invaluable help of Jim Newell. We now have more than 50 sites to investigate after the “kick-off” of our (thrice postponed) September 28, cellar hole inventory training project. Two of the sites that Jim showed me turned out to be the former homesteads/farms of Nathan Graves and Izaac Reed. I had been searching for them alone for a very long time—like hunting for the “needle in the haystack”. Both are located in a very rugged, forested area not too far from the Walpole town line. These were significant to me for several reasons. Other than one of them appearing on a vague 1800 era map, they weren’t shown on any other map—not even the 1934-36 Blister Rust maps. The two farm roads leading to these early 1800 sites were named after the farm owners--the Graves Road and the Reed Road. Both roads were discontinued sometime before the Civil War after the farms were abandoned. With a little perseverance and luck, the Nathan Graves and Izaac Reed cellar holes have been finally located!

### **Fall Programs 2013**



#### **Monday September 9 7:00 pm Corner School**

**The First Settlers of Westmoreland** **Richard High** has researched who the first permanent settlers of Westmoreland were, why they came and what life was like for these early pioneers. It is a picture of a frontier “boom” town dominated by young people that was growing at a pace that made it the largest town in Cheshire County in 1790. If you are curious about where they came from, why they came and what life was like then join us for Richard’s talk. Some of these pioneers might be your ancestors!

#### **Monday October 7 7:00 pm Park Hill Meeting House**



#### **Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured New Hampshire Through Four Centuries** **Steve Taylor** will return!

This popular speaker will discuss the impact of cows on our history and culture from early settlement to today. This is a NH Humanities To Go Program.



Monday November 4 7:00 pm Town Hall



In *The Shadow of Cedars: The Life and Times of A Disgraced Citizen Soldier In Revolutionary Westmoreland, New Hampshire*. Charles Butterfield, author, will talk about his new book published jointly by the Historical Society of Cheshire County and the WPHMH&HS. Maisie Crowther has illustrated the cover and will also be present. The book will be available to purchase and the author and illustrator will be pleased to sign copies.

**PATRIOT OR DISGRACE?**

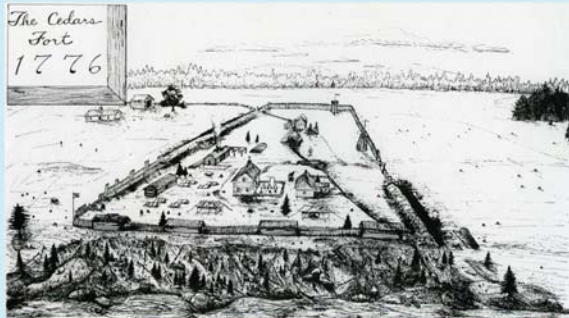
"Late Sunday afternoon, May 19, 1776, Major Isaac Butterfield assembled 390 men under his command at the fort they had built on the north bank of the St. Lawrence River in Canada at a place called Cedars and surrendered them to British Captain George Forster. ... For this, the first surrender of American patriots to the British in the American Revolution, the name of the tavern keeper from Westmoreland, New Hampshire, was known to every member of Continental Congress. He was branded a scoundrel by Thomas Jefferson, and in John Adams' opinion the major deserved 'an infamous death and immortal disgrace.' Adams called the surrender 'the first stain on American arms.'

But in the accounts of the surrender at Cedars one thing remains constant through more than a century and a half of comment and criticism—Butterfield, though central to the action there, is treated peripherally and quickly dismissed. It is curious that the man whose decision so exasperated Continental Congressmen as well as the military leadership of the Revolution never inspired serious inquiry. This is his story." [From the Introduction.]

Charles Butterfield, a retired, award-winning teacher, has lectured on New England citizen soldiers in the Revolution for the Vermont Humanities Council. Previous publications include *Biology and Values* and *Another Light* (with photographer Larry Richardson). He lives in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.



author photo by Victoria Woods



**IN THE SHADOW OF CEDARS**



**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF  
A DISGRACED CITIZEN SOLDIER  
IN REVOLUTIONARY WESTMORELAND,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**CHARLES BUTTERFIELD**

BUTTERFIELD IN THE SHADOW OF CEDARS

Charles Butterfield's riveting book on his ancestor, Isaac Butterfield, will be published in the Fall and available for purchase from the Society.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY.**

**MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM**  
**THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2014**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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