



Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society NEWSLETTER



Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org

August

2014

Officers: Hugh Shelly, Co-Director, Richard High, Co-Director, Janet Hurley, Treasurer; Patti Seymour, Clerk/Secretary; Walter Carroll, Property Manager; Jan Carpenter, Archivist.

Message from the Directors

The summer certainly has flown by. In spite of all of the rain, failed vegetable crops and mosquitos, we hope you enjoyed your summer. We have a great line up of Fall programs this year. Come hear Richard High continue his description of the Westmoreland in its early years, or come hear David Bailey talk about Westmoreland’s involvement in WWII and Korean. When the leaves have all come down, come hear how Jim Ranson has been walking the woods of Westmoreland to find hidden, but not always forgotten, cellar holes and roads.

Please remember to pay your annual membership dues or consider renewing as a Life Time member so you don’t have to remember again next year. Your annual membership dues run from July 1 through June 30. We’re always interested in speaking with members who want to get more involved, and if you have an idea for future program topics, please let us know.

We are an active organization.

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Aug. 30 (Saturday)	Park Hill Meeting House Tag Sale	8AM – 2PM	Meeting House
Sept. 8 (Monday)	Richard High (Our new co-director) – “Forts, Indian fighters and Massachusetts politics: the origin of Township No. 2 (Westmoreland): 1720-1755”	7 PM	Corner School
Oct. 6. (Monday)	David Bailey – Korean War slides	7 PM	Town Hall
Nov. 3 (Monday)	Jim Ranson – Cellar Holes and Old Abandoned Roads in Westmoreland	7 PM	Town Hall

Tag Sale

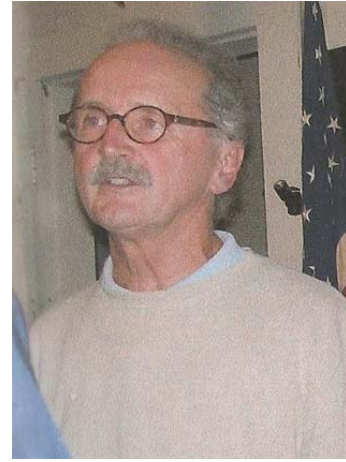
PLEASE NOTE: The Tag Sale date has changed. The Tag Sale will take place on **Saturday August 30** from 8AM to 2PM. This is an important fund raiser for the Meeting House. Please stop in, browse and buy.

Fall Program Schedule – 2014

September 8 – Monday – 7 p.m. – Corner School

Richard High (Our new co-director) – “Forts, Indian fighters and Massachusetts politics: the origin of Township No. 2 (Westmoreland): 1720-1755”

Richard will talk about the western front (meaning VT and NH) of Dummer’s War (1722-27), which led to the construction of Fort Dummer (1724) and the stationing of a garrison at the fort for the next 30-40 years. Several men who were eventually involved with the creation of Township No. 2 were connected with Fort Dummer. He will discuss the role of the region’s most prominent Indian fighter and commander of the fort, Josiah Willard, in the founding of Westmoreland (and many other towns in the area). Lastly, he’ll consider how the frontier Indian defense policy of Massachusetts played into the positioning of frontier towns along the eastern shore of the Connecticut River.



October 6 – Monday – 7 p.m. –Town Hall

David Bailey – Korean War slides

David and his wife, Laura (deceased) were formed long-time residents of Westmoreland, and he is now living in Walpole during the summer and Florida in the winter. They were very active in many Westmoreland organizations over the years. David enlisted in the USAF on December 7, 1951. He became a clerk typist and within a year was shipped to Korea during the Korean War. He was then assigned to the Historical Division of Hq 5th AF in Korea. His duties there were typing the history of the air war as it was happening. As he often said, “HOW FORTUNATE TO BE SO ASSIGNED”.



November 3 – Monday – 7 p.m. – Town Hall



Jim Ranson – Cellar Holes and Old Abandoned Roads in Westmoreland

Jim will give a general historical background and description of the cellar holes and old roads in town, which is also the story of the rise and fall of the town’s population and abandonment of the farms. He will talk about his successful efforts in finding and identifying several of the sites as well as his experience with and discovery of what are known as “Blister Rust Maps”.

Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting/election and Pot Luck Supper was held on Sunday, July 27 at the Park Hill Meeting House. We had a robust turn out this year – thanks to all who attended!

Richard High was elected as the 2nd Director, Patti Seymour will continue as Clerk/Secretary until another volunteer can be identified, and John Harris, after his tenure as Society Director, has volunteered to be the Property Manager at the Corner School.

New Railing

We now have new railings on the front steps at Corner School. Purchased at Hamshaw Lumber, the railings, recently installed by Bill Hatt, will make it much safer and easier for those who find it difficult to navigate up and down.



Summer Intern

Intern, Sam Lagasse, worked this summer on digitizing the first record book of the Town of Westmoreland. This project was suggested by our new Director, Richard High, who thought it would be a very useful endeavor and make these records much more available for future research.

We take this opportunity to thank Sam for his good work in our sometimes hot and claustrophobic closet/office in Town Hall. You may have noticed him this summer around town on his bike. He is now back at Kenyon College in Ohio where he will finish his senior year as an English major. The Lagasse family are “newcomers” to town and live on Glebe Road.

Volunteer Needed

Sam made a good start on the digitization, but there are still many more documents to be transcribed. The Society will welcome any person who would volunteer to continue transcribing the records. This is a valuable and worthwhile project.

Stranger than fiction?

Mark Shinborn (Maximillian Schoenbein), an educated German, came to this country about 1860. He was then twenty-two years old, of agreeable manners, neatly dressed, a gambler, living in first-class hotels; and he became the ostensible owner of a fine farm and mansion near Saratoga, N.Y. He worked for a short term in the shops of the Lilly Safe Co. to learn the combination of locks. In November, 1864, he robbed the savings bank at Walpole, NH of about \$40,000—entering the house of B.F. Aldrich, the treasurer, and taking the keys from his pocket. He was arrested at Saratoga in May 1865, and brought to Keene for trial where he attracted much attention, particularly from young women. He was convicted and sentenced to the state prison for ten years.

On the day of his sentence, when his supper was taken to him, he presented a revolver (given him by an accomplice after the conviction) and walked out of the jail, kept his pursuers at bay, passed through Beaver Street and over Beech hill through the woods. He was rearrested at Malone, NY, and brought to Keene in February 1866, and taken to the prison at Concord, but by the aid of friends outside he escaped in December of that year.

In his robbery at Walpole, he was assisted by George Miles White, who kept a store at Westmoreland Depot and a public house at Alstead, and was superintendent of a Sunday school at Westmoreland. It was said that they were aided and abetted by Rev. Charles Greenwood, a minister in Westmoreland for three years, who afterwards was believed to be guilty of both arson and theft in Keene. White was tried with Shinborn, but the evidence was not sufficient to convict him. After his escape from the prison at Concord, Shinborn learned through his “pals”, who had already made one attempt to secure the booty, on the 5th of December, that a large sum of money was deposited in the Ashuelot Bank at Keene. He came to Keene and spent several weeks, in all, boarding at the Cheshire House. In some way he secured impressions in wax of the keys of the bank—it is believed by entering the house of the cashier, as at Walpole, and taking the keys from his pocket—returned to New York and made his keys and came back for his booty. The operations required three or several trips between New York and Keene to allay suspicion and prepare all his keys.

The story of this burglary, as told by his accomplice, is that upon gaining entrance to the bank safe the first time he found only one thousand dollars in money; that being a “high-toned” robber he disdained to steal so paltry a sum, preferring to wait for the larger sum expected, and went away without creating suspicion; that upon a second entry he found so large a sum, in currency, that he did not dare burden himself with so bulky a package, and that, without taking any of it, he returned to New York to make arrangements for its removal, but other operations intervened, he had to evade the officers of the law, and he never got the money.

[Continuation of Shinborn’s story can be found in “History of the Town of Keene, NH” by Griffin, pg. 527-529]

Did you know?

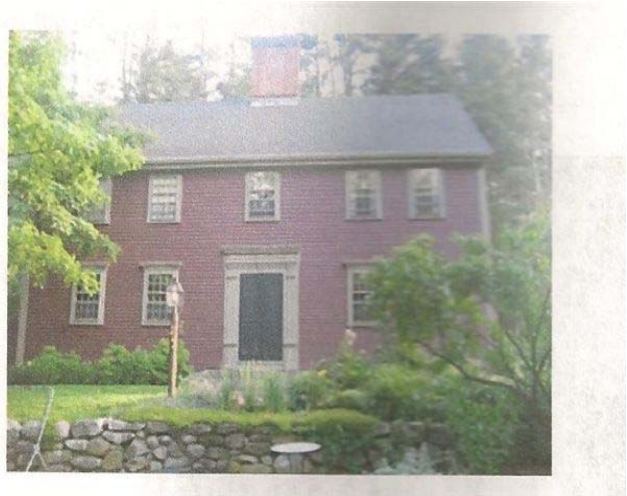
One peculiarity of the Puritan New England regime is worthy of special notice, and that is the generosity and liberality of its dealing in respect to the spontaneous growths of the soil. The chestnuts, the hickory-nuts, the butternuts—no matter upon whose land they grew—were free to whoever would gather them, the girls and boys roamed at pleasure through the woods and picked, unmolested, wherever they could find the most abundant harvest. In a similar manner the wild fruits—grapes, strawberries, huckleberries, and cranberries—were for many years free to the earliest comer. This is more remarkable in a community where life was peculiarly characterized by minute economy, where everything had its carefully ascertained money-value. Every board, nail, brad, every drop of paint, every shingle, in house or barn, was counted and estimated. In making bargains and conducting domestic economies, there was the minutest consideration of the money value of time, labor and provision. And yet their rigidly parsimonious habit of life presented this one remarkable exception, of certain quite valuable spontaneous growths left unguarded and unappropriated.” *(from Note #139 in The Judge’s Daughter published by the Charlestown, NH Historical Society, 2013)*

Serendipity Sunday

If this house looks somewhat familiar it's because it is the "original" Isaac Butterfield house/tavern. The one we have learned was sold back in the 20s, taken apart and moved down to Massachusetts. Our society was recently given this picture by the current owners, Daphna & Chris Cox.

Just a few days before our Annual Meeting this year we received an e-mail from Daphna who said she and her family were coming to Westmoreland on Sunday, July 27th. They wanted to look up the original location of the house, and visit North Cemetery, where the Butterfield family members are buried.

This and three other views show their lovely home as it now looks in its "new" location in Sudbury, MA. The original timbers, beautiful complex trim in the front room as well as many other items from the original building, were used in the reconstruction by the architects and carpenters for Miss Thorp, the owner at that time.



Daphna mentioned that she also wished to buy our new book, "In the Shadow of Cedars". The author, Charles Butterfield and his wife, were made aware of this contact and Charles offered to guide them around during their visit.

The Cox family and the Butterfields were encouraged to come to the Meeting at the Park Hill Meeting House, so we could all become better acquainted. They did and some of us had a very enjoyable and informative, though brief, chance to meet.



The Jack-o'lantern evolved from the Irish legend of Jack, a prankster who tricked the devil and was denied access to heaven, being doomed to wander the earth with only a burning coal in the bottom of a carved out turnip to guide him. When the Irish immigrated to America, they found pumpkins abundant and easier to carve than turnips, and as time went by pumpkins (Jack-O-Lanterns) emerged as the traditional autumn decoration. It is a New England derivation of an early American term, "Jack-a-Lent".

See Note. #302, "The Judge's Daughter", A New Hampshire Girl's Diary, 1861-1866.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM
THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015

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