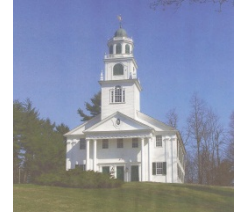




Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society NEWSLETTER



Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org

March

2015

Officers: Hugh Shelly, Co-Director, Richard High, Co-Director, Janet Hurley, Treasurer; Patti Seymour, Clerk/Secretary;

Walter Carroll and John Harris, Property Managers; Jan Carpenter, Archivist.

Message from the Directors

Will winter ever end this year??!! There are a few signs - the chipmunks have emerged, birds are starting to sing in spite of all of the snow still on the ground and the relentless cold. Hopefully, our exciting Spring programs will entice you to come out of your winter hibernation and meet with friends and neighbors.

Please remember to pay your annual membership dues or consider renewing as a Life Time member so you don't have to remember every year. Your annual membership dues run from July 1 through June 30. We're always interested in hearing from 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
Monday – April 6	History of the County Farm	7 PM	Town Hall
Sunday – April 19	Spring clean-up iIrinTw19 1-37 PM		
Monday – May 4	Local Squakheag Pre-history	7 PM	Town Hall
Sunday – May 17	Meeting House cleanup	1-3PM	Park Hill Meeting House
Monday – June 1	Dr. Horace Wells, Westmoreland Resident and Pioneer in Use of Anesthesia in Surgical Procedures	7 PM	Corner School
Sunday – June 14	Executive Committee Meeting	3 PM	Corner School
Sunday – July 26	Annual Meeting	3 PM	Park Hill Meeting House
Saturday – September 5	Annual Tag Sale	9 - 2PM	Park Hill Meeting House

Spring Program Schedule – 2015

Monday – April 6 – Town Hall, Rt. 63, South Village

History of the County Farm – John Harris

John, a long-time resident of Westmoreland, has served as Executive Director of the Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge since 1996. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina and has been a faculty member in the English and American Studies Dept. at Franklin Pierce since 1994. Professor Harris' presentation on the County Farm/Maplewood Nursing Home will include its history from inception to current condition and possible future.

Monday – May 4 – Town Hall, Rt. 63, South Village

Local Squakheag Pre-history – Christopher Kelley

A New England native and recently retired US Army Intelligence Warrant Officer, Mr. Kelley now lives in Keene. Prior to his time in the service, he was a History teacher in Maine and Massachusetts. Now an amateur archaeologist with a life-long passion for the American Indians of northern New England the presentation will show and discuss the prehistoric cultures of the NH/VT Connecticut River Valley. Specifically the area known historically as “Squakeag”, that area of the Valley between Northfield, MA and Charlestown, NH. Christopher will discuss prehistoric time periods and the artifacts which are associated with each. He promises to bring with him surface-collected local Indian artifacts to discuss and share, as well as a detailed map graphic depicting the major archaeological sites in our corner of NH.

Guests are encouraged to bring any artifacts, arrowheads, “mystery stones”, etc. they may have found for discussion and identification.

Monday – June 1 – Corner School, River & Poocham Roads, Westmoreland

Dr. Horace Wells: Westmoreland Resident and Pioneer in Use of Anesthesia in Surgical Procedures - Patti Seymour

Horace Wells is acknowledged as the first to use anesthesia in surgical procedures. He was born in Windsor County, VT, in 1815, and spent part of his early childhood at the home of his stepfather, Abiather Shaw Jr., in Westmoreland. After seeing nitrous oxide given to volunteers at a show to demonstrate the new phenomenon known as laughing gas, Wells thought about possible uses in general and dental surgery. Wells gave his first major public demonstration of the use of nitrous oxide at Massachusetts General Hospital in January 1845. While his demonstration was not a spectacular success, soon afterward others began using nitrous oxide which paved the way for more general uses of anesthesia including nitrous oxide.

Brick Yards and Brick Buildings in Westmoreland

Jim Ranson has been investigating old brick yards and brick buildings in town, and has identified 13 old brick buildings in town -- all built in the early 1800s. The brick Alms House construction was completed by 1869 on the County Farm but was finally torn down in 1988. The following is a list of the old brick buildings in Westmoreland:

	Name	Location	Year Built
1	Derjue	R10-19*;810 River Road	By 1810
2	Coraks	U3-11; Park Hill	1806
3	Harris	U5-7; 711 Rt. 63	1824
4	Goodnow	U5-13; 755 Rt. 63	1829
5	Mackey	U6-18; 6 South Village Road	1828
6	Stavseth	U6-3; 21 South Village Road	1832
7	Hamilton	U6-4; 25 South Village Road	1828
8	Library	U6-7; 33 South Village Road	1831
9	Church	U6-19; Town Common	1827 & 1838
10	Reilly	U7-7; 809 Rt. 63	1839
11	MacMillin	R7-42; 138 Spofford Road	1830
12	School House	R4-3; 28 Hatt Road	1804
13	Waite	R13-11; Patton Road	1829

Jim believes that the bricks used for these buildings, and all of the chimneys and fire-places in the old wood framed houses, were produced locally, possibly from only two or three brick yards. Westmoreland had all of the natural resources required for making bricks—an abundant supply of clay, water, sand, and firewood for the kiln. Roughly, three cubic yards of clay are required to make 1000 bricks. Around 1970, Ruth Burt and Glen Britton produced a map of Westmoreland, showing the locations of historic sites in town between 1741 and 1900. One of the sites was a brick yard on the County Farm, between the south bank of Partridge Brook and the present driveway of the Maplewood Nursing Home. They stated that the bricks for the Alms House were “fired” there. Jim did some deed research and came to the conclusion that this site may have been one of the principal brick yards in town, although perhaps not operating continuously for long periods of time. On March 13, 1792, Aaron Brown (carpenter) sold about 4 acres to Joseph Bryant (book 20 page 213). The deed states that it borders southerly on Capt. Simeon Cobb’s **brick yard**. Cobb’s brick yard in 1792 was in the same location mentioned on the Burt and Britton map. On August 19, 1790, Benjamin Muzzy sold about 7 acres (future site of Cobb’s brickyard) to Capt. Simeon Cobb (book 37 page 225), which mentioned a clay hill in the deed. This new piece of land was downstream

from Cobb's mill on Partridge Brook and included part of the hill on which the nursing home now sits. Unfortunately, no previous deed could be found at the Registry of Deeds in Keene that showed Muzzy buying the 7 acre tract earlier. This tract of land would have various owners between the time that Cobb bought it in 1790, until the County Farm acquired it as part of the Sabin property in 1866. Several other deeds after 1792 also referred to the present "nursing home hill" as the clay hill or the clay hill pasture. This was obviously the source of clay for making bricks. An 1812 deed mentions that the part of present day Partridge Brook Road that ran from the River Road to Cobb's mills was called the Clay Road. The fact that the clay hill was mentioned in Muzzy's deed to Cobb leads Jim to believe that this site had been used earlier than 1790 for making bricks. It is mentioned in the "Homes of Westmoreland" book that the bricks used in the construction of John and Susie Harris' house (U5-7) were fired on the property. I question this, due to the enormous amount of clay that would have to be dug there for this large house. However, if so, Jim believes that the bricks for all of the other buildings from 1 to 10 on my list were produced in the brickyard on the present County Farm land. The bricks from that brickyard could have easily been transported to all ten properties by oxcart, the common mode of hauling cargo then. This would also include the bricks for the several "smokehouses" in town, including the one on the Edmond's property (R11-23) and on Gary and Flossie Gray's property (U5-2), near the Harris' home. As a matter of interest, John McNeal, who built the wood frame house of the Gray's, sometime after buying the land in 1804, was a bricklayer. Although there isn't any written proof, Jim believes that the MacMillin house on the Spofford Road and the old school house on the Hatt Road were built from bricks produced from a brick yard in that area. Quite possibly, it was located in the present day beaver swamp on the south side of Partridge Brook. The swamp (before the beavers arrived) was formerly part of a pasture and is mostly (or entirely) on land now owned by Ted and April Ferguson (R7-43A). There are some bricks in the brook and a clay bank nearby, with possible evidence of long ago excavation. The brick house (R11-13) on Patton Road was built in 1829, in the same era that a number of brick buildings were constructed farther away in town. Patton Road is a side road off of the Hurricane Road. The surrounding area then was called Mutton Hill. The neighborhood consisted of a church, with a one acre village green, a store, tavern, and about a dozen wood framed houses. Although not certain, the bricks for the Patton Road house, along with those for the fireplaces and chimneys in the Mutton Hill area, may have been produced locally. The clay could have been dug and the bricks fired somewhere close to the nearby stream that crosses underneath the Hurricane Road. This is one of the tributary streams of the Mill Brook.

Governor Hassan Honors LCHIP Grant Awardees Park Hill Meetinghouse Steeple Awarded LCHIP Grant!

Thirty-six historic, cultural, and land conservation projects throughout the state will receive grants this year from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, or LCHIP. After individually greeting many grant recipients at an event in Concord, Governor Hassan said “The legislature and I agreed to include full funding for LCHIP in the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget. Boy, am I glad we did!” She continued “Protecting the important natural, historic resources that you do with help from LCHIP benefits our environment, economy and quality of life.”

The Park Hill Meeting House steeple, facade and adjacent areas will undergo restoration work starting this Spring. The various steeple levels will receive minor carpentry work, some roofing repairs and a fresh coat of paint. the Park Hill Meeting House, a beautiful historic building noted for its Geek Revival facade and auditorium, is listed on the National Register. built in 1762, it was moved twice before occupying its current commanding position atop Park Hill's grassy common. This is the third award that the Meeting House has received from LCHIP enabling the society to keep this valuable building in good condition.

“LCHIP projects succeed thanks to the hard work of our state’s non-profit organizations, town commissions and boards,” stated Chair Doug Cole of D.S. Cole Growers in Loudon, Chair of the LCHIP Board of Directors, “and we are pleased to be able to support those efforts. While each project is special to its community, as a whole they represent the important natural, historic and cultural resources highly valued by New Hampshire’s residents and visitors.”

This year’s recipients include 26 historic properties dating from the 1764 Park Hill Meeting House in Westmoreland to the 1918 Peterborough Town House, and ten natural resource projects providing permanent protection of almost 3,000 acres. They are located in cities and towns in each of the ten counties of the state.

“In visiting the project sites,” reported LCHIP Executive Director Dijit Taylor, “I learn the stories behind the projects– stories about the second person to sign the Declaration of Independence (Josiah Bartlett) and the tree that he brought home from Philadelphia, the rare threatened or endangered species on the properties (although I can’t tell you where those are), and the unusual brick house in Gilford where twenty-first century school children, using the same clay source as the original brick maker, made new bricks and then used them to edge the flower garden at the house.”

While applicants are required to raise \$1.00 for each dollar received through LCHIP, historically the projects do far more, raising more than \$7 for each LCHIP dollar granted. Funding for the LCHIP grants comes from a fee assessed when recording four types of documents at county Registries of Deeds. This is the second year in which LCHIP is receiving full funding.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR 2015 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
DUES (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016) IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO
ALREADY.**

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM
THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

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.

cleaning/painting baking planning events phoning publicity
 annual tag sale open house guide general maintenance 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