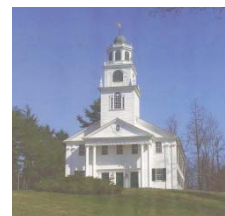


# Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Westmoreland, NH 03467

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



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March

2016

**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

We have a great line up for our Spring programs – hope you’ll be able to attend some of them.

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
April 4 (Monday)	Hugh Shelley, “A Boy Growing up in East Westmoreland, 1930-1948”	6:30PM	Town Hall
May 2 (Monday)	Christopher Kelley & son – Some “new” finds	6:30PM	Corner School
June 9 (Thursday)	Roundtable group which is composed of representatives from all the Historical Societies in Cheshire County  Tour of the Meetinghouse; very informative round table discussion; Pot luck lunch by our members and a talk by Jim Ranson about North Cemetery/original location of the Meetinghouse followed by a tour of the Cemetery.	9:30AM	Meeting House

### Spring Program Schedule – 2016

**April 4 (Monday) –Town Hall, 6:30 p.m. – Hugh Shelley, “A Boy Growing up in East Westmoreland, 1930-1948”**

Hugh will tell about his family, friends and neighbors during those years and how they influenced his life. He will tell of Holiday events at school, the games the children played and about the village in summer and winter. He will also speak about teenage jobs and “How not to set a personal record”.

**May 2 (Monday) - Corner School, 6:30 p.m. - Christopher Kelley & son – Some “new” finds**

Chris Kelley is a New England native and recently retired US Army Intelligence Warrant Officer who lives in Keene. Prior to his military service he was a History teacher in ME and MA. An amateur archaeologist with a life-long passion for the American Indians of northern New England this presentation will show and discuss the prehistoric cultures of the NH/VT Connecticut River Valley and specifically the area known historically as “Squakeag”, that area of the Valley between Northfield, MA and Charlestown, NH. Mr. Kelley will bring some local Indian artifacts, a detailed map depicting the major archaeological sites in our area and will be happy to identify anything the audience may have found. In addition, his teenage son will show and describe how he was able to find a beautiful large projectile point this past Fall on a local farm.

**June 9 (Thursday) – Meeting House, 9:30 a.m.**

This will be a combined program with the Roundtable group which is composed of representatives from all the Historical Societies in Cheshire County. This group meets three times yearly at one of the member locations. We have hosted at least twice before and our turn has come around again. We will attempt to do something different by offering to provide lunch, probably salad and sandwiches, for a change from the usual “bag lunch” the participants are usually asked to bring.

The proposed schedule is to begin with a tour of the Meetinghouse with Walter Carroll; the usual very informative round table discussion period; Pot luck lunch by our members and a talk by Jim Ranson about North Cemetery/original location of the Meetinghouse followed by a tour of the Cemetery.

**Please note day, date and time change of this June program.**

**Town Hall Celebration**

In 2015 it was agreed by the Society to sponsor a “Birthday Party” for the Town Hall Centennial – Saturday, October 8, 4-7 p.m. was the date chosen by the Committee.

They have had three planning meetings and are pleased that \$500 was inserted in the town 2016 Budget to cover part of the cost of the Celebration. A durable banner will be hung between the columns on the front of the Town Hall sometime in April and an invitation to attend the free party will be sent out to the whole town early in September. Please put this date, October 8<sup>th</sup>, on your calendar and plan to join with us to enjoy the food, punch, entertainment, Birthday cake, etc. You can contribute to its success by spreading the word to all current and former residents of Westmoreland.

**Portraits of former residents**

As previously voted and agreed upon by our Executive Board and the Selectmen of Westmoreland the several portraits possessed by the Historical Society are going to be hung in the Town Hall on the second floor. Two of the frames are currently being restored and are expected to be returned to us soon. We hope their new location and condition will better preserve them for future generations.

This large 36” X 48” portrait, that most of you will remember hanging in the Town Hall dining room, is of **Oliver Leonard Briggs** who was born in Westmoreland in 1832 and grew up on his father's Poocham Rd. farm until age 18. Not being physically strong, Oliver decided to seek employment as a bookkeeper and moved to Boston. He believed that “Knowledge is wealth” and eventually graduated from Comer's Commercial College. He established a business manufacturing croquet sets, parlor billiards and full-size billiard tables. To keep pace with modern improvements Oliver also invented many mechanical things. He married Mary S. Stone and they had one son, Frederick Huntington Briggs. Oliver died in 1917 in Boston leaving three trust funds in his Will to his home town.

Two thousand dollars, the income to be used for the support of the Library.

Two thousand dollars, the income to be used for the care of the Briggs family lot in Poocham Cemetery.

One thousand dollars, the income to be used to give each child in town a gift at Christmas.

(For further explanation of this fund and list of former trust fund committee members see Pg. 219 in *History of Westmoreland.*)

### **Volunteer needed**

We are seeking someone who would be able and willing to redo our website. The current one is costing much more than its benefit. Please contact one of the Executive Committee if you have questions or are able to help out.

### **Volunteer efforts refused on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Town Meeting**

We regret that the Selectmen and townspeople of Westmoreland did not approve the Society's offer to seek grant money toward the restoration of our historic 100-year-old Town Hall. As you may know, the second floor of the building is in need of considerable repair, an expensive undertaking. The ceiling needs painting, the chimney is full of creosote and the bricks are bulging outward, the balcony is unsafe and needs shoring up and the large windows need more work. Restoring this beautiful space will allow it to be used by the many groups in town. *We challenge those who voted against Article #15 to come up with their proposal to accomplish this needed work in a way that will not increase our property tax.*

### **Virginia “Ginnie” Grohe Paine (1917-2016)**

Westmoreland recently lost another of its long-time residents and at the time its oldest, though she steadfastly and repeatedly refused to accept the “Boston Cane” from our Society as recognition of being the oldest resident in town. Ginny lived alone in her home on McAdam Rd. to the very end at the age of 98. She still enjoyed having lunch out with friends and taking walks around her neighborhood even though she was almost totally blind.

She graduated from Wells College in Aurora, NY and worked on Wall St. for a period of time before moving to Westmoreland in midlife. She met and married Donald A. Paine and he died in 1991. Virginia taught mathematics at Monadnock Regional High School and served as our Town Clerk for a number of years.

**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.

- |  |   |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <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