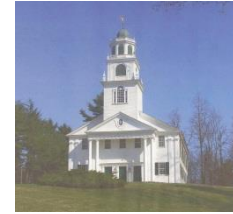


Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org



Spring /Summer

2017

Officers: 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 are making some changes in our program structure this year. We will have both Spring and Summer programs. We'll have our Spring programs on the 1st Monday of May and June, and our Summer programs are scheduled for Friday evenings in late June/July/August. We'll also be trying something new for our Summer programs – wine tasting and summer refreshments (before or after the program; TBD) – stay tuned for more details!

The programs will be held in Town Hall, Corner School House and Park Hill Meeting House, allowing us to showcase Westmoreland's important historic properties. We have a great line-up for our programs – hope you'll be able to attend some of them.

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.

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, May 1	John Harris – Returning North with the Spring: Retracing the epic journey of naturalist Edwin Way Teale	7 PM	Town Hall
Monday, June 5	Jim Rousmaniere – Celebrating the Lowly Brick	7 PM	Corner School
Friday, June 23	Ernie Hebert – Life Death and Laughs in a Small Town: Herbert's Fictional Darby, NH	7 PM	Park Hill Meeting House
Friday, July 21	Robert Perreault – A Taste of the Old Country in the New: Franco-Americans in Manchester	7 PM	Park Hill Meeting House
Friday, August 25	Dan Billin – Abolitionists of Noyes Academy	7 PM	Park Hill Meeting House

Spring/Summer Program Schedule – 2017

Monday – May 1 – 7PM – Town Hall – John Harris – “Returning North with the Spring: Retracing the epic journey of naturalist Edwin Way Teale”

In 1947 Edwin Way Teale and his wife Nellie followed the spring season northward in an amazing 17,000 mile odyssey from the Everglades to the summit of Mount Washington. He wrote about the adventure in a best-selling book, *North With the Spring*. Sixty-five years later, John Harris sets out to retrace Teale's trip, stopping in the very places he stopped and comparing his observations with sights today. Part field guide and part road trip, this presentation highlights what's changed in the natural world along the East coast since 1950.

Monday – June 5 – 7PM – Corner School – Jim Rousmaniere – “Celebrating the Lowly Brick”

This talk will shed light on the profusion of brick structures in Westmoreland, Keene, Harrisville and Troy, among other communities, in what was one of the three most productive brick-making regions of the state during the 19th century. The talk also draws attention to evolutions of mortar - a substance that, like brick itself, has a more dynamic history than most people expect. Rousmaniere, a Roxbury resident, is Vice-President of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, where his interest in the brick topic was born. He is a writer and former journalist, having retired from the editorship of *The Keene Sentinel* in 2013.

Friday – June 23 – 7PM – Park Hill Meeting House – Ernest Hebert – “Life Death and Laughs in a Small Town: Herbert’s Fictional Darby, NH”

When I was writing what would be my first published novel, *The Dogs of March*, I was living in Swanzey, New Hampshire, and later Keene, but I was thinking about Westmoreland because the images of that town, where my wife Medora and I lived for three years and where we live today, were the most vivid in my mind. I called my fictional town Darby, but it might as well have been Westmoreland. As the books in the *Darby Chronicles* grew with the writing so did the town, at times very much like Westmoreland but at other times not so much. I brought in elements of all the places where I have roots: Swanzey, Keene, Sullivan, Nelson, Stoddard, Harrisville, and Dublin. Eventually, Darby became a thing unto itself that, in my mind anyway, came to typify the changes to small-town New England during my adult lifetime. In other words, Darby is a metaphor of historical procession. What is the future of my make-believe Darby? More important, what is the future of this real little world in the southwestern corner of a small Northeast American state?

Friday – July 21 – 7PM – Park Hill Meeting House – Robert Perreault – “A Taste of the Old Country in the New: Franco-Americans in Manchester”

Manchester is one example of the many industrial cities that attracted immigrants from Quebec in numbers large enough to warrant the creation and maintenance of an infrastructure of religious, educational, social, cultural, and commercial institutions that helped preserve this community's language and traditions. Robert Perreault shares stories about life in one of America's major Franco-American centers.

Friday – August 25 – 7PM – Park Hill Meeting House – Dan Billin – “Abolitionists of Noyes Academy”

In 1835, abolitionists opened one of the nation's first integrated schools in Canaan, NH, attracting eager African-American students from as far away as Boston, Providence, and New York City. Outraged community leaders responded by raising a mob that dragged the academy building off its foundation and ran the African-American students out of town. New Hampshire's first experiment in educational equality was brief, but it helped launch the public careers of a trio of extraordinary African-American leaders: Henry Highland Garnet, Alexander Crummell, and Thomas Sipkins Sidney. Dan Billin plumbs the depths of anti-abolitionist sentiment in early nineteenth-century New England, and the courage of three young friends destined for greatness.

Meeting House water/well up-date – Walter Carroll

In mid-April the Meeting House's old under performing well has been rehabilitated and everything has been installed and is ready to go. The expense of this project was borne by using funds left over from our LCHIP grant. There were some unforeseen cost overruns, such as having to replace an old and potentially hazardous pump. Cushing and Sons, however, honored the original estimate and offered the cost difference as a considerable donation to the Society and Meeting House. We extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Cushing and Sons for this very generous donation.

The Park Hill Meeting House is used only half a year, during warmer seasons. A large tank was placed under the Meeting House in the crawl space and when wine tastings, or receptions or other events are in full swing with dishes being washed, attendees flushing toilets with abandon and water gushing from every building orifice we can be assured that the resource will not quit as it has in the past to the anguish of everyone present. (Especially the occupant of the W.C.)

Board Responsibilities for Historical Societies – Jan Carpenter

On January 11th three members of our Executive Committee, Patti Seymour, Jan Hurley and Jan Carpenter attended a program by Terry Knowles from the NH Attorney General's Office at the Historical Society of Cheshire County entitled "Understanding Board Roles & Responsibilities in Historical Societies". It was sponsored by the Roundtable Group to which The Society belongs.

Ms. Knowles' power point presentation covered non-profit organizations unique challenges regarding embezzlement and theft of money and collections in light of three recent cases in New Hampshire. By coincidence that same day Jan Hurley had arranged to visit our two banks and have Patti's name added to our bank accounts.

High cost of postage in days gone by (From *Lincoln's New Salem* by Benjamin P. Thomas)

In the early 1800s postal rates varied with the distance traversed and the number of pages in a letter. A single sheet cost six cents for the first thirty miles, ten cents for thirty to eighty miles, twelve and a half cents for eighty to 150 miles, eighteen and three-quarters cents for 150 to 400 miles, and twenty-five cents for more than 400 miles. Two sheets cost twice as much, three sheets three times as much, and so on. Neither stamps nor envelopes were used. Letters were simply folded and sealed, and the postage charge was written in the upper right hand corner on the outside. Postage was paid by the addressee.

The high rates on letters elicited numerous complaints. To conserve space people frequently covered a sheet, then turned it sideways and wrote across what they had already written, sometimes following this by writing obliquely across the page. Postmasters had difficulty in determining the number of sheets in a folded and sealed letter; and if the receiver questioned the rate charged he could open the letter in the postmaster's presence and have the error, if any, corrected.

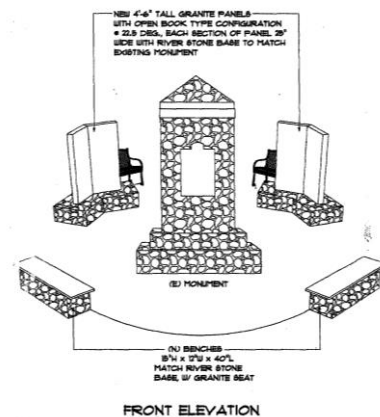
Christmas Letters... welcomed or despised? - Jan Carpenter

I recently heard someone speak about the future historic and genealogic value of the "Annual Christmas Letter" that we all have received at some time, some of us have even sent them to friends and relatives. I'm one of those people who have been sending them for many years and look forward to the few that I still receive annually. I've found that by keeping them all together they are sort of a yearly diary of life's ups and downs. The replies from friends, that I have also collected, this year were reread, put them in some order and found most interesting. What memories they have brought back during the long winter months.

Town Common Memorial

Ernie Perham has been working on an idea and plan to repair the current memorial on the town common, which has plaques listing the names of veterans who served in World War I and II while residents of Westmoreland and to add separate panels on the common adding the names of residents who served in wars or conflicts prior and since WWI or II. Ernie has looked into possible grants and fundraising for the project. At the town meeting on March 14, 2012, the town gave approval for the Selectmen to approve the request of an individual or group wishing to conduct fundraising for the establishment, maintenance and care of a public place or purpose, without further action by the town. At the Town Meeting on March 15 of this year, it was voted on and approved to have the Selectmen appoint a committee to work with Ernie on a proposal to present to the town that would update/expand the Veterans Memorial on the town common. Support for the project was overwhelming at the town meeting and the Selectmen and committee will welcome your input and suggestions throughout the process. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please notify the Selectmen's office.

Proposed Veterans Memorial Update



Gardeners needed

The lovely flower gardens that we had around the Corner School a few years ago are in serious need of some care and attention. If you enjoy fresh air, sunshine and weeding please call Jan (399-7075) and donate an hour or two digging in the dirt and helping to bring back the daffodils, peonies, bleeding heart and others that are being overtaken by ferns and other weeds.

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.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
(July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018) IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY.**

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM
THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

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	<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