

# Moultonborough Historical Society

P.O. Box 659

www.moultonboroughhistory.org

Moultonborough, NH 03254

Volume 5, Issue 3

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

July 2005



**HAPPY 229<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY AMERICA**



## *Moultonborough U.S. Post Offices: A History* *by Marion Goodwin*

Besides the current U.S. Post Office, now located in the center of town, there were five other U.S. Post Offices that served the town's people from 1832 to 1964. These five offices were open for various periods of time.

The first, was the known as the East Moultonborough office, and it came under the jurisdiction of Strafford County. This Post Office was located in the now red house at 465 Governor Wentworth Highway, which is located at the intersection of Route 109 and Route 171. This was the home of Bill and Nancy Depuy for several years, and is now the home of David and Pamela Abraham.

It may have been located there to serve the settlement near State's Landing. The U.S. Postal Service gives no date when it transferred this office to be under Carroll County, except that it was between the years 1840 and 1861. This office served the people between June 1832 and March 1871. The Postmasters were George R. Mason, Benjamin Caverly, Edward Shaw, and Jeremiah Libbey.

The next office was located on the now Route 25, just west of the Red Hill Cabins, known as the Red Hill Post Office. It was located in the house to be known as the Harry Richardson family home. This office was only operated for five years, between August 1874 to June 1879. The Postmasters were John S. Moulton, Nathan G. Goodwin, and Frank F. Green.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Society Officers

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| President   | Bruce Garry      |
| 1st VP      | Bruce Worthen    |
| 2nd VP      | Stewart Lamprey  |
| Rec.Sec'y   | Mary L. Bare     |
| Corr. Sec'y | Jane Rice        |
| Treasurer   | Kathy Garry      |
| Past Pres.  | Vic Hamke        |
| Auditor     | Barbara Sheppard |

## Directors

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Cynthia Oxtou | 2005 |
| Bill Depuy    | 2006 |
| Fran Vincent  | 2007 |

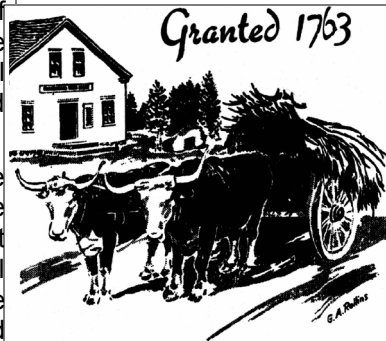
## *History Museum Building Tells it's Own Story* *by Judy Ryerson*

There are always surprises, some good and some bad, with all major projects, especially those involving old houses. The work on the Moultonborough History Museum at the Lamprey House is no exception. Among many unwelcome surprises, demolition work revealed that the floor in the kitchen ell had no real foundation and that the sills there were rotten.

There was, however, one welcome surprise. When the wall and ceiling coverings were stripped away in the kitchen ell we found the same kind of robust post and beam construction that distinguishes the first floor of the main building, proving that the ell was in fact built roughly at the same time as the old part of the house, not as part of the 1870s renovation. It is clear from the construction, however, that these were originally two separate structures. At some point one building was moved next to the other, a common practice in the 19th century, or perhaps one of the buildings was built next to a slightly earlier one and attached to it.

The exposure of the post and beam structure affirmatively answers one open question--was the kitchen part of Simon Moulton's house? But it simultaneously poses another question. There is about a two foot gap between the end of the frame of the kitchen and the beginning of the frame of the main house. If one structure had been built to be attached to the other, why not

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Moultonborough  
was granted in 1763  
and incorporated in  
1777.**

**The Town House  
was built in 1834  
and Town Meetings  
were held in it from  
1835 to 1949.**



## *From the President's Desk*

*By Bruce Garry*

This issue is being mailed to 7,000 or so property owners of the Town of Moultonborough, so that we, the Society, can introduce ourselves to you. Our newsletter is normally 10 to 12 pages, full of stories on the history of the town, and news on the Society and the community. There were a few technical issues with such a large printing, if we had that many pages, so this small sample has been put together for your enjoyment. If you like this little sample, and would like to read more in the future, we would like to have you as a member, and you will enjoy four issues a year full of stories like these.

After much long hard work and a great deal of help from the community the first step will be realized of the opening of the Moultonborough History Museum at the Lamprey House. Displays are being done now to highlight the early history of the town. As we are able to open more sections of the museum, there will be more displays for all to enjoy.

I thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Society, by reading this newsletter, and I hope you will stop by the museum to see the progress that has been made.

*Bruce*

**Monday, July 11th, 2005, at 6:00 pm**

The Monthly Meeting will be a **Summer Picnic**  
At  
The Lamprey House Museum



**Bring your own Picnic Basket and drink, Desert is provided**

Enjoy a Summer Evening with friends while enjoying a look back on Summers past by our guest speaker **Herbert Twiddy**

***Boyhood Experiences on Moultonborough Neck  
Every August 1942-1962***

***PLEASE COME and Enjoy the evening.***  
*(If there is rain, we will move inside the museum)*

## *Newsletter Staff*

Editor      Bruce Garry  
Ass't. Ed.   Jane Rice  
Staff        Fran Vincent

### **Contributors**

Marion Goodwin  
Judy Ryerson  
Fran Vincent



## *Meetings*

### **July 11**

***Boyhood Experiences on  
Moultonborough Neck Every  
August 1942-1962***

By  
Herbert Twiddy

6:00 pm      Lamprey House

### **Aug 6**

***ANNUAL FLEA MARKET***

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Moultonborough  
Central School

### **Aug 8**

***Railroad History in NH***

By Peter Davis

***Accompanied by Old Time  
Songs of Early Country &  
Bluegrass***

By Dave Thompson &  
The Railroad Express

7:30 pm      Moultonborough  
Academy Auditorium

### **Sep 12th**

**2005 Poem Contest Winners  
Share their Poems**

With  
Madelyn Maroun, Katie Hart,  
Alicia Winsor

7:30 pm      Lamprey House

## Committees

### DIRECT ACTIVITIES

#### Artifacts

#### Acceptance & Identification

Cheryl May, Chair

**Cataloging**.....Barbara Kelly, Chair

**Display**.....Sheryl Lively, Chair

#### Identification of Historic Records & Photographs

Frank Greene & Jane Rice,  
Co-Chairs  
Fred Clark  
Frances Stevens

#### Town History

#### Newspaper Scrapbook

Mary Jane Dunn

#### Research, Recording & Writing

Bruce Garry, Chair  
Jane Rice  
Bill Deputy

#### Survey of Historic Buildings & Sites

Judy Ryerson, Chair  
Bill Deputy  
Jack Swedburg  
Jean Vappi  
Fran Vincent  
Frank Greene

#### Cemetery Records

Jane Rice.....Chair  
Bruce Garry  
Jan Metcalfe  
Barbara Sheppard  
Frank Greene

#### Historic Booklets

Frances Stevens  
Ernest Davis

#### Moultonborough History Museum at the Lamprey House

Vic Hamke, Chair  
Philip Barnes  
Keith Nelson  
Robert Lamprey  
Sheryl Lively  
Judy Ryerson  
Barbara Sheppard  
Cindy Oxtan

#### Town House & One Room School House

#### Development & Planning

Keith Nelson  
Alan Ballard  
David Healy  
Norman Larson

**Maintenance**.....David Healy, Chair

Ernest Davis  
Fran Vincent

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## Do You Remember?

**1929** - The Goodwin's purchased the general store, know as "The Old Country Store", from Mrs. James French.

**1929** - The Moultonborough Public Library was built at it's present location, by Art Pollard, a builder from town.

**1931** - Town dedicates it's first monument to those who served their country. The first monument honored World War I Veterans.

**1938** - The town suffered through a hurricane that was one of the worst storms the town had ever seen. It knocked down hundreds of trees, block most of the roads and taking down almost all the power lines. It took months to clear all the roads and restore the power to all areas of town. The next year the state, concerned with forest fires, had many of the down trees cleared out.

**1983** - The Moultonborough Fire Department celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They had a huge parade down the center of town with a big cookout at the Lions Club.

**1996** - The town elected NOT to switch to electronic voting, by declining to spend \$6,250 for the Election System 2000. The deciding factor at the town meeting was the cost of \$350 for each election to setup the machine, and the write in votes had to be counted manually in any event. (NOTE: The Selectman, on the urging of the Town Moderator, purchased an electronic machine without a vote from the voters in 2005)

**1997** - The town voted to work in conjunction with Meredith Village Savings Bank to establish a park and scenic area along Berry Pond, on Route 25. The park was to be a memorial to James D. Sutherland, former president of the bank and prominent member of the community. The park was officially dedicated on July 4, 2000.

*The following tidbits were taken from Town reports and "As I remember Moultonborough New Hampshire" by Frances A. Stevens*

### Museum Building Tells it's Own Story (Continued from page 1)

join it directly to the earlier structure? Or if a separate structure, either from another property or another part of this property

had been moved into place while didn't they butt it up tight. Perhaps the process of moving it would not allow a snug fit. More examination of the structure might reveal the answer in future work. The ceiling will be left exposed so that the handsome old beams, and the structural story they tell, will be on display for all to admire.

The fact that this old building is still telling tales is one of its more endearing qualities.

## Memorial Books

By Jane Rice

Since the last newsletter was published, we have lost two of our valued Society members who have passed away. We regret the loss of these community members, and they have been remembered by the Society with the gift of memorial books to the Moultonborough Public Library. Books with local historical interest are chosen as memorials, which we hope will be of interest both to Historical Society members and other library patrons.

#### Mrs. James Sutherland (Laurie) :

*Exploring Stone Walls: A Field Guide to the Stone Walls of New England; by Robert M. Thorson.* Thorson has become quite a scholar on the subject of the stone walls which are both unique and ubiquitous in New England, up to 250,000 miles of which may be found in wooded areas which were once farmlands. The effort to build that many miles and move that many rocks has certainly affected the history of our area in many ways, and continues to do so. The library also has his other book on the subject, "Stone by Stone."

**Leonard M. Plaisted** (Holder of the "Moultonborough Cane" as our oldest town resident): *Meredith Then and Now, by Bruce Heald.* Len was born in Meredith in 1907, and lived there until moving to Moultonboro in 1947, so this book, which shows historic and current pictures of the same buildings and street scenes of Meredith side-by-side, seemed like an appropriate choice. Many of the buildings are still standing, and finding out a little of their history makes a trip through our neighboring town just that much more interesting.

# Committees

(Continued from page 3)

### Librarian

Jane Rice

### Moultonborough Schools

#### Coordinator

Nancy Deputy

### Society Newsletter

Bruce Garry, Chair

Jane Rice

Fran Vincent

### Publicity

Jane Rice, Judy Ryerson

Co-Chairs

### Service Learning

Vic Hamke, Bill Deputy, Co-Chairs

Bruce Garry

Barbara Sheppard



## SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### Society Yearbook

Barbara Shepard

Dee Hamke

Fran Vincent

### Society Membership

Fran Vincent, Chair

Jan Metcalfe

Bob Lamprey

### Hospitality

Jean Vappi, Chair

Fran Vincent

### Nominating

Society Directors

### Monthly Programs & Society

#### Events

Society Executive Board

### Annual Flea Market

Cindy Oxtan, Chair

## Moultonborough Population: A Glimpse

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| 1771..... | 197  |
| 1820..... | 1279 |
| 1840..... | 1800 |
| 1855..... | 1748 |
| 1889..... | 1300 |

## Moultonborough U.S. Post Offices (Continued from page 1)

The third office was established for 40 years, known as the Long Island Post Office, located in the Long Island Inn. Of the seven Postmasters that served this office, five were related to Barbara Brown Austin. Barbara and her husband Wilber, also call the same house home. The Postmasters who served between May 1878 and January 1917: George F. Brown, Otis D. Folsom, Lillie L. Brown, George K. Brown, Sarah F. Brown, Harry E. Brown (Barbara's father), and Mary E. Blake. Mary Blake closed the office and the mail was transferred to the Center Harbor Post Office for delivery.

There was no bridge when the Long Island Post Office was opened, so the mail was delivered by boat at Brown's Wharf. Later the mail was delivered by a "Beach Wagon" truck to the Long Island Inn.

At the corner of Moultonborough Neck Road and Ferry Road, was the Jim Day house, and where the Lake View Post Office was located and opened on July 18, 1884. This office would process mail for twenty five years. This same house later became the summer home of Sue Calendar and her mother. There were six Postmasters who served during these 25 years: Harriet A. Dow, Chanie B. Smith, Mary A. Day, Ella M. Smith, Mattie M. Smith, and Edwin L. Smith. On October 15, 1909, Edwin Smith closed the office and this mail was also transferred to the Center Harbor Post Office for processing.

The last of the five post offices, was located on the now gone Beede Farm on Winaukee Road, towards the end of Moultonborough Neck. This office known as the Winnepesaukee Post Office. This office was about in the middle between the Lake View Post Office and the Long Island Post Office, which only a few miles apart from each other at that. The office opened was opened on April 24, 1907, but the Postmaster appointed never served and no name was given in the records. Two months later, on June 22, 1907, and Joseph Coleman Blair Jr. was appointed Postmaster and the office was officially operating.

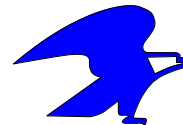
The Winnepesaukee Post Office processed mail until April 29, 1916, with two

other Postmasters besides Joe Blair. Grace E. Van Sinden and then Jared A. Greene, who closed the office that April and the mail was transferred to the Long Island Post Office for processing.

This closing only lasted a little over seven months when it was reopened with a new Postmaster, Sarah R. Keirstead, on December 11, 1916. One might find this strange that it would be closed during the good weather months and then open again in the harsh weather months. It's possible they did some refurbishment during this time, but the records do not tell us.

The Winnepesaukee Post Office this time remained open for forty eight years. Besides Sarah Keirstead, there were four other Postmasters: Charles W. Davis, Winfield M. Aldrich, Mrs. Florence C. Beede, and Mrs. Cynthia W. Brown. Oddly enough, Winfield Aldrich was an Acting Postmaster two months before being officially appointed, and Cynthia Brown was Acting Postmaster, during World War II, for eleven months before receiving her official appointment.

The last Postmaster who closed the Winnepesaukee Post Office, on December 4, 1964, Hollis J. Eaves, was Acting Postmaster and never officially appointed Postmaster. Hollis only served a little over two weeks to fill in after Cynthia Brown retired, having more than twenty years with the U.S. Postal Service. This mail too, was transferred to the Center Harbor Post Office for processing, and is why the Neck and the west end of town have their mail processed at the Center Harbor Post Office today.



We welcome any and all contributions for future issues. Remember this is your newsletter. Feel free to contact either Bruce Garry or Jane Rice.

**Bruce Garry.....476-2349**  
**E-Mail.....bgarry999@verizon.net**  
**Jane Rice.....476-5108**  
**E-Mail.....moultnews@hotmail.com**

# *FLEA MARKET*

&

# *CRAFT FAIR*

Saturday - August 6, 2005

**PLAN ON IT!** We need *YOUR* help in making this year's event a success. Everyone can help in some way. Please assist us in the Society's largest fundraiser of the year:

**Donations:** As you start your winter / spring cleaning, please think of the Society. We need as many treasured items as possible. Start collecting now, and ask your friends and neighbors to save things.

No large items (such as stuffed chairs, sofas, etc.), clothing, National Geographic, textbooks, & electronics/computers will be accepted. Single glasses do not sell, nor do appliances that do not work.

Due to the status of the Lamprey House and Town House, please hold your items until we can store them, hopefully by mid-May. Please call Cindy Oxtan after the first of May to make arrangements to turn your items in. We really need your help with this during the transition period.

If you have any questions on the Fair please call  
Cindy Oxtan (284-7112)

Everyone's help is especially needed this year to make  
this Flea Market / Craft Fair a success in 2005.



## New Bronze-Gold Members

### Bronze

Charles and Linda Boodro  
Jean Vappi  
Richard and Arlene Rindel  
Andrew and Joanne Coppinger  
Diane Kemp  
Eileen Martin

### Silver

George Lamprey

### Life

Sally Carver  
W. B. "Pete" Hopkins

### Life Gold

## We Welcome these new Members

|                      |                                        |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mr. Mel Borrin       | Mr. James Dickson                      |
| Mr. Randy Bickford   | Mr. and Mrs. Walter Petterson          |
| Mr. Natt King        | Mr. Scott Lamprey                      |
| Mr. Scott Kinmond    | Ms. Eileen Martin                      |
| Mr. Jeffrey White    | Mr. and Mrs. Frazier (Pearl)           |
| Mr. Kevin Kirby      | Ms. Diane Kemp                         |
| Mr. Robert Hammond   | Mr. George Lamprey                     |
| Ms. Melanie Heinis   | Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Coppinger (Joanne) |
| Mr. Mark Tubuchon    | Mr. W. B. "Pete" Hopkins               |
| Mr. Scott Rolfe      | Ms. Dawn Heiderer                      |
| Mr. Christopher Read | Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rindel (Arlene)   |

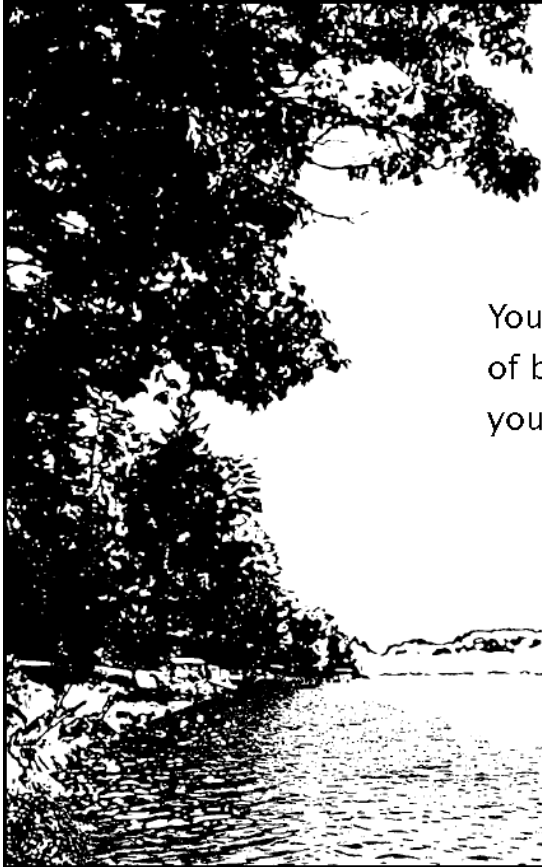
Normally we would include all the contact information for these new Members, but there is so many, which is fantastic, we have not included it here. If you need to contact any of these new members, please contact Fran Vincent (603) 253-6250 and she can give you that information.

## Corrections to the 2005- 2006 Yearbook

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Greene:  
5 Nutmeg Circle  
Laconia, NH 03246

Jack and Carol Dreyer: 476-8839

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Breen:  
[dr.breen@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dr.breen@worldnet.att.net)



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GILFORD 528-1500 • PLYMOUTH – Hannaford 536-3200  
PLYMOUTH – Main Street 536-8228  
LACONIA Opening 2005  
ALTON Opening 2006  
[www.mvsvb.com](http://www.mvsvb.com)



stamp

**Moultonborough Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 659  
Moultonborough, NH 03254

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

**Read About**  
*Your Town!!!*  
**Moultonborough**

Place Address Label Here

**In This Issue...**

*Moultonborough U.S. Post Offices: A History* by Marion Goodwin