

# SCRAPBOOK

*The Newsletter of the Plymouth Historical Society- Autumn 2021*

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Winnie Oustecky  
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**CONTACT US:**

Museum & Memory House -In the Old  
Webster Courthouse behind Town Hall  
603-536-2337  
Open Saturdays 10 AM- 2 PM May-Oct  
10 AM- 1 PM Nov- Apr and by appointment  
  
PO Box 603, Plymouth, NH 03264



Plant Sale Before Courthouse Upgrade

## **Times They are a 'Changin' !**

With completion of the restoration to the Old Webster Courthouse, the Plymouth Historical Society looks forward to hosting events, programs and displaying our popular exhibits of Plymouth area history! The Covid-19 virus necessarily limited public events from the beginning of our fiscal year in October 2020 through September 2021. Monthly in-person presentations were superseded with Zoom programs. The Memories of Plymouth (Season 5) were also impacted and our PBTv station programming was delayed. Our regular third/first grade tours had to be cancelled along with our fall yard sale in 2020 along with the December Wreath Making. Our latest exhibit - Lost Plymouth – Part II featuring West Main Street was extended into 2021 and the planned exhibit on women suffrage cancelled.

However, things are looking up! Our Facebook page, which officially opened in late November 2018, has reached over 1800 followers. Our 6<sup>th</sup> plant sale this past spring was a huge success! Our puzzle series has been hugely popular with the addition of an adult and a child's version of the classic Pemigewasset Coach puzzle by Enoch Wood Perry!

Plans for next fiscal year are underway. Our 2021 annual membership meeting will be held on September 20th. The museum will remain open during the late fall on Saturdays from 10-1 pm. Docents are eager to help with town or family history research. Perhaps you have some extra time to volunteer and be trained as a docent?



New LCHIP Plaque

## Old Webster Courthouse Upgrades

The 'Future of History Campaign' reached its goal in 2020! The building was freshly painted, with contrasting trim and siding colors, as well as the door and portico. With the installation of a new railing and regraded entry, we are now handicap accessible. The Land & Community Heritage Investment Program has approved the work. This LCHIP grant provided half the funds used for this two-year overhaul and, with your generous donations - the remaining match! An ice cream social and Open House was held on August 1<sup>st</sup> to enthusiastically thank donors. We could not have done this without you, our loyal supporters!! The Old Webster Courthouse Committee, the Young Ladies Library Association, and the Plymouth Historical Society are pleased having the 1774 Old Webster Courthouse looking spiffy and elegant again.



Paul Floyd, Gale Johnk & Christina Mason serving at the Ice Cream Social

## Exhibits: Landmarks Lost to Time: Part II -West Main Street

Our latest exhibit **Lost Plymouth, Part II: the Western Side of Main Street**, was on display for less than two months before Covid struck in early 2020. It's back and there is plenty to enjoy, including beautifully enlarged cutouts of many of the buildings! This exhibit includes **The Old Brick** (where today's Post Office stands), the **Congregational Church**,

**Plymouth Holmes Academy** (now the Silver Hall parking lot), the **Pemigewasset House #3**, the original Town Hall (by the Old Draper and Maynard Factory), and numerous homes, now long gone. The **Tufts Block** is named after John S. Tufts who arrived in Plymouth in 1861. He opened a dry goods store and later became a pharmacist. Around 1880 he built a large three-story wooden structure on the corner of Main Street and Highland Avenue, where the Northway Bank is today. The upper floors housed other organizations and businesses, including a company of the NH National Guard, formed in Plymouth in 1884. Sadly, the Tufts block burned in 1930.

## Programs

Fall programming began last October 28th with our first Zoom virtual talk on **Changing Green Landscapes in Plymouth** by MaryAnn McGarry. MaryAnn is a recently retired faculty member at PSU. In her forestry course, she built on the earlier work of Steve Sweedler who was in charge of landscaping at the PSU Campus for over 30 years. Her students conducted tree walks for prospective students to note ecosystem services that trees provide. MaryAnn followed up with a campus tree tour on June 16<sup>th</sup> of this year that was well attended.



MaryAnn McGarry (right) with PSU students

On November 18, 2020 Glenn Knoblock presented a talk on **Brewing in New Hampshire: A History of Beer in the Granite State from Colonial Times to the Present**, supported by the NH Humanities to Go (HTG) program. Glenn described the fascinating history of New Hampshire's beer and ale brewing industry from Colonial days, when it was home and tavern-based, to modern day breweries and brew pubs, including the only brewery owned and operated by a woman before the modern era. Evidence of society's changing attitudes toward beer and alcohol consumption over the years were noted.

In December, the **Wreath Making** workshop, usually held annually at Dick and Kathie Flanders home, had to be cancelled due to Covid concerns, but is expected to return in 2021. However, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, Liz Tentarelli presented her program on **Votes for Women: A History of the Suffrage Movement** via Zoom. The campaign for women's right to vote was a long one, from the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York to ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920. Also sponsored by HTG, Liz's program explored the key players in New Hampshire and the nation, the issues and obstacles they faced, the impact of World War I, and who was left out when women got the right to vote.

After the January break, 2021 started with another HTG- sponsored program by Adair Mulligan entitled **The Connecticut: New England's Great River**. Adair is currently executive director of the Hanover Conservancy and served over 20 years with the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, working with valley citizens to create a river management plan. Her Zoom program covered a wide variety of topics affecting watershed citizens in both NH and Vermont.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Pamela Weeks gave a fascinating virtual presentation on **New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell**. Also sponsored by HTG, this program covered quilt history -its myths and misinformation as well as heart-warming tales of service and tradition. She wove world history, women's history, industrial history and just plain wonderful stories into her presentation.

Most recently on August 18th, Doug McLane met with an enthusiastic group on the Town Common to describe progress to restore the **American Elm** to Plymouth's Main Street with a disease resistant cultivar. He also showcased his **American Chestnut** nursery that he has established with various disease resistant varieties that show promise in resisting the chestnut blight that decimated these towering trees throughout the northeast.

## Memories of Plymouth

Memories of Plymouth, a project spearheaded by PHS President Louise McCormack, is in the midst of its fifth year of showcasing, preserving, and honoring the stories of local people who have lived here for decades. The project is a video time capsule, creating first-person accounts of participants' memories and stories of living in the Plymouth area. All interviews are aired on Pemi-Baker TV channel 1302, and on our Facebook page (see Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, NH). To see them as You Tube videos, type Memories of Plymouth and the name of the person interviewed.

Due to Covid-19, the 2021 interviews were delayed but were conducted from April to September with **Ross Deachman** in April describing his life in Plymouth -his schooling, his participation in town politics and numerous committees, and his love for the town. In May **Eunice Henderson Wentzell** shared how she arrived in town, her background and love of nursing, and her family that grew up here. **Gunnar Baldwin** joined us and was interviewed in June to share how he arrived in Thornton Gore, his at-home activities to keep his family together and how life as a conservationist led him to work with the world's largest plumbing manufacturer (TOTO Ltd.) in Japan. He designed a toilet in 1987 that reduced the volume from 6 gallons to ½ gallons. This became very popular in the 90's and there are now 4 plants manufacturing it. **Richard and Susan Evans** shared their memories of their entire lives in July. **Sally Dole Harris** was interviewed in August. Her family operated the Dole Company in Campton. Rounding out the season was **Robert Brakey** who flew in from Texas in September and was interviewed. His parents owned and managed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pemigewasset Hotel on Highland Street from the early 40's to 1957 when then Plymouth Teachers College purchased the property.

We are preparing for our spring 2022 interviews. If you are interested or know someone who would enjoy sharing their memories, contact Louise at 536-2337 or at [louisem@plymouth.edu](mailto:louisem@plymouth.edu). Your children, grandchildren and friends will appreciate your willingness to participate in sharing your Memories of Plymouth.

## Accessions and Research Requests

Despite the pandemic, members, and friends of PHS kept themselves busy by cleaning their homes where they found items that might be of interest to the Plymouth Historical Society. In the past twelve months, 25 donations were received that included over several hundred items. Artifacts included town post cards, topographical maps of NH, Plymouth Fair items, early Town Reports, Pemigewasset Hotel items, a quilt made by Plymouth Elementary students, antique albums, a framed Daniel Webster picture, Plymouth advertising, and so much more. PHS is indebted to our donors who felt we were the appropriate venue for these gifts. In addition, the Board was inundated with a myriad of research requests. Some wanted information on history of past family members, origin of the Plymouth Golf Course (located along the Baker River off Old Ward Bridge Road), history of newly acquired homes in the area, past fires in Plymouth and local communities, origin of Plymouth's Fire Department, first meeting house, airport and more – totaling more than fifty requests! It was our pleasure to support all these requests.

## Membership and Fundraising

Your membership support (**see enclosed membership form**) is critical to our success and provides the means to continue programming, expanding displays and exhibits, and preserving historical artifacts that you continue to donate! Your

financial support will help ensure a fiscally sound future for the Society. However, we need to expand membership and include more business sponsors. Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Fundraising efforts also support PHS activities and programs and help balance the budget. We must rely on your enthusiastic support via our Plant Sale in May, our Yard Sale in September, and Wreath Making in December! Continued strong retail puzzle sales fortunately offset declines in revenues from the cancelled Yard Sale and Wreath Making fundraisers last year. If you have not as yet purchased a 300 piece puzzle (only \$16.99 each) we still have 4 choices which make great gifts [1950's or 1980's Main Street (from the Town Common), the Millennium Covered Bridge, and the Pemigewasset Coach plus a children's 54 piece version for \$9.99].



PHS Board Members

Top Row, left: Stacey Yap, Rondi Gannon, Kathy Hillier, Joyce Bruce, Judy Floyd  
Sitting. Left: Paul Floyd, Mary Baldwin, Dick Flanders, Louise McCormack

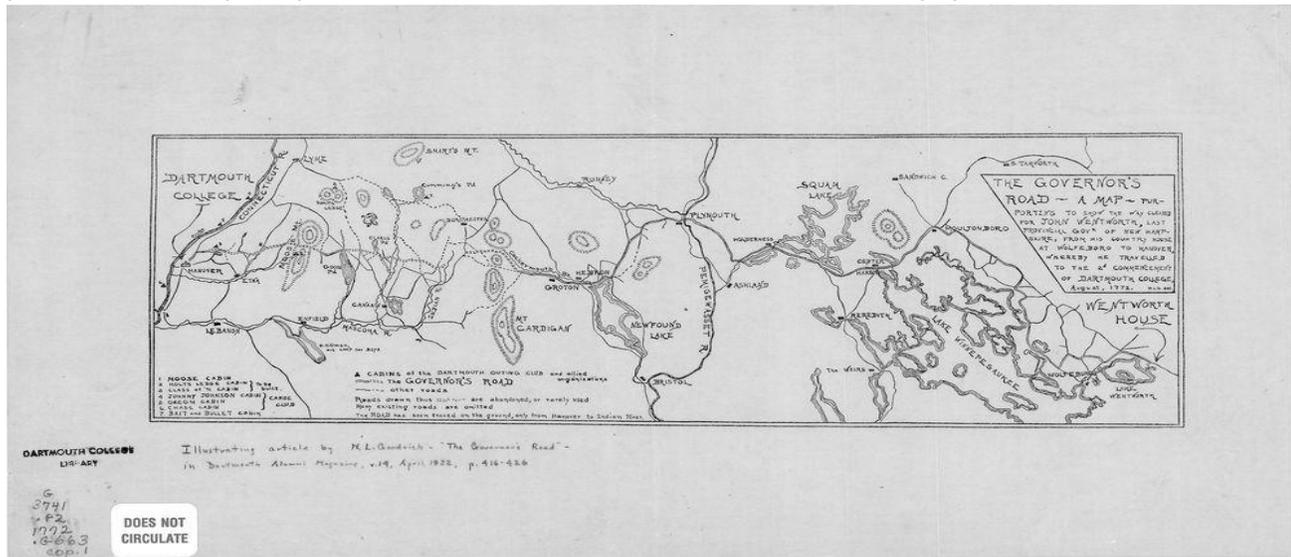
## **Dartmouth College Road from Holderness through Plymouth and Hebron -250 Years ago!**

In 1771, an act was passed "To establish and make passable a road from [then colonial Governor John Wentworth's] summer home in Wolfeboro to Dartmouth College in Hanover". This road has been known by many names, "College Road", "Governor's Road", "Colonial Road", "Wentworth Road", "Dartmouth Road", even "King George's Road". For this overview we focus on that portion running from Holderness into Hebron (once a portion of West Plymouth).

The road was to be 3 roads wide (about 50 feet) and the "burden of clearing and making passable the road was laid upon the proprietors [original grantees] of the several towns" that it passed through. This order was ignored by many given only \$50 was appropriated to get the work done and the Governor evidently used British soldiers to complete some sections. Apparently, the road through Holderness crossed the Pemigewasset River at a ford downstream of the confluence of the Baker River by Col. David Webster's Tavern, a convenient stop for man and beast. From there it went westward up (now) Highland Street before bearing left onto (now) Reservoir Road past "Silas Brown's" and "Widow Snow's" to Bell Road (in back of Kenneth Bell's house) to the foot of Hoyt Hill in West Plymouth.

As the Dartmouth College Road approached the western Town line of Plymouth, it crossed the present Route 3A (Mayhew Turnpike) and then went up Hoyt Hill in the notch to the West of the existing Route 3A. It then started bearing off to the right and then turned south by the original Jonathan Morse home site of 1782. Eventually the road intersected the present George Road leading west into Hebron and towards the present Braley Road. It then continued northwesterly to Groton and on to several other towns to Hanover and Dartmouth College. Further, according to Collin's

account, "Parts of the old road, stone bridge abutments, and stone walls can still be seen" on the section west of Hoyt Hill to Braley Road. "According to the 'N.H. Highways' magazine of July 1931, there was only one settler and his wife living in Hebron at the time the road was built", likely "James Gould, who came in 1771 and built a log cabin" off Braley Road. "The [College Road] apparently was open for the Governor and his party of 20 to proceed to the Dartmouth graduation in 1772 but was probably hardly more than a bridle trail with ox cart ruts. Tradition and the records say that Governor Wentworth and his party stayed overnight in Hebron in 1772, 1773 and 1774, probably at the cabin of Samuel Hazelton." Note that this portion of Dartmouth College Road (including George Rd., Braley Rd. and Tenney Lane where Sam Hazelton's cabin was located) was still part of Plymouth at that time, as Hebron was not founded until 1792. See plan below. (Excerpts in parentheses are from Ron Collins' *Historical Inventory of Hebron, NH*, Nov. 2004)



## Financial Report 2020 -2021

<u>Income:</u> Membership Dues.....	\$2015	<u>Expenditures:</u> Programs/Publicity.....	\$1109
Membership Donations.....	\$2760	Operating Expenses.....	\$1365
Other Donations and Grants.....	\$ 753	Utilities.....	\$2788
Retail Sales.....	\$4415	Retail Production.....	\$2152
Fundraising.....	\$1328	Storage .....	\$ 315
Miscellaneous .....	\$ 800	Dues, Fees & Other.....	\$ 175
	Total \$12,071		Total \$7,904

## Board Member Changes

Dick Flanders and Paul Floyd will be leaving us as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively. During the past 10+ years they have been an integral part of the growth, programming, and fundraising for PHS. We will miss their contributions but look forward to their continuing support. If YOU are interested in serving PHS as a volunteer, please contact us!