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*We couldn't do
it without you!*

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Roger Kleinpeter

Ed Loranger

Doug McLane

Eva Nagorka

Winnie Oustucky

Marcia Rundle

Mary Anne Hyde Saul

(603) 536-2337

Post Office Box 603

Plymouth, NH 03264

Museum & Memory House

*In the Old Webster Courthouse
behind Town Hall*

Open Saturdays

10:00 AM–2:00 PM May–October

10:00 AM–1:00 PM November–April

and by appointment

On Exhibition — Farming in Plymouth Our Agricultural History from 1764 to Today

The story of Plymouth's farming history is told today in the large barns dotting the landscape along the intervals and backroads and even the village area. Miles of stone walls tell the same story: "here was once a farm;" some of these walls are now found deep in the woods which have reclaimed the fields cleared by the original settlers—and without benefit of machinery.

Narratives of the early days of farming in Plymouth take us from settlement through the eighteenth century, when photographs and tangible items, worn by use, continue the story through the nineteenth century to present day. The "Farming in Plymouth" exhibit features displays on Cows, Sheep, Chickens, The Fair, 4-H, The Grange, The Poor Farm, and Farming Today. Also included is a map showing locations and photos of many of the farms around Plymouth during the 1930s.

With life-sized animal cut-outs, farm animal noises, and items that can be handled, this exhibit may be enjoyed with your children and grandchildren. A fun way to spend an hour.

It is our hope that the exhibits and programs presented by the historical society not only share Plymouth's past through the records and items in our collection, but invite the community to share their memories, knowledge and artifacts on these topics as well. We are *all* a part of Plymouth's history and welcome your contributions. Please consider writing down your memories or stories, letting us scan your photos, or donating or photographing items of interest.

The Farming exhibit will be up through May 2019. If you've yet to see it, we hope you will make the time to visit—Saturday from 10:00–2:00 through October and 10:00–1:00 November–April.

The exhibit was researched, curated, and created by Mary Baldwin, Betty Batchelder, Kathy Hillier and Lisa Lundari.



Among the artifacts in the "Cows" exhibit are a pail and stool used by Betty Batchelder.



An exhibit on "sweet crops" - Apples, cherries, berries, honey, maple syrup and even ice cream.

A Look at the Year That Was...



Doug McLane discusses Native American artifacts.

PRESENTATIONS

In the fall of 2017, a presentation on the History of Draper & Maynard Sporting Goods Company, *A Community: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, presented by Louise McCormack, was well attended. This was followed by an engaging talk by Doug and Ben McLane on *Native American Artifacts from Your Back Yard: The Sargent Collection*. In January 2018, we enjoyed learning about *Saving the Mountains in NH and the Founding of the White Mountain National Forest* from Marcia Schmidt Blaine. In March we were treated to a talk on *The Founding Fathers: What Were They Thinking?* by Richard Hesse (made possible by a grant from the NH Humanities). This was followed by an excellent talk by Rebecca Noel on *The History of the Nathaniel Peabody Rogers Family and Home*. In May, local author Mary Anne Hyde Saul spoke about her book *On the Edge: Growing Up in Plymouth in the 1950s and '60s* which saw a huge turnout of locals—including band members of The Crossfires (Denny Day, Dave Kent and Roger Klose)—who, along with the audience, shared their memories as well. In June, to broaden our focus a bit, Dick Flanders joined forces with Missy Mason of the Holderness Historical Society to host a joint program on *Trinity Church* and a guided tour of *Trinity Cemetery*. In July we were riveted with a presentation by local author Ty Gagne on *Risk, Decisions, and the Last Climb of Kate Matrosova*. And to wrap up the fiscal year in September, Dick Flanders complemented PHS's current exhibit on agriculture with a talk on *The Plymouth Fair as an Agricultural Event*.



Louise Samaha McCormack presents on D&M

ENGAGING STUDENTS

In October 2017 Plymouth Elementary School 1st Graders took a day-long walking tour of important places in their town. The morning was spent at the fire department (where a representative from the police department was also present) and the library. In the afternoon they gathered at the Plymouth Historical Museum and broke into three groups which rotated to learn about the museum, the town common, and Town Hall from members of our School Programming Committee (former educators Mary Baldwin, Jan Chipman, Judy Floyd, Rondi Gannon) and Karen Freitas at Town Hall. The children were presented with personalized “Junior Historian” cards that invited them to return with their parents.



Plymouth Elementary School 1st Graders visiting the Plymouth Historical Museum and Memory House.

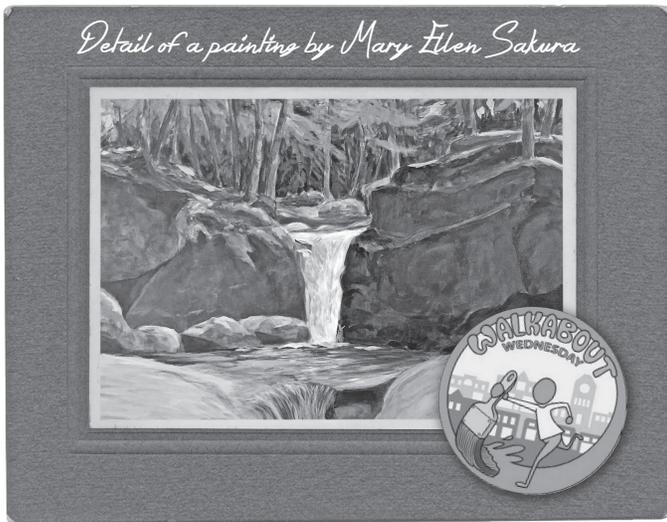
Plymouth Regional High School Media Arts students created a wonderful video on the Old Webster Courthouse! The end product was so professional, as were the students who worked on the effort. It was a highlight at the **Barnraiser! Fundraiser** for preservation and improvement efforts at the Old Webster Courthouse. Many thanks to Lena R. MacLean, Instructor, Eleanor Knight, Sam Ebner, Emma Cooper, Noah Daniels, Kiah Newton, Thomas Perkins, and Clayton Titus. You can view the video (and a video overview of the Barnraiser! event) at OldWebsterCourthouse.org and click the “Watch Videos” button.

Just before the end of the school year, Plymouth Elementary School 3rd Graders paid a visit to the historical museum. They were greeted by Louise Samaha McCormack, in period costume, who welcomed them to the Old Webster Courthouse. She and Rondi Gannon told them about some of the interesting people and places from Plymouth's past. The students were then invited to browse the museum. Some explored in small groups, others on their own, but all found items that intrigued them.

With the hands-on nature of the Farming exhibit the children were encouraged to interact with the displays—picking up samples of raw wool, sitting on hay bales, and especially making our little chicks “peep.” (See photo at right.)

WALKABOUT WEDNESDAYS

PHS continued to participate in Plymouth State University's Walkabout Wednesday program, hosting five pop-up exhibits featuring artists living in our area. Created by Cynthia Robinson, now the Director of the Museum of the White Mountains, **Walkabout Wednesdays** invites museums, organizations, and businesses in downtown Plymouth to hold an exhibit on the first Wednesday of each month from 4:00–6:00 PM. (Now until 7:00 PM.) We appreciate the participation of Lynn Decker, Helen Downing, Suzan Gannett, Mary Ellen Sakura, and Virginia Slayton, and we thank them for sharing their art.



... OR BY APPOINTMENT

In addition to our Saturday visitors and school groups, on occasion special arrangements are made to open the museum to groups that request off-hour visits/presentations. This year we made arrangements for members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a group from the Plymouth Regional Senior Center and members of the Grafton County Bar Association to visit. In addition to group requests, we also try to accommodate individuals from out of town who are doing research and for whom our Saturday hours won't work.



PES 3rd Graders particularly enjoyed the "peeping" chicks in our Chickens exhibit.

PLYMOUTH MEMORIES—SEASON 2



A few interviewees (L-R)—Arline Bownes, Manuel & Gloria Sterling, and Harold Webster.

MEMORIES of PLYMOUTH has completed its **SECOND** year. Spearheaded by Louise McCormack, the goal is to showcase and honor the stories of local people over the past several decades, allowing PHS to capture and preserve the growth, culture and events that make up the history of Plymouth. We view this project as a video time capsule to preserve first-person accounts of individual stories as well as participants' memories of Plymouth.

Members of the town and surrounding communities were invited to assist us with this on-going project. Questions were provided, in advance, to each participant. The length of each interview was between 45–60 minutes. Each interview was conducted at the **Pemi-Baker TV** studio, located on the lower level (elevator accessible) of Pease Public Library in Plymouth. All interviews become a part of the historical society archives at the **Old Webster Courthouse**.

Interviews began in late March 2018 with **Harold 'Web' Webster** of Holderness who was one of the boys who posed for the sculptor, George H. Borst, who created the Boy Scout statue on the Plymouth Common. **Thelma Hardy Downing** of Ashland told what life was like in the day. **Arline Bownes** chatted about her late husband, **Malcolm "Mac" Bownes**, (principal of Plymouth Elementary School 1972–92) and her family (including a grandchild who recently participated in the Winter Olympics). **Tom and Dottie Anderson** recounted the 50-year history of **Anderson's Bakery** (1958–1998)—sharing their original rolling pin and the family recipe book! **Manuel and Gloria Sterling** retraced their journey from Cuba and how they arrived in Plymouth to teach at Plymouth State College and Plymouth High School respectively. We closed our season with **Gigi and Paul Estes** who reminded us what the town and campus were like when they arrived in Plymouth 50 years ago. As a special treat, the Sterlings agreed to be interviewed again to discuss the **state of Cuba today**, especially with a new President at the helm.

At this writing, we are meeting with spring interviewees. Some are still living in town, others left Plymouth decades ago yet still call Plymouth home. If you are interested in being interviewed or have a suggestion for an interviewee, please contact Louise Samaha McCormack at louisem@plymouth.edu, or leave a message at 536-2337 (PHS). Your family, friends, and community will appreciate your sharing of memories of Plymouth.

"Memories of Plymouth" interviews are video recorded and aired on **Pemi-Baker TV** (local cable **Channel 20**). Interviews may also be viewed—and shared—via a play list on the Plymouth Historical Society **YouTube channel**, most easily accessed via a link on the PHS website PlymouthNHhistory.org. We hope you will enjoy watching and sharing these interviews.

ACCESSIONING AND CATALOGING



Interesting artifacts continue to be donated to the historical society. Items this year included a clock which hung in the Ward Hill schoolhouse, a sign from The Gobbler restaurant, Revolutionary War release documents (1779–1804), a rocking chair crafted in Plymouth in 1830 and a gate key from the Plymouth Fairgrounds.

Volunteers continue to document,

catalog, and appropriately store these valuable items, as well as items previously donated. Past president, Kathy Hillier, is leading this effort and looks forward to devoting more time to the project now that she has stepped down from her leadership role. Special thanks to Calla Jae Jones and Sue Grillo for their assistance.

ADOPT-A-CHAIR CAMPAIGN

We asked, and you came through. Attendees to our programs donated funds allowing us to purchase 56 folding chairs. We are grateful to all who contributed to this effort. All are invited to attend our programs and enjoy a chair for themselves—sturdy, padded and comfortable! The pattern is even called “Courthouse,” no joke. We thank the Plymouth Congregational Church for the use of their folding chairs and Winnie and Joe Oustucky for making arrangements for the pick-up and return of the chairs. (And to Dick Flanders, Michael Barlick, Paul Floyd and others who schlepped those chairs back and forth over the years!) Labels denoting donors and/or those in whose memory or honor the chairs were sponsored are on the way.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Many thanks for your support and interest! We count on your membership dues and donations which are a significant part of our budget. Please take a minute and use the enclosed form and envelope to renew your membership for 2018–2019. Membership was down a bit this year, so if you know someone willing to support our work, we would appreciate your referral.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising projects help balance the budget—your support for our plant sale (May), yard sale (September), and wreath making workshop (December) are all important sources of income. We also offer many retail items (post cards, books, DVDs, etc.) to generate additional monies. Thanks to all who donated plants and items, the shoppers who bought them, and the wreath makers!

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017–2018

10/1/17–9/30/18

Income

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Membership Dues and Donations..... | \$3155 |
| Gifts and Grants..... | 1163 |
| Fundraising and Retail Sales..... | 2888 |
| TOTAL..... | \$7206 |

Expenditures

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Programs/Publicity..... | \$1690 |
| Operating Expenses..... | 1264 |
| Utilities..... | 3116 |
| TOTAL..... | \$6793 |

The Year Ahead...

We hope you will join us for some of these upcoming programs and consider being a part of the fun by volunteering as a docent or working on a project. Here's a peek...

THROUGH MAY 2019

CURRENT EXHIBIT—FARMING IN PLYMOUTH

JUNE 2019 –MAY 2020

UPCOMING EXHIBIT—LOST PLYMOUTH

While it seems like we just finished mounting our Farming exhibit, plans are underway for 2019's exhibit which will open in June—*Lost Plymouth*. The inspiration comes from a book entitled *Lost New York* (by Marcia Reiss and published by Pavilion) featuring wonderful New York landmarks lost to fire and time. Our exhibit—on a much less grand scale—will take a look at some of our town's lost buildings and places and the glimpses they provide into Plymouth's past.

PROGRAMS

Our evening programs continue, with something offered nearly every month. The Program Committee (Betty Batchelder, Linda Barlick, Dick Flanders, John Richards, and Mary Anne Hyde Saul) are planning for 2019 and welcome your suggestions!

WED • OCT 17 • 7:00 PM

Digging Into Native History in New Hampshire

Presented by Dr. Robert Goodby



Made possible by a grant from
NEW HAMPSHIRE
humanities

Abenaki history has been reduced to near-invisibility as a result of a conquering culture that placed little value on the Native experience, and self-preservation that required many Abenaki to conceal their true heritage to avoid discrimination and persecution. Archaeological evidence reveals their deep presence here, just inches below the earth's surface.

SPECIAL NIGHT!—MON • OCT 29 • 7:00 PM

Hauntings on Campus—Hearing Is Believing

Presented by Clayton A. Harbert and Sam Papps

Presentation will feature stories of hauntings accompanied by the historical background of the buildings and audio recordings captured during paranormal investigations.

WED • NOV 14 • 7:00 PM

Female Tavern Keepers and NH Colonial Government

Presented by Marcia Schmidt-Blaine

WED • DEC 12 • 7:00 PM

Healthcare in Plymouth: Doctors and Hospitals—Past & Present

Presented by Dr. John Richards and other local physicians

ACTIVITIES

SAT • DEC 1 • 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Wreath Making Workshop

At Dick & Kathie Flanders home, 320 Fairgrounds Road.
\$5/frame; BYOD—bring your own decorations.

Your annual membership contributions to the Plymouth Historical Society are key to our success!



Many thanks to the following 2017–2018 donors:

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