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**WATERVILLE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2, APRIL 2021**

Dear Fellow Historians,

Our Valley is full of signs of spring, and with a new season, the hope for a healthier 2021 for all. Winter is sometimes a slow time of year, a time to catch up, and to do chores that may have been put off when the warmer weather beckoned us to enjoy the great outdoors. Not so in Waterville. Regardless of the weather, many of us still answer the call to get outside. With so many wonderful activities... skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, and cross country skiing, to name a few, it is hard to resist. Still, many others keep busy with indoor tennis, pickleball, swimming, mahjong, book groups, and so much more. In spite of these distractions, the Society still managed to keep on task and accomplish a great deal.

**Since our last Newsletter:**

- We purchased \$6,000 of preservation supplies with funding from a Moose Plate Grant. This grant program is administered by the New Hampshire State Library, a division of the State's Department of Cultural Resources, and is funded by the sale of Moose Conservation License Plates.
- Anne the Archivist was back in the Valley for two weeks in February. She worked with us unpacking boxes, and under her tutelage, we rehoused all of our documents into our new acid-free boxes. Anne, out of the goodness of her heart, purchased a scanner and ink for us, which we are now using to scan our postcard collection into our ever-growing database.
- Soon after receiving our supplies, we were offered a donation of three industrial shelving units. It became evident that our 9'x14' windowless space was getting a little crowded. Reggie Breeckner spoke with Tim Smith, WVRE President and General Manager. Tim directed her to Abby Guinan, Sales Manager for the Waterville Valley Resort, who suggested a three room suite with six windows, just one door down from our little, windowless space. Our landlord, WVRE LLC

is donating rent in the amount of \$310 per month. Thank you! The move was accomplished in a few days with the help of members Ethel Cowan, Jane McCaffrey, Reggie and Randy Breeckner. Andy and Kevin from the Town Square Crew moved our large upright cabinets. Lori Horton, delivered the shelving units, and with help from Jane and Reggie, the units were assembled. Cyndy Piekos worked with us to organize the collection on our new shelves. Thanks to everyone for your hard work... and for the fun we had! .

- Jacob Berowitz, Beth Goldsmith, and Rob Wilson have been hard at work creating a Website for the Society.
- Our “Little Museum at the End of the Road” has a new Spring exhibit centered around the children of Waterville Valley. The exhibit is on loan from the Scrimshaw/Goodrich Family Collection and contains antique dolls and doll furniture, as well as some family photos. Jane, Reggie, and Susan Scrimshaw put it all together, with the addition of a few early photos from our collection. Please stop by and take a look. It is located to the right of the Post Office.
- In March, the Society was invited to share some of Waterville’s history with the elementary school’s 6th, 7th, and 8th grade class. Town Historians Brenda and Preston Conklin did their research and put together a fascinating powerpoint presentation. Brenda was in charge of the technology, and Preston and Reggie “talked history”. A good time was had by all. We hope this is the first of many historical adventures with the school.

### **Looking forward:**

- 1 July - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE... hosted by the Waterville Valley Historical Society and the Silver Streaks. The drive will be held at the Conference Center. Please contact the Red Cross at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or call 1-800-733-2767, to make an appointment. See attached poster.
- We will begin training for our Trolley Tour Guides for the Summer/Fall seasons. Tours (dates to be determined).
- Anne the Archivist will be returning this summer for another two weeks. She will continue to train our volunteers in the preservation of our collection, and in the expansion and use of our database.
- One of our goals is to have a collection of oral histories, as told by some of the Valley’s “old timers”. We will be forming a committee to work on this project. ● Our Annual Membership Meeting will take place in August. The venue has not yet been determined.
- The Storage and Preservation Committee has been renamed the Museum Committee. As part of its storage and preservation remit, the Committee will

move forward on the planning, funding, and construction of a museum building

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on Town-provided land adjacent to Osceola Library. Many thanks to Reggie Breeckner who so ably carried the museum baton to date. Rob Wilson, Lori Horton, and Rich Rita are current committee members and they welcome the participation of other WVHS members on the committee.

- We now have a Strategic Planning Committee working on a five-year plan for the Society.
- We would like to increase our Board from seven to nine members so please consider joining our Board.

If you have any interest in volunteering for any of the above, please contact us at: [wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com](mailto:wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com). Volunteers can choose their level of commitment, any time you can give is welcome. Please help us to preserve and share the history of Waterville Valley.

Membership renewal forms will go out to current members in June. Our membership runs from August to August. Applications for new members are available at the Post Office on the bulletin board or by contacting us at [wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com](mailto:wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com).

### **History Tidbit: Goodrich Bug Dope**

As black fly season approaches and we prepare our insect repellent and head nets, we note that early residents and visitors in our Valley faced the same annoying pests. The Goodrich family summered in Waterville beginning in the late 1800s. For six generations, they occupied the cottage next to the Stone Tower. They did not let blackflies, mosquitos and ticks stop them from enjoying the outdoors. They developed their own recipe for a bug repellent. Based on the ingredients, it probably worked as a people repellent as well. Nathaniel Goodrich, author of *The Waterville Valley* published in 1952, and avid hiker, mountaineer, skier and trail builder recorded the recipe for Goodrich bug dope as follows:

Dope.  
 Pine tar 3 oz  
 Olive or castor oil 2 oz  
 Pennyroyal 1 oz  
 Citronella 1 oz  
 Camphor (pulv.) 1 oz  
 Large tube carbolated vaseline  
 Heat tar oil & add rest. Simmer until  
 well mixed. Omit tar for ladies!  
 (This makes a lot. Better cut it in half.)  
 Nat.

Goodrich Bug Dope

Pine Tar 3 oz

Olive or castor oil 2 oz

Pennyroyal 1 oz

Citronella 1 oz

Camphor (pulverized) 1 oz

Large tube carbolated Vaseline

Heat tar and oil and add rest. Simmer until well mixed. Omit tar for ladies!

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**Attached please find:**

Blood Drive Poster

Museum Drawings by Architect Christian LaVigna  
Photos - Exhibits, HQ old and new

**Board of Directors:**

President: Reggie Breeckner

Vice President: Susan C Scrimshaw

Treasurer: Lori Horton

Secretary: Reva Gertel

Officers:

Rob Wilson, Beth Goldsmith, Rich Rita