



Post Office Box 13, Waterville Valley, NH 03215

WATERVILLE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4 OCTOBER 2020

Dear Fellow Historians,

The rapidly changing leaves are a reminder that “The times they are a changin’”. We have all seen many changes this year due to COVID. As a result of the masks we now wear, it is sometimes difficult to recognize a familiar face. I suggest we look a little closer, maybe from a different perspective. If we look beyond the mask, we can see that COVID-19 has also brought many positive changes. Our little Valley has grown, the dynamics changing, and enrollment in the school has tripled. It is a joy to see all of the bicycles lined up in front of the school each day, and see the kids running around Town Square (all good clean fun). There is a new energy in Town, to which we say **WELLCOME!** Look for the silver lining, and you will find it.

UPDATES:

- Great News! We just learned that we have been awarded a 2020-2021 New Hampshire Moose Plate grant in the amount of \$9,560. The grant provides funding to purchase a long list of preservation supplies, and to bring our Archivist/Consultant back to continue with our preservation work. Reva Gertel, Anne Morgan and Reggie Breeckner took the lead in writing the grant and we owe them congratulations and appreciation.
- Anne Morgan had a very successful 4 weeks with us as our archival consultant. With her guidance, we assessed and catalogued most of the Town Hall portion of our collection, and wrote the Moose Plate Grant proposal. Anne trained several volunteers in cataloging procedure, and the use of our new software. Before leaving our Valley, Anne was able to create several “How-To” cheat sheets and manuals for us, and she continues to be a great resource via phone and email.
- Our display window, next to the Post Office, lovingly known as “The Little Museum at the End of the Road”, is complete. Please stop by and let us know your thoughts. Thank you, new member Eric Pauls, for your carpentry skills; and to long time member Jane McCaffrey, for your hard work putting it all together.
- We were able to host 3 Historical Trolley Tours before the Trolley went into hibernation for the year. The first Tour was held on October 4, we had 6 participants. The following week we offered 2 Tours to maintain social distancing for our 15 participants. Thank you to Tour Guides Jane McCaffrey and Margaret

Turner. Margaret went above and beyond, drumming up business for the Tour. She walked around Town Square singing old time Waterville songs to the delight of everyone present. Thank you to Brenda and Preston Conklin for the hours spent creating the script, and to our driver, Al Tailby for the many practice runs. We are planning to resume Tours next year when the Trolley starts running and weather permits.

- We had a very successful Blood Drive on July 25, exceeding our goals. We are planning another on November 6, (see Events, below).
- Our Annual Meeting on August 29, was well-attended via Zoom. Our speaker was Steve Smith, author, and owner of the Mountain Wanderer Bookstore in Lincoln, NH. Working with Waterville locals, Steve has put together *The Waterville Valley Guidebook*, which was released just in time for the meeting. Accompanied by photographs, Steve reviewed the history of Waterville Valley and focused on its hiking tradition. A brief panel discussion with Brenda and Preston Conklin, and Brooke Wakefield followed. The Annual Meeting then continued with reports and elections. Darrell Fernandes has stepped down from our Board, we thank Darrell for his service, he is one of our founders and was our original Treasurer. We welcome new Board member Beth Goldsmith, she will be a great addition to the Board. Thanks to the Town of Waterville Valley and Sharon (our go to person at Town Hall), for providing and facilitating the Zoom access. (Note: *The Waterville Valley Guidebook* was commissioned by the town, and is available for \$25. at the Town Hall, the Welcome Center, the Bookmonger, the Rec Department, the Mad River Coffee House and other locations in the area, including the Mountain Wanderer Bookstore in Lincoln).
- On September 6, Brenda and Preston Conklin again led the Annual Cellar Hole Hike. The morning hike was broken into 2 groups to accommodate the 25 hikers, and an additional afternoon hike was offered. The 3-mile hike lasted 2.5 hours and featured a visit to the original Waterville Cemetery and stops at home sites of some of Waterville's earliest settlers. Due to the popularity of the hike we plan to offer more Cellar Hole Hikes in the future.
- Our 3rd Annual *Getting to Know the Valley* on September 6 was a welcome event to our Town Square. Masks and safe distancing did not deter the 13 participating organizations and steady flow of visitors, including several who signed up as new members. We were even able to offer tours of our new Headquarters.
- The Society is offering Notecards for sale. The Stone Tower design was created by Society member and local artist, Deb Hurley. They can be purchased at the Welcome Center, or you can email us at: wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com. The cost is \$10 for 10 cards and envelopes.
- Your Board is beginning to work on a strategic plan. We will be contacting members for your ideas and comments as part of our stakeholders' contributions to the plan.
- Our membership numbers continue to grow. We currently have 104 members, with 65 family memberships. Thank you for your support, and feel free to share this newsletter with friends who may want to join us by contacting us at wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com.

EVENTS:

- 6 NOVEMBER - 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE.....
Hosted by the Waterville Valley Historical Society and the Silver Streaks. See the attached poster.

HISTORY TIDBIT: The Hammocks

From the 1860s through the early 1970's the town of Waterville Valley consisted of the Waterville Inn, which dominated the north end of the Valley, with Mt. Osceola as a backdrop, and cottages that extended out from the Inn, lining both sides of the large open area which is the golf course. Most of the cottages were built in the last quarter of the 1800s, and had large porches for lounging and socializing. Many of these porches had unique hammocks, which consisted of a single-bed sized mattress placed in a three-sided canvas "frame", then hung from the porch ceiling. With a few cushions added, these hammocks created a snug nest for long lazy afternoons of reading, naps or recovery from a vigorous hike. Does anyone still have one of these hammocks? Check your attic!

REQUESTS:

- We need volunteers for the Blood Drive.
- Volunteers for committees; we need your support. Some of you expressed interest in committees on your membership applications; we will be contacting you. We need volunteers to work on the display window, which will change each season. We would like Society members, as well as community members, to serve on a Strategic Planning Committee. If you have any spare time, and would like to help, we can find a job that will utilize your talents. Contact us at wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com.
- We are looking for copies of the Wig Wag prior to 1999 to complete our collection.

Attached Please Find:

Blood Drive Poster

Board of Directors:

President: Reggie Breeckner

Vice President: Susan C Scrimshaw

Treasurer: Lori Horton

Secretary: Reva Gertel

Officers:

Rob Wilson

Beth Goldsmith

Rich Rita