CAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2014

Friends of the Pemi

As I mentioned in the past, the Friends of the Pemi are on the fast track to turning Livermore Falls into a special place. Help is still needed collecting and putting everything together to both document the past and plan for the future. The four committees in place are communication, environmental, historical and recreational. Future plans include interpretive signage explaining the history and environmental significance of the sites on both sides of the river, additional parking and better access, scheduled educational and recreational events, bike racks to encourage "green" transportation to the sites, an iron ranger (for contributions from the public), a viewing platform on the Campton side for picture opportunities and whatever additional ideas the Committees come up with from their work.

If anyone has information, pictures, stories etc... that would be useful for Campton Historical and/or the Friends of Pemi, please send them my way. Ask for Paul Yelle at CamptonHistorical.org leave a message asking for me at 536-5140.

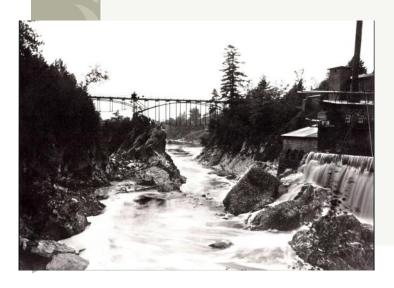
To stay up to date with the Friends of the Pemi, Google them to find their Facebook page and soon a new web site. In particular they are anxious to receive any old photos, pictures, prints, articles or paintings that may have been buried in our collective attics over the years. They will cover the cost of restoration, copies, etc. It would also be nice to pinpoint the exact location of the fish hatchery and other buildings that may have been at the site.

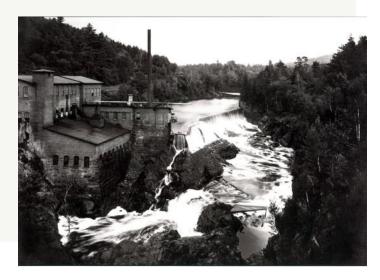
Jane Kellog sent me this very interesting web site showing the removal of the turbines. http://www.frenchriverland.com/livermore_falls.htm

This entry from Bridge Hunter.com says "This bridge should be considered to have an extremely high degree of historic significance as what may be the last surviving lenticular full deck truss bridge." They have ten amazing pictures as well. http://bridgehunter.com/nh/grafton/livermore-falls Apparently the bridge has been written up in all sorts of books.

In 1992 an area on the east side was designated a state forest and a plaque along route 175 marks the site of the first New Hampshire state fish hatchery, built in 1788.

http://www.camptonhistorical.org/Livermore%20Falls%20marker%20flyer.pdf





CAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CALENDAR OF EVENT

GO TO WWW.CAMPTONHISTORICAL.ORG AND CLICK ON EVENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

| February 8, Saturday | Potluck, Popcorn and a Free Flick potluck 5-6. movie 6:15 |
|----------------------|---|
| April 21, Monday | Program night - Bob Swift - Colonial Music |
| May 19, Monday | Program night - Arnold Graton - Blair Bridge |
| June 16, Monday | Program night - Charles Dona - Muir Trail |
| July 21, Monday | Program night - Ingrid Graff - The Case of the Detective Who Refused to Die: Arthur Conan and Sherlock Holmes |
| Aug 2, Saturday | Flyer of events Old Home Day web site |
| Aug 18, Monday | Program night - Adair Mulligan - Reading the NH Landscape with a Walk Back in Time |
| Aug 23, Saturday | Cellar Hole Walk -Robert Mardin |
| Sept. 15, Monday | Program night - Lidia Dale-Mesario - Copper Basin 300 Mile Sleddog Race 'one of Alaska's toughest races!' |
| Oct. 20, Monday | Program night - John Anderson - White Mountain Photography |
| Oct. 25, Saturday | Halloween History Walk, book walk, pumpkin display and more! |
| Nov 17, Monday | Program night - Justin Preisendorfer - Mt. Washington Avalanche Center, our country's oldest avalanche forecasting operation. |
| Dec 8, Sunday | Community concert and cookie swap |

Presentations are held at the Old Town Hall in Campton on Rt. 175. The building is handicap accessible and open to the public.

Our web site, CamptonHistorical.org, has the flyers and members get a paper copy mailed to them. Keep checking as you never know when a new event might pop up!

Robert Mardin continues to open the building, museum and carriage shed on Thursdays from 9-4. Stop by to say hi! It is a great time to check out the exhibits and learn more about the town of Campton.

Mother Worcester's Dream

Taken from New Hampshire Folk Tales compiled by Eva Speare published in 1955

Mother Worcester was a woman of strong personality, deeply religious and influential among her neighbors, nearly a century ago. She lived with her daughter, Sally, in Campton Hollow on the "old road" long abandoned.

One night, awakened by strange, shrill sounds far down the valley, and certain that "her time had come" as the people used to say, when death approached, she called to her daughter, "Sally, Sally, prepare to meet thy God. I can hear Gabriel's horn a tooting up the valley." Both women arose and donned their garments expecting to see angels. Their hopes were disappointed, for after waiting a long time, they saw a neighbor and his ox-team

slowly plodding homeward. This man had been to the mill with his grist, but was delayed by a dry axle on his primitive wooden cart. Few people of the present day can recall the shrill sound of wooden wheels turning upon a wooden axle when plenty of grease had not been applied.

Mother Worcester's dreams became famous; they were strangely weird.

Late in the year 1852, she became certain that large quantities of gold could be found in the ledge on the farther bank of Beebe River, at the base of a beautiful waterfall in Campton Hollow. So convincing were her arguments concerning the message in her dreams that she was able to interest a dozen of her townsmen to join with her in exploring this ledge. All her own savings and those of her friends were sunk in digging a passage fourteen feet high at the opening and forty feet in length into this rocky ledge. No sign of the precious metal was discovered although slight traces of lead were found.

Today this excavation is a favorite haunt for small boys who call the place, "Mother Worcester's Cave."





Ghost Hollow in Campton

From NH Folk Tales compiled by Eva Speare published in 1955

Submitted by Mrs. Ellen Locke Plummer, Campton

"Once upon a time," a man named George Ward kept a store at "Groggy Harbor," a mile and a half north of Campton Village.

Young Ward was a born joker and conceived the idea of nailing a plank on the top of the fence by the side of the road leading through the big ravine toward North Woodstock.

Often at night when he saw someone approaching, he would walk this plank wrapped in a sheet, scaring may people "half out of their wits." One evening, the funny storekeeper found the wrong man.

Thomas Welch was walking through the hollow when the "ghost" appeared. Instead of running away, Welch tore a big stake from the fence and racing after the apparition cried out, "Stop or I will smash open your head." The "Ghost" spoke and Ward never heard the last of that prank and that spot is still called Ghost Hollow.

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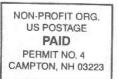
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Campton, NH 03223

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