

# Campton Historical Society

## Holiday Newsletter

### Field Trip to Heritage New Hampshire

On the 19th of August, a pleasant sunny day, a dozen members of the Campton Historical Society made the trip to the Heritage New Hampshire Museum next door to Story Land in Glen. The Museum was to be shut down for the last time on Labor Day, so we were anxious to get in one more visit before it closed for good. Board Member Reed Harrigan was out tour guide and bus driver.

It was a jolly bunch that headed up Routes 3 and 302 past Twin Mountain and the Willey House. Much discussion about mountains climbed and scenic places visited enlivened the trip. We arrived at the theme park at 9:30 where museum docents took us around the first part of the tour. Most fun was the in-motion merchant ship

(complete with "talking" parrot) supposedly docked at the port of Portsmouth.

It took us two hours or more to visit all the 25 set locations including a realistic "ride" on the scenic railroad from Conway. A very life-like Daniel Webster orated to us at length. There were interesting fliers available at most of the stops including at a working printer's shop where we were given copies of the New Hampshire Gazette October 5, 1779. At one point there was a corral where a Segway was located. Many of us took the opportunity to ride around on the unusual mode of transportation. What fun!

By the time we had explored the

excellent gift shop, it was lunchtime, so Reed drove us to the Russell Colbath House that the White Mountain National Park restored. A large machine shed has been built recently, and we took advantage of the shaded picnic benches located under the roof overhang. After lunch we enjoyed a tour of the house by an enthusiastic ranger guide, and heard the tale of the wife who kept a light in the window for her wandering husband for 30 years!

In the afternoon we headed home much pleased that we had been able to visit the educational Heritage Museum before it closed. The enthusiastic Harrigan children made the trip very pleasant. We certainly appreciate Reed making this excursion

### Letter from Outgoing President, Michelle Betts

Hi Everyone! Well, what a great two years it has been. The hall has been painted, the family events have been wonderfully successful, the kitchen has been completed, the parking lot is safe, the grange looks fabulous...AND we got to keep the double potty out-back! Memberships are up, donations are up, and even though expenses are up, the bank accounts are up, too! I would say it has been a very successful two years and I get to leave you on a high note!! If you have attended any of our meetings, you have probably heard me sing YOUR praises. As co-chair of the Pemi-Baker

Valley Association of Historical Societies and my 'track record' as President, you can see why I have been SO PROUD of our membership. You are the BEST! YOU ALL made ME LOOK GREAT!!! But all conceit aside, I owe a big 'thank you' not just to our membership, but also to the best board with whom I have EVER had the privilege to work. Special thanks to Mary and Nancy. You both do the jobs that scare me the most! To your new President, my only advice would be to make sure your first appointment is Walt Stockwell for librarian and curator! Without him,

your job will be difficult...with him, it is a cake walk! I would joke about Walt 'being my boss' and we would joke about 'doubling my salary' when things would go well. My agendas most often consisted of Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, and Walt's never-ending To Do lists! SERIOUSLY, as a membership, YOU all need to take care of him! In the future, think of where you might give an hour or two to spend time at the society. Walt has done so much, and we all need to give a little to make his job easier. WE CAN'T AFFORD to lose him!!!! Many hands do make the work

President—Continued on page 4

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## Campton Heritage Day: October 21<sup>st</sup> 2006

Antique cars, pumpkin carving, a cider press pumping out fresh cider, silent auction, farm stand – a fun time was had by all! This was the second year of Campton Historical Society hosting this type of event. Antique cars are always a hit. All that hard work to preserve the vehicle is worth it when you see the happy faces admiring them. Pumpkin carving this year was led by Jen Harrigan. The cider press was a creation of Jim Aguiar, and his wife Martha helped run it. Carol and Amy Friedrich of Currier Brook Farm came over from Wentworth to show off their awesome display of antique tools, pictures and a book of their farm, which is over 200 years old.

The enthusiasm and happiness from all who turned out has invigorated us and we are excitedly making plans for next year. We are tentatively planning on having this event on a regular basis the weekend before Columbus Day weekend. If you would like to contribute to next year's event, the options are limitless. Whether you would like to develop a historic display of your inn, the fire department, etc... or do a demonstration that shows what life was like in the earlier days of Campton, please call Paul Yelle at 536-5995 to brainstorm. Thank you to all who came; with your help we look forward to doing it again next year – even bigger and better.



## Grange Kitchen

The kitchen committee had some meetings and decided on what was needed to make a practical, useful and attractive kitchen and drew up some plans. They started with a clean slate. The heat, insulation, and electric panel had been previously installed but that was it. Chief Tobine suggested a fire wall with a fire door to allow egress from the Grange Hall to the back exit without going through the kitchen. This was put into the plan. People donated two stainless steel sinks, an electric cook stove, a refrigerator, two microwaves, various pots and pans, and an electric water heater. President Betts and the committee organized a silent auction to help finance what we had to buy. Enough money was raised to buy folding chairs and tables.

Naturally all this kitchen work required some wiring, plumbing and carpentry. The wiring was donated so all we had to pay for was the plumbing and carpentry.

Joe Mastro ran a new plastic water line from the existing water tank in the main cellar out to the new kitchen to connect to the water heater and up to the sinks. Then he ran a 2" waste drain line from the sinks out to the wall. Volunteer Scott dug in the 4" waste line from the septic tank to the wall and "blasted" a hole in the

block wall. Before we started this kitchen project, there was an old iron sink with a lead pipe drain that stuck out through the back wall. It just drained down over the bank. There never had been any running water. When meals were done in the old days, the Stickneys brought the water in 10 gallon milk cans. We've fixed that.

Dean Rodgers and company installed and plastered "blue board" (a type of sheetrock), built counters, drawers, and under counter table and chair storage, and installed the fire door. They even painted the ceiling.

We installed all compact fluorescent lights in the kitchen and the new hallway. The light in the outhouse still works. Committee volunteers installed donated linoleum on the new shelves. Volunteer Ron installed the shelving in the corner closet in the Grange Hall. Volunteer Walt painted the walls and trim and now we have a practical, useful and attractive kitchen where hot ginger bread and apple crisp has already been baked and served. This has truly been a cooperative effort. Many thanks to all the people who took time to get involved.



## HISTORIC SITE MARKERS

Over the past two years, the Society has been identifying and marking some of the historic sites of Campton. As of this writing, 17 have been completed. An additional marker is planned in the Spring at Campton Pond and Dam, in conjunction with the Garden Club's beautification project.

A brief descriptive brochure has been developed for several of these sites (identified by an \* below). A limited number is available at the Society building, and at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center. More will be done as time permits.

All of the following sites have been sponsored by or in memory of people.

Campton Upper Village  
Campton Town House \*

In memory of Sandra Yelle  
The Betts Family—Randy,  
Michelle, Corey, Lindsey  
Rep. Robert Barker & Patricia Barker

Blair Covered Bridge \*  
Bump Covered Bridge \*  
Turkey Jim's Bridge  
Town Pound \*

In Memory of Robert Mardin and Daisy Cook-Mardin  
Branch Brook Campground  
Christopher Pitts Eagle Scout project

Beebe River Village  
Livermore Falls  
Campton Hollow \*

Rick and Ann Knowles  
In memory of Paul S. Durgin

8 District Schools \*

Judy and Ron Landry  
Campton Elementary P.T.A.

Center – West Campton – Bog – Hildreth – Blair – West Road – Lower Village – Livermore

Take time to visit these places and appreciate their significance.

Detailed directions are available at the Visitor Center and the Society, or may be obtained by requesting a copy by e-mail from [flagman13@adelphia.net](mailto:flagman13@adelphia.net).

**THIS IS YOUR CAMPTON HERITAGE**

Paul Yelle, President  
Scott Pulsifer, Vice President  
Nancy Mardin, Secretary  
Mary Durgin, Treasurer  
Jim Parziale, Program Director  
Walt Stockwell, Librarian/Curator

### Directors:

Judy Landry  
Reed Harrigan  
Ann Knowles  
Julie Quesnell  
Pat Barker

# Campton Historical Society

P.O. Box 160, 529 N.H. Route 175,  
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## HOLIDAY GIFTS

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Have you considered a unique gift from Campton Historical Society?

We have a range of products, including:

- Blair Bridge (\$10) and Schuyler Mathews (\$12) t-shirts
- Town House and Covered Bridges note cards (\$5).
- Schuyler Mathews note cards (\$5), and matted art prints (\$15)
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- Campton Centennial booklet (\$10)
- Campton Bi-Centennial booklet (\$6)



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Under the Capital Improvements section, there is a "click here" link to these items.  
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### President—from page 1

easier, and teamwork is always better to make things work! THANK YOU WALT! I also want to thank all of you that offered so much encouragement...especially Pat Barker, her late husband Bob, Mr. Dearborn, Mr. Mitchell, Scott Pulsifer, Jim P. (the best Program Director a person could have), and of course your new President, Paul Yelle who introduced me to everyone two years ago and was a great VP. I also would like to thank all the community groups who partnered with us on different occasions...the Garden Club, The PTA/O, Artistic Roots, the Chamber of Commerce, and especially the Campton Conservation Commission. I still think all of the non-profits in town should have one annual meeting to build community collaborations! The businesses in town have been so great, too. I don't think anyone will forget the Turkey Jim Bridge Story by Pedro Pinto of Branch Brook at our Heritage Day, or the great auction items so many businesses donated. I would especially thank our town Selectmen for their continued support. Working on the regional level, I know first hand the society troubles that exist when town support doesn't. We are truly blessed.

Have a great winter! ... Although, I can't remember what snow looks like! Seems like forever in history that we have seen any! Better start those oral histories...with global warming, the crazy mild last winter, and the lack of snow this winter...who knows...My kids may not REMEMBER what snow in New Hampshire looks like... Stay safe, warm, and start writing those stories down! ...And Thank You.