



CAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2007 Newsletter

Leah Gray and Blair Chapel and Woodlands Go Big Time

Leah Gray—What can we say, you made our day.

Your tours no one could ignore—not even WMUR.

Over three hours of taping, it is now in the making.

Soon it will be ready to watched, for all of New Hampshire and beyond.

To the delight of many, Leah Gray has been giving tours of her house. On July 21, she led tours organized by Campton Historical Society. At the same time, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle led tours of Blair Woodlands Natural Area (BWNA) across the street. Leah donated BWNA to the town as a natural area to preserve its historical, natural and scenic features. Later, WMUR's "Chronicle" team visited Leah at her Campton home to record

memories of the building and land. Don't miss Leah on Channel 9, Thursday, September 13 at 7:30 pm!

Blair Chapel is a unique building that has been well preserved and is full of interesting stories. What started as a chapel later lay dormant until Leah's parents fixed it up to be an inn. It is a story that is best told by Leah, but it can also be found on the site marker brochure and in the last newsletter, when Scott Pulsifer wrote about Leah and her memories of the chapel. All of this can be found at www.CamptonHistorical.org

More photos of the Leah Gray Day Tour and the WMUR "Chronicle" taping can be found on page five.



Left to Right: Sean McDonald WMUR Anchor/Reporter, Leah Gray, Chris the camera man

LCHIP DAY By: Walt Stockwell

On July 29, Campton Historical Society joined 24 other sites state-wide in celebrating LCHIP Day. This inaugural event was sponsored by the **Land and Community Heritage Investment Program**, in partnership with the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development.

The New Hampshire Legislature created the LCHIP Program in 2000. Since then it has funded 129 projects in 103 communities. The program has conserved more than 200,000 acres of land for recreation, hunting, fishing, and farming. And the program has invested in historic rehabilitation of more than 87 historic and cultural resources throughout New Hampshire. These matching grant funds

have helped to return new revenues, and new jobs, and helped to build local businesses.

The Campton Historical Society has been rehabilitating the three historic buildings at our site since 2000. LCHIP funds were instrumental in enabling this effort. We were one of the first recipients, which jump-started our efforts. The matching funds were supplied by the generous financial support of many members, residents, and businesses, and many volunteer hours by the Board of Directors. We received an additional matching LCHIP grant in 2003 as a continuation of our overall rehab concept and planning. Our total expenditures to date are three times

the total LCHIP grants. For some organizations, it is a 5-6 times match. Not only has LCHIP achieved these conservation and rehabilitation goals statewide, but this initiative has generated a remarkable cash return on investment.

Campton Historical has received additional matching grants and donations from several other sources to continue our work. **It all started with LCHIP.** We have completed many projects, from drilling a well, to painting, roofing, heating, insulating, re-habilitating tin walls, putting a foundation under the Grange, installing a bathroom and kitchen facilities, installing a fire and intrusion

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alarm system, and many others. We now have an environmentally proper, secure facility to display the artifacts and documents of our heritage.

To LCHIP, the other grantees and donors, our directors, our members, and residents, and all those who have been part of this journey, we give heartfelt thanks. We are pleased with what we have accomplished, and hope that you share our pride in preserving and promoting our heritage.

<http://www.lchip.org>



BEHIND THE SCENES By: Walt Stockwell

Your historical society is more than monthly programs and open houses.

One important part of our mission is to respond to the 3-4 requests per month for research and information. Here are some of the recent examples.

With what church was Rev. H.G. Hubbard affiliated in 1895?

To answer this we found a booklet on the history of Campton Baptist Church, and there we found a list of pastors, including Rev. Hubbard. *(Our response resulted in a thank you donation to the society.)*

On a recent visit to Campton, I saw a picture that included the house in which I grew up. Is it possible to get a copy of it?

In this case, it was. We have an extensive photo file, which we recently sorted and categorized. A print was made and sent, resulting in further communication about events in Campton's history. *(We now have a scanner, and will be digitizing and coding the images onto our computer, making it easier to preserve them, and to find and print them in response to future requests).*

My grandfather was killed in Campton 50 years ago, but we do not know where he is buried. Can you help?

This request started with a different configuration of the persons' name. And we did not find him in a search of the burial records of our 14 cemeteries. Our next search was in the annual town reports, of which we have copies of all years back into the 1800's. Here we were successful, but with limited information. With a faint memory of the incident, we searched our paper files, and found a newspaper clipping about it. *(This was in a folder of clippings donated by a resident because the Society was the place to maintain this historical record. We might also have searched a donated book of collected obituaries, but in this case would not have found the data.)* Recognizing a name referenced, we tracked down a person with knowledge of the details, also the undertaker at that time, who supplied further information. After further communication, this requesting family, from another state, visited and met with us, the undertaker, and the cemetery sexton. The unmarked grave was located, and now a stone has been ordered. Our efforts have made a family very pleased to have this closure.

These are just three examples, but demonstrate our "behind the scenes" work. **AND**, it demonstrates an extremely important role that we all, as members of the community, play. Our research depends upon the resources we have available. We need your input in the form of family histories, pictures, stories, artifacts, etc. Please take some time to see what you have that could help in this service. We can copy documents, and scan pictures for you. You can donate items, or place them on loan to the society. Our Librarian, Robert Mardin, is a Campton native, and is quite knowledgeable of our history. He is a very good and thorough researcher. Let's give him all the tools we can find to help him in this important work. Call Walt at 726-3813, e-mail to flagman13@adelphia.net, or stop by the society on Thursdays, when we are usually there from 9 to 4. Thanks for your help.

Lower Village Market By: Paul Yelle

Now I am not necessarily lazy, but this one was too easy to pass up. I teach at Campton Elementary, and once in a while I sneak over to Lower Village Market for a slice of pizza. I saw the framed piece below hanging on the wall, and I am responsible for putting together the newsletter...so I put two and two together. If you want to see all the small details, stop by the Lower Village Market, order up a slice of pizza, and relive the history of "The Family Store."

Enjoy.

The History of "The Family Store"

The first store at this location in Campton Lower Village was built in 1927 by Irving H. Brown and was called *The I.H. Brown Store*. Mr. Brown owned and operated the store until 1934, when it was sold to Mr. Jackson. It was later sold to Frank Dearborn.

In the 1940's the store was owned by Philip Willey and called *Willey's General Store*. As the story goes, the store was sold to William Crocker then William Cockett.

During the 1960's, the store was called Pat & Larry's General Store—owned by Pat and Larry Thompson. The Thompsons built an addition to the original building, The Clam & Dairy Bar.

It was in November, 1978 that the store was given the name *The Family Store* when it was purchased by Bob Hulsman and his wife Fane. The Fanes, along with their daughter, Martha opened the store until May, 1988.

In May, 1988 the store was sold to Don Seekins and Linda Jones and run as *Don & Linda's Family Store*. It was *Don & Linda's Family Store* that was destroyed in an electrical fire on August 8, 1990.

Keith and Pam Markley purchased the property and built the current building, opening *Markley's Family Store* in June 1991. In 1993, the Markleys sold the store to Onkar Singh, who ran the store with his wife Mani.

When the Singhs sold the store to the current owners, Jack and Brenda Welch in 2000, the State of New Hampshire now required a legal trade name and *The Family Store* was in use by other businesses. The Welchs decided to use the historical designation of the area, Campton Lower Village, and the store became *Lower Village Market*.

The Welchs' have owned *Lower Village Market* continuously since 2000, including during a brief operation under other management as *Family Village Market* in 2005.

Welcome to our little corner of Campton Lower Village...

Jack and Brenda Welch

Chappy, the Black Lab snf Maddy, the Golden Retriever ("the real owner!")



Oral History By: Julie Quesnell

Whether we realize it or not, we all have stories to share from our lives. I look at my two small children and wonder what questions they will ask me about my life when they become older. These types of stories are known as oral histories. Oral histories are “the systematic collection of living people’s testimony about their own experiences.” Everyone’s stories are unique and valuable to both families and communities.

Here at CHS, we will begin the Oral History Project. The goal is to collect the unique and valuable stories of residents in Campton. We will record and transcribe the stories so they will be available to all. Oral histories are a way to bring to life events and past daily lives.

What can you do to be a part of the Campton Historical Society’s Oral History Project?

1. **Keep a journal.** Record each night what you had done that day. This provides a glimpse into your daily life for yourself and family. It can also jog your memory about certain events. My grandfather kept a journal for almost 50 years and even recorded the temperature for each day!
2. **Interview family members.** Use a tape recorder or video camera and ask your family member questions. Pull out the family photo album as a way to jog your family member’s memory.
3. **Join the Oral History Project.** If you would like to become a part of the project, call or email: Julie Quesnell 726-8820 or jaquesnell@roadrunner.com

If you have any questions about starting your own family oral history project or want to join the CHS Oral History Project, do not hesitate to call or email me.

Fischer Ames By: Paul Yelle

The Campton Historical Society would like more information with respect to Fischer Ames. Please get the information to Walt Stockwall at 726-3813, e-mail to flagman13@adelphia.net, or stop by the society most Thursdays from 9 to 4. Thanks for your help. The following photographs are courtesy of Donna Zimmer.

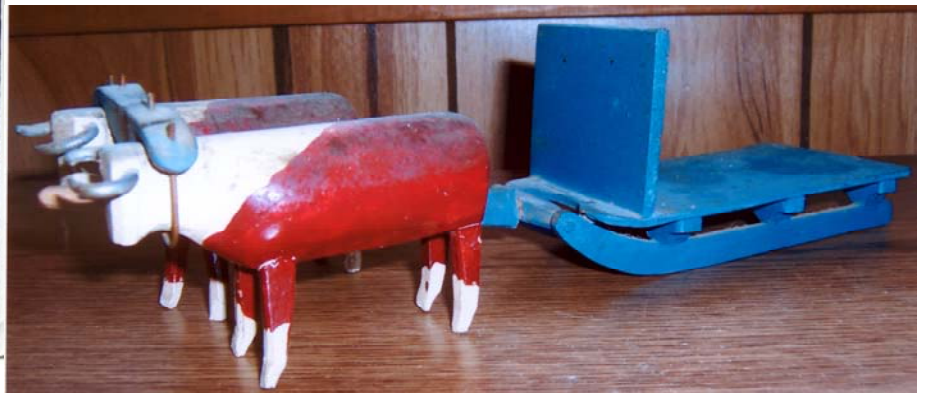


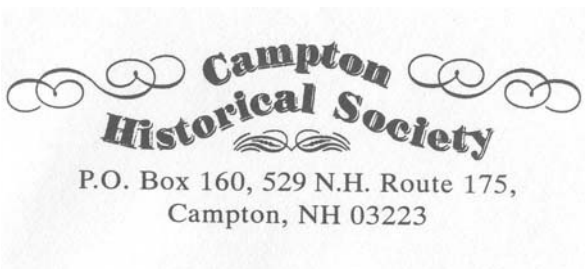
The picture to the left has the following written on the back:

Fischer Ames and his carving in 1933. Born aft. 1880, Carpenter, lived on Main Street in Campton, NH.

Donna sent us the photo below from three angles. One of them had the following written on the back:

This original carving, from Fischer Ames is in the possession of Rose (Avery) Zimmer. Pictures taken on 2-18-2007





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IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!!!

FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

- Paul Yelle, President
- Scott Pulsifer, Vice President
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- Jim Parziale, Program Director
- Walt Stockwell, Curator
- Robert Mardin, Librarian
- Directors:
- Judy Landry
- Reed Harrigan
- Ann Knowles
- Julie Quesnell
- Pat Barker

It is time, once again, to become a member of the Campton Historical Society.

We have had another great year with good programs and fellowship. With your help, we will have another outstanding year. Membership dues help with the cost of programs, newsletters and maintaining the building, which has increased with the expansion of use.

We are looking forward to your support; send your check today. Mary E. Durgin, Treasurer

Campton Historical Society

www.CamptonHistorical.org
P.O. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223

- Single Membership — \$12.00 Family Membership — \$20.00
- Yearly membership is from October 1 through September 30.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to Campton Historical Society and mail to PO Box 160, Campton, NH 03223

- Members**
- Enclosed is my check for dues.
 - This check also includes a donation to support projects to be done in the Old Town Hall, headquarters of the Society.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAMPTONHISTORICAL.ORG