

# Campton Historical Society

F A L L 2 0 0 7 N E W S L E T T E R

## C.H.S. FIELD TRIP SUBMITTED BY: PAT BARKER

The August field trip was held the day after the worst of the torrential rains that left flooded streets, scoured driveways, downed tree limbs, and flattened vegetation. Despite this inauspicious beginning, an enthusiastic group headed out with Board Member Reed Harrigan driving the bus.

When we arrived at the Currier Museum of Modern Art in Manchester we had a chance to tour the main floor of the museum before our visit to the Zimmerman House at 11:00. Then ten of us were driven, in the museum van to the Frank Lloyd House about fifteen minutes away.

This building is a property of the Museum and is lovingly cared for. Our Docent explained the history of this unusual home. When it was built in 1950 some of the nearby neighbors were skeptical that it would fit in with the traditional prewar II homes. Now it melds in comfortably, surrounded by a handsome hedge of rhododendrons, and set kitty-cornered on the less than an acre lot. A charming garden is being returned to its period charm, guided by landscape people from UNH.

Inside, we found a rather small two bedroom, two bathroom house with typical Wright built-in low furniture that makes the rooms seem larger. Interestingly, the docent told us that Frank Lloyd Wright never saw either the lot or the house. The house was constructed by one of his students, William Allin Storren, but Wright's influence is seen throughout. He insisted that the Zimmerman's wishes for a low maintenance plan be carried out, using subdued natural woods and ceramics. This was supposed to keep housework to a minimum. Our docent was doubtful about this, considering the wall of glass doors and windows that needed to be kept clean. (She was speaking by experience). We admire the oriental inspired ornaments and decorations, a Wright hallmark. The amazing woodwork throughout is also typical "Wright." A curious built-in column lamp caught our attention. This series of rows of vividly colored slag glass made a dramatic focal point in the entrance hall.

After our tour of the house we visited the charming sheltered garden where we took pictures of the outside of the house, and fellow Campton Historical Club members! Then we were met by the rest of our group (who hadn't seen the house yet) while our group was bused back to the Museum. The atrium room, formed by joining the new and old museums, is now a delightful cafeteria. We enjoyed a delicious and quite reasonable lunch.

Finally, we had an hour to tour the upper galleries where an exhibit of early New England furniture and paintings is presently being displayed. This made a pleasant finale to our unusually sunny day. Thanks to Reed for arranging the transportation and Dave Bartholomew for an outstanding trip!



## Valuable Artifacts Received

In February, I received an e-mail from the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library. They stated that they possessed 5 Civil War era letters to Campton residents. Three were from George W. Plummer to his wife Sarah H. Plummer of Campton. They were written while he was stationed at Union Course, Long Island in 1862. The other two letters are to George W. Plummer's family regarding his death of pneumonia in Louisiana in 1863.

They further stated that these letters did not meet their collections policy, and asked if we would accept them as an unconditional donation.

**They are now a part of the Campton**

**Historical Society's collection.**

After painstaking transcription of the letters, mostly by members Andre and Sandy Decarie, we came upon a startling discovery. The first letter regarding Plummers' death came from his company commander, Captain John W. Ela. The Plummer family asked for further details, and Captain Ela assigned this duty to his lieutenant, H.D.Wyatt, who sent along eight pages of further information.

The Queens Library did not realize that Lieutenant Wyatt was also a Campton person. In 1862, he enlisted, and was soon promoted to Lieutenant. The people of Campton purchased and presented to him,

an intricately engraved sword, which he carried throughout his service in the Civil War. He returned to Campton, and later moved to Tennessee, where he built a distinguished career as an educator. When he died in 1816, his will provided that that the sword be returned to Campton. This was done, and is now a part of the collections of the Campton Historical Society.

It's always fascinating when history all comes together like this. The transcriptions of these Plummer letters are now available for reading. They are a very poignant story of life during this period.

*Walt Stockwell, Curator*

## Campton History Excerpts from a journal by George Durgin

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>July 23, 1892</b>  | Bicycle riding seems to be the most attraction now, there being nearly a dozen in and around the village.  |
| <b>April 22, 1893</b> | The Public Library, which was started 3 weeks ago, is now open every Saturday from 2 to 5 in the afternoon in the town house.  |
| <b>Feb. 27, 1897</b>  | The principle events of last week were three social circles. Wed. evening at J.C. Blair's, 80 being present; on Thurs. evening at the Congregational vestry with an attendance of about 90, and on Fri. At Orron Rowe's residence. |
| <b>March 12, 1898</b> | Campton: voted to license no one to sell spirituous liquors.   |
| <b>Feb. 25, 1899</b>  | The electric lights were seen on the streets of the village here Monday for the first time.  |
| <b>Jun 29, 1901</b>   | The wooden bridge at the Hollow is to be moved and an iron one put in its place.   |
| <b>Oct. 5 1901</b>    | Blairs: Automobiles are quite plentiful, six having gone through here in the past week.  |
| <b>March 5, 1904</b>  | The International Paper Co. expects to have about 8,500 cords of spruce for their spring drive from Waterville.  |
| <b>June 13, 1917</b>  | The Pettingill brothers have purchased an auto to carry passengers to and from the station.  |

(to be continued)

***Submitted by Walt Stockwell, Curator***

## Goodbye from El Presidente`

**by: Paul Yelle**

Time flies when you are having fun, and I have been having fun. The bylaws of CHS states that a person can serve two one year terms as president. I have done that and therefore someone else gets to take a turn. This upcoming term we have openings for president, vice-president, two directors, and program director. If you are interested in any of the above, contact one of the Board Members listed on Page 3. You can also stop by the building on Thursdays; Walt and Robert are there from 9:00-3:30

Julie Quesnell will be taking a break from CHS as her new job and young family will take center stage. This will leave a temporary void that we hope will be filled, as she was very active at CHS. The biggest need is the oral history project she was leading. Fortunately all the pieces and people are in place—we need someone to lead it and keep it going forward. Believe it or not, we had a lot more happening than there is room to fit in this newsletter. As for me, I will still be around working on these newsletters, web site, and the CHS part of the new Old Home Day. I am also working on a Beebe River project

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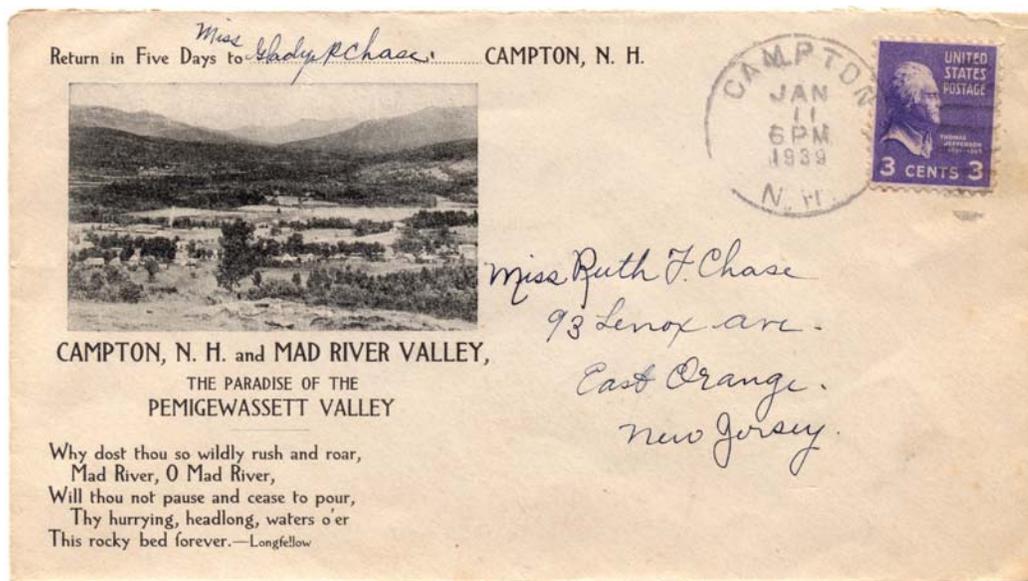
## KUDOS TO CHS

Unsolicited comments from an Architectural Preservationist after his visit to Campton Historical Society during an Open House:

"There is so much to see in this world, and seeing it through the eyes of local historical societies is such a rewarding way to go. Each of our communities defines themselves through the artifacts that they deem worthy of exhibition. Your best artifact, in my mind, is your building. It retains the essence of its former

glory as the seat of town government. As an historic preservationist, I commend you and your society for its efforts to keep the building in good repair and open to the public.

"The exhibits, although modest, show a good cross section of what went on in your area through the years. The unsophisticated straightforwardness of the exhibit is its main strength. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit".



**This envelope from our files is dated 1939. The more things change, the more they stay the same.**

Submitted by: Walt Stockwell

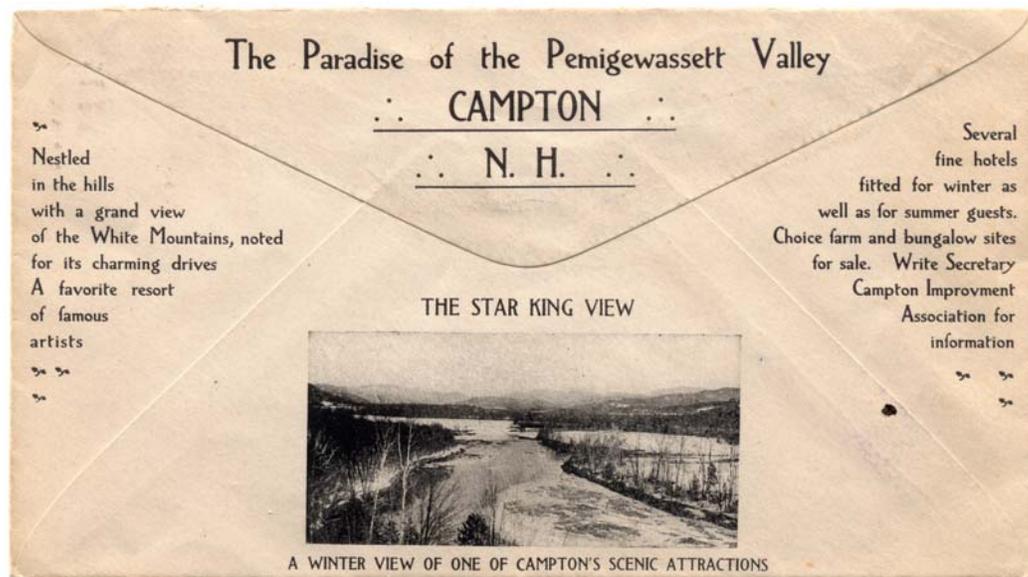


### CHS Officers and Directors

Paul Yelle, President  
 Scott Pulsifer, Vice President  
 Nancy Mardin, Secretary  
 Mary Durgin, Treasurer  
 David Bartholomew, Program Director  
 Walt Stockwell, Curator  
 Robert Mardin, Librarian

### Directors:

Judy Landry  
 Reed Harrigan  
 Ann Knowles  
 Julie Quesnell  
 Pat Barker



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with Robert Mardin. If you have anything you would like to contribute to that, let us know.

This is a fun group that has a lot of neat things going on that will better the community not just now, but for future generations. If you would like to become a more active participant of CHS, don't be shy to approach any of us to see what is possible. All contributions big and small have made and will continue to make this a great organization. With that, I would like to thank everyone that helped make my turn as president an enjoyable one. I didn't have to say anything and the ladies would be ready with desert on program night, pot luck dinner on a movie night, or throwing together a ham and bean supper. Scott is always sneaking behind the scenes making sure the building and grounds are in tiptop shape. Ron Landry has been invaluable in fixing stuff and creating displays. Robert Mardin puts in a ton of hours as librarian. David kept the program committee in top form. Mary always had the monies in order. Her and Nancy's business savvy has allowed CHS to do neat things while staying in the black. Nancy as secretary is invaluable (just check out the minutes when she was out sick). Judy, Pat, Ann and Reed are always pitching in making sure everything is up to par and as planned. Walt puts in a ton of time. His energy and enthusiasm along with attention to detail allows the president to be able to focus on other things. There are so many people that help run the group, but it would all be for nothing if it wasn't for all of you coming to all the events and bringing life to the building and organization. Thank you and see you soon!

**Pictures from Heritage Day 2008**—Antique vehicles arranged by Scott Pulsifer; tile making arranged by Sharon Dunigan and led by Addie Johnson; pumpkin painting arranged by Campton Rec Department and led by Mary Fox; Jim Aguiar's cider press with Jim at the helm; Sharon Dunigan of Hog Hill Pottery doing demos; the always famous silent auction led by Judy Landry, Nancy Mardin, Pat Barker and Ann Knowles. There were plenty of other happening and exhibits, so if you missed it this year, look for the same type of event next summer as we join forces with the newly-formed Old Home Day group.



To the left—Mary Jo and Scott Stephens did an awesome house tour of their Colonial Spencer Inn which was followed by Leah Gray's tour of Blair Chapel, potluck lunch there and Nature walk at Blair Woodlands. This day was arranged by Paul Yelle.

Above is a picture of Antique Appraisal with Archie H. and Joshua W. Steenburg of Steenburg Auctioneers (Pike, NH) doing the appraising. This event was led by Mary Durgin

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!!!

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.



Above is a picture of a program night. CHS has nine of them a year which are consistently well attended. Check out our web site for more information.

Below is the spring music festival this year featured David Surrette and Susie Burke. This event packed the house and was arranged by Walt Stockwell. It was preceded by a ham and bean supper that was arranged by Judy Landry, Nancy Mardin, Pat Barker and Ann Knowles.



#### New items for sale include:

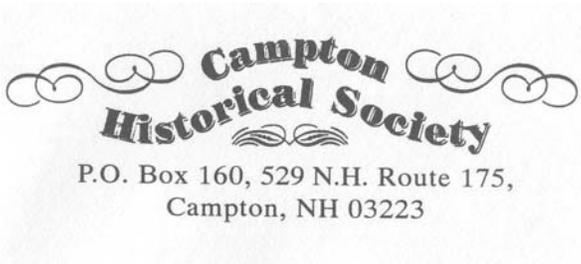
Blair Bridge magnets for \$2.00

Blair Bridge coffee mug with CHS on the back for \$8

Campton collage jig saw puzzle for \$20

Go to the web site for a complete list of unique items CHS has for sale!!!

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.CAMPTONHISTORICAL.ORG



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CAMPTON, NH 03223

[www.CamptonHistorical.org](http://www.CamptonHistorical.org)



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