



The Sponge Cake Review

Tasteful News from the North Berwick Historical Society

October 2014 ~ Our 56th Year ~ Volume 17, Number 2

Contact us by phone: (207) 676-7600

E-mail: info@northberwickhistoricalsociety.com

Save these Program Dates . . .

Thursday, December 4th at 7 pm at the Community Center - Tom Wellwood will give a presentation on **Antique Bottle & Glass Collecting**. Ever since he came across an old bottle sticking out of a tree root on the banks of the Negutaquit River as a teenager, he has been digging and collecting antique bottles & glass ever since. Tom would like to share his knowledge of the glass blowers and their techniques of yesteryear, the terminology in bottle collecting, the array of different types of bottles and their uses, and stories of digging bottles in by-gone era dumps.

Bottles and glass items will be on display. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, January 29th at 7 pm at the Community Center - Ralph Guptill will present a second slide show from **the Historical Society's photo collection**. So many wonderful stories and comments were told at last year's slide show, that we wanted to offer a second showing. We hope for another great turn out so we can all reminisce once again. Refreshments will be served.

Keep your eye on the next Sponge Cake Review for a **date to be set** to view video footage of **North Berwick from the late '30's to the late '50's**. These come from the silent home movies of Phil Hussey, Sr. when he and his family lived on Elm Street. Scenes include Memorial Day parades, May Day festivals, baseball games, firemen, skiing on Bauneg Beg Hill, and much more.

Old Treasures...

Several gifts were gladly received this summer including this pewter coffee pot given by Anne Field (granddaughter of Anne Hussey) and the woodsman ruler by Wesley "Junior" Ridlon. Junior also donated a complete set of town reports.



Richard Shaw donated several items that belonged to his father, Walter Shaw, such as this old style phone. Several old town pictures were also part of his donations.

Once again we have winterized the Morrill-Sherburne House, but please feel free to call either 676-7600 or 676-2645 for house tours, questions, or donations anytime.

E-mail us at info@northberwickhistoricalsociety.com

New Board Member . . .

We welcome Julie Murray as a new board member. She and her husband Mike have been active members for several years and we are pleased to have her join the board.

Our newsletter and special programs are sponsored by Kennebunk Savings Bank.

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The North Berwick Historical Society

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The Society's purview includes

Oak Woods Meeting House

The Parish at Unity Park

The Morrill-Sherburne House

Hussey Plow Office

Historic Family Cemeteries

The Janus Historical Series

The Unity Historical Prize

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Spongecake Review

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**We invite your comments, letters,
and articles.**

Visit us online at

<http://>

northberwickhistoricalsociety.com/

From the President's desk. . .

The on-going process of learning about those who lived in the Morrill-Sherburne House gets more interesting with each find. Pictures, deeds, and stories written in old newspapers have helped in this search. This fall, Marian Sherburne Blanchard of Wells, Maine donated pictures of her grandparents, Nahum Morrell and Lydia Olive (Hall) Sherburne.



This picture shows their eight children posing with them for their 45th wedding anniversary in the parlor of the Morrill-Sherburne House. Marian's father was Fred Sherburne, a brother to Marie Sherburne. (Many of our members still remember Marie from their younger days in North Berwick.) These pictures, along with the family album of Morrill's that Hank Lloyd donated, connect us with

the Morrill (Morrell) and Sherburne families for whom the house was named. I am often asked how the Sherburne's came to live in the house. Nahum's mother was Elizabeth Morrell who married Tobias Sherburne thus starting the Sherburne line. The Morrell name was carried with each Sherburne generation even to one named Morrill Sherburne. We are trying to make a time-line of the Morrell's that will include the four major homesteads in town that were built by Morrell's. We are getting closer with each donation that comes from those by-gone days in North Berwick.

Nancy Guptill

We welcome the following people into our membership:

John, Priscilla, & Elizabeth Woyke

Richard Braly

Jeff & Betty Butland

Edward & Dick Chapin

Larry Cyr

Rick & Karen Cordier

Shaun & Heather Eastman

Anne Field

Todd Hoffman

Glen Johnson

Anna Lane

Dexter Littlefield & Joan Stanton

Aaron & Hollie Lowery

Stephen Peasley

Roger & Sylvia Libbey

Steve & Heath Mansfield "Painting by Northeast"

Hussey Office Building

Ralph and I, with help from our grandson Sabastian, have cleared many things out of the building. Because of the construction work for Dollar General we have not planned any work day this fall. Hopefully in the spring we can start the major renovations with help from volunteers.

The fundraising for a small barn to display the farm implements stored in the basement is growing slowly. Our goal is still 100 people donating \$100. Hope you can join us. Of course we will accept any size donation as we realize for some people \$100 is not possible.

Our history is about our stories and we are delighted to share this from North Berwick's history ...

Memories of Geneva Neal Hobbs (1889-1973)

These Things I Remember

My early life in North Berwick (Part 3)

(Courtesy of Karen Summers)



Charles, our father bought a "jumpseat wagon" and "pung" without backs to the seats and bells on the shafts to go to church. We all went rain or shine. Later on when we were older, he bought a "Surrey with the fringe on top" and a fine double sleigh with soft cushions and beautiful bells on the shafts, four on a side, and two buffalo fur robes.

It was a "great chore" for Charles to dress for church –Stiff starched shirt fronts - collars, separate, never meeting evenly and neckties that snapped on. But He Went. We all stayed for Sunday School which was at 12 noon, after church. The church was full – People and their families.

Charles worked very hard. Long days – His hands showed the wear – His thumb nails were cracked. He used to melt wax and put into the cracks. At night he washed his hands and put Vaseline on them and put gloves made from meal bags over all. He bought a Delco Engine and put in the radiators with steam heat. The house was very warm. He had a bathroom installed with running hot water. Enlarged the dining room and made an extra bedroom by adding a "dormer window" in the attic and extending it to the ground. It gave four windows to the dining room. Two were facing south where window plants flourished.

(To be continued)



This house was built by Charles Neal in the late 1800's. He and his family of four daughters lived here for many years. Later it was bought by Chester Dutch and became known as the "Dutch House".



Our entry into the Mill Field Festival parade was a big hit. A big thank you goes out to the participants. From left to right is Matt Wellwood, Chris Wellwood, and Jeremy Fenderson with Brooks and Dunn. Another thank you goes out to Jamie and Jen Fenderson.

Another family story from North Berwick's history ...

The Buffums

Presented by Edith Buffum to the Philomath Club October 15, 1973

The first Buffum of whom we have any record was Robert who came over from England and landed in Salem in 1638.

He wasn't a Quaker but his wife was and was sympathetic with the members of that religion when they were persecuted, and he was also so sorry for the poor souls who were accused of witchcraft and hanged that he made coffins for them.

One of his descendants, Joshua Buffum, married a young widow, a daughter of Benjamin Estes of Lynn and in 1743 he and his father-in-law came to Berwick and settled on the banks of the Salmon Falls river near where the factories now stand.

They lived there for about fifteen years and then sold their land and bought separate tracts of land near what was the old Albert Buffum place.

This whole section was then known as Kittery Common.

Maine was then a dependency of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and had only eleven incorporated towns of which Berwick was the latest. This town was later sub-divided into South and then North Berwick.

Joshua Buffum evidently had a good reputation for there is still in Dover a bit of manuscript which contains the expression "Joshua Buffum of Berwick, being an upright man amongst us."

One reason why Joshua and his father-in-law sold their land in New Hampshire, many of their friends had already settled in Berwick, among them the Morrells and Husseys.

Another reason for moving, land here was cheaper and what had cost them 125 pounds, sold on their departure for 324 pounds, a good reward for their thrift and labor.

In 1765 Joshua built the substantial house now standing down by the railroad crossing on the South Berwick road and raised his large family. His four sons were Joshua, Caleb, Samuel and John. Of John it was said that he had no failing except that he was round Shouldered.

Caleb was the one who had the courage to push out into new lands like his Bible's namesake and was spoken of as a "square and true man in all his relations."

Samuel was the peacemaker and his benign influence was proverbial.

Joshua who lived at the original Buffum home, was a tanner, made good leather, and sent his boys with a cobbler's kit to shoe the farmers.

As the Buffums began to settle out into the country, one family settled on a hillside to the north so one wag who went between the two neighborhoods said, "Now the town is producing high ground Buffums and low ground Buffums."

The Annual Yard Sale Does it Again!

October 4th was wet and dreary but that did not deter shoppers! Once again the Yard Sale proves to be our biggest single fundraiser. It plays an integral role in funding our newsletters, programs and the maintenance of the MS House.

It was a question as to whether or not there would be a yard sale this year. But some incredible volunteers at the last moment showed up on Friday to sort and set up for what would be a yard sale in the rain. And many of those came back on Saturday!

The Historical Society has been fortunate in the last four years to have been able to use the Masonic Lodge on Rte 4, but never so much as this year. Most everything was kept inside and only the larger items that could withstand the wet were put under tents. Many donations were greatly accepted throughout the course of the summer and stored at various locations in town. It is always fun to see how different each year's items are and this was no exception. The usual holiday decorations, coffee mugs and books were well represented but there was also a telescope and an electric scooter. Very little remained after the sale, and as always, leftovers were donated to Habitat for Humanity and Another Chance.

Mystery Photo...

Where are you???

Check the back page to learn if you know what location you're at.



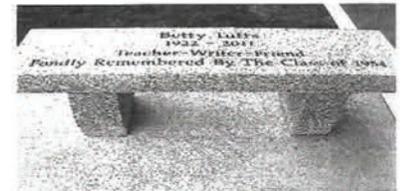
Some of the Civil War discussion group recently visited William R. Laird's grave. William was the focus of a book written by Jean Flahive called " Billy Boy " which was set in Berwick off of Cranberry Meadow Road. Left to right are Nancy Guptill, Sherry Weisberg, Roberta Ryan, Betty Butland, and Barbara Fitzmaurice.



The North Berwick High School class of 1954 held their 60th reunion on Saturday July 26, 2014 at the summer home of Bruce and Sue Stillings at El Pond. A meal of lobsters, chicken and steak was enjoyed by all.

This class that graduated only 8 boys and 8 girls has had a reunion every 2 years for the last 10 years. Those attending this year was Priscilla Allen Warren, Sylva Davis Hubert, Patsy Grover Bragdon and her spouse Punky, Bruce Stillings and his spouse Sue Littlefield, Malcolm Johnson and his spouse Diantha, Gordon Fleming and Carol Junkins.

It is always a great time and for most of those years their special invited guest has been Betty Tufts, the class's favorite teacher. Sadly she passed away. A memorial bench, which can be seen at the entrance to the D.A. Hurd Library in North Berwick was donated in her memory by the class of 1954. Betty Tufts was a long time member of our Historical Society and we enjoyed her many talks for the society's programs. We also sold her book "Tales of North Berwick...." She was an inspiration and was admired by all. It's understandable that she was a favorite teacher.



Remembering a dear friends...

Dorothy (Dotty) Austin passed away September 7th. She and her husband Frank (who died in 2009) were supporters of the society for several years. They lived in one of North Berwick's historical homes on Oak Woods Road. Dotty was the first to send information on their home when the society asked residents in an "Eye on North Berwick" publication several years ago. We still have her writing on file.

Dorothy Adams Perry passed away August 28th two weeks shy of her 100th birthday. Dorothy and her husband Walter were members of this society for many years. She had been living in MA for a few years until her death. Her daughter Priscilla, son-in-law and granddaughter brought her ashes to North Berwick in October to be buried beside her husband. After the service Priscilla and family had a tour of the M-S House. It was so nice to meet them and have them join our membership.

Mystery Photo from page 5...

The Johnson homestead is located on Fox Farm Hill Road about halfway between the Morrell's Mill and Ford Quint Road intersections, photo taken circa 1910. It is currently owned by Ron & Carole Sumner. In an earlier era it was owned by the Cutts family with such notables as Richard F. Cutts, a Patriot during the Revolutionary War and delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and his grandson Charles A. Cutts, a soldier in the Civil War. Both are buried in the family cemetery to the rear of the property.

Later on, Roy W. Johnson operated a fox farm and raised silver black & cross foxes for the fur industry. Many towns people can still remember seeing the high fence and little fox houses on the property going up the hill, for which the road is accurately named.



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