

# Grantham Historical Society

www.granthamhistoricalsociety.org



Winter 2011–2012

## NEWSLETTER



Ken Story

### THROUGH A CLEAR WINDOW

Recently we lost two dear friends, Phyllis and Pete Forest. They were not only avid supporters of the historical society – Phyl (as we called her) was our treasurer until just before her death in 2009 – but they were also close and beloved friends to many of us in Grantham. Phyl remained a stalwart friend to many in town and always seemed to be looking out for those of us who needed it. Pete, on the other hand, had a smile that could light up a room, and a ready laugh that you loved to hear. He also played the piano beautifully and his talent entertained us on a number of occasions. One of his biggest fans was my late mother. She loved to hear him play and would almost beg him to ‘tickle the ivories’ wherever there was a piano. After some humble reluctance, he always would.

As happens with the best among us, Phyl and Pete have left us something of themselves and their extended family that goes beyond memories.

Phyl was the daughter of Leston and Juno Horton, who resided in and operated the farm located just to the north of the Rum Brook Market, known widely as the Horton Farm. Many of us who have driven by this small cape and its associated barns and outbuildings over the years remember Les and Juno, and knew that this farm had been in the family for some time. And yet, I don’t think many of us realized that this family has been associated with this property continuously since the late 18th century. Nor did we know the treasure trove of local history contained around and within this farm.

The collection of historic buildings alone is considerable. The original cape residence, itself a plank-wall structure

that surely dates from the early 19th century if not before, is connected by a later kitchen to a separate apartment and barn. Behind this extended structure is a separate wooden barn, also historic. The fact that these buildings

remain and are in such good condition provides us a significant window into the life of a working farm and how it grew over time.

What is found within the walls of the house and barns remains the most compelling testament to the tenure of this family. Assorted deeds (for various properties owned by the family), periodicals, books, and family clothing – much of it homemade – are just a few of the historic items saved by the family. Also important are the tools of various vintages that survive, many handmade and built of wood, and for a broad assortment of applications. Pete Forest was known for his woodworking skills and his love of tinkering in his ‘shop’, yet few among us knew this was a family legacy dating back literally hundreds of years.

Fortunately, Phyl and Pete’s children,

Kitty Brown and Joe Forest and Joe’s wife Patty recognize what they have in terms of the value of this collection and what’s more, the importance of sharing it. Toward that end, the historical society has been working with the family to help them catalog and preserve these items, and to develop a plan for exhibiting them. The society recently executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the family to solidify this cooperation and provide a mutually beneficial framework for the preservation and interpretation of the entire historic farm.

We are proud of our relationship with one of the town’s truly historic families and its legacy. We look forward to working together into the new year and beyond.

—Ken Story



Horton Farm, winter 1959. Photo: Horton Farm Collection.



Joe and Patty Forest signing agreement with GHS. Photo by Pat Andrews.

## A MAP OF THE MOST INHABITED PART OF NEW ENGLAND...

The Historical Society has acquired a copy of an important early map of “the most INHABITED part of New England”, a gift from the Dunbar Free Library Board of Trustees. Thomas Jeffreys, a London printer, offered the first edition of the map in 1755. There were subsequent editions; we believe ours may be from 1768. Grantham is clearly visible in its original rhomboidal shape. This map originally was a gift to the Library from John and Janet Lloyd, then residents of Grantham, in April 1992. It was displayed there until space became a concern. Now as a part of the Collection of the Historical Society, we hope to display it once again after efforts to stabilize its condition are carried out.

Thanks to GHS member Barbara Rodgers, now living in Pennsylvania, we have some personal history behind the family’s acquisition of the map. A document accompanying the map from the Library provides the following information: “Map of New Hampshire, Thomas Jeffreys 1755” “This map is the gift of John Lloyd III and Janet M. Lloyd in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Lloyd, Jr. It was purchased by Mrs. Lloyd as a gift for her husband in the mid-1950s and hung for some years in Mountainside Farm, Dundee Road, Bartlett, N.H. “ Signed by John Lloyd III and Janet M. Lloyd, 15 April 1992.

In a telephone conversation, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, who now live in Lebanon, shared the following information with Barbara Rodgers: “When John was a boy, his family summered in Bartlett NH (starting about 1942) where his mother had a small antique and china shop in an old blacksmith shop. John was her helper and driver (between 1945 and 1950) and they toured around the Bartlett/North Conway area in a wide sweep including Tamworth/ Moultonborough. He doesn’t remember where they bought the map but assumes that it was in a store with special antiquities...” He suggested the map may have cost \$40.00 to \$50.00 when purchased.

Our copy of the Jeffreys map appears to be very old. After much research, we have confirmed that it is a 2nd edition, 2nd issue map published in 1768. Regardless of the authenticity of the map, it is a treasure trove of information about New England in the 18th century.



Jeffreys Map – 1768 edition. Photo by Rae Tober.

The complex title box, called a cartouche, is large but descriptive. (The old style letter “s” looked like an “f”.) It reads: A MAP of the most INHABITED part of NEW ENGLAND containing the PROVINCES of MASSACHUSETTS BAY and NEW HAMPSHIRE with COLONIES of CONECTICUT and RHODE ISLAND, Divided into Counties and Townships: The whole compefed from Actual Surveys and its Situation adjusted by AS-

TRONOMINAL OBSERVATIONS. November 20th, 1755. Published according to Act by Jeffreys geographer to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales near Charing Crofs. The date of 1755 appears on almost all printings up to 1794. The maps were printed in various colors and were once sold as part of an elaborate Atlas.

What makes our map a 2nd Edition 2nd issue? The insert in the top left hand corner depicts “A PLAN OF BOSTON”. Earlier maps had a plan of Fort Frederick. Also on the left upper portion is a reference to a 1764 Royal land decree: “Note: Connecticut River is fixed by his Majesty in Council to be the bounds between New York and New Hampshire. (NB: Vermont did not exist at this time.)

The key to the map includes symbols of forts, meeting houses, English and Indian habitations and more. The spelling of Connecticut is written as both “Konektikut” and “Conecticut” in different versions of the



Grantham on the Jeffreys Map. Photo by Rae Tober.

# GHS MEMBERS SEEK THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS OF GRANTHAM

Several days of beautiful October weather coincided with trips to visit Plainfield cemeteries to look for graves of the original settlers of Grantham who lived in what was then western Grantham (now Plainfield). Barbara and Francis Mutney, Sharon Parker, Renee Gustafson, Rae Tober and Pat Andrews were able to survey the five cemeteries that were known to have existed during the early years of Grantham, including:

- a. Gleason Cemetery (Gleason Road)
- b. East Plainfield cemetery (Barker Road)
- c. Methodist Hill cemetery (Harrison Road)
- d. Hopkins cemetery (Hopkins Road)
- e. Moulton Yard (cemetery) (Andrews Lane)

All of these are easily located using a current Plainfield map and still are in use for burials. We sought this



Rae Tober and Sharon Parker gathering data in the Gleason Cemetery. Photo by Pat Andrews.

information to document what we could about the early settlers for use in *The History of Grantham*, currently being written. Lists of the first men to come to western Grantham were provided in a history of Grantham written by Lorenzo

*livan Counties*, edited by D. Hamilton Hurd in 1886. No women's names were included. Of the 25 men on the list, graves were found for 19 of them. Several men were known to have later moved to Vermont and probably died there. While some gravestones allowed confirmation of dates of death, others recorded names only. The Plainfield town office and library have resources for genealogical research which provided even more information about these early families.

We have formulated several other databases for incomplete lists of first settlers, as well as names of second generation members and settlers who came later to Dunbar Hill, Howe Hill, Leavitt Hill and other areas of Grantham. We hope to post all of these on our website ([www.granthamhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.granthamhistoricalsociety.org)) in the near future.

ADDENDUM: Joel Huntington, a descendant of William Hungtington, a first settler, visited GHS recently from Bluffdale, Utah and shared his photo of the gravestone of William who was buried in Watertown, New York.



Photo by Rae Tober

The Bean family monument in Gleason Cemetery.

Dunbar and included in *A History of Cheshire and Sul-*

—Pat Andrews

## It is better to give.

Your membership fees and end-of-year donations will help the Grantham Historical Society develop programs, exhibits and educational materials for anyone interested in the history of Grantham. All donations are tax-deductible and include receipt of our newsletter.

Please mail to:  
Grantham Historical Society  
P.O. Box 540  
Grantham, NH 03753

*Thank you for your support.*

## Membership and Annual Dues Form Grantham Historical Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

New member    Annual renewal

### Annual dues: (check one)

Individual (\$15.)

Family (\$25.)

Patron/business/institution (\$50.)

Extra contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Total check amount \_\_\_\_\_

## DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS HOUSE?



*Whose house is this? Photo from GHS Collection.*

This photo is from the Historical Society's Collection. It has no identifying information. If you think you know where it is or was in Grantham, please let us know.

## DETAIL-ORIENTED PERSON WANTED!

The position of Grantham Town Archivist is vacant. This volunteer position needs a person to work closely with the town, the Grantham Historical Society and members of the public doing research on town history. Though the primary responsibilities include the cataloging and preservation of the town's historical records, the position also does considerable work in conjunction with the historical society and assisting with inquiries from the general public, most of which concern genealogy.

If you have an interest in local history, genealogy and archival preservation, please contact Martha Menard at Grantham Town Hall, 603-863-6021.



## OLD NEWS:

### ARGUS CHAMPION

November 10, 1899

Grantham – The hunters stumbled over rocks and through underbrush a mile and a half in hot pursuit of the coon - they must have for the coon supper the next day. The excitement was intense as a \$50 dog treed the game. The bravest of them volunteered to climb the tree with a revolver and shoot the creature. Presently he said, "It looks big as a panther. It has white claws. It has a collar on." At this point the bald-headed man shouted "Heavens, don't shoot. It's my \$100 Thomas!" As the cat was properly collared and licensed his life was saved, and the hunters ate plain beans and codfish the next day.

### ARGUS CHAMPION

October 4, 1900

North Grantham – A.C. Bowness and H. Rawson of Cornish and F.C. Leavitt of Grantham captured a 19 pound coon the other night that had lost one forefoot, one hind foot and the whole of its tail and still never applied for a pension.

## MAP OF GRANTHAM *Continued from page 2*

map. It was originally engraved on four copper plates. It is surprisingly accurate and detailed in some places but lacks details in parts of New England that were unknown or had not been surveyed at the time.

Our map also has a unique feature: a man's name hand-printed in pencil with an additional repeat of part of the name in ink. Why is his name on this particular Jeffreys map? It is a mystery and the facts are lost in history. However, we have investigated the name. Our research has uncovered some very intriguing facts. If you are curious and would like to learn more about this mysterious man, come to the Historical Society on any Friday from

1 to 4 p.m. or make an appointment with Rae Tober and satisfy your curiosity. Or if you would like a look at the map, just come by. It is not yet on display but is easy to show.

Professional opinions have been sought about our copy of the map. Dr. Matthew Edney, Osher Director on the History of Cartography Project at the University of Southern Maine, who has not viewed our map but is familiar with its various dates of issue has said, "In all, the Map of the Most inhabited Part of New England was a most successful cartographic image."

—Rae Tober and Pat Andrews

**VISIT US ON THE WEB...WWW.GRANTHAMHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG**

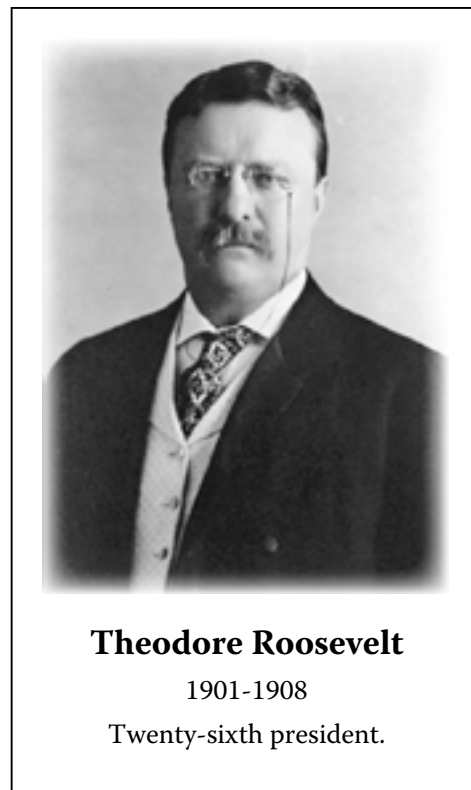
# NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## GIVING THANKS

The holiday season is not the only time of the year when gifts are given. The Historical Society is grateful for the interest, time and valuable contributions that maintain our organization. First, thanks to everyone who renewed their membership for 2012 and to the new members who joined for the first time. Your dollars reflect the community support for GHS that keeps us moving ahead. Thanks to all who bought our 2012 calendar. This was very popular and we plan on doing one for 2013.

Individuals also continue to support our mission. In October, our fall meeting program was an "Editor's Pick" in the Valley News. Dwight Wilder of Grantham brought his superb enactment of Theodore Roosevelt to the Town Hall. Nearly 65 people attended, one of our best turn-outs.

Others to whom thanks are due include: Craig McArt for painting and staining the new porch; Barbara Mutney for completing a huge database of town officers -1776-2010; Renee Gustafson for tending both our perennial bed and the Memorial Garden throughout the growing season; Barb Kresse and Jane Dearborn of Croydon for donating three copies of the Grantham watercolor print; Francis Mutney for playing chauffer on our trips to the Plainfield cemeteries and to Patty Horton for identifying the location of the Old Post Road which appears on a road sign coupled with Hartshorn Road in our Collection.

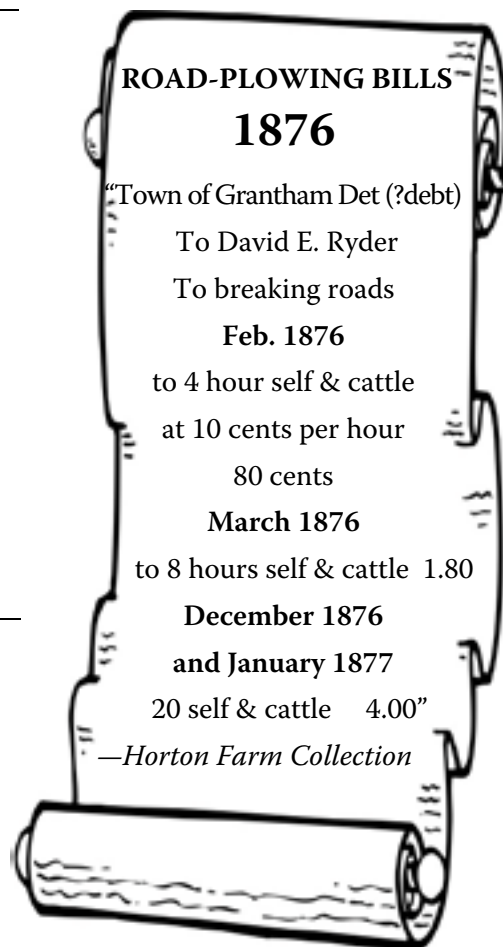


## QUESTIONS RAISED BY RESEARCH FOR *THE HISTORY OF GRANTHAM*

Those of us doing research on topics for the History come across items for which our knowledge is non-existent or, at best, sketchy. We would love to hear from anyone who can answer the following questions: 1) Who was Whitney Hall (Grange meetings held here) named after? This was located in the ell of Walker's Store and used for different community activities; 2) does anyone have information on the 5 Watters Radio Club (1970s); 3) who made the Grantham square for the official Sullivan County Bicentennial Quilt in 1976 (it contained a square contributed by each town in the county); and 4) how was transportation to schools provided before the big yellow school buses began being used in 1968? Please write, call, email or drop off your answers. Thanks!

## ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTIONS

Please see the article on page 2 regarding an important contribution to GHS from the Dunbar Free Library. We have also received seven 20th century items found in the Dunbar house barn (next door to the Library) including smoking paraphernalia, a Tonka truck, and a set of drill bits. Craig McArt expanded our collection of items relating to Draperville by donating four metal barrel hoops found in Eastman in the area of the Draper mill.



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VACANT

*The Grantham Historical Society and Town Archives are open on Friday afternoons from 1:00-4:00 PM or by appointment. The building is located at 34 Dunbar Hill Road.*

Email: [granthamhistory@gmail.com](mailto:granthamhistory@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.granthamhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.granthamhistoricalsociety.org)

## 2012 CALENDAR

Thurs., May 24, 2012

GHS ANNUAL MEETING  
Program "Abbott and  
Downing's Concord Coaches"  
Town Hall (lower level)  
Potluck supper at 6:00 PM  
Meeting & program at 7:00 PM

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR WEBSITE

At our last Annual meeting, individual dues increased to \$15/person; the others categories remained the same. Under the Membership section of the website, this change has been made. New information about opportunities for volunteers is found under "Volunteering", an updated list of books and pamphlets in our Library was added and lastly, under "Genealogy", a list of our files organized by family surname is now included. Please visit our website for information about current activities and notices on our home page.

The GHS Newsletter is designed by  
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