

From the Board...

Last month, two **painting projects** were undertaken at the museum. We hired Tom Bathrick of TBS Painting to paint and stain the second story of the museum. Tom has completed the restaining of the shakes and painting the trim. What a difference that has made!

At the same time, we have begun work on repainting the first-floor level. On Saturday, June 17th, with the help of **Priscilla Roberts** and **Dick Gassett**, the porch and front wall were scraped before rain forced us to stop for the day. The next day the prime coat was applied. In the coming weeks, the interior of the porch will be prepped and the top coat of paint put on. Once this is done, the screens will be fixed and painted, and the porch floor painted as well.

While a lot has been accomplished, much more has to be done. Still, it is amazing what a "little" paint can do.

When you get a chance to stop in the museum, you will find that the upstairs back rooms, i.e., the office and natural history room, are now closed to the public. The office is just that, an office with files and a desk, nothing to "exhibit." While many people have appreciated our natural history collection, this room is now closed. However, as a gesture to keep this collection available, a few of the birds, animals, rocks and shells have been pulled out and put on display in the upstairs front hall. The secretary and a small

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The CHS CRIER

Claremont Historical Society

July, 2006

Alumni Weekend Keeps CHS Busy with Parade, Cemetery Walk



Photo by Phyllis Muzeroll

"West Part" John Tyler (Steve Wood) shares his family history with one group of the audience during the Society's Union Cemetery Walk on June 11. For story and more photos, please turn to pages 3 and 4.

Newmont Band Benefit Concert Oct. 15th

When Larry Jones, director of the Newmont Band, approached the Claremont Historical Society with an offer to put on a band concert, trustees were quick to accept his generous proposal. Those familiar with this excellent band know just how splendid an afternoon of wonderful music can be. The band, in period uniforms, is well known for playing 19th century music on authentic period instruments.

The concert has been scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 15th, in Broad Street Park. If the weather is too cool or stormy, the concert will be held indoors; an alternative indoor location will be announced near the time of the concert. Refreshments will be available and free-will donations for the concert accepted, to benefit the Claremont Historical Society.

So, strike up the band and join us for an afternoon of fun!

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display case show a sampling of our natural history specimens.

Why was this necessary?
Storage!

We are, and have been, in need of an area to work on and store our growing collection. It is not ideal, but it does the trick for now. We have an area where we can store and catalog items out of the way of the public and not worry about having to pick everything up before we open back up on Sunday.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's **yard sale**, either through donations or volunteering their time to sort, price and sell. Another successful event in what has been a very busy year for the Claremont Historical Society!

Finally, please send us your **e-mail address** if we don't already have it. E-mailing news and updates on coming events reduces our printing and mailing costs. And when you receive your CHS newsletter by e-mail, you get the full-color version!

--Colin Sanborn
President

CHS Crier is a presentation of
Claremont, NH, Historical Society, Inc.

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The Society is a charitable and educational non-profit corporation founded in 1963 to preserve and publish historical information and to collect, acquire and preserve items of interest related to Claremont's history.

Newsletter designed and written by:
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Colin Sanborn

Museum Treasures...

The Sporting Life

Just the other day, a small trophy was left on my desk at work: a small, tarnished, silver cup inscribed "Claremont Winter Carnival, 1924, 2nd Prize, 15 Year Class, Won by Howard Dow." The memory of that carnival, that day, that event may be a dim memory like the inscription, but a little research shines a bright light on the event. Howard Dow participated in several races at that carnival in the Boys 15 or Under class. Howard placed second in the Long Distance Snowshoe Race. In two other races, Howard placed first -- the Obstacle Race on Snowshoes and the Potato Race on Snowshoes.

Looking around the museum for other sporting memorabilia, I came across the medals of Dorothy Billings Clemons, mounted in a display box. The medals were won by Miss Billings at winter carnivals and state meets. At the top sit her two medals from the 1937 NH State Championship -- 1st place in the 220-yard dash and 2nd place in the 440-yard dash.

Under these, like a foundation, are her 1929 Claremont Winter Carnival medals -- 1st prize skating, 2nd prize skiing, and her 1930 Claremont Winter Carnival medals- -1st prize skating, 3rd prize snowshoeing, and 2nd place in both skiing and snowshoe obstacle.

Sports were an important part of Miss Billings' life. They remained so even in her later years when Mrs. Dorothy (Billings) Clemons, as she was then known, participated in the 1985-86 NH Senior Olympics. Here, participating in the 70-74 class, Mrs. Clemons won 20 blue, first-place ribbons. These ribbons, also in a case, were won in golfing, swimming, running, softball, basketball, pistols, and rifles. And, we cannot forget her figure skating trophy cups for 1st place. What pride Dow and Billings both must have felt when presented a real silver trophy for placing 2nd

or having a real medal, with ribbon and all, pinned on them for their victories. The little hometown Winter Carnival made the winners feel as important as the Olympic winners.

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Photo by Phyllis Muzeroll

An Olympic torch has a new home at the CHS museum.

Olympic Torch

Speaking of pride and Olympics, we have the honor of housing the torch carried by George P. Hardy in 1996. This torch was part of the relay that carried the Olympic flame across New Hampshire and the rest of the country leading up to the Olympics in Atlanta. Mr. Hardy, a builder here in Claremont, constructed a beautiful display case to hold his honored memento. Accompanying this torch is a host of scrapbooks that follow Mr. Hardy's historic journey, as he carried the torch through Keene, and framed certificates from the various Olympic committees recognizing his selection and run.

--by Colin Sanborn

2006 Summer & Fall Programs, Activities Announced

JULY

Museum open Sunday afternoons, from 2-5 p.m.

AUGUST

Museum open Sunday afternoons, from 2-5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Museum open Sunday afternoons, from 2-5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15th

Spirits of Claremont Union Cemetery Walk reprised.
6:00 p.m.

Rain date: Monday, Sept. 18th.

Sunday, Sept. 17th

Final day museum is open to the public this season.

OCTOBER

Sunday, Oct. 15th

Newmont Band Benefit Concert (see page 1)

Wednesday, Oct. 18th

CHS Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper; Program: Steve & Sharon Wood present ***Abraham & Mary Lincoln***, a newly-developed performance not yet seen in this area.

Storytelling at Union Cemetery Walk Tops Off Alumni Weekend

Steady rain could not deter the enthusiasm of alumni or CHS members as all enjoyed another wonderful and busy alumni weekend. Although the rain did wash out the Society's plan for a float, trustee members, in period clothing, were able to hitch a ride on a surrey to ensure our presence in the parade again this year.

On Sunday, trustees were busy once again, preparing to welcome the public for our sec-

ond *Spirits of Claremont* Cemetery Walk, this one set in Union Cemetery on Old Church Road.

The skies were overcast, but the rain did not come, and the program went on as planned. Some 75 people enjoyed magnificent performances as Off Broad Street Players and CHS members brought local history back to life through engaging storytelling. A big thank you to Sharon Wood and Colin Sanborn for their countless hours of research and

work and to the actors, writers and volunteers who made the program another success! Almost immediately, we began receiving wonderful feedback, including hearing from folks who were in town for the alumni festivities and took in the walk, as we had hoped.

We plan to reprise the Union Cemetery walk on Sept. 15th for those who missed it the first time or who may want to take it in again. Watch for future details!



Photos by Phyllis Muzeroll

Stella Cook Long (Amy Lewko) discusses her life with her husband, Charles, recalling his distinguished military history (left photo). Ellen Tyler Lovering (Kara Lee) shares a mother's love for her son, Leonard, as she fondly remembers his own renowned military accomplishments and other worthy achievements.

The Surrey with the Fringe on Top!



Photo by Carolyn Sprague

CHS trustees Carolyn Sprague and Sharon Wood were lucky enough to hitch a ride in a surrey for the alumni parade while CHS president Colin Sanborn marched behind, carrying a "tombstone" from the Union Cemetery walk.

**Claremont, NH, Historical Society, Inc.
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