

NEWSLETTER



Holderness Historical Society

Spring 2013

Volume XXVI

2013 OFFICERS

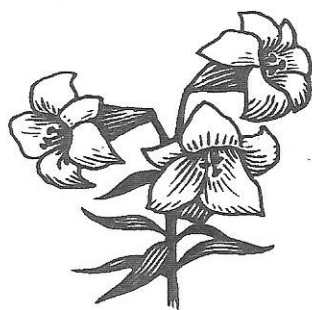
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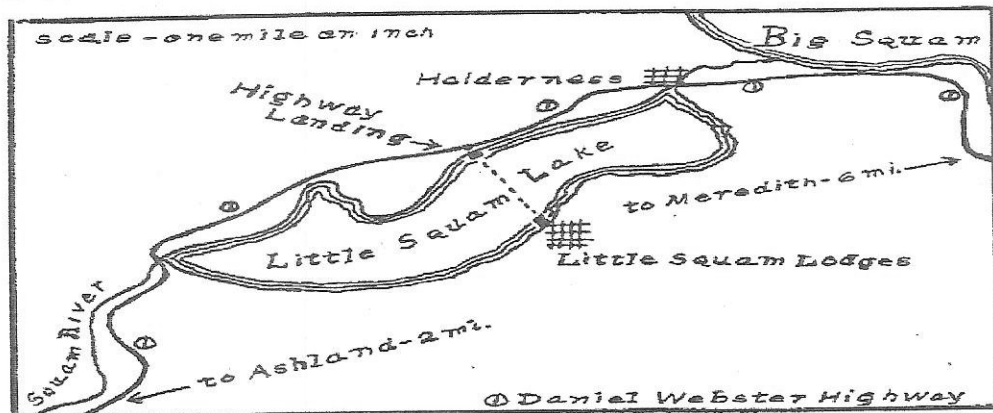


HAPPY SPRING

Route 3 * Curry Place
Post Office Box 319
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Little Squam Lodges

Little Squam Lodges was an outgrowth of the Leyden Tutoring School in Hanover, NH. The summer school of six weeks run by John Leyden of Philadelphia for about fifty prep school boys rented rooming houses and had a common dining area. Classes were held in a Dartmouth College fraternity house. My father, Dr. Albert Farnsworth, taught at the school from 1914-1927. Due to disciplinary problems during the "Roaring Twenties", four of the teachers and my father bought an established camp of 110 acres from Dr. John May on Little Squam Lake in Holderness, NH. There was no road into the camp. Access was by boat only from property owned on the Route 3 side of the lake. This made for better supervision of students. There was no electricity, only Coleman lamps. My father was director of the camp until 1947.



The tutoring camp ran six weeks from August 1 through September 15. A recreational camp was run for a short time in July. At the peak there were forty to fifty boys enrolled mainly from Worcester Academy and Williston Academy.

The depression and World War II took its toll and finally the men decided to close the school. A group of New York teachers bought the camp in 1947 and made it into a strictly recreational camp called Camp Squamasee.

Cloyd Small and my father retained the ice house on the highway side of the lake and made it into a very rough cabin so they could come and stay at the lake.

My father died in March of 1956 and left his share of the property to his three children - Albert, Barbara, and Nancy. Barbara and her husband, Bob Sheldon, continued to make improvements - a ceiling, windows, porch, etc. During this time they shared the cottage with Mr. Small.

Continued, page 2

The President's Corner

We will be presenting four programs this year, which you can find listed on a separate page of the Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in attendance at these programs.

This summer we are planning a special exhibit of the summer camps of Squam Lakes. If you have any information, pictures, stories, etc. of any of the camps that you would be willing to share we would be happy to include all contributions. An ongoing project is a collection of pictures and stories of Holderness historic buildings. Does your home or building have a story? Please share it with us. If you have any information that you would be willing to contribute to this collection, it would be most welcome and will serve to preserve our town's history and give it perspective. We are completing the work of cataloging all of our books and pamphlets to make research simpler and have created a library area that will allow people to research families, cemeteries, camps, historical events, and places. Our documentary is another project still in the works. You can view a preview of the documentary in the museum on Saturdays this summer.

Thank you for your continued support by way of membership dues and contributions. If you have not renewed your membership for 2013, please use the enclosed envelope to do so. Please join us this year. Your ideas, suggestions, and help will be enthusiastically welcomed, particularly on the Publicity, Museum Docents and Curators, and Program assistants committees. We are a small group of active members and we could frankly use some help. Please contact me or any other board member if you can help or for more information.

Linda Foerderer

FPLinda@aol.com (603) 968-7487 mid April to November 1 or (561) 279-9720 November to mid April.

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Continued from page 1

LITTLE SQUAM LODGES •

ASHLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

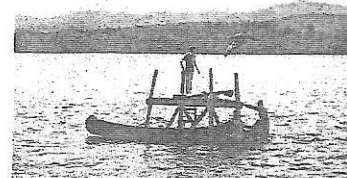
"The extent to which any organization can achieve is governed by the personality, training, and character of its leaders."

Little Squam Lodges is owned and directed by the following men:

ALBERT FARNSWORTH, Ph.D., Director
Brown '10
Master in History, Worcester Academy
STEWART LEE GARRISON, A.M.
Harvard '12
Associate Professor of English and Public Speaking, Amherst College
W. RUSSELL SARGENT, B.S.
Boston University '22
Master in Mathematics, Worcester Academy
CLOYD E. SMALL, A.B.
Bowdoin '20
Master in Science, Worcester Academy

Additional instructors include:

PROF. HENRY B. RICHARDSON
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Our Purposes

Founded to train boys to concentrate, to study effectively, and to analyze their difficulties, Little Squam Lodges aims to help its students in making up school work, in preparing through skillful tutoring for college entrance, and in the development of a sound mind and a sound body. These aims Little Squam seeks to attain in surroundings which promote health and happiness during the summer months.

Where is your school located?

Little Squam Lodges is situated on the southeast shore of Little Squam Lake, in the township of Holderness, N. H. Framed by wooded hills which rise to Mt. Chocoma nearby, this lake affords a superb camp site. Access to camp property, a hundred acres in extent with a half-mile lake frontage, is by motor boat from Holderness bridge. No automobile road penetrates its seclusion; yet it is conveniently near to supplies and excellent medical service. Parents who bring their boys to Little Squam often remark, "I'd like to stay here all summer myself!"

My husband, Bob Sheldon, died in 1972, at which time, I bought out Mr. Small and in 1976 I bought out my brother, Albert, and my sister, Nancy. I put on a two bedroom and bathroom addition and renovated the ice house portion of the structure by improving the kitchen, dining area, and living area thus making an attractive and livable summer cottage!

In 1954 my brother, Albert, built a cottage across the lake for himself, his wife, Betty, and their daughter, Nancy.

The Farnsworth family has, as of 2013, been on the lake for 85 years!

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Driving Tour

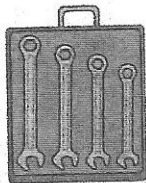
The tour produced for Holderness 250th is still being updated. We have tried to list only sites which were in existence by 1900 and which are visible from the road. Our primary focus is the original owner and date of construction. Copies of the tour are available at the Historical Society and the Library. If you find any errors, have additional information, or would like to see other buildings included, please contact us.

Treasurer's Report

We have filed our annual reports with the IRS, the NH Attorney General and the town. Our only unusual expense this year will be a new printer/scanner and development of our new website. We appreciate our members and donors who keep us going. Thank You!
Missy Mason

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In Memoriam

Two Holderness natives and supporters of the Holderness Historical Society died this past winter.

Louis Francesco, 93, was a unique town historian who was born and lived here most of his life. Louie loved to share the experiences of his early days in Holderness, activities he was involved in and knew about and recollections of town characters. He operated the bowling alley (now Walter's Basin) from 1959 until the 1980's. Louie loved "steaming" on Squam in the "Halcyon", the steamboat that he restored after retiring. He was always very willing to take anyone for a tour. In the "Halcyon" he led the Holderness 250th boat parade. He was a friendly man, a joy to chat with, and always had a smile and upbeat attitude.

Milton Huckins, 94, owned Pemvale Farm, which with its yellow house and big red barns is a landmark on Rte 175 between Holderness and Plymouth. The farm has been in his family more than 100 years and was a dairy farm until the 1960's and then a haying operation.

National Register of Historic Places

Holderness has the following buildings listed on the National Register: Trinity Church, the Holderness Inn (adjoining Kirkwood Garden), the Library, the Historical Society (formerly the North Holderness Baptist Church) and the Webster Estate.

Now, the National Register has recognized the Squam Lakes Watershed as a unique area and umbrella for several additional structures: Burleigh Brae and Webster Boathouse, Camp Carnes and True Farm. Under the aegis of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, a committee with representatives from the five towns around the lakes headed by Betsy Whitmore worked to link conservation of ecological resources with conservation of cultural assets and preservation of historic places. Connie Ross represented the Holderness Historical Society on the project. Elizabeth D. Hengen served as preservation consultant and researched the project for two years. The application cover form she prepared is an 81 page overview of local history. Squam: the Evolution and Preservation of a Lakeside Community can be read at the Library or Historical Society and is available for \$25 at the SLCS office. More information about the project including a map of the watershed is available on the SLCS website under "Conservation."

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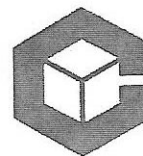
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Neighbors Celebrate 250th Birthdays and You Are Invited

Plymouth 250th will be celebrated July 17 to 21 and Sandwich 250th will be celebrated August 11 to 17 with many events leading up to those dates. Check their websites for information.

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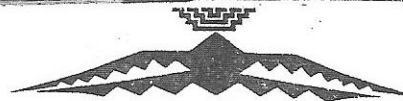
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Keep up the good work!

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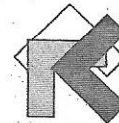
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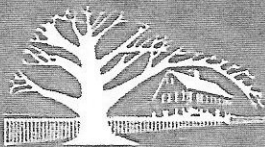
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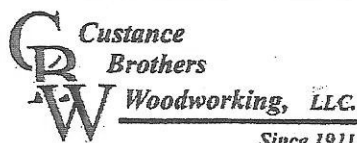


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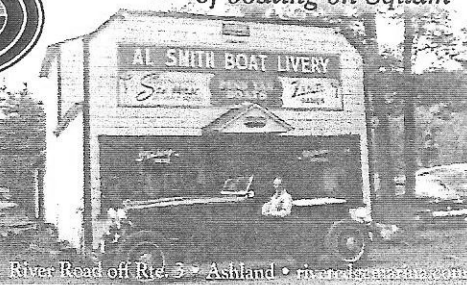
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THANK YOU to Our Newsletter Sponsors!! These business cards represent local businesses supporting the Holderness Historical Society. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!!

Building Report

We minimized oil use by keeping the museum at 50 degrees this past winter. Thanks to an expert masonry repair, there were no more animals found inside. The repairs done the previous winter kept any leaks from occurring. Missing our longtime volunteer, Mark Marden, we paid for fall clean-up and snow shoveling. We should consider touch-up painting and a new sign in the near future.



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Flowers on the Bridge

Spring is here and we will soon be enjoying the flowers on the bridge again. With our new irrigation system and new boxes, it should be another lovely season. However, without funding, we will not be able to purchase the plants and soil to continue this program. If you wish to make a donation, please send a check payable to Holderness Historical Society and indicate on the memo line *Flowers on the Bridge*. Checks should be mailed to Holderness Historical Society, PO Box 319, Holderness, NH 03245. Thank you for your help and enjoy!

Liz Greason

MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

The museum will be open on Saturdays from the last week of June thru Labor Day from 10 AM to 12 noon. Please come visit and explore.

We have a special exhibit planned for this year of summer camps present and past.

Maps for Sale

1903 Map of Squam Lake 36" X 31"
Plain paper \$35 laminated \$40

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support of the Holderness Historical Society. Your contribution, in addition to strengthening our membership, enables the society to bring informative programs to our community and to preserve our town's history.

Cynthia Murray

Membership Chairman



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Nature, Live in the Moment,
Giggle, Release Judgments, Let
Go, Move Forward, Touch, Hug,
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Adventurous, Take a Chance, Be
Happy, Grin, Embrace your
Journey, Have a Vision, Be a
Friend, Make a Friend, Stay in
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Having a Gathering?

The Holderness Historical Society Meeting Room is available for gatherings of up to 50 people. There is a fully supplied kitchen and two restrooms. The rental fee varies between \$80 and \$155 depending on the number of guests. Local civic groups may use it without charge. For more information or to reserve, please contact Linda Foerderer 968-7487 or Missy Mason 968-3334.



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Genealogy Notes

Patti Evans, Illinois, is a descendant of Andrew Smythe, original grantee, through his grandson Robert McNeil Smythe, a son of William and Sarah. She is looking for any information anyone might have about Robert Smythe. Various Smiths and Smythes in this area should be related.

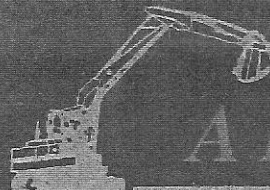
Paul McGillicuddy, California, is looking for information about Mary Johnston and her daughter Mrs. Ralph Beamon who lived in Ashland in the 30's. Mary and her husband John were caretakers of True Farm in the 20's and 30's. Mary died in Holderness in the 1940's.

New Holderness Historical Society Life Members

We would like to recognize Laura Heath who, with her late husband Harry, catalogued Holderness cemeteries in the 70's. We also appreciate the contributions of Carl Sheperd who photographed most of the stones in the cemeteries maintained by the Town of Holderness during his 2011 visit for the 250th. His work can be viewed online at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/nhgraffton/> / *nhgraffton/*

The Town maintains Bridge, Carr, Cox, East Holderness, Eastman, Ladd, Merrill, Piper, Sanborn, Shaw and True Cemeteries. Trinity is maintained by a private association.



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Museum of the White Mountains

Make time this summer to visit the newly-opened museum on the Plymouth State University campus. Check their website Plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains for hours and to browse the collection. The current exhibit includes paintings by noted 19th century artists like Benjamin Champney and Thomas Cole.