

NEWSLETTER



Holderness Historical Society

Spring 2018

Volume XXXVI

2018 OFFICERS

Linda Foerderer
President
• Susan Kemp
Vice President
Missy Mason
Treasurer
Cynthia Murray
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Lynn Durham
Dodie Greenwood
Ron Huntoon
Mary Elizabeth Nielsen
Patty Sue Salvador
Tink Taylor



HAPPY SUMMER

Route 3 * Curry Place
Post Office Box 319
Holderness, NH 03245

www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org

The Secession of Ashland From Holderness

The creation of the Town of Ashland from part of the Town of Holderness in 1868 was not an isolated incident in mid-19th century New Hampshire. Ashland was one of a half dozen industrial and commercial villages that separated from cultural hinterlands in that era. These new towns included Bennington in 1842, Laconia in 1855, Tilton in 1869, Harrisville in 1870, and Greenville in 1872. The gap between town and country was greater than it is today. The merchants, manufacturers, professionals, and tradesmen to the village simply had different interests and priorities than the farmers of the countryside.

We can see some of those tensions in Holderness town meeting votes of the years before 1868. Five times between 1855 and 1867, the villagers tried to get the town hall moved to the village, but failed in every attempt. The March 1868 town meeting dismissed three articles to benefit the village, namely articles to purchase a fire engine, provide a public park in the village, and establish a town library in the village.

But, by March of 1868, a movement was already underway to divide the town. The beginning of this movement was later the subject of some controversy. State law required that notice of a petition to divide a town be served upon town officials at least 28 days before the annual town meeting. According to the later legislative debate, as reported in the Concord Daily Monitor, such a notice was served on the town clerk and one selectman before the annual meeting of 1868. But, the two officials did not make the notice public until after the town meeting. The town clerk later admitted that he sealed up the notice he received in an envelope and did not inform any inhabitant of the "old town" of the proposal before the meeting.

Nevertheless, on April 17, the Holderness selectmen did sign a warrant for a special town meeting on May 9 to consider two articles on the proposed division. The first article, to "vote to divide (Holderness) into two separate and distinct townships" was defeated on a vote of 4 yeas to 87 nays. The low number of votes and the lopsided result suggests that the proponents of the division either did not attend the special meeting or chose not to vote. Under the second article, "to see if the Town will vote to raise a certain sum of money to defend herself and territory against disintegration, separation, or division from the efforts now being made, before the next session of the Legislature of N.H. or any other session", the meeting voted \$500 "to defend the Town from Division".

The battle opened in the state legislature on June 8, 1868, when a petition of E.F. Bailey and 69 other citizens of Holderness asking for the division of the town was presented by Holderness Representative Otis P. Warner, and was referred to the Committee on Division of Towns. Warner also gave notice of his intent to present a bill entitled "An act to constitute the town of Ashland from part of the territory of the town of Holderness". The next day, June 9, he did introduce that bill, which was promptly sent to the same committee. (The Ashland bill was apparently the only legislation that the ten-man committee considered during the 1868 legislative session.)

In the next seven days, three more petitions, with a total of 97 signers, were presented in favor of the new town, and four petitions, with a total of 273 signers, were presented in opposition to

The President's Corner

Partnered with the Holderness Library we will be presenting three 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.

There will be three special exhibits this summer: **HHS Map Collection** featuring maps of the division of lots when the town was laid out and various lake charts. A **Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gordon**, descendants of the Sargents. **Native American Artifacts** from the Nielsen and Rich collections.

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 are willing to contribute to this collection, it would be most welcome and will serve to preserve our town's history and give it perspective. The work of cataloging our books and pamphlets to make research simpler continues. Our library area allows people to research families, cemeteries, camps, historical events and places. You can view several DVD's including Holderness 250th 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 2018, please use the enclosed envelope to do so. Please join us this year. Your ideas, suggestions, and help will be enthusiastically welcomed. We are a small group of active members and we could 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.

Continued from page 1

the division. So, 167 Holderness petitioners favored the division, while 273 opposed it, a fact later stressed by at least one opponent of the bill. (It is difficult now to know how many Holderness residents chose to not publicly support either side.)

Unfortunately, at this point in the debate, the historical record is silent. None of the petitions and no records of the Committee on Division of Towns survive in the State Archives. And apparently no newspapers reported on the detail of the committee's hearings and debate. The Lake Village Times later said that "A severe contest over the division was had before the Committee on Division of Towns, the hearing occupying two weeks of the session. Some four or five counsels appeared on each side, and a large number of witnesses were examined. The report of the committee was unanimously in favor of the division". On Friday, June 19, the committee reported the bill back to the house without any proposed amendments. It was then tabled until the next Tuesday.

The House took up the bill to create Ashland on June 23. Representative Mason of Bristol "moved that the whole subject be postponed to the next session of the Legislature" with proper notice being given to the town of Holderness. He argued that the notice was improper and a "fraud upon the town of Holderness". Mason said that "that town had sent two representatives to the Legislature, both excellent men and both in favor of the division, but he did not suppose that either of them would say he thought he would be elected if it was known that this question was coming up." The committee chairman and others argued that the letter of the law had been met, that the town's voters had after all been informed in time before the legislature met, that a town meeting had been held on the subject, and that the town of Holderness' attorney "had said they asked no delay and made no question as to the notice". Some lawyers stated that, having waived the right of notice, the town could not now claim it again. A Dover representative said that "the matter having been thoroughly and fully investigated, (the house) ought not to let it go over to another Legislature and oblige them to go through the same protracted investigation". Mason's motion to postpone action on the bill was defeated on a vote of 34 to 160. The bill was then passed, and sent on the same day to the Senate.

Continued on page 3

Keep up the Good Work!

Squam Boat Livery, Inc.

PO Box 159
Holderness, NH 03245

Sally & Tom Daigneault
(603) 968-7721



Lynn Durham
& Associates
Integrity, experience, and joy!

kW COASTAL AND
LAKES & MOUNTAINS
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
66 Route 25, Suite 1
Meredith, NH 03253
Office: 603-569-HOME

603-926-9700

Lynn@SquamLakesNH.com
NH Real Estate Broker over 30 Years
Multi-million dollar seller

www.LakesandMountainsRealty.com

After receiving the bill on June 23, the Senate referred it to its Committee on Towns, which reported the bill back without any proposed amendments on June 30. On the next day, July 1, the Senate voted 8 to 3 to approve the bill. Promptly signed by the governor, the bill became effective immediately.

"An Act to Constitute the Town of Ashland From A Part of the Territory of the Town of Holderness" set forth the boundaries of the new town, and outlined the procedure of the division. The act ordered the division of the assets and the debts of the old town of Holderness with 54.9% of both going to Ashland and 45.1% going to the new town of Holderness. Jonathan F. Keyes, Otis P. Warner and Edwin F. Bailey were authorized to call the first Ashland town meeting.

On July 25, 1868, two meetings were held. The Town of Holderness met in the Holderness Town Hall and elected new town officials to fill the vacancies created by the division of the town, including a selectman, the treasurer and the town clerk. At Squam Lake Hall in Ashland, the voters of the new town met for the first time to complete the organization of the town by electing town officers and appropriating money for town expenses.

A correspondent signing his name W. reported the first town meeting in the Lake Village Times, stating with some pride "the town is fully organized and entitled to all of the honors of any other town; considering the effort required on the part of some of its citizens to get the bill through the Legislature, against the powerful opposition made to it, may be entitled to a little extra honor, and that is, of having a few live men that don't know the word 'fail.'"

David Ruell, Ashland historian, wrote this article for Ashland's 125th birthday. He recently updated the article which we are reprinting with his permission.

Additional Notes on "The Split" from Tink Taylor

"Holderness Village" which we know today as Ashland had the advantage of being at the crossing of the highway along the Pemigewasset River and the Province Road (Rte 132 now.) There was ample water power with the 112 foot drop from Little Squam to the Pemi so sawmills, paper and woolen mills were built to take advantage of it. By 1849, the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad had extended its line from Laconia through the town. The population was increasing; most town business was being transacted in the Village. The location of the Town Hall (still the one Holderness uses today) out in the "country" became the tipping point for the split as David Ruell has described the events of 1868.

Villagers had decided to name the proposed town after the Kentucky plantation of statesman and US Secretary of State Henry Clay. On July 1, 1868, the bill of separation passed in the New Hampshire Senate and was signed into law by Governor Walter Harriman. Now two town meetings had to be called to finalize what the legislature and governor had enacted. Both did.

Another proposal to annex some land from New Hampton to Holderness, to expand Ashland's tiny 11.5 square mile area (some of it water) went nowhere as did a proposal to disannex some East Holderness land to Center Harbor. Ashland, at the state's very geographical center, was in business as New Hampshire's newest and perhaps smallest town.

This summer Ashland will mark its 150th birthday. Plans are underway for a July 20 mock Holderness/Ashland Town Meeting, a Civil War celebration train ride to Plymouth and Ball at the Common Man Inn there, a July 25 street dance and a grand parade on July 28.

On July 1 an unofficial peaceful reconciliation- "Squamstock" - will take place at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center from 4 to 7 pm. This 60's hippy-themed party will include a children's art festival.

Watch the Record Enterprise for details.

Local NH goods & great gifts at
Common Man Company Store in Ashland!



17 Restaurants Statewide
Uncommon On-site and Off-site Catering
Directions, menus, gift cards & C-Man Store online at theCman.com
Common Man Family 1.800.649.7031

FRESH MEAT & PRODUCE
COMPLETE LINE OF GROCERIES

BEER & WINE

**Shur
Fine**

BOB'S SHURFINE MARKET

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON-SAT 8 AM - 9 PM SUN 9 AM - 6 PM

MAIN STREET
ASHLAND, NH 03217

(603) 968-7781



- ▶ SMART
- ▶ FRIENDLY
- ▶ SERVICE

DAN "BIRD" UHLMAN
General Manager

20 West Street (Exit 24, I-93)

Office: 603-968-7626 1-800-649-2076
duhman@belletetes.com

Ashland, NH 03217

Fax: 603-968-3665
www.belletetes.com



SINGING EAGLE LODGE

Two weeks in August
on Squam Lake
in the White Mountains
A camp for girls ages 8-16
Hiking, land and water sports,
and the arts.

www.singingeaglelodge.org

"An investment in
knowledge pays the best interest."
- Benjamin Franklin

Education is what allows us to dream bigger dreams,
complete more journeys and engage with the world
more fully. Embrace it with passion and conviction.



800.922.6872 mvsb.com



Northern Lakes Veterinary Hospital

LLC

Large, Small & Exotic Animal Care

(603) 968-9710

83 Depot Street • Ashland, New Hampshire 03217



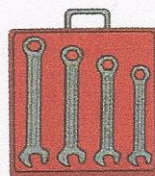
NFP® Benefits
Insurance
Wealth Management

Sherry Norman, AAI
Account Executive
NFP Property & Casualty

PO Box 370
Plymouth, NH 03264
P 603.536.2100
F 603.536.5018
C 603.254.4703
sherry.norman@nfp.com
www.nfp.com/poulos

Currier & Sons Garage, LLC

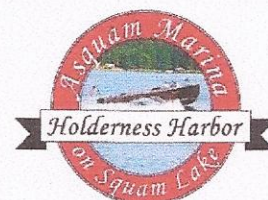
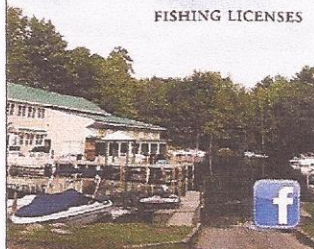
Richard D. Currier
William L. Currier



262 NH Rte 175
Holderness, NH 03245

603-968-3107
603-968-7015 Fax
curriersgarage@aol.com

FULL SERVICE • GAS • FREE ICE
BOAT STORAGE • SHIP STORE
BOAT AND SLIP RENTALS
BOAT REGISTRATIONS
FISHING LICENSES



ASQUAM MARINA
at Holderness Harbor

603.968.9001



K-MAC

Professional

Home Builders, Inc.

Kevin McBournie
General Contractor

603-968-9339
Fax 603-968-3061

k-mac@roadrunner.com

Annie's

OVERFLOW RESTAURANT

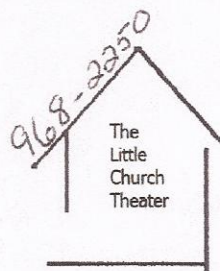
BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Daily Specials

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

6:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

138 Holderness Road - 536-4062

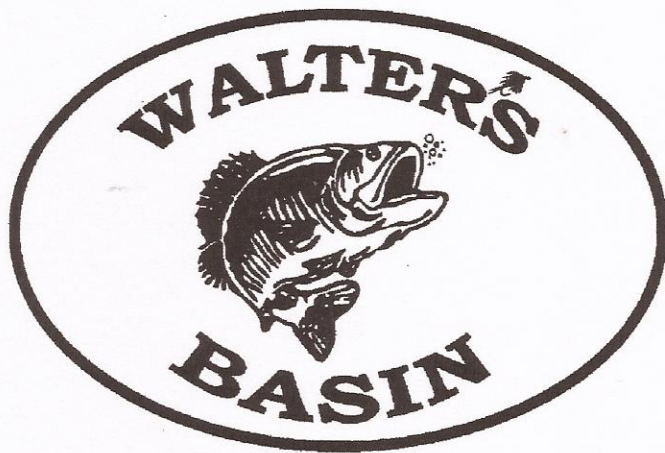


**A Gathering Place
For Creativity**

For Our 2017 Season

Schedule visit

www.littlechurchtheater.com



STAY · SHOP · DINE

Stay with us



RELAX, ENJOY, AND REJUVENATE!

our inn has been awarded the certificate of excellence by trip advisor!

**RESERVE ONLINE OR GIVE US A CALL:
WWW.SQUAMLAKEINN.COM / 603.968.4417**

SHOP FOR QUALITY, ARTISAN, AND LOCAL PRODUCTS!

sandwiches, deli, grocery, bakery
prepared foods, wine, cheese, local & craft beers



**Located at the Intersection of:
Route 3 and Route 113 in Holderness Village
OPEN DAILY / SEASONAL HOURS / 603.968.8588**

Inn Kitchen + BAR

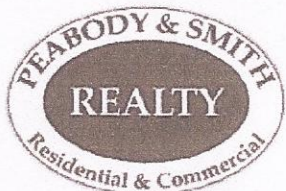


*Call for
Reservations!*

FEATURING...

local produce,
sustainable seafood,
indoor/outdoor dining,
and more!

**603.968.4417 / OPEN MAY-OCT.
Shepard Hill Road / Holderness Village**



A Reputation for Results!

Other Offices in:

Plymouth
Franconia
Littleton
Bretton Woods



Squam Lake Office
U.S. Rte 3, Curry Place
Holderness, NH 03245
603-968-7615

**LUXURY
PORT/OLIO
INTERNATIONAL**



**R.J. Crowley
Moving & Storage**

Since 1963

**Moving people and businesses
to new adventures for over 50 years**

- Fully insured
- Local and long distance
- Estates, antiques and pianos
- Storage, shipping and receiving at our 30,000 square foot facility
- References on request
- Free estimates
- Full packing services

Local & Long Distance 603/536-1363

12 Hitchner Rd. • Plymouth, NH rjcmovers@myfairpoint.net

RUSTY RAKES MAINTENANCE

Landscaping
Snow Plowing • Sanding
Tree Work
General Property Maintenance

RUSSELL SARGENT

(603) 968-3620



Specializing in Fine European Automobiles

Squam Lakes

Automotive Services, LLC

Randy Currier, Owner

**BOSCH
Service**



886 Main Street, Route 3
Holderness, New Hampshire 03245
603-968-7001 603-968-7243 fax

www.squamlakesauto.com
Family Owned & Operated 40+ Years
email: info@squamlakesauto.com



**Custance
Brothers**

Woodworking, LLC.

Since 1911

"We pride ourselves in Quality Construction
and Architectural Woodworking"

Steven W. Custance

www.custancebrothers.com

12 Hillside Ave., Ashland, NH 03217

Kitchens & Bath Design
Stock & Custom Cabinetry
Custom Doors & Windows
Architectural Millwork
Wood Turnings
Entertainment Centers
Staircases

(603) 968-9700

Fax (603) 968-9777

**MegaPrint
INC.**

Large Format Printing Specialists
www.megaprint.com

Holderness, NH
536-2900

**SAMYN • D'ELIA
ARCHITECTS, P.A.**

Ward D'Elia, AIA / Tom Samyn, AIA

Providing Municipal, Commercial, Hospitality, Resort and
Residential Design Services in New Hampshire for over 20 years

Ashland, NH, 603.968.7133 / info@sdarchitects.com
portfolio on-line at: www.sdarchitects.com



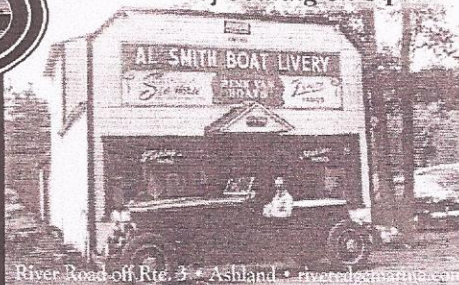
**Golden Pond
Country Store**

6 Shepard Hill Road
Holderness
968-3434



Continuing the proud heritage
of boating on Squam

Rentals
Sales
Service
Storage
968-4411



River Road off Rte. 3 • Ashland • riveredgema.com

A Floral Design Shop



47 Main Street
Ashland, NH
03217

Linda Paré

603-968-3059
800-221-3059

Patty Stewart & Associates

35 Main Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

* Health, Life, Dental, Vision
And Disability Insurance

* Medicare Supplements

1-800-794-3690

603-536-3691 or Fax 603-536-3733

pattystewart@myfairpoint.net

Patti Thompson, Pam Baker and Patricia Stewart
owners



279-6166

ADRIAN

PAVING • EXCAVATING •
SITE WORK • SEPTIC SYSTEMS

P.O. BOX 157, HOLDERNESS, NH 03245



Barbara Currier
Kim Gould
Joan Clay
Clinton Clay
Bill Waldrip



(603) 968-7796
(603) 968-3299 fax
www.pineshoresllc.com

1116 Route 3
P.O. Box 185
Holderness, NH 03245

Squam Lake



ELECTRICAL
SERVICE

GARY CRIPPS
Licensed Electrician
603/968-7515

P.O. Box 25
Holderness, N.H.
03245

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

Treasurer and Building Report

Many thanks to those friends who contributed last year for our new roof. We are in good shape now except for needing some interior painting. We will clean before we open for the summer.

Thanks, too, to the members and donors who sent their envelopes in after receiving the fall newsletter. You keep the lights on and allow us to safeguard the collection. We are up to date with the IRS and the NH Attorney General's Charitable Unit. Our generous advertisers fund the newsletter. Please patronize them!

In Memoriam

Longtime member **Helen Lindstrom** who with her husband Bob had recently moved to the Taylor Home died March 17, 2018. She was 96 years old.

The **Rev. Monsignor James Tierney** of Boston, a summer visitor to Shepard Hill and HHS supporter, died September 2nd. He had served the Boston Diocese for 67 years.

Special Summer Exhibits

We will have our **map collection** on display. From the division of lots when the town was laid out to various lake charts, you will see who lived here and how they got around.

We will also have items from the **collection of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gordon** given by their daughter June Demers. Mr. Gordon was a descendant of the Sargents.

There will be an exhibit of **Native American artifacts** from the Nielsen and Rich collections as well.

Rediscovering Riverside Community in Holderness

In the words of state Division of Historical Resources archaeologist Dave Trubey, "We just know they had to have been here, for thousands of years." He was referring to the presence of Natives living alongside the Pemigewasset River during the Archaic and Woodland Periods long before contact with the white man. He was referring to artifacts his crew has unearthed from the digs of last summer.

At the same time the buried remains of what once was a mill community of as many as five homes, a saw, pulp and tannery mill, school house, company store plus other industrial structures were discovered. Ultimately this tiny community was swept away by repeated floods and fires. But left behind in and around cellar holes were family possessions; tools, implements and utensils that tell a story.

The first riverside structure was likely a sawmill powered by the flow of the river dating to as early as 1769, eight years following establishment of the town of New Holderness by King George III. By 1812, as the nation went to war against Britain, came a pulp and tannery mill plus the folks to work in them. It was an active industrial mill community perched upon a sandy outcrop in the river that came to be known as The Hollow. There are those around today who can still recall what life was like there for The Hollow held on until the 1950s. Across the river and upstream was the J.E. Henry pulp mill established in 1901, closing without warning, in 1953. Its remains are still there.

Other research has confirmed that the earliest colonists and King's surveyors noted Native cornfields atop the intervalle above. But fishing had to have been the major Native attraction. "Can you imagine the salmon runs?" Trubey noted during a presentation recently at Plymouth State University.

Funding for ongoing archaeological research is now possible because Livermore Falls gorge has become the state's newest park purchased in 1992 and open to the public. So expect 1 meter by 1 meter excavation pits to dot The Hollow this summer. Old photos provided by the Campton Historical Society have aided in identifying the various structures.

Additions to our collection

Our thanks to Ted Webster of Newport Beach, California who gave us several 19th century lithographs of New Hampshire scenes.



Summer Celebration

Fireworks and music by the Baker Valley Band on Little Squam are scheduled for **August 31st** at 9 PM. Raindate is September 1st. Fireworks barge provided by Squam Docks and band ferried by the Science Center. Details for the concert on the green to be announced.

Please support this celebration by sending a donation to the Holderness Historical Society. Please write *Celebration* on memo line of check to direct deposit into the Celebration account.

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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A friendly reminder to all members who have not paid this year's dues **NOW** is the time! Please take a moment to renew using the enclosed envelope. Your support is much appreciated; it enables your society to preserve the history of Holderness as well as present programs.

Hope to see you at the museum.

Thank You!!

Cynthia Murray

Membership Chairman

MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

The museum will be open on Saturdays from June 16th thru September 8th from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Please come visit and explore the museum

MAPS FOR SALE

1903 Map of Squam Lake 36" X 31"

Plain paper \$35 laminated \$40

Concord & Montreal Railroad Map of Squam Lake
and Vicinity 20 1/4" X 15 1/2" \$15



FLOWERS ON THE BRIDGE

The Bridge Flowers have been ordered and we will be planting them soon. This year we have chosen Cherry Zinnia Profusions and Yellow Zinnia Profusions. Both were chosen for their longevity and hardiness. We hope you enjoy them! As usual, donations are always needed not only to purchase plants and soil but for the watering system as well. A huge thanks to all of you who have donated these past years. Your checks both large and small are so much appreciated.

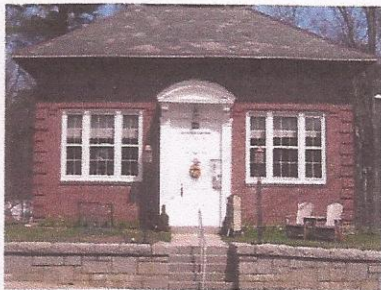
A donation can be made to Holderness Historical Society, PO Box 319, Holderness, NH 03245. In the memo line of your check, please indicate *FLOWERS ON THE BRIDGE*.

Thanks for your support!!

Liz Greason and Cynthia Murray

You Are Invited

On June 13 at 5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society will visit Trinity Chapel (1797) and have a guided tour of the cemetery on Route 113 just east of the Holderness School. Holderness Historical Society members, donors and the general public are invited to join in. Call Missy Mason, 968-3334, if you have any questions.



HOLDERNESS FREE LIBRARY

866 U.S. Route 3
Holderness, NH 03245

(603) 968-7066

www.holdernesslibrary.org

Mon 9-5 Tues 9-4 Wed 9-7
Fri 9-4 Sat 9-1

SQUAM LAKES FINANCIAL ADVISORS, LLC

Business/Personal
Financial Planning

Member of
*The National Association of Personal
Financial Advisors*

Robert E. Maloney, MSFS AEP
Chief Listener

PO Box 730
31 Coxboro Road
Holderness, NH 03245

603-968-2317
603-947-6111 Fax

bob@squamlakesfinancial.com

COTTAGE PLACE *on Squam Lake*



Swim Hike Stay

Lodging • Special Events • Gift Shop

www.cottageplaceonsquam.com

1132 US Route 3 Holderness, NH 03245
cottageplace@gmail.com
603.968.7116

Holderness Historical Society & Holderness Library 2018 Programs

*****June 27 7:30 PM**

at Holderness Historical Society

"New Hampshire's Long Love-Hate Relationship with Its Agricultural Fairs"

Steve Taylor



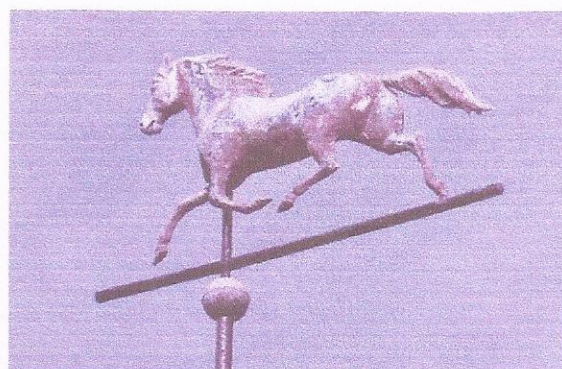
The first agricultural fair in North America was held in what is now Londonderry in 1722, and it would become a wildly popular event lasting for generations until it came to be so dominated by gambling, flim-flam, and other "scandalous dimensions" that the legislature revoked its charter in 1850. But fairs have always had strong supporters and eventually the state came around to appropriating modest sums to help them succeed. Temperance groups and others would continue to attack the fairs on moral grounds and their close connection to horse racing was a chronic flashpoint. Steve Taylor will discuss the ups and the downs of the fairs down through years and how public affection for rural traditions helps them survive in contemporary times.

*****July 11 7:30 PM**

at Holderness Historical Society

"New Hampshire on High: Historic and Unusual Weathervanes of the Granite State"

Glenn Knoblock



The program offers a fun and engaging look at the historic and unusual weathervanes found on New Hampshire's churches, town halls, and other public buildings from earliest times to the present. Highlighted by the visual presentation of a sampling of the vanes found throughout the state, Glenn Knoblock's program will trace the history of weathervanes, their practical use and interesting symbolism, as well as their varied types and methods of manufacture and evolution from practical weather instruments to architectural embellishments.



*****September 5 7:30 PM**

at Holderness Library

"Songs of Immigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music"

Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki

Through traditional music Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki relays some of the adventures, misadventures, and emotions experienced by Irish emigrants. The focus is on songs about leaving Ireland, sometimes focusing on the reasons for leaving (a man who is driven from his land by English persecution), sometimes revealing what happened upon arrival (an immigrant drafted into the Union army during the Civil War), and sometimes exploring the universal feeling of homesickness of a stranger in a strange land (a factory worker in London missing his home in County Clare). The presenter discusses the historical context of these songs, interspersing their stories with tunes from Ireland that made their way into New England's musical repertoire, played on his fiddle or guitar.

