

NEWSLETTER



Holderness Historical Society

Fall 2021

Volume XXXXIII

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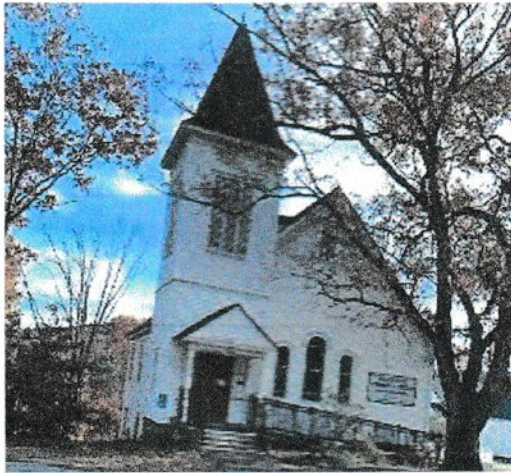
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Wishing You a
Joyous Holiday
Season!

Holderness Free Will Church at Squam Bridge



On Sunday, November 11, 1894, Reverend Robert Fowle True met at the Holderness Townhouse with a group of citizens to consider the advisability of organizing a Free Will Baptist Church. Fifty Holderness and Ashland residents signed a petition which was presented to a Council of Free Will Baptist Ministers on November 20, 1894.

The council listened to statements by Reverend True concerning the need for the church. The council then voted unanimously to proceed with the organization of the Holderness Free Will Church at Squam Bridge.

Following the approval by the council, twenty-seven charter members elected officers and the congregation sang the hymn "Halleluiah 'Tis Done." The event was reported in local newspapers, the Plymouth Record and Ashland Item, on November 24, 1895.

In October of 1895, Smith Piper sold a tract of his land to the church for \$1, thereby providing a site to erect the church. The cornerstone of the building was placed on September 24, 1896. The people of Holderness raised \$120 for the building fund in less than thirty minutes.

The first services were conducted on December 22, 1898. As was the tradition when a mortgage was paid off, the mortgage was burned on May 22, 1909. The name of the church was changed in 1969 to the Holderness Community Church and worshipers of all denominations are welcome.

The Rev. Robert Fowle True was a native of Holderness and the grandson of Priest Fowle, who was the first Holderness minister. As a child and young man, True lived in a home with his widowed mother that was located on the site of the former Holderness Inn now the Squam Lakes Science Center, which was the parsonage of his grandfather.

The newly organized church initially held services in the Town Hall until the church building was completed. On November 29, 1894, the building committee consisted of Smith Piper, Frank A Kimball, Daniel Batchelder, Nahum Shaw, Ansel Lee and Allen Willoughby. The cornerstone was a gift of Ansel Lee.

During its first seventy-five years the Church had four resident pastors: Reverend Robert Fowle True, 1899-1900; Reverend George L. Mason, 1911-1913; Millard D. Webster, 1915-1917; and Reverend Ivan D. Whipple, 1947-1951.

There were many other acting pastors during those years.

Sources: An In-Depth Look at the Early Years Holderness Freewill Church at Squam Bridge, November 20, 1994; Draft History of Holderness Community Church, July 31, 1994; Program to Recall Church's First Service 100 Years Ago, The Citizen, Laconia, NH, Tuesday, November 15, 1994, pg 4.

Route 3 * Curry Place
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www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org

Linda Foerderer

The President's Corner

This summer we unfortunately due to Covid had to cancel the programs that we had planned to present. We are working on the schedule for 2022 programs, which will be listed in the spring newsletter.

This summer the museum presented two special exhibits **Art and Memorabilia of Helen Nicolay** (The paintings are on loan compliments of Patty Sue Salvador.) and a **Dugout Canoe** which was discovered in Veerie Cove in 1939. The dugout became part of our collection donated in 2018 to HHS by the Shelburne Museum, Shelbourne, VT.

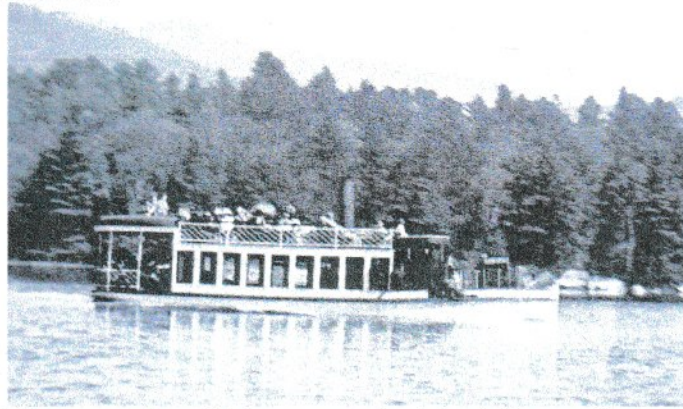
The museum was open this summer on Saturdays from 10 am to noon from June 19 through September 11 and by special appointment. It was good to get back to normal.

Cataloging of our books and pamphlets in our research/library area to make researching families, cemeteries, camps, and other historical events and places simpler continues. Please check our website www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org for programs, exhibits, museum hours, etc.

Your continued support by way of membership dues and contributions helps preserve our town's history and maintain our building and exhibits. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please use the enclosed envelope to do so. We hope that more of our members will become more active in the historical society. We always welcome your ideas, help, and suggestions. Please contact me, or any other member of the board, if you can help or for more information.

Linda Foerderer
FPLinda@aol.com
(603) 968-7487

Tink's Notes



*The coal-fired steamboat Halcyon was the lakes' first mailboat with a passenger capacity of nearly 100. At first docked at Sandwich Landing, later out of Ashland's Squam River office of the Ashland Transportation Company, It served 60 ports of call including private homes and summer camps. It was its own post office designated by the U.S. Post Office Department as *Asquam Lake R.P.O.* The smokestack had to be hinged so it would clear under the bridge at Holderness Landing. Years later it was replaced by several other vessels of varying sizes and in 1967 mail service was discontinued on the lakes.



*On October 16, the Northern New England Chapter of the U.S. Society for Industrial Archaeology met at Livermore Falls to view, photograph and take measurements of the 1886 wrought iron "Pumpkinseed" bridge across the Pemigewasset constructed by Holderness, Campton and Plymouth from Campton into Holderness. It is perhaps the last of its kind east of the Mississippi. That portion of the river is now a state park with visitation growing with each season.

The bridge was constructed by the Berlin (CT) Bridge Company in 1886 for \$7,100 and closed to traffic in 1959. Its method of construction, with the main supporting trusses occurring below the travel deck, make it unique.

Plans are being discussed of converting the portion of the bridge still standing (minus its easterly span) into a pedestrian observation deck offering spectacular views up and down the gorge. An architect's rendering of how the bridge might look and a structural analysis of its safety are now underway.



Sidney Lovett

1928-2021

In Historical Society annals, Sid Lovett played a leading role. Though Kip Hawkins once told him he didn't count as a "local", he worked hard to advance the interests of his adopted hometown and certainly qualified as a pillar of the community.

The North Baptist Church had been assembling in homes since 1847 and built a meetinghouse on Perch Pond Road in 1861. In 1970, the New Hampshire Baptist Convention declared the North Holderness Baptist Church defunct and the church building and lot were offered for sale. HHS purchased the building using it for meetings and occasional gatherings. Years later the Board decided to move it to a location where it would provide a community center and entice more people to enjoy the collection intended to preserve Holderness history. Don Markle signed the perpetual easement agreement with the Kampfs, owners of Curry Place, in 1993. Fifi Kampf was especially enthusiastic about the project. Now came the work of making the dream a reality.

It took the efforts of many people to have special exhibits of local artists, hold community suppers and painting days, auctions led by Gerry Love, steamboat rides with Lou Francesco, all with the goal of moving the building to Curry Place, putting in a well and septic system and adding the lower level for a kitchen, meeting place and restrooms. Many local business owners volunteered their skills. Arnold Graton accomplished the move. Roger Gage kept tabs on the construction. More than \$100,000 was needed to accomplish the goals. As president, Sid guided the members through the multi-year process. Former board member, Cynthia Murray, praised Sid's fundraising abilities. The list of more than 200 contributors to the capital campaign is proof of his efforts.

Once the building was open, Jacquie and Mark Marden organized regular community suppers, speakers were invited and the collection of pictures, documents and artifacts that had been in Doris Graton's house and barn and scattered around town was arranged for viewing. Olivia Saunders and Roger Gage applied for and received a grant to provide proper care for the items donated.

Sid continued to contribute to Historical Society projects up till the present. He allowed us to print excerpts in the Summer 2019 Newsletter (see our online archive at www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org) from his and his sister Eugenia's memoir of their parents. He excelled in bringing forth stories from fellow residents. Visitors to the Society can watch a DVD filmed in the summer of 2011 when Holderness celebrated its 250th birthday. Sid moderated the discussion among neighbors on high points of Town history. Friends of the Library Zoom conversations with Sid on "Who's Who in Holderness?" from October and December 2020 are available on You Tube.

Georgene Fabian



On Perch Pond Road before the move.



Roof removed.



First section on Route 3 going to Curry Place.



Reuniting the two sections on new foundation at Curry Place.

Photographs above by Don Markle 1992-1994



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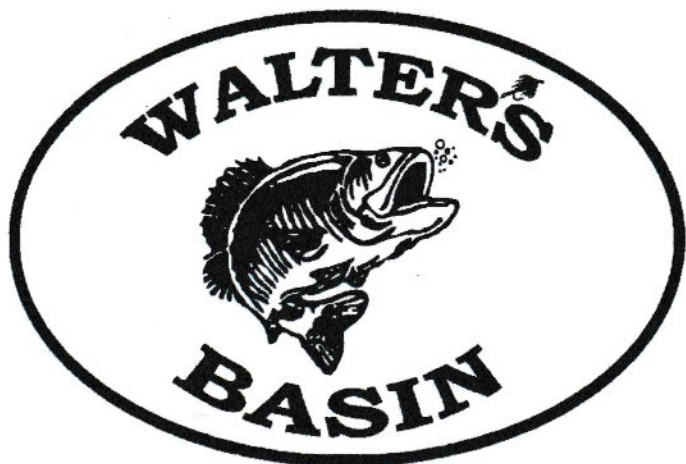
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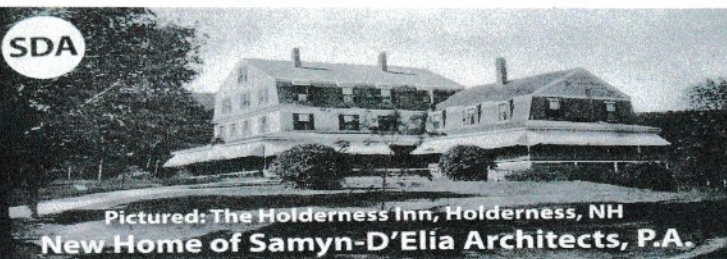
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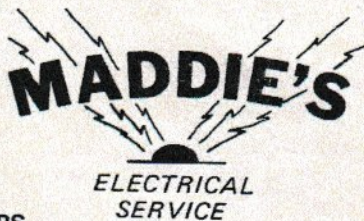
**Pictured: The Holderness Inn, Holderness, NH
New Home of Samyn-D'Elia Architects, P.A.**

Built in 1895, the Inn is one of the few early summer hotels to survive intact in the Lakes Region. Ward D'Elia and Cris Salomon have long admired the building for its history, architectural significance, and importance to the community, and are proud to have the opportunity to renovate and preserve this local landmark.

Samyn-D'Elia Architects, P.A.

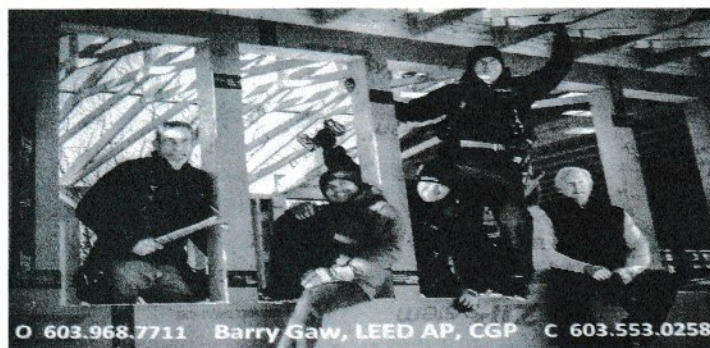
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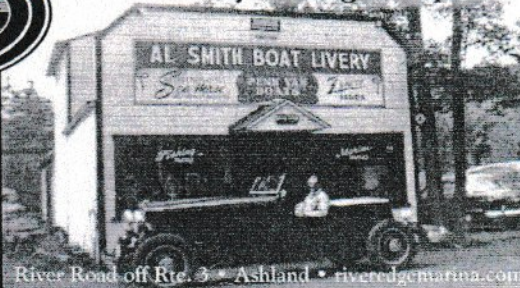
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Flowers on the Bridge



The pink petunias chosen by Jane Huntoon bloomed exuberantly until Columbus weekend. Many thanks to Jane who will take on the job again next year. Ron Huntoon, HHS board member, built one new flower box this year and will need to build another replacement before next summer. We would appreciate contributions to the *Flowers on the Bridge* Fund to cover his materials, winterizing the irrigation system and next May's flowers. Please make checks out to HHS, PO Box 319, Holderness 03245 with "Flowers" in the memo line. Thank you for your help!

In Memoriam

Adrian Robie * He put in a septic system for our newly transferred building back in 1994.

Gloria Winslow* passed away on August 12, 2020.

Shirley Staples* passed away on June 12, 2021.

A Look Back With Gloria Winslow and Shirley Staples

The women were high school friends in Chelmsford MA who lived here later on. They talked to us about their stays at the Inn located at Curry Place in the late 1930s and early 40s. There was a candy shop and meals were served. Shirley recalled that she went to Rockywold to sell the candy every week. She thought that sisters Florence Eastman and Mrs. Huckins ran the inn. The girls would swim off the beach in the channel and take a row boat or canoe to the Squam Islands as well as visit with a friend staying at the Pease Hotel at the end of Little Squam. Shirley also recalled that her father, a trucker, was permitted to build a cabin in the woods, that was later moved.

Membership Report

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please return the enclosed envelope with a check payable to the Holderness Historical Society. Individual membership is \$15 and family is \$25. Your membership money is important to the financial day to day running of the Society.


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Treasurer's Report

We are in the black but anticipating higher costs for oil, printing, postage and other purchases. Thank you to our loyal members and donors who continue to give us financial support.



This picture a recent contribution to HHS, presently hangs in our museum. It is believed to be the last log drive on the Pemigewasset River at Livermore Falls circa 1890 by Parker-Young Company.

The 'Hollow' Company Community on the East bank of the Pemigewasset River in Holderness in the late 1800s, which was later destroyed by floods.

Keep up the Good Work!

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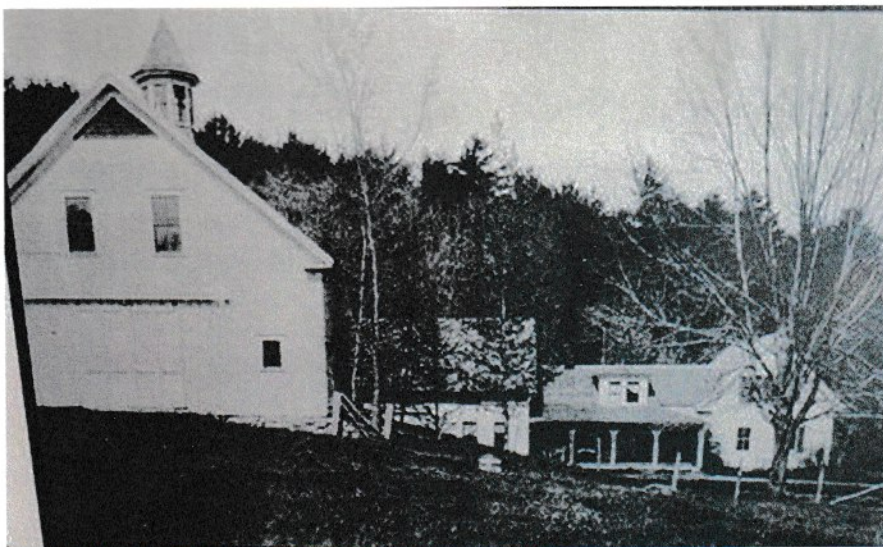
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More Change Come to Holderness

The top picture is the *Shaw Farm* back when it was a working farm. (This picture hangs on the wall of HHS Museum.) For years the property operated as the *Squam Lakeside Farm*, a seasonal business selling ice cream and food, renting boats, renting moorings and so forth. It has been renovated into rental apartments and the new Ice House Creamery.



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