

CAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Tropical Storm Irene

Tropical Storm Irene did her fair share of damage in Campton. We would appreciate any photos and/or stories you have to help document this noteworthy storm. While the Blair Bridge has been repaired and is open once again, the fate of Turkey Jim is still unknown. The people at Branch Brook Campground may need your support—keep your ears open!

Email: CamptonHistorical@gmail.com or P.O. Box 60 Campton NH 03223



Turkey Jim takes out main bridge to Branch Brook



The branch went through the roof as well.



Turkey Jim Bridge in the water.



The water was very high to get through the side of Blair Bridge.

Campton and the Civil War

Submitted by Walt Stockwell

During 2011, we have been recognizing the 150th anniversary of the start of the United States Civil War. This seems an appropriate time to review our papers and artifacts about the role that Campton played in this period.

Our Centennial Booklet has a list of those persons who served, their regiment, and also indicates if they were killed or wounded in battle. Total enlistments were eighty seven. These lists are supplemented by detailed notes received from Sharon Wood, who portrays Mary Todd Lincoln

in lectures throughout the state. We have ribbons and other artifacts that belonged to Lieutenant Samuel S. Mitchell, donated by Lester Mitchell. Our library contains over 100 copies of Civil War magazines, and video tapes donated by Ed Wester. There is a copy of the book *Civil War Stories*, written by Ambrose Bierce.

We have a framed summary about Sergeant Major Abraham Cohn from Campton, who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor. This is supplemented also by a research paper.

One of our most treasured pieces is the Civil War Sword of Lieutenant Henry D. Wyatt. He was born in 1836, and in 1862 enlisted from Campton as a Private in Company B, 15th New Hampshire Infantry. He soon rose to the rank of lieutenant, at which time the Town of Campton presented him a handsome sword. Wyatt was wounded, and mustered out of service in 1863. He then attended and graduated from Dartmouth College. This led to his teaching, building up the school system, and serving as head of the school system in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Upon his death, his will provided that the sword be returned to the Town of Campton. This was formally done on August 6, 1918. It is presently stored in a safe off-site, but is put on display on appropriate occasions.

Another treasure is a series of letters regarding George W. Plumer of Campton. These were donated to the Campton Historical Society by one of the libraries in New York City.

The first was written by George to his wife Sarah from his post on Long Island. He expresses his surprise that as much as twelve or fifteen cars a day run alongside their camp. He marvels at the buildings along Broadway that are seven and eight stories high. And he noted that more than a hundred coaches and hacks pass by every half hour. The second letter explains his anticipated move to Fort Monroe, Virginia. The third letter is dated November 30, 1862. It tells of all of the regiments, 15 thousand soldiers, leaving by boat the next day for Richmond. He expresses his hope that he will be one of the lucky ones to return alive. The fourth letter is from his Company Commander, Captain John W. Ela to Plumer's mother in law. He informs the family that George died of pneumonia in the Carrollton, Louisiana hospital. The last letter is in answer to the family's request for more details as to his final days. It was assigned to be written by Lieutenant Henry D. Wyatt, the same from whom we have the sword. "In our memories will our brother soldier still live, and softly will his comrades tread around the grave where he reposes".

These items may be seen and studied at the Society. We are open most every Thursday from 9 to 4, and on meeting nights and special occasions. We welcome your additions to our collections – letters, pictures, artifacts – by donation or loan. They all help to tell the story of Campton's heritage.

Museum of White Mountains Coming to Plymouth State University

Submitted by Judy Landry

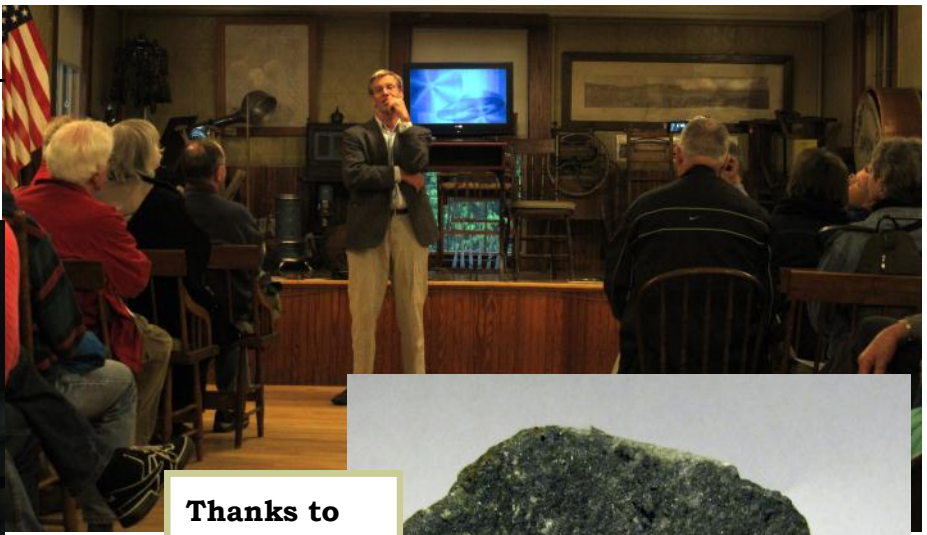
Plymouth State University is in the process of creating a Museum of the White Mountains which promises to become a central place for the study of the region's art, culture and heritage. At the core of the collection are over 8,000 items donated by photographer and collector Daniel Noel of Conway shortly before his death last year. The material includes rare photographs, maps, books, stereoscopic images, hotel ledgers and other items, all of which will be digitized and shared with researchers, students and the public. Steve Barba, longtime managing director of *The Balsams*, in Dixville Notch, and current Executive Director of University Relations at PSU, has also expressed plans to donate his extensive collection of White Mountains materials to the Museum.

The Museum will be located on Highland Street on the former site of the Plymouth United Methodist Church. The Museum will be completed in two phases.



For more information go to <http://www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains>

Charles Dona (below) and Alex Ray (right) were two of the presenters at the ever popular program nights.



Thanks to Pat Barker & Scott Bailey for the samples of Camptonite.



The ham and bean supper crew.



The Mardin and Thompson Boys.



Cellar hole walk on Bald Mountain lead by Dr. Steve Hamburg



Scout Troop 58's ceremony to dispose flags.

Old Home Day 2011



Campton Old Home Day 2011

submitted by Paul Yelle

Campton was treated to another fine Old Home Day. With over 17 active committee members, the Community 5k Spirit Run/Walk, parade and the kids games, book fair, vendors, live musical entertainment and food at the elementary school was a blast. The historical society put a float in the parade thanks to the efforts of Sandy Decarie, Bob Mardin, donations from Jim Stafursky, Wes Avery driving his rig and many more people working behind the scenes. This year's bus tour was led by Martha Aguiar and Bob Mardin with trusty Reed Harrigan behind the wheel of the bus (THANK YOU ROBERTSON TRANSIT!!!). Priscilla Whitney was making some awesome bread using antique methods, George Short tested everyone's tool knowledge, Marcia Vandermast was on hand with the loom and Jackie Dearborn was doing some chair caning. We were also fortunate to have a handful of dedicated cyclist bring their antique and unique machines to display. Jackie Dearborn also ran the photo event/contest this year. Thank you to all who participated and helped out - keep your eyes open for next year.

The bean hole beans story. This is a real community experience where the fire wood, hole being dug, food prep, cast iron pots, watching over the fire etc... are all volunteered. We had never done bean hole beans and our firsthand experience was zero. No problem - that's why there is Google. Some camp kids had dug the hole, we lined it with river stone and built a fire in it the day before Old Home Day to get a bunch of nice and hot coals. The idea is the cast iron pots of beans would be placed in that hole surrounded by coals and covered with dirt overnight. At 5:30pm I had the last Old Home meeting at Campton Elementary. Some of the volunteers watched over the fire and we would bury the beans after I

(Continued on page 5)

got out of the meeting. As I got half way to school (Campton Farm) it started raining and soon after it was pouring. I stopped in at school and the water was thick. Jim Aguiar said it had been raining like that for 10 or 15 minutes. You don't need me here do you? They didn't and I raced back to the historical building (I might of broken the speed limit) and just like the way in, the rain stopped half way there. I jumped out of the truck and everyone was concerned - what's the matter? We need to bury the bean!!! And with three people shoveling dirt like mad there was enough of a layer that when the skies opened up, the beans were safe. As an added measure we added some plywood and a tarp to protect them. If I did not have that meeting - who knows, if we would of gotten the beans in and coals covered before the rain.



Led by Robert Mardin with help from Walt Stockwell, Sandy Decarrie, Bob Pulsifer, Dick Mardin, Scott Pulsifer, Ron Landry and many more behind the scenes people -The carriage shed at CHS got a major overhaul to become a top notch museum.



The Pemi Camp kids came with Reed Harrigan to give a lending hand to CHS. They cleared the Town Pound, dug the hole for the bean hole beans and scraped and sanded the flag pole.



With Reed Harrigan being the bridge with the Pemi-Baker High School, CHS was able to have a tool shed

made matching the style of the existing building. This enabled the carriage shed to be cleaned out and become a carriage museum. The high school kids also fixed up a donated later model snow blower which will come in very handy this winter. Thanks to all the teachers and students involved in those projects.



Stop number two of this year's house tour.



Thank you Robertson Transit for your continued support

- Membership runs from October 1st to September 30th.
- Membership is the primary source for mailing our monthly program notices and newsletters.
- The more members the merrier. Please help recruit friends, family and neighbors to help keep this great organization going.



Campton Historical Society
 www.CamptonHistorical.org
 P.O. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223

Single Membership – \$12.00 Family Membership – \$20.00
 Yearly membership is from October 1 through September 30.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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Make checks payable to Campton Historical Society and mail to PO Box 160, Campton, NH 03223

Members

Enclosed is my check for dues.

This check also includes a donation to support projects to be done in the Old Town Hall, headquarters of the Society.

Regular

Campton Historical Society
PO Box 160 Campton, NH 03223

Business

The Campton Historical Society is a not for profit organization dedicated to gathering, preserving and promoting the history of our Town and the surrounding area. In our Town we are fortunate that the people have chosen to assist the Campton Historical Society financially by allocating money for maintenance and upkeep of the historic Campton Town House. In addition, we are lucky to have the support of many members who donate their time and skills to assist with the many projects and events that are completed throughout the year. However, we could use your help as well. I am asking you to show your support in the form of a business membership. Your membership fee of \$100.00 will entitle you to membership through October of 2012. Your membership fee would be earmarked exclusively to:

- Offset the cost of printing and mailing our Newsletter which we produce twice a year.
- Offset the cost of delivering our monthly programs which are open to the public at no cost.

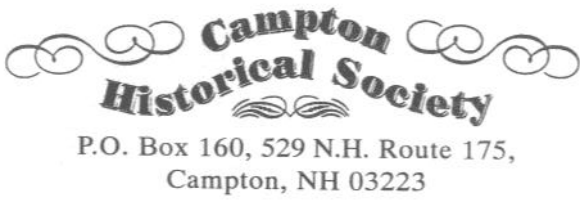
In return for your membership Campton Historical Society will provide you with the following benefits:

- Link to your Web Site from our Web Site
- Your business membership would sponsor one or more of our monthly programs which would include your business name and logo printed on the flyers, on the advertising posters and also displayed on the podium the night of the program. We mail approximately 250 flyers per month and posters are displayed at various businesses throughout Campton, Thornton and Plymouth. Between 40 and 60 people attend our monthly programs.

Your business name is listed in the newsletter as a supporter of the Campton Historical Society.

Please take a moment to complete the membership form and mail your check today. I thank you for becoming a business member with Campton Historical Society and helping us to continue our tradition of providing quality programs and informational newsletters to our members and the public.

To find out more about us visit one of our programs, which are held on the third Monday of each month in January and then from April through November or attend one of our special events. You may also visit our website at www.camptonhistorical.org.



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