

**WATERVILLE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3 JULY 2020**

Dear Fellow Historians,

We hope this letter finds you well during these unusual and challenging times. As those of you lucky enough to live or summer in The Valley know, it is a beautiful summer, although definitely warmer than most years past. Your Board has found ZOOM meetings to work well, not only for safety, but to meet when not all of us are in Waterville. It has actually made it easier to have well-attended meetings. The last few months have been both busy and productive for the Society.

UPDATES:

- As of 1 July, we have a work/storage space in Town Square. The Resort has generously donated the cost of the rent to the Society, for which we are very grateful. The Resort has also provided the Society with a display window, located to the right of the Post Office, which will serve as a mini-museum. We hope to offer a new display each season. Look for signs of activity in August.
- With many of our organizational tasks finally completed, we can now focus on our mission “To gather, preserve, protect, and share the History of Waterville Valley, New Hampshire”. To that end, we have hired an Archivist/Consultant to assess, catalog, and preserve the portion of our collection presently housed in Town Hall. Anne Morgan (see more about Anne below), will be tasked with creating a Strategic Institutional Plan and a Collections Management Manual, training our volunteers in the proper care and treatment of our collection, the use of Past Perfect software to catalog our collection, and in grant writing activities. One of our Board members has donated the use of her condo for Anne during her 4-week residence this summer.
- We are in the process of applying for the Moose Plate Grant (fingers crossed). The money would be used to purchase a long list of preservation supplies, and to bring our Archivist/Consultant back to continue with our work. The Grant awards will be announced this Fall.
- We have purchased a computer and Past Perfect Software (the software used by museums to catalog collections). One of our Board Members has donated a professional-grade scanner. We will be purchasing supplies needed to properly store and preserve our collection.

We would like to thank many of you for your generous donations, and for your continued support through Membership Dues. We are also grateful to the Town for its financial support. In March, we were granted an annual commitment of \$10,000. This year, due to the difficulties presented by COVID-19, we elected to return \$5,000 to the town after budget cuts were announced, so we will be receiving \$5,000.

MEET OUR ARCHIVIST:

We are very fortunate that Anne Morgan has agreed to work with us as a consultant this summer. Anne has a B.A. from Lake Forest College in Illinois, and a Master of Science, Library and Information Science: Archives Concentration, from Simmons University in Boston. While at Simmons, she interned with the Massachusetts Historical Society and the New England Conservatory of Music. She most recently worked at the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, California where she served as head curator, head archivist, and social media manager. She lives in Huntington, New York, where she works as an editor in addition to her consulting work on preservation and communications.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **25 July:** WVHS Blood Drive co-hosted with the Silver Streaks. Note new location: Town Square, Brookside Room, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. See attached poster for sign up information.
- **26 July:** Victorian Day: **CANCELLED** Unfortunately, due to the present health concerns, we have cancelled this event.
- **29 August:** Annual Meeting with presentation. We are presently moving forward with this event, although location and format are subject to change. The presentation will be a panel discussion with Steve Smith and company. Steve Smith is the owner of the Mountain Wanderer Bookstore in Lincoln, NH. He has also authored several books. Working with Waterville locals, Steve has put together The Waterville Valley Guidebook, to be released in August. We hope to have a book signing, if copies are available and health restrictions allow. It is most likely that we will combine a small meeting (which permits safe physical distancing), with a ZOOM broadcast. This will allow those of you who would prefer to participate in the meeting from home to do so, and would be an added benefit for those of you not physically in The Valley on August 29. Look for an email in mid-August with more details, including how to get a signed copy of the book without physically attending the meeting.
- **6 September:** Annual Cellar Hole Hike with Brenda and Preston.
Place: Meet at the parking lot pull off at the junction of Rt 49 and Upper Mad River Road.
Time : 10 am
The 3 mile hike should last 2.5 hours, depending on questions. It will feature a visit to the original Waterville Cemetery and stops at home sites of some of Waterville's earliest settlers. Hikers should bring their own masks, water and wear comfortable shoes. Masks are to be used when a distance of six feet of separation cannot be maintained, and otherwise are not needed outdoors.
- **6 September:** 3rd Annual "Getting to Know the Valley"
Place: Town Square
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Come learn about our local Clubs, Businesses, and Organizations, and see what our Valley has to offer. Please wear your masks to this event, as the Town Square can

get crowded.

- **27 September:** Historical in-Town Walk led by the Waterville Valley Rec Department. **Please call the Rec Department to register for this event at 603-236-4695.**

HISTORY TIDBIT:

The Town of Waterville Valley made national headlines in 1952, when it hosted the first- in-the-nation Presidential primary. The 12:01 AM election was reportedly conceived by future Eisenhower Chief of Staff and future Loon Mountain founder Sherman Adams as a way to get an Ike victory in the papers ahead of most other polling places opening. The Associated Press delighted in referring to Ralph Bean as “owner of the inn, town clerk, police chief, fire chief, and road agent. About the only town job Bean doesn’t hold is tax collector. His wife has that job”. One couple living in Greenwich Village, New York, heard this story on the national news and they were intrigued by this very small town. They decided to visit it and ended up building a home and studio here, and becoming some of the Valley’s best-known summer residents. Their names? Hans and Margaret Rey, the authors of the Curious George books.

REQUESTS:

- We are looking for copies of the Wig Wag, from 1970-1999 for our archives. If you have copies that you are willing to donate, please contact us at: wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com
- If you are interested in working as a volunteer, we have several projects planned. Please contact us at: wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com.
- We are in need of a Laser printer, in good condition. A donation would be most welcome. Please contact us at: wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com

Attached Please Find:

Blood Drive Poster

Article: The Waterville Valley Yacht Club

Board of Directors:

President: Reggie Breeckner

Vice President: Susan C Scrimshaw

Treasurer: Lori Horton

Secretary: Reva Gertel

Officers:

Rob Wilson

Darrell Fernandes

Rich Rita