

Washington Historical Society Newsletter

SPRING 2015 EDITION

In This Issue

Survey
page 2

•

Surprise!
page 3

•

Wild Orchids
pages 4-6 & 9

•

2015 Programs
page 7

•

Items for Sale
page 8

•

Dole Mausoleum
page 10

•

Summer at the Museum
page 11

•

Society Officers
page 11

President's Message

I open by saying that I am glad warmer weather is on the horizon. February has been unusually cold in New Hampshire and from what I see on the news those that went south, for the winter had their share of cold weather too.

Welcome to our 2015 season. The Program Committee, consisting of Tom Talpey and Jim Crandall, have worked hard these past months, obtaining some interesting programs for your enjoyment and enlightenment. The Museum, Barn and Schoolhouse are ready to receive visitors as they are every year. What is needed is help in keeping these programs open and available.

The activities and programs of the Historical Society have been made available by a very small contingent of Historical Society members. The ranks of these volunteers are growing smaller and we need members to replace them. Please consider volunteering, it only takes a little of your time and can be interesting and rewarding.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a survey form. Please complete it and return it to the Historical Society before our upcoming season. We need your input.

Jack Sheehy

WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SURVEY

Name _____ Contact info _____ (Optional)

Please complete this survey and return it to:

Washington Historical Society, PO Box 90, Washington, NH 03280
or E-mail washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

- 1. Is there value in having a Historical Society? Yes No
- 2. How satisfied are you with the organization? Very Somewhat Not Satisfied
- 3. How would you improve the Historical Society? _____

- 4. What is the most important function of the Historical Society for you?
Education Social Gathering Preservation of Local History

- 5. Do you attend the monthly meetings/programs? Yes No
If you answered Yes:
Do you like the pot luck supper? Yes No
Do we have too much time scheduled for this? Yes No
Do you attend the business meeting? Yes No
Do you come for the program? Yes No
Would you like the program to begin at an earlier time? Yes No

- 6. Which Committee would you be able to help on? (Circle all that apply)
Board of Directors Schoolhouse Committee Program Committee-Education
Museum Committee Fund Raising Committee Barn Committee
Nominating Committee Newsletter Committee

7. How can we attract more members? _____

- 8. Have you visited the: Museum? Yes No
- Barn? Yes No
- Schoolhouse? Yes No

If you have not, why not? _____

9. What information would you like to learn about Washington? _____

10. Please give your honest opinion of what is right or wrong with the way the Society is operating.

Please feel free to use a separate piece of paper to write a longer answer for any of these questions. We are looking for direction and the more information you, our members, give us, the better we will be able to steer our Society into the future.

Surprise! A gift to the Washington Historical Society

by Gwen Gaskell

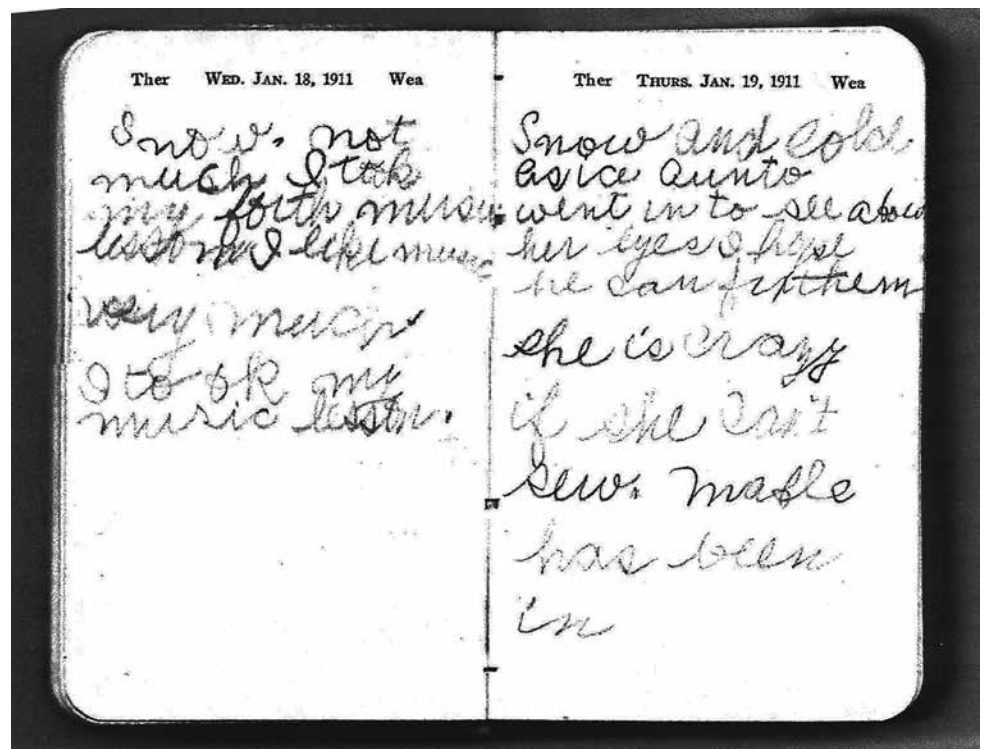
Early this winter a man from another Historical society, who has visited our Society, called me about items he had seen advertised. I checked it out and discovered that it was a collection of resources that would go with what we already have on the early life here in Washington, circa 1800's. I knew there was no way it could be acquired with our acquisition budget, so I called Carolyn, a friend of some of us and a very generous friend of our society whenever we have a good project or need.

Carolyn jumped at the chance to help as she has been especially interested in our "Clara" project.

In mid January two large boxes were delivered to me and it was like Christmas! Journals, record books, letters and Clara's daughter's diaries. It is an ongoing project to get the letters into chronological order and they are a great resource to add to hints of information we already had. As some of you know, this is a project that I got personally involved in, as it mentions my grandparents. In this collection I have found the invitation to my grandparents wedding.

Pictures and some of the treasures will be on display this summer. Be sure to come by.

We can not thank Carolyn enough for this generous gift and the yet to be discovered treasures it contains.



This is a scan of pages of Jeanette Hurd's diary when she was 10 years old.

It is one of the treasures from our new collection.

"Clara" always did enjoy a day out and on September 24th she has a date to speak at the Pierce Manse, in Concord at 7 PM.

The Wild Orchids of Washington, NH

by Tom Talpey

Most of us generally think of orchids as being from the tropics, such as the large-flowered varieties used in corsages or the “moth” orchids that we frequently see for sale in grocery stores. There is, however, a large class of small-flowered orchids native to more temperate regions that behave as perennials, commonly called terrestrial orchids. There are eight of these orchids which can be found within the town of Washington.

The most common is the pink “Lady’s Slipper” or “Moccasin Flower” *Cypripedium acaule*. It blooms in early June and is easily seen along roadsides in shady areas, sometimes as a single plant or often in clumps. It has two large broad leaves near the bottom of each stem and the blossom has a large, hollow, pouch-shaped pink lip, which is by far its most conspicuous feature.



Pink Lady Slippers



Ladies' Tresses

A second, fairly common native white orchid, the “Ladies’ Tresses” *Spiranthes cernua*, has an entirely different form. The leaves are grass-like and each stem has many small blossoms, sometimes spiraling up the stem which may be 6 inches or more tall. It blooms in late August, often in relatively open fields or grassy areas. Often these areas are mowed, but there is an area near the Lake Ashuelot Marina where they frequently appear provided the mower doesn’t get there first! They may also appear in fairly open areas near roadside ditches in smaller clumps. The first time I saw one, was when my wife called my attention to a “new little white flower” which she had picked near the edge of

our garden and put in a small vase on our dining table! I immediately recognized it as an orchid and scolded her for picking such a rare flower! If you examine the tiny blossom with a magnifying glass you can easily recognize the shape of a familiar-looking orchid, with its enlarged central lower lip.

A third local orchid, seen less frequently, is the “Purple Fringed Orchid” *Habenaria psycodes*, or *Platanthera psycodes* (I’ve seen it called either; I think the latter name is more recent.) It grows in much wetter areas, usually in standing water in a bog. It likes its feet wet, one might say. It has one or two large leaves which clasp the lower stem and the blossoms appear in a bunch just below the growing tip. It can be a couple of feet or more in height. The large lower lip is heavily fringed and you can detect a faint, decidedly sweet fragrance. I have seen it in two widely separated locations in Washington—one just off the right side of King Street, less than a hundred yards or so beyond the Seventh Day Adventist church building. The other place I’ve seen it is in the Town forest in



Purple Fringed Orchid

a bog north of the trail beyond the end of Twin Bridge Road. It is tempting to want to pick, but please do not do so as it would last only for a few hours. Better to leave it for another hiker to admire during the week or two when it blooms, which is normally just after the 4th of July.

A note here about trying to transplant any of the wild orchids. It is very difficult to do so, as they require extremely specific environments to thrive, including perhaps trace elements in the soil, and they would last only a year or so at best in an unsuitable home. Once they have found a spot in nature which they like, they will take hold and last for decades for others to enjoy. Take photos and leave the plants, they are so rare. Some wild plant nurseries sell plants of the Lady's Slippers, but beyond that the other local terrestrial orchids are generally too difficult to attempt and will surely end in disappointment.

Another interesting orchid which can be found locally is the "Rose Pogonia," *Pogonia ophioglossoides*. What a mouthful! From the Greek, ophioglossoides means "resembling a snake's tongue," perhaps referring to the blossom's fancy lower lip. A single small leaf clasps the middle of the stem which may be a foot or more tall. At the top of the stem there is usually a single flower with a prominent fringed lip and a yellow interior. The plant grows in an acidic bog frequently in an inch or so of water. One needs boots to photograph it or examine it closely. It is found just above the dam at the outlet of Half Moon Pond, but this is private land and permission of the owner should be sought. Although I have not seen it there myself, I am informed that it also grows along the edge of Fletcher Pond south of Pillsbury State Park, north of Washington Center.



Rose Pogonia



Small Woodland Orchid

In the same bog as the Rose Pogonia I accidentally ran across a small greenish-white orchid commonly called the "Small Woodland Orchid." *Platanthera clavellata*, sometimes called *Habenaria clavellata*. I have also seen it referred to as the "Club-Spur Orchid." It has a single, well developed leaf about midway on a slender short stem about 6 to 8 inches long, topped by a group of 10 or more small greenish-white flowers, each with a long thin spur with a blunt tip. It was growing beside some small weedy bushes on a tuft of earth in the bog. It is listed in guide books as being not uncommon in the New England area.

On private property along the eastern side of Island Pond, back in the woods, can be found an orchid called the "Rattlesnake Plantain," *Goodyera pubescens*. The name may be somewhat misleading, since it is not actually in the plantain family, but may look like one. This orchid was pointed out to me years ago by then Washington Selectman Dick Griffith, who retired to live in Oregon and



Rattlesnake Plantain

lived to be 102 as reported in our last issue. Its leaves are dark green, speckled with many small white veins, lying in a rosette flat on the ground. Whitish blossoms appear in the summer near the top of a single downy spike growing up from the center. I am told that the plant also grows along the lower section of a trail from Goshen up Sunapee Mountain, just outside the Washington border.



Round Leaved Orchid

Along the eastern side of Half Moon Pond Road one of our long-time members told me twenty years ago to watch for an orchid growing almost in the ditch along the east side of the road, within a quarter of a mile or so of Snow Road. It was not easy to spot, but the Round Leaved Orchid, *Platanthera orbiculata* bloomed there every year in July. Some road work has been done in the area, making it harder to spot, but I believe the orchid lives on among the ferns. It is characterized by a pair of opposite nearly round leaves lying flat on the ground. A one- to two-foot stem rises between them, with 8 or more white blossoms with a blunt spur hanging down from each.

The last orchid I will describe is sort of a rambler, which can appear in a slightly different spot each year. It is actually a species introduced from Europe which has become well established throughout New England and beyond, down to Maryland and out to Missouri. It has been found in the U.S.

as far back as 1879. It is called the "Helleborine Orchid," *Epipactis helleborine*. Its leaves are deeply veined, similar to the False Hellebore or Indian Poke, which is actually in the Lily

plant family. When first opening, the flowers also vaguely resemble those of the star-shaped flowers of the False Hellebore, but more sparsely spaced and only five points to the star plus one enlarged lip in the lower center. I first saw it in my yard in late July of 1995 and thereafter it seemed to move randomly from one spot to another from year to year, until now it has disappeared. It is found in many places in town, however, so is not a rare plant. In my yard it seemed to prefer living among the ferns, but books state that it will grow in woods, ravines and thickets, so it seems not to be fussy, although it probably prefers the shade. It will grow from one to three feet in height, with all the flowers on one single stem per plant, which is different than the branching inflorescence of the False Hellebore.

About 20 miles north of Washington lies the Cricenti Bog, in New London. There are two orchids there which bloom in late July: the "Dragon's Mouth Orchid," *Arethusa bulbosa* and the "White Fringed Orchid," *Platanthera blethariglottis*. Some older books refer to it as *Habenaria blethariglottis*.





Helleborine Orchid

continued on page 9

Washington Historical Society Programs for 2015

Meeting monthly, April through November at Camp Morgan

Meeting Times:	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Pot Luck Supper
	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Business Meeting
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Program


May 11	<p>Historic Sites Survey Edna Feighner, historical archaeologist, will talk about how to locate, document and create state-level recordation of the existing cellar holes, barn foundations and other associated features that indicate a community's presence. The specific objective is to encourage participants to explore the rich history of NH and their communities and appreciate that the past bears an important relationship to its environment and natural resources.</p>
June 8	<p>Draft Animal Power Returns to the White Mountain National Forest Ed Thayer will discuss the utility of draft animal power with perspectives from past and present. A video, which Ed organized and managed, documenting the use of draft power in the Pemigewasset Wilderness in Lincoln, NH to remove a steel walking bridge from deep in the wilderness by using log scoots and draft horses. Come enjoy some history of logging lore mixed with present day draft power.</p>
July 4	<p>Flea Market and Pie Sale on the Town Common</p>
July 13	<p>Antique Bottles Michael George presents a full PowerPoint program, outlining glass making history, local factories (such as Stoddard) and their production and bottle identification. He also offers a show and tell approach to the lecture with a large display of bottles, flasks and glass factory shards and encourages you to bring in items for appraisal.</p>
Aug. 10	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>NH and the American Clipper Ship Era Glenn A. Knoblock explores our nation's maritime past with this exciting look at the fastest sailing ships ever built in American. Learn how the clippers evolved, who built them and why, as well as New Hampshire's important role in supplying these antique ships. Learn also about the exciting voyages made, their cargos and the men and women sailing them.</p> </div> </div>
Aug. 22	<p>(Tentative) Dinner with all the fixings and dessert.</p>
Sept. 14	<p>The Bird Pictures of Roger Tory Peterson and KC Hayes KC Hayes, a professor of biology at Brandeis University and a birding enthusiast, will critique a few of the original Roger Tory Peterson bird illustrations in a compare and contrast presentation with current photos he has taken of birds from the Washington area. He will also include examples of his close-up photos of some of our local birds and wildflowers.</p>
Oct. 5	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State Robert Goodby discusses an archaeological study for the new Keene Middle School which discovered traces of four structures dating to the end of the Ice Age. Undisturbed for 12,000 years, the site revealed information about the economy, gender roles, and household organization of the Granite State's very first inhabitants, and evidence of social networks extending from the Monadnock region hundreds of miles across northern New England.</p> </div> </div>
Nov. 9	<p>Mystery Meeting</p>

Museum & Barn Hours:	July & August, Saturdays 10 am- 2 pm or by appointment any time. Call Gwen Gaskell at 495-3231 or Tom Talpey at 495-3284
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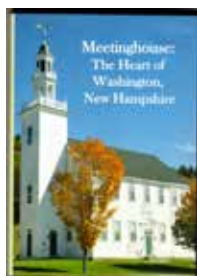
District #5 School Hours:	July & August, Saturdays 1 - 3 pm or by appointment any time. Call Gwen Gaskell at 495-3231 or Charlotte Treadwell at 495-0800
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**ITEMS FOR SALE
FEATURING FAVORITE LANDMARKS OF
WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Please order by mail, or call: Elaine Crandall (603) 495-3416, ecrandall@verizon.net
Tom Talpey (603) 495-3284, ttalpey@gsinet.net
Gwen Gaskell (603) 495-3231 jimgwen@gsinet.net

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Tote Bag. This custom designed tapestry tote bag depicts the much photographed buildings on our Town Common. Tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors, it measures a generous 17 1/2 inches square. Long 25 inch handles are easy on the shoulders. Lined, with inside pocket.	\$30.00
Pillow. Featuring the East Washington Baptist Church, the pillow is covered in tapestry woven in an array of beautiful colors. It measures a generous 16" x 16" and is offered with hunter green backing.	\$25.00
Puzzle. Our 494-piece, 14" x 19" puzzle is an aerial photograph of the Washington town center by Bill St. Pierre. A limited edition collectible.	\$5.00
Mug. White ceramic mug with sketch of the three steepled buildings in the center of Town. They are 11 ounce and can be used in the microwave and dishwasher. White mugs with black print.	\$5.00
Trivet. A 6" x 6" ceramic trivet, or tile, suitable for hot or cold, with a leather backing, featuring a color photograph of the three steepled buildings in the center of town. Gift boxed.	\$15.00
Gustine Hurd Images Postcards Two postcards have been generated, using copies of very old photographs taken in the early 1880s by Gustine Hurd. Also available as single fold notecards packaged in sets of four, including envelopes. Two of each or all four of the same image. Both the postcards and the folded notecards are 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches.	50¢ each \$5.00 per set
 Glass Medallion – Suitable for a window hanging, depicting the Town Hall. Adapted from an early 1880s wet plate photograph made by Gustine L. Hurd. These 3 inch diameter medallions are available in Blue or Green.	\$5.00 each

DVD Available



Meetinghouse: The Heart of Washington, New Hampshire
Few structures say “New England” as eloquently as does a classic eighteenth century Meetinghouse. The small hill town of Washington, New Hampshire, claims such a Meetinghouse. Erected on the 4th of July, 1787, it is still the heart of the town. In this film the town opens its heart to the world. It displays 225 years of affectionate, sometimes contentious, interplay between generations of Washington citizens and the Meetinghouse on the Town Common.
\$20 per DVD Shipping is: \$3 for one DVD plus \$2 for each additional.

All items can be shipped for an additional charge. Call or email Elaine Crandall or Tom Talpey at the contact info above to ascertain the amount required. It will be in the range of \$4 to \$10 per package, depending on your zip code.



Dragon's Mouth Orchid

It would not surprise me to see one or both of these showing up in Washington in one of our bogs in the near future. Orchid seeds are very fine and light and can easily be carried by birds or even wind. The Cricenti Bog has a small parking area along Route 11, just below the Hannaford shopping plaza, and a boardwalk to permit easy walking through it. Admission is free.

Color enlargements of all of the Washington orchids can be seen on display this summer at our museum, 90 Half Moon Pond Road, in Washington.



White Fringed Orchid



Clump of Lady's Slipper orchids along Millen Pond Road in June

The Wallace W. Dole Mausoleum

by Gwen Gaskell & Phil Barker

Late last fall Ingrid Halverson gave us these pictures of the mausoleum in the Center Cemetery. She believes they were taken while her parents were here in Washington on their honeymoon in August, 1940. The cemetery committee has no records of when the mausoleum was built.

The granite undoubtedly came from granite quarries in Concord, NH where it had been crafted. It appears that it was delivered by truck as a large truck is pictured. A large wood beamed derrick was put up and a hand operated, double drum winch was set in place to lift and swing the heavy Granite pieces into place. The winch appears to have two men at each handle. The large piece suspended is the roof slab.

This is all the information we have, but are thankful to Ingrid for these pictures.

It is very probable that this is the same way the Civil War Monument on the Common was erected. We do know however that the granite for that came into Hillsboro by train and was then transported to Washington, by oxen or teams of horses. This information comes from the minutes of the monument committee.



This Summer at the Museum

by Gwen Gaskell

This summer we will have on display lots of pictures of Washington, with descriptions of where and when and even who. Some of them may have been seen before; places that look familiar but the hillsides have changed a lot with pastures being taken over by trees; mills that were in many areas of town; as well as people who came before us and had important roles in the origin of our historical community.

I know it will be interesting to set up and I hope you will all come by to look, learn and possibly add to some information. Education is one of our purposes as a Historical Society. Our Volunteers will be pleased to welcome you.

Have you thought about becoming a museum volunteer? It is only for a few hours on a Saturday and if you are new, we team you up with an experienced volunteer. We love to have new people and you are needed at the museum, barn or school house in East Washington. Please consider volunteering. Call Gwen Gaskell if you think you would like to give it a try.

Our hours were changed last season to coincide with the farmers market. We are open July and August, on Saturdays from 10 - 2 so that one trip to the village on Saturday can be all inclusive - - the Post Office, Library, store, farmers market, and the museum and barn and even a trip to East Washington to visit the school house, which is open 2 - 4 on Saturdays. Children love a stop at Eccard Farm on the way by to see the animals and antique farm tools and the farm store is a great option for local products.

Washington Historical Society Officers

President:	Jack Sheehy (495-3066)	Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Richard Crane, advisory
Vice President:	Phil Barker (495-3640)	Museum Committee:	Charlotte Treadwell Gwen Gaskell
Treasurer:	Elaine Crandall (495-3416)	Museum Aides:	Natalie Jurson Gail Revane
Secretary:	Marian Baker	Newsletter Committee:	Gwen Gaskell Tom Talpey Barbara Gaskell Betty Talpey
Archivist:	Gwen Gaskell (495-3231)	Program/Publicity Committee:	Jack Sheehy Jim Crandall
Board of Directors	Pauline Laprade Jim Crandall (495-3416) Tom Talpey (495-3284)		
Auditor:	Charlie Fields		
Webmaster:			

Washington Historical Society
PO Box 90
Washington, NH 03280

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family (including children under 16). For those who would like to contribute more to the Society to help us cover our expenses, we have a new sustaining membership for \$25. The membership year is August 1 through July 31. We appreciate your continued interest and support of our projects. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us as a member, please complete the form below and send to THE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 90, Washington, N.H., 03280. If you know of someone who might be interested in our newsletter, please let us know or pass this one on to them.

Name: _____

Participating family names: _____

Mailing address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Phone No. Winter: _____ Summer: _____ Cell: _____

Email _____

Membership Level: \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Sustaining

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-profit historical society, we qualify with many companies for matching grants provided the company you work for, or are retired from, supports such benefits.

Email: washingtonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com