

Hebron Historical Society Gazette

Hebron, NH

Volume 1, No. 1, January 2003



This is the first issue of the **Hebron Historical Society Gazette**. The purpose of the Gazette is to publish articles related to Hebron, NH history and genealogy. Among other items that will be presented in the HHS Gazette will be reprints of old articles written about, and sometimes in Hebron.

The first article, on Sargent John Ordway, was chosen as the result of many requests concerning Sargent Ordway who was a leading member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The article below is from the Missouri Historical Review, July 1918.

*The Real John Ordway,
Member of the the Lewis and
Clark Expedition.*

“ORDWAY, JOHN (c. 1775-c 1817), explorer, was one of ten children of Job, and Hannah (Morse) Ordway, who lived at Amesbury, Mass., until about 1774 and subsequently at Bow, N. H., where John was born. Ruins of the parental home at Bow show that the father was a substantial farmer. His elder son Stephen lived in later life at Hebron N. H. and became a

prominent citizen there. About 1800 the younger John enlisted in the United States army and in 1803 was sergeant in Capt. Russell Bissell's company of the 1st Infantry, stationed at Kaskaskia, Ill.

Thither in that year came Capt. Meriwether Lewis [q.v.], enlisting recruits for his expedition across the continent. Ordway joined the expedition, was continued as sergeant, and appointed to keep the rosters and orderly books. During the first winter of preparation, when the men of the party were encamped at Dubois River, opposite St. Louis, he was frequently in charge of the detachment during the absence of the captains, Lewis and Clark. With the expedition he spent the first winter at the village of the Mandan Indians, leaving there Apr. 7, 1805, for the western journey. The next winter was spent on the shores of the Pacific, where Ordway endured his full share of the hardships and dangers of the situation. On the return journey the two leaders separated, Lewis undertaking a northern route, while Clark with Ordway sought the headwaters of the Missouri.

From this point Ordway was dispatched with nine men to join Lewis; his journal covering the period July 13-19, 1806, is the sole record of that portion of the expedition. Ordway's party, augmented by some of Lewis' men, overtook Lewis on July 28, and continued with him to St. Louis, where the united expedition arrived in safety on Sept 23.

After his return Ordway paid a visit to his home and family in Hebron, New Hampshire. In 1807 he went back to Missouri, where he bought considerable land and established a plantation in the New Madrid district. His home suffered severely in the earthquake of 1811, when as his sister described the scene, it was "a dreadful sight to see the ground burst and throw out water as high as the trees." Practically nothing is known of Ordway's further career, except that in 1818 his widow, Elizabeth, applied for lands appropriated for the relief of the earthquake sufferers. The journal that John Ordway kept on the expedition was secured by Captain Clark for his records, but then it disappeared for many years. In 1913 it was found among the

Biddle papers, and three years later was published in the Wisconsin Historical Collections (vol. XXIL 1916). It is a straightforward, clear narrative of the day by day happenings on the journey. Both the commanders trusted Ordway and he appears to have been next to them in both ability and authority.”

[Records of the Ordway family are in the Vital Records of

owned by Arcangelo V. Arcchi), and Charlie George's (now owned by Richard S. Merrill); No. 3, in East Hebron which continued in use until 1942; No. 4 on Kidder Hill (on what is now Wade Road); and No. 6, a united district with Plymouth on the road to Bristol, a little below Bear Mountain Road, at the corner as one comes from Hobart Hill.

Eventually, most of the schools were discontinued as the school board consolidated when the number of students dwindled. The old schools in East Hebron and on George Rd. were closed in 1886. A new building was constructed in East Hebron near McClure's (now called Six Chimneys) in 1888 and this is the school that operated until 1942 and is presently owned by Dr. and Mrs Maurice Huckins. The Tenney Hill and Wade Hill schools were no longer used after 1887. One student from these schools was sent to Bridgewater and the rest to the village and McClure (E. Hebron) schools.

“There were 21 enrolled at the Village and 17 at East Hebron in 1888,” according to the *History of Hebron* published by the Bicentennial Committee in 1976, “with three terms at the Village and two at East Hebron. By 1898 the East Hebron School also had three terms.”

The Hebron Academy was established in 1839 with instructions given in Latin, Greek, French, and English. Since the academy had no

rooming facilities, room and board were obtained for students in nearby homes. This was one of the downfalls of the academy, as not enough homes could be found to house the students (89 were enrolled in 1840).

The academy drew students from Dorchester, Groton, R u m n e y , P l y m o u t h , Bridgewater, Alexandria, and Bristol. When it closed, the building was acquired for use as the village school, with the Hebron Library occupying the upstairs for many years.

East Hebron Schoolchildren's Who's Who of 1936

In 1936 the children attending the East Hebron school were assigned to write a short biographical sketch of themselves. The results were collected and incorporated into the East Hebron Who's Who. That entire work is given below.

“East Hebron Who's Who

Once upon a time thirteen girls and boys lived in a little white house with their helper.

All worked and played together happily. Each one had his work to do.

One really rainy day these boys and girls thought it would be fun to write the story of the life of each one in school.

We hope you will like these stories and have as much fun reading them as we did writing them.

Girls

- Nancy Morse
- Pauline Patton



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Amesbury, Mass.; those of Bow, N. H., are lost, and consequently the date of birth is lacking.]

Hebron Schools - 1800's

Various reports credit Hebron with having five, six, and nine school districts in the early days of education in the town. *Recollections of Hebron*, published in 1920, lists five schools existing in the 1800s, in addition to the No. 5 village school. These included No. 1 on Tenney Hill; No 2., on George's Road was a little brick house between Leonard Wise's (now

Sarah Smith
Barbara Adams
Betsy Merrill
Dorcas Smith

Boys

William Merrill
George Davis
Carter Gibbs
Frank Morse
Raymond Davis
John Merrill
Parker Smith

Their helper Mrs. Cote.

Pauline Esther Patten

I was born in East Hebron on September 14, 1927.

My parents names are Maude G. Patton and George E. Patton. I live in a country home.

I was born in the house where I live now. When I was a baby I liked to play. I also likes to make noise.

The first day I went to school I did not have any work to do. I have to work now that I am in the third grade. I like my teacher. She is good to us.

I like to play the piano. I also like to read "Child Life." There are many good stories to read.

When I grow up, I would like to be a music teacher.

Nancy Jane Morse

I was born in East Hebron, October 27, 1927.

My parents are Oscar V. Morse and Emma G. Morse. I live on a farm.

I have one brother. His name is Frank.

I go to school. I am in the third grade. I like to go to school now.

Like to play games. I am

learning to sew.

I want to draw pictures when I grow up.

George Bradley Davis

I was born in East Hebron, February 4, 1927.

I live now where I did when I was a baby.

I am in the third grade. There are five boys and girls in my grade. My teacher is Mrs. Cote. I like to play games.

When I grow up, I want to be a farmer.

William Merrill

I was born in Alexandria, March 12, 1928. My parents are Mr. And Mrs. Walter Merrill. I have ten brothers and sisters. We live beside the lake in a big house.

I like to go swimming in summer.

I want to be an aviator when I get older.

Sarah Margaret Smith

I was born in Plymouth on January 12, 1927.

My parents names are Evelyn G. and Manson B. Smith. We live on a farm.

When I was a baby, I liked to play with my sister and brother. Their names are Dorcas E. and Manson P. Smith.

I started school when I was six years old. I am in the third grade now. I like school very much. My teacher's name is Mrs. Cote. There are five children in my grade.

I like to play out of doors with Dorcas. I like to swing and play in out playhouse.

I would like to be a school teacher when I grow up.

Frank S. Morse

I was born November 23, 1926. It was in the town of East Hebron, N.H.

My parents were very glad to have a baby boy in the family. I had no brothers or sisters.

My mother said that when I was little, I used to get into mischief. Once I got hold of a camera film. I spoiled the pictures.

I am in the fourth grade at school. I don't remember my first day at school.

For work in summer, I have to go after the cows. In the winter, I get the wood in the house.

I like fishing, hunting, swimming, and skating.

I don't know what I will do when I grow up.

Carter B. Gibbs

I was born in East Hebron, N.H., November 21, 1926.

My parent's names are Irene B. and George D. Gibbs. I have one brother. His name is Ivan G. Gibbs.

I weighed ten pounds when I was born. I began to walk when I was a year old.

I went to school when I was six years old. I can not remember much about my first day at school. My teacher's name was Miss Nichols. In my early school days, I had trouble with two studies. They were reading and arithmetic. I can do them very well now.

My work at home is getting the wood and milk.

My amusements are baseball, football, swimming, and skating. I hope to be an aviator when I grow older.

Raymond F. Davis

I was born in Hebron in the year 1924. I have gone to school five years. I have played ever since I could walk and run. I have done some work since I was five years old.

My father works on the farm. The boys help him.

At school there are two girls in my class.

My first school days were easy. Later on, I did harder work.

I like to go hunting, swimming, play football, and go on picnics.

When I grow up, I would like

to be a carpenter and build furniture and houses.

Barbara F. Adams

I was born June 6, 1925 in Hebron, N.H. I have two brothers. We live in a brick house. I used to live in Bristol.

The first day at school, I looked at books. I played with the other girls. In the winter time, we slid on pans in the pasture.

When I get home at night, I help my mother get supper ready. In the morning, I make the beds.

I like to ride horseback. I enjoy my 4-H club work.

I would like to be a tap dancer when I grow older.

Betsy Merrill

I was born in East Hebron, June 7, 1925. My parents have a campground. I have some brothers and sisters.

When I was little, I liked to get into things. One day, my mother went to the post-office. I climbed upon the table and ate all the sugar.

In my early school days, I did not have to study very hard.

I like to go to school. I belong to a 4-H club. We are learning how to sew.

To amuse myself, I play ball, dance, jump rope and sing.

I would like to be a nurse when I grow older. I will have to work hard and study.

Dorcas Smith

I was born March 3, 1925 in Plymouth, N.H. Later I was

brought to East Hebron to live.

My mother's father was a minister. Her (my mother) name was Evelyn Scott before she was married. My father's name is Manson Smith. We live at my grandmother's house. My brother is two years older than I am. My sister is nine years old.

When I was quite small, I went south. I can't remember much about it. I liked to eat a great deal. My grandfather took cookies to church to keep me quiet.

Miss Nichols was my first teacher. My teacher now is Mrs. Cote. I like school.

I help my mother. I like to cook and sew.

I like to play games and go swimming.

I want to teach school when I grow older. Nothing much has happened to me but perhaps something will as I grow older.

John Merrill

I was born in East Hebron, N.H., October 25, 1924.

My parents have always lives around here. I have three brothers and seven sisters.

In my babyhood, I used to play with my brother.

My first teacher was Miss Estey. I went to school when I was six years old. We did have to work very hard. I walked to school with Parker.

I am in the sixth grade now. I walk to school with my brother. I take him home at night on Parker's bicycle.

My work is getting in the wood when I get home.



<p>I like to skate and go sliding.</p> <p>Manson P. Smith I was born July 19, 1923 at Plymouth, N.H. I live with my two sisters and my parents in East Hebron. My mother's name is Evelyn Smith and my father's name is Manson Smith.</p> <p>I spend three years of my babyhood in North Carolina. I started school when I was seven years old. My school days have been happy ones. I am now in the seventh grade.</p>	<p>This space sponsored by</p> <p>Janice & Ronald Collins</p>	<p><i>Cold Friday, January 19, 1810</i> We have recently had an unusually early cold snap in Hebron and the following story was brought to mind. This story is but one of the many kept in the Family Notes and Articles of Richard and Betty Merrill.</p>
<p>Jay Matthews Logging</p> <p>Groton Road, Hebron, NH</p> <p>(603)744-8474</p>	<p>I hope to go to Exeter and then to college. I would like to be a civil engineer.”</p>	<p>“Record of Cold Friday Leon Merrill being invited by a gentleman to supper in Jan 1918 after supper the man brought out an old diary ...kept from 1806 to 1868. In it he found the record of temperature given for that day known as ‘Cold Friday’ when Grandfather Bartlett walked from Alexandria to Groton with only a ‘Tow Frock,’ for a coat on. It was 33 below in Mass, the day was very windy. Probably the thermometer was 45 below in Hebron on that day. For a few days previous there had been a January thaw. The day was January 19, 1810. The records said that ponds froze over 3 inches in twenty four hours. The expression ‘1800 and froze to death’ one might say an emphatic phrase without reference to any year, but such is not the case. It refers to the year 1816. This diary gave the temperature for every month and said in June ponds were frozen over with ice ½ inch thick. Nearly all crops were killed. Jan 19, 1810 was the cold Friday and a memorable day throughout New England. From the mild temperature of 43 degrees above zero at sunset the evening before, the mercury sank to 25 degrees below zero in</p>
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sixteen hours. This change was attended by a violent, piercing wind, prostrating trees and overturning buildings. Young cattle and wild animals were frozen, and many a stage driver and school boy received earmarks which they wore through life.

Thus was occasioned the death of the Ellsworth children in Sanbornton, NH. The farm house of their father, Jeremiah Ellsworth, on the old New Hampton road, gave way to the violence of the gale half an hour before sunrise, the windows being blown in, exposing the whole building to destruction. Mrs. Ellsworth and her youngest child took refuge in the cellar. Mr. Ellsworth covered his two other children in bed and started for his nearest neighbor's, David Brown, reaching there at sunrise and though but a hundred rods

distance, with feet and face badly frozen and himself unable to stand. Mr. Brown hastened to the house with his horse and sleigh. He loaded Mother and children in the sleigh, covered them with the bedding, and started for his own house. Twice the sleigh was turned by violent gusts of wind. Mr. Brown urged the mother to try and reach his house immediately, as her limbs were beginning to fail. She did so, crawling much of the way on her hands and knees. While he having a second time loaded the half dressed children, soon found them again scattered upon the frozen snow, with his sleigh broken. Covering the youngest under a log, he started with the two oldest on foot toward his house. Their cries stimulated him to intense exertion, but before he reached the house they were frozen stiff, so as to die in a few minutes after. Other neighbors came to the rescue and the body of the remaining child was soon returned. Mr. Brown was blind the rest of his life in consequence of his exposure, and the parents suffered long and severely from their injuries."

Queries and Followups

Part of our effort to keep Hebron History alive will be to help you in your own Hebron related research. To help in that regard we will have a regular Queries column an example of which is:

Merrill, Uriah born c June 1803 in Salem, NH died April 21,

1881 in Hebron. Married Sarah Hobart. Trying to find his parents. Contact Ron at 744-1 0 4 8 , e m a i l roncollins@metrocast.net

Responders may send their data directly to the requester or they can send it to the Gazette to be published in the Followup Column.

Queries will be carried in **two** issues for a nominal charge of **\$1.00** per query.

Send your queries with a check made out to the

Hebron Historical Society to
Ron Collins, 18 Brooks Circle
Hebron, NH 03241

Tidbits of Hebron History

An early Hebron saw and grist mill was built in 1810 by James George who operated it for 25 years. Then Joseph Whipple became the owner.

Cooper Road probably received its name because John Gardner was a cooper in Hebron around the mid-1800s on Bog Brook.

The Ball brothers, Levi and Emri. lived on George Rd. and carried on the cooper and woodworking trade. Emri specialized in basketmaking while Levi concentrated on sap yokes, and ox yokes.

Charles W. Powers who operated his shop for more than 50 years on the north side of the Hebron Common where the Sycamores now live.

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Hebron Historical Society Program Events Calendar for 2003.

This calendar will be filled out as the year progresses and will be updated in each issue of the Gazette.

January 7 - 8:20AM - Presentation of the Old Hebron Schools Map to the Bridgewater-Hebron School.

February 22 - An Evening with George Washington

July 26 - Hebron Town Fair - we will have a booth there, come see us.

August - Pot Luck Supper - Program TBA

September - Annual Hebron Historical Society meeting

If you have a suggestion for a program please do not hesitate to tell us. Just call Barbara Brooks at 603-744-3597 and she'll be happy to hear your idea.

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Books and Publications from the Hebron Historical Society

The Genealogies of The Early Settlers of Hebron, NH 1761-1800 written by Ronald Collins, archivist of the historical society. The book of 185 pages covers the lives of nearly 1500 people and is completely indexed. Price \$25.00 for non-members, \$22.50 for members.

The "Genealogies of The 19th Century Residents of Hebron, NH written by Ronald Collins, archivist of the historical society. The book of 178 pages covers the lives of nearly 1600 people and is completely indexed. Price \$25.00 for non-members, \$22.50 for members.

The family names contained in these two volumes are: Adams, Ball, Barnard, Bartlett, Beede, Berry, Blood, Bowers, Braley, Browne, Butterfield, Case, Cheney, Cilley, Clement, Colburn, Colby, Crawford, Crosby, Cummings, Davis, Dustin, Estye, Farley, Farren, Fowler, Fox, George, Gilman, Goodhue, Gould, Greenleaf, Hardy, Hazelton, Heath, Hobart, Hoyt, Huckins, Jesseman, Jewell, Jewett, Johnson, Kelley, Kendall, Keyes, Kidder, Lovejoy, McClure, Melvin, Merrill, Moore, Morgan, Morse, Moses, Murch, Muzzey, Nelson, Nevens, Nevens, Norris, Noyes, Nutting, Ordway, Page, Parker, Perkins, Phelps, Pierce, Pike, Powers, Putney, Rawlins (Rollins), Remick, Roby, Rogers, Sanborn, Sealy (Cilley), Shuttuck, Smith, Vickery, Walker, Ward, Whipple, Whitmore, Wise, and Wright.

These books may be purchased directly from the Hebron Historical Society or at the Hebron Village Store, 7 North Shore Road, Hebron, NH, 603-744-8765.

Special Thanks to

Dr. Howard Oedel

for many years of service and support to the Hebron Historical Society and for helping to preserve and document the history of Hebron. Howard was president of the Society for many years and still plays a major role in directing the efforts of the Society. Howard is also the primary presenter for many of our programs.

So a tip of the hat and three cheers for the good doctor.

Hebron Historical Society
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The public is welcome to attend.**

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