

# Hebron Historical Society Gazette

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## Hebron Historical Society Gazette

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## EAST HEBRON FARMERS 1709 – 1886

By Barbara Brooks

What kind of farmers did East Hebron have during the period of 1709 – 1886? (Editor's note: East Hebron included George Road and everything East of George Road.) The following is based upon a report written by Hamilton Child for the *GAZETEER OF GRAFTON COUNTY, NH.*, published by the Syracuse Journal Co, Syracuse, N.Y., June 1886. Listing twenty seven of the known farmers at that time the following list shows us just who they were, what they were farming, and in essence, what manner of farming they did to survive in East Hebron. Editor's notes in [ ].

Edmund Barnard, proprietor of a boarding house, a sugar orchard of 300 trees, an apple orchard of 300 trees, general farmer. [He lived where Camp Mowglis is now. The main Camp Mowglis office building is the former Edmund Barnard home.]

Hezekiah B. Barnard, had an apple orchard of 100 trees and was a farmer. [He lived across the road from his son George. His house burned in the 1930's.]

George Barnard, butcher and a farmer with his father, Hezekiah. [He lived just north of Auto Air Plus in the brick house built in 1820 by Daniel Walker.]

William P. Beede, was a teamster and thresher. [He lived at the intersection of Favor Road and Wade Road, which is currently Camp Pasquaney property.]

Andrew Cilley, a farmer. [He lived on Cilley Point, now called Onaway Point.]

Anthony Cilley, a farmer with his father, Andrew, on Cilley Point.

Ellery J. Davis, had an orange grove in Florida.

Noah P. Davis was a farmer on the north side of Pike Hill Road [near where Kirk Phelps lives today.]

Robert Dustin was the proprietor of a cider mill and a farmer.

Bounds Edmonds had Lake Side Farm which was a boarding house.

Almon M. Favor had a sugar orchard with 600 trees and was a farmer. [He lived on Favor Road located on Camp Pasquaney's southern side.]

John A. Favor was employed by Mason & Perkin's paper mill, at Bristol. He

(Continued on page 2)

was the son of Almon.

Aaron H. Fogg was a blacksmith and farmer.

Albert H. Fogg was a farmer with his father, Aaron H.

Jefferson G. Fogg was a farmer with his father, Aaron H.

Minott Fogg was a laborer.

Moses Follansbee was a section boss on the railroad, had a sugar orchard of 200 trees, an apple orchard of 100 trees and was a farmer. [He and his wife, Jane, lived in what is now the Youngman house on the east side of Route 3A across from Camp Mowglis.]

Edmund W. George had a sugar orchard of 1,000 trees, an apple orchard of 1,000, 400 grafted fruit trees, 12 head of cattle, 80 Merino sheep and was a farmer. [He lived in what is today Richard Merrill's home on George Road.]

Charles E. George was a farmer with his father, Edmund W. on George Road.

Edwin E. George had a sugar orchard of 400 trees, an apple orchard of 150 trees and was a farmer. [He lived on George Road also.]

Augustus Hammond was a farmer.

Mary Addie Hardy, was organist at the Hebron church, [daughter of David P. Hardy of Hebron.]

John Hartford had a sugar orchard of 500 trees and was a farmer.

George W. Lufkin had 600 sugar trees, 100 apple trees, 6 cows, 20 head neat cattle, was a farmer. He was also a soldier in Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Regt., N. H. Cavalry, 17 months. [His farm was located where Camp Pasquaney is today.]

George W. McClure was postmaster, had 800 sugar trees, 12 head of cattle and was a farmer.

David McClure, was a farmer with his son, Geo. W. and was born in Groton. [David bought the old Pike Tavern at the intersection of Pike Hill Road and Route 3A and which today is called Six Chimneys.]

Justin T. McClure was a farmer with his father, George W.

Richard Merrill was a farmer on Route 3A just south of the Hillside Inn. [This land became the Merrill Campground, and is today, the site of the Editor's home.]

John C. Monier had 150 apple trees and was a farmer.

Jonathan V. Morse had 400 sugar trees, 150 apple trees, 12 head cattle, 15 sheep and was a farmer. [He lived in the house that burned in February of 2010 on George Road.]

Frank O. Morse was a farmer with his father, Jonathan Varnum Morse.

Phineas Russell was a retired farmer, born in Meredith in 1708 he lived with his son George.

George L. Russell was a farmer [and lived at the northwest corner of the intersection of North Shore Road and Route 3A.]

George S. Smith, was a farmer. [He lived in and created the Hillside Inn.]

Carlos C Wade had 300 sugar trees, 150 apple trees, 14 cows, 12 head cattle and was a farmer.

John Walker, had 300 sugar trees, 10 head of cattle and was a farmer. [He lived on Wade Road, now a class six road that runs from Pike Hill Road to Hunt Road on Plymouth Mountain.]

Richard Wescott was a farmer.

Lorenzo G. Wheeler was a farmer.

Willard W. Wise was a selectman and manufacturer of brick. [He lived on Cooper Road near where the road crosses Bog Brook.]

Observation: Obviously these people were primarily farmers with many acres of fields with apple and maple trees...what a difference we see today in EAST HEBRON!

## HEBRON WORD BLAZER by Kathy Begor

Find the hidden words that connect to form a trail from word no. 1 to no. 2, etc. Letters link horizontally and vertically. Start anywhere! Here are your clues. The number after the clue is how many letters there are in the answer.

1. Original name for Route 3A (14)
2. Hebron's only island (4)
3. Oldest continuously running camp is the US (13)
4. Original name of the first combines towns of Hebron and Groton (11)
5. Site of large Native American artifact discovery (11)
6. Elected officials who manage town affairs (9)
7. Lewis & Clark companion from Hebron (6)
8. Audubon Nature Center located in Hebron (13)

A	W	D	R	O	N	E	C	E
Y	R	A	T	C	K	M	T	L
P	A	D	N	O	E	T	S	E
P	P	I	I	C	R	N	A	I
M	A	S	O	Y	M	I	N	D
A	S	E	P	E	O	O	P	N
C	Q	U	A	N	U	T	H	I
N	M	A	Y	H	E	W	T	U
O	O	L	E	K	I	P	N	R

### Camp Onaway's First 100 years – Part 2

I, Camp Onaway, am back to tell you more about my life, celebrating my first 100 years.

Mrs. Hollister's first year operating the Camp was very successful, but she knew there was so much more to be done so I could continue to grow and flourish. Her emphasis was on outdoor activities, dance and chapel to challenge the campers physically, mentally and spiritually. I wondered where the girls would sleep if more came to camp. When the days and nights were hot, the girls would sleep in hammocks hung on the building porches or in "lobster pots," a nickname for canvas covered cots with four short legs, a canvas top and netting side curtains. Their shape was similar to an old wooden lobster trap. These cots were also used for overnight camping trips.

In 1914, a small addition was attached to Woodland Hall (this was the camp's first building, constructed so the girls had a large indoor space for activities on rainy days). The addition had two small areas which had a flush toilet and cold running water that went into a wash bowl. Camp continued to grow and more sleeping space was needed in 1915. A group of four little cabins was constructed. They were put up in the spring and taken apart after camp closed to be stored over the winter. Each cabin was made up of a hardwood floor and heavy canvas for the roof and sides. The windows had mosquito netting with some drop curtains to keep the rain out. I was amazed to see Mr. Hollister and the camp cook, Sarah Long, putting up these little cabins. They called this cabin group "Wendy's." I think the name might have come from the Peter Pan story. The Wendy's cabin group still exists after a 100 years and other groups were built and named as the camp grew over the years; Hilltops, Tip-Tops, Topknots, Sky tops.

Every morning, I marveled as the girls emptied the slop pails, then washed their faces and hands and brushed their teeth in the icy cold water from the camp hand pump, which is still in the center of camp. Then all the campers lined up for teeth and nail inspection by Mrs. Hollister who knew how important general cleanliness was. It was a difficult chore for young camp girls trying to keep clean. I watched the girls go down to the lake every Sunday to bathe and wash hair, and they would keep their woolen bathing suits on; it must have been very uncomfortable. Sometimes, walking back to their cabins, the soap would fall into the pine needles and that was very messy. There was bathing in many areas around the lake in this time period, and it was a continued novelty in later years. Now we know that in order to help the ecology of the lake, it is better not to use any soap, no matter how biodegradable. Thank goodness, in 1938, the camp's first shower house was built.

I told you about getting actual "beans" as rewards from Mrs. Hollister who was focused on teach-

ing good habits for neatness, cleanliness and performing camp duties. Not only have all the original values and ideals survived after 100 years, but so have small things like nail inspections and, although there are no actual beans used as rewards, the cabin group with the best weekly record still gets a special privilege. I'm amazed to see so many of the original Onaway traditions established by Mrs. Hollister and some initiated by Redcroft, still going strong one hundred years later. I think that if a "modern" Onaway girl could travel back in time, she would fit right in. Life was definitely more rustic and simple but the activities were very similar. At my birthday celebration last August, I heard campers from the 30's and 40's exclaim "nothing has changed....well, maybe the modern amenities do make life easier."

Swimming was something many young women were not expected to learn, but Mrs. Hollister thought this was an important skill. She also realized water safety was paramount, so no girl could go into the water without her supervision. I will always remember her in an old wooden row boat, the only one in camp. She was dressed in her uniform of a long crepe de chine skirt, a white middy blouse with brown tie, glasses and a whistle on a brown ribbon around her neck. What would a "modern" girl think when she saw that vision? The swimming program continued to grow and now there are many different skill levels the girls can work on. The swim fashions have definitely changed, and I can hardly believe how small a bathing suit is today. Today, it is very exciting to see the best swimmers swim the length or width of the lake at the end of the summer session. The importance of water safety continues as a major focus. The counselors now watch the swimmers carefully from the dock or in a boat that you don't have to row....just imagine, it has a motor!

The dance program was started as one of the camp's earliest activities, and the girls' efforts culminate with an end of summer pageant enjoyed by parents and staff. I remember the simple plots and dyed cheesecloth which made lovely costumes, but it has been a pleasure watching this annual activity change over the years with more elaborate plots and fancier costumes. If you see the Onaway girls at the Hebron Fair with bags and bags of old clothes from the rummage sale, I bet you didn't know that most of the clothes are used for costumes in new skits and plays. What fun to see the girls come back from the fair giggling and showing off their finds.

Sports have always been a part of Onaway's traditions. Some earlier sports such as croquet, baseball and horseback riding are no longer part of the camp program. Aside from water sports, the focus is now on tennis, basketball and dodge ball. The tennis courts have evolved from one grass court into three clay courts, and the girls today are now playing tennis competitively in schools and colleges which is very different from my early years.

Hiking and overnight camping have always been a part of the camp activity schedule, but in the early days, however, it always meant hiking to nearby locations because the travel on dirt roads and before the camp had multiple automobiles was difficult. Eventually roads improved, and the camp purchased its first Reo Speed Wagon flatbed truck to haul the campers to many different locations. Now there are many different hiking and overnight camping trips in the mountains planned around camper age and skill levels. Did you know that every time the girls do a trip, they make up a trip song and sing it at camp...what fun to share these silly songs about their adventures! As a result of hiking skills learned at Onaway, many of the modern girls have hiked interesting areas around the world.

Mrs. Hollister's ideals and vision for making a camp for girls that was fun but at the same time focused on nurturing their physical, mental and spiritual needs was a difficult commitment to sustain. To find enough campers to keep the camp full entailed hand written letters and some personal visits to families. Mrs. Hollister was a business woman who ran every facet of the camp organization. She dealt with the financial aspects of the business by paying everything through her check book, and she was the bookkeeper as well. She had to learn to deal with local businessmen in Bristol and Plymouth who provided camp services and supplies, and because this was an unusual role for a woman, she had to gain the confi-

dence of these men. There was also a six party telephone line which meant that any of the six families could pick up the phone and know what was going on in everyone's life and that included camp, so you had to be careful of your conversation.

Mrs. Hollister had the added responsibility of taking care of all the medical needs of campers and staff, particularly since personal hygiene was difficult. Just as important in such a rural setting was staying vigilant to the dangers of fire caused by many potential sources; electrical storms, wood stoves and kerosene lamps.

Camp cooking for all the meals and trips was another enormous challenge. Mrs. Hollister brought her personal cook with her to camp the first few years. Thank goodness she had the forethought to build and stock the camp's ice house the first year of operation. Ice houses were a part of rural living back then. During the winter, blocks of ice weighing hundreds of pounds were cut from Newfound Lake. Horse or ox drawn sleds would take the ice, which was packed in sawdust, to ice houses for storage. The camp ice house also stored bacon, ham, and sides of beef. Next to the ice house was a walk in cooler to store fresh food and vegetables. Eventually metal coolers, which stored smaller ice blocks, were used for refrigeration and when electricity arrived in the area, the camp switched to modern refrigeration. Today's walk in cooler is a far cry from the old ice house I saw built the first summer before camp opened.

Mrs. Hollister tried to buy most of the food from local farms. This tradition has continued and the modern day camp meals incorporate local organic vegetables. The Russell family had a local farm on the road to Hebron not far from McClure's Tavern/ Post Office. Mr. Russell sold produce and milk to camp which was delivered in his horse drawn buck board and would take back kitchen leftovers for his pigs. For special treats, ice cream with Russell Farm cream was made in a hand crank ice cream maker which the campers would take turns cranking. Other local farms provided lamb and beef and sometimes chicken as well as eggs and vegetables.

Anything that Mrs. Hollister could not buy locally she ordered from Boston and it was shipped via rail to Bristol. Items would be packed in barrels and baskets and transported from Bristol on the mail coach. Several times during the summer, Mrs. Hollister would have Mr. Smith from the Hillside Inn drive her to Plymouth in his horse and buggy. Plymouth was a larger town than Bristol but it was a 20 mile round trip that took all day because of very poor roads which could be very muddy or dry and dusty. Mrs. Hollister would return exhausted. Mr. Smith had a team of Clydesdales that pulled a wagon, and he would return to Plymouth for the goods when they all arrived and deliver them to camp.

During the early 1900's, many Hebron, Bristol and Plymouth businesses and farms prospered from the needs of the many camps located around Newfound Lake. Even Mrs. Nutting who owned the boarding house across the road from Onaway enjoyed small revenue from washing laundry for the girls who would walk over each Sunday after Chapel. Mrs. Nutting and her daughter would scrub laundry on a wash board and iron the clothes with irons heated on her wood stove. The Lucarelli's own the old Nutting boarding house with the original laundry lines still strung on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the house.

Each year brought additional growth (a second cabin group was added in 1917), changes and always a new set of challenges for Mrs. Hollister and her staff. But despite the early challenges faced by this young camp, its heartbeat remained strong, thank goodness, to face the storm clouds gathering over World War I's arrival.

In April of 1917, the United States entered World War I. Between campers and counselors, there were almost forty people at camp during the summer of 1918, and many had families and friends in the armed forces.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT GAZETTE**



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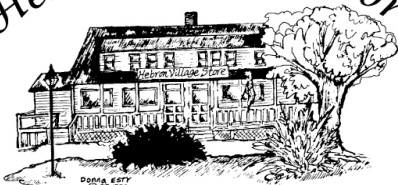
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## Hebron Historical Society Program Events Calendar

**Feb. 18**, (with Feb. 25 as a snow date) Pot Luck with Howard Oedel presenting "**Reflections of Hebron 60 Years Ago**".

**July 6** - Pot Luck with Thomas Hubka presenting "**Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn**", connected farmhouses of New England.

**Sep. 15**, HHS Annual Meeting and Pot Luck with Ron Collins presenting "**Hebron names—where they came from**"

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#### *DUES DUE EACH JANUARY*

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"Ralph" McQuilkin, Membership Chair.**

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- (1) Three videos on one DVD:  
**Merrill's Campground 1930's, Historical Hebron and The Beauty of Hebron**, \$15.
- (2) Two videos on one DVD:  
**The Beauty of Hebron 2 and Birds of Newfound**. \$10.

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A new 347 page book, completely indexed, of genealogies of the families living in Hebron for the first two hundred years of the Town.. Price \$25.00 for non-members, \$22.00 for members.

### **The History of Hebron, NH**

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**These books and DVD may be purchased directly from the**

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## **January is also Sponsorship Renewal Time.**

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Ideas for future Programs: \_\_\_\_\_