

Hebron Historical Society Gazette

Hebron, NH

Volume 2, No. 1, January 2004

50 cents



Old Houses and Barns of Hebron

As we promised here is the list of old houses and their current owners:

<u>House</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Currently Owned by</u>
Rueben Hobart	c1782	D. & M. Brittelli
Uriah Pike	c1782	H. & C. Oedel
George Worthen	c1784	Hillside Inn
Abijah Wright	c1785	P. & G. Chamberas
Samuel Hazelton	c1790	Paul Hazelton
Daniel Pike	c1791	Peter Fortescue
John Hazelton	c1798	D. & S. Settele
Jonathan K. Pike	c1803	H. & N. Sycamore
Jonathan Morse	c1803	A. & Y. Affronti
Enos Ferrin	c1820	Peter Carey
Daniel Walker	c1835	R. & J. Galante

Snow by Norton Braley

This time of year quite often the favorite topic of conversation is snow. There is either too much of it or not enough, or the talk is about which ski areas have the best skiing.

The last 32 years have seen quite a variety of yearly snowfall. In 1970-71 about 139 inches fell in this area. The next year we had 121 inches. Since then we have had many different total snowfalls in a winter. In 1979-80 we had the smallest amount of 37 inches with only 11 storms. Down through the years the annual total has averaged out to about 80 inches per winter with 139 inches being the most and 37 inches the least.

The number of storms per winter averages

about 22 of 1 inch or more of snow. The fewest number of storms was 11 in 1979-80 and the most was 30 in 2002-03. We have had a few small snowfalls in October and a very few in May. December and January have had about the same number of storms and snowfall.

Snow, or lack of it, has a big effect on the economy in this area, and of course, Northern New Hampshire. Skiers, snowmobilers, and in recent years, snow boarders give a big boost to New Hampshire businesses large and small.

Newfound Lake usually has ice thick enough for ice fishing by late December. In contrast to the increase in skiing and snowmobiling, interest in ice fishing has declined in the last few years.

Ice out has occurred a few times in March and May. Usually from April 18 through April 28 seems to be the best time to bet on it going out.

Snow seems to be enjoyed more than it used to be when about all we did was shovel it.

Skiing "Tenney" 70 years ago by Howard Oedel

By "Tenney" I don't mean Tenney Mountain in Plymouth but Tenney Hill here in East Hebron

It was 1933 when I was eleven. We had come up from Boston on the Snow Train a number of times that winter, often to North Conway, but also to Plymouth. We'd skied on Huckins Hill and Frontenac and once on the western slopes of Mt. Stinson, as well as, on a rather crude, steep and narrow trail near Polar Caves.

On this particular occasion we were enticed

to get into an open truck bound for Tenney Hill. Standing up all the way, hanging on to the side rails of the truck, as well as to our skis, we nearly froze to death before the truck finally stopped in the barnyard of Cecil O. Davis. There was no Tenney Mt. Highway in those days; it was a bumpy ride over an old country road. There seemed to be some question as to whether or not the truck would make it up Hoyt Hill. I suppose it took us 45 minutes to make the trip, and the prospect of a return ride was “chilling” in deed.

At the Davis farm we were warmed with a cup of coffee and a doughnut, courtesy of Lura Davis, as spry as ever, collecting a dime from each of us would be skiers.

The hike up Tenney Hill was no easy task. One certainly needed sealskin creepers. In about a quarter of a mile through the Davis sugar bush we came across a road (unplowed) and an old Cape Cod home much in need of repair. Across the barnyard and through a break in a barbed wire fence we plugged on until we came to a narrow steep trail, which eventually led to a large open slope. Above that were the MacDougall pastures, which extended to the top of the hill. The entire trip was a good mile in length, with a drop to the bottom of perhaps 700 feet.

Looking up from the South slope was another – to the right – which we called the North Slope, with an entirely different way of skiing down. The trail came out across the road where Henry Lynch’s house is (once Cecil Davis’ bean field), and eventually down to the Davis farm.

So one can see there were many opportunities for the ski enthusiast on Tenney Hill. One could ski the open slopes or run the trails or enjoy the gentler fields.

In the early days of skiing the kind of terrain that Tenney Hill provided was much sought after. Of course, a tow would have been welcome, but skiers in those days were used to doing their own climbing.

The small house we passed on the unplowed road (George Road) was rented out to the Harvard ski team for a number of winters. The McLane boys from Dartmouth often skied Tenney, and

some of the really advanced skiers – like Dick Durrance skied here too.

Needless to say the local boys made good use of Tenney, especially after the trails had been broken out by groups such as ours. Raymond and “Joe” Davis, with primitive equipment, became dare-devil experts on Tenney, and others in town, like Alan Esty, enjoyed the sport as well.

Little did we realize, in 1933, that later on the little Cape Cod house would be for sale. My dad purchased it in 1945. The road was not plowed in the winter and we had no water or electricity, or central heat, but the skiing was good and we took advantage of it every winter. There were occasions when we skied Tenney Hill as late as April 19.

When we purchased the property – which included most of the Tenney Hill slopes, the property (115 acres) was declared to be half cleared. Today I only keep about 8 acres around the house cleared, as well as the trail to the South Slope. The North Slope has trees over 50 years old covering it today.

The days when skiing involved hiking the hills, and when the telemark and the “open christie” were standard turns, Tenney Hill was considered one of New Hampshire’s choice ski hills.

Hebron Native: Richard Braley
by Barbara Brooks

My mission was to interview Richard Braley for this issue, and with that in mind, I ventured out to enjoy a two hour visit with Richard. Flora and Rusty, their spry cocker spaniel.

Born October 25, 1913, Richard has lived his 90 years in Hebron or East Hebron. Brothers Dean and Norton live in Virginia and Hebron, respectively. For 62 years he has lived within a few hundred feet from where he was born.

He got his elementary schooling at the Hebron Village School and from there went to Bristol for his high school. Riding his bicycle from September to Thanksgiving to Bristol was on the best of days quite a challenge. When the weather became too harsh, he would board with a family in

Bristol until around May when he would again resume riding his bicycle. By the time he was 16, he was able to buy himself a car, a Model T Ford roadster-of course it didn't have a heater.

Speaking of his early years, Richard recalled helping his Dad in the woods or on their farm, learning by doing many things. In those days you usually fixed whatever was broken, did your own chores, chopped wood and did what was necessary to survive. Those early lessons carried him through a life time of various jobs, the longest of which was probably when he worked off and on at the Hillside Inn for some thirty years.

After graduating from high school, one of Richard's first jobs was at the Wood Heel Shop in Bristol. Perhaps if you were to dig around you might find a few brick remains across the river just north of the spring in Bristol. His job was to inspect the heels, then ready them for shipping. Others were sent to him for inspection when they had a fabric covering as well as a lift on the heel. He then readied those for shipping as well. He worked there for about four years.

Soon, Richard found himself working regularly at the Hillside Inn mainly doing the milking. As time went on, Manson Smith asked him to work doing the mowing, logging, gardens and the maple syrup business. Richard chuckled as he re-called Mrs. Smith saying , "you will be paid \$2.00 a day, and have Sundays off after you do the chores!"

During a flood time in 1936, Richard was determined to keep his job and needed to get to the east side of town. He managed to drive as far as possible and then someone met him, rowed him through the flood waters and someone else picked him up to continue to Hillside. Is this ingenuity?

Through the years, Richard did a lot of ice cutting, for Hillside and for Wes Sanborn. Using horses, a scoot, (a very large sled), and a saw, they would cut through the ice "like cutting down a tree", load the scoot and take it

to the ice houses. This was a long day.

Hunting was one of Richard's favorite past times and he was very skillful at this "I did it mostly because we needed the meat, not for the sport," was his explanation of having taken 45 deer in his lifetime of hunting. Alan Esty was a successful fisherman and the two decided to teach each other their individual skills. For years they hunted or fished together, some of Richard's most pleasant hours were spent with Alan.

In telling about getting the 10 point buck the head of which is mounted and hangs in his living room, Richard spoke of being alone in the woods above his current home when he shot this one. By sheer determination, he hauled it (a three hundred plus pound animal) to his pick-up by a stone wall and pulled it into the truck. Richard smiled and said, "when I took it to be weighed everyone wanted to know who helped get it in the truck. They couldn't believe that I had done it myself". He was a man of determination and strength, no doubt the wonderful lunches Flora would put up over the years for this was a small man who could eat like one much larger, many times taking two lunch boxes with him for the day.

As we reminisced, other memories surfaced such as when he worked mining beryl and mica in Groton, cleaning up after the '38 hurricane, playing tricks on the chambermaids at the Inn, and raising his family of two girls, Mona and Carol.

Pride in their cozy home still shows as they tell of its growth from a work shop that was more or less deserted to what it is today. A lot of hard work, saving and planning went into this venture working along with Buddy MacDougall , Howard Dow and Johnny Matthews who did a lot of the finishing work.

When asked about living in Hebron, Richard responded: "It's a nice small town and you could always find work. I have no fault to find with anything." What more could we ask?



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MEET A LADY by Barbara Brooks

On a cold, rainy and dreary November afternoon, I found some sunshine! Bea Dunklee sent out warm rays of sun as we sat down to chat. Trying to find a day when Bea was “free” of any obligations was a challenge and now we both finally found a moment to meet.

Honesty and forthrightness have always been some of Bea's strong points. A long ago transplanted “flat-lander,” she is probably one of Hebron's most devoted champions. Certainly, as I have had the opportunity to observe, the shoe is on the other foot as we look back at her long careers as a Supervisor of the Checklist, and our Tax Collector and organist for the Hebron church.

All of those positions offered her the opportunity to not only meet the newcomers, but to annually meet and greet those who were either voting or paying their taxes. Bea's home was always open to those that wanted to pay their taxes directly to her and that in itself certainly made our tax collector a special person.

Her role as Treasurer for the Hebron Women's Group only ended this year which was an amazing accomplishment . As we talked, Bea spoke about her involvement with the club and how warm and caring the members were for each other as well as for the welfare of those less fortunate. Many hours were spent making booties, blankets and other necessary items for new borns of young families. As Treasurer of this group, Bea handled every penny as if it were her own.

Speaking fondly of her family, Bea spoke of John and his younger sister, Audrey, who now lives with Bea. John lives next door with his wife Pat. You can see that this is a very close family, all of whom care for each other and their extended members. with 10 grandchildren, 4 great grand children and as Bea said, 'another ready to pop', she beamed with happy thoughts.

August 1st was Bea's 98th birthday and such a gala celebration was never had before in Hampson's Cove! The Dunklee garage was filled with goodies, the yard overflowing with well wishers dressed as Bea said, 'to the nines'-with laughter and merriment filling the area with so many family members and friends. Truly, it was a moment to treasure.

At a lunch held at the September, 2003 meeting of the Hebron Women's Group honoring Bea, attendance of over thirty women from our town as well as Groton, Alexandria, Bristol and Bridgewater showed how honored she is.

The general spirit and friendliness of Hebron have held strong and true and that is what seems to help keep this grand lady going.

We are honored to have known Bea for a few years and can only wish her well with thanks for what she has so loyally given to our town.

Letter from President Barbara Brooks

To our readers, especially to those who have joined the Hebron Historical Society, on behalf of the Board, and myself, we wish to extend gratitude for your support. Your interest is vital to the continuance of this organization; paying dues is obviously very necessary, but your attendance at our programs is just as important

Ask anyone about our pot luck suppers and you will find overwhelming agreement as to the variety and tastiness of the dishes offered. All this plus interesting, informative and many times amusing programs makes for a very pleasant evening out. Please consider joining us for our next program scheduled for Saturday, February 21s` (snow date February 28th). Preceded by one of those famous pot luck dinners, Howard Oedel will entertain us with stories and information of the Grange as it was in Hebron in the early days

With ‘reminder’ letters sent out, our membership took a nice leap. At this writing we

have over fifty members, with twenty seven of them LIFE. Thank you respondees. A new LIFE membership (\$150.00 for a couple) has helped those otherwise unable to join that group.

In 2004 we are planning to join the Family Fun Day on the common. Watch for information on this and learn what we will be offering for your entertainment.

Without our own space, we are still only able to utilize file space in the library. As members of the Pemi-Baker Valley Historical Society Council (10 member towns), we meet twice annually with this group and learn of their societies. We are the ONLY ones without its own building or to have one being worked on. It is gratifying however, to learn of the hard work being done to preserve the history of our state and especially the local areas.

The Board feels that we need to educate our school children about their heritage and in that vein we are planning to work more closely with the Bridgewater/ Hebron school An annual presentation such as the one done last year (presentation of maps from Bridgewater and Hebron depicting locations of schools past and present)with perhaps some recognition for their work on local history is a possibility. Plans are to have a program in May and you are invited to join us at that time

A TV program about the Lewis and Clark Expedition has generated interest in reading about John Ordway who was not only part of that group but his family lived in Hebron. Now available at our library is the Encyclopedia of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which was written by Elm Woodger and Brandon Toropov. This is a complete reference work with maps and pictures, truly a wonderful addition to the library collection and a great reference tool.

All of our publications and cards are on sale at the library and we suggest that these make wonderful gifts along with a membership to the Society.

Tidbits of Hebron History

First a Fish story

Salmon were introduced into Newfound Lake in the 1866 when 134 salmon were brought in from Lake Ontario.

Commercial fishing never panned out but many fisherman began coming to the lake and this was the start of the tourist phase of Newfound's history.

The lake did, however, produce enough salmon and trout that it became an official place for the state to collect spawning fish to help stock other lakes and rivers.

In 1889 the state erected a fish hatchery (the first of three that were built on the lake) at the near the dam at the end of the lake.

The first stocking of the hatchery with 525,000 eggs cost \$78.90.

The largest lake trout ever caught in New Hampshire was caught in Newfound Lake in April 1958, when Albert Staples of Attleboro, MA landed a 28 ½ pound lake trout that measured 38 ½ inches long and was 24 ½ inches in circumference.

Now a Boat story

Most Hebronites know of the steam launch Stella Marion. Built in 1901 by Hebron's Ambrose Adams it was the first steam launch on the lake.

Adams delivered passengers and mail up and down the lake for many years. Until the "Stella-Marion" burned in Pasquaney Bay (its wreck is still dived upon by archeologists) on August 27, 1915 Did you know that the "Stella-Marion" was also famous for its ability to haul logs.

A log boom was constructed at the mouth of the Cockermonth River and the logs coming down the river in the spring flood were collected in this boom. When the boom was filled (the largest on record being 1,100,000 board feet and covered four acres of lake surface) it was towed down the lake to Merrill's Sawmill in Bristol.

Hebron Historical Society Program Events Calendar for 2004.

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

February 21 (snow date February 28) - Pot Luck Supper - Program "The Hebron Grange 1903-1908 - An Appraisal of Their Log Book"

May (date TBD) - Show & Tell at Bridgewater-Hebron Elementary School with the Bridgewater Historical Society

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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To purchase cards contact Barbara Brooks, 16 Brooks Circle, Hebron, NH 03241, 603-744-3597 or you may buy them at the Hebron Village Store.

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Contact Ron Collins, HHS Archivist at 744-1048 to place an ad in the Gazette.

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is published twice a year

Donations of money and historical items
are gladly accepted.

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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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.

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