

# **MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Saturday May 18, 2002  
10 AM – 4 PM  
5<sup>th</sup> NH Volunteers  
Civil War Encampment  
Community House Lawn*

*My Brave Boys  
7:30 PM Town Hall*

**Sponsored by the  
Milford Historical Society**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This is my final message of the Season. It is hard to believe yet another year has come and gone. I would like to take this opportunity to again say THANK YOU to the Milford Historical Society Board of Directors. Everyone has put so much time and effort into the workings of the Society. Two of our Board members will be leaving us. Nancy Schooley has been our membership chair and has done a wonderful job. Labels for the newsletter were always ready for us way in advance. There were never any last minute brain cramps wondering if we had asked Nancy for the labels. Brant Wilson is moving to Merrimack and also will no longer be with us. Brant has done an outstanding job keeping the building in good repair; if he couldn't do it - making sure repairmen were there to get the job done. The Board wishes them both God's speed and we will miss them very much. Of course, that leaves two openings on the Board, along with Vice President. Any one interested??

Also, thank you to our corporate and business sponsors - Silva Associates, Bob's Refrigeration, New Hampshire Coop Antiques, and Alene Candles who attended our open house April 28, 2002. It was a pleasurable afternoon and I know all of you, when touring the Carey House, were very impressed. Louie Carey, Jan Adams, Eleanor Fallon and myself enjoyed visiting and talking with you all.

The May 18, 2002 meeting will be a Civil War Encampment by the 5th NH Volunteers on the Community House Lawn from 10 am to 4 pm. Please come down to view this living history exhibit, bring your children /grandchildren, ask questions, etc. In the evening Mike Pride and/or Mark Travis, authors of the book *My Brave Boys*, will be speaking at the Town Hall Auditorium at 7:30 pm. This book is about the 5th NH Volunteers who fought in the Civil War. Thomas Livermore, grandson on Squire Livermore will be profiled in this talk. It is very fitting that the 5th NH Volunteer encampment will be at the site of Squire Livermore's home.

Following is a brief history of Squire Livermore and this site from the town histories:

Squire Livermore arrived in Milford in early 1800 and was a lawyer. He boarded with the Blanchards, who in 1794 had purchased land from William Crosby for \$750 and built a 1-1/2 story home at the corner of Union and Elm Streets. In 1800 Squire Livermore had set out several shade trees where Elm and Union Streets join, to celebrate the turn of the century. In 1929 six huge maple trees were cut down. One of the trees was six feet in diameter, produced 20 cords of wood and had stood for 125 years. *There is one very old tree still standing just to the right of the Community House. I have always wondered if this tree was one of the original planted by Squire Livermore.*

Squire Livermore purchased the Blanchard Farm in 1806. The farm extended all the way to Cottage Street, South on Union Street to Cemetery #2. Early in his career, Squire Livermore planted several great trees on this homestead. As the law alone could not afford him a living, he also farmed his land. He built an office in 1832. His motto was "I learn to aid the unfortunate". He and his wife Abigail had a large family.

His relations with his clients was illustrated by the fact that they almost entirely built him his house in 1842, in payment of long standing accounts for legal service which he had not wished to press, nor they to avoid. The original old farm house was moved to the corner of Orange and Union Streets.

Squire Livermore died in 1859. His daughter Elizabeth inherited the house and 2 1/2 acres. She died in 1910 and the property was sold at public auction for \$7,000 in 1912 to Albert Pillsbury who deeded the property to the town in 1921. In 1924 the trustees voted to give a piece of this land to the Milford School District for the purpose of erecting a school house. This was added to the land of the White School House on Garden Street and a new elementary school was built in 1925 - Garden Street School. The Milford Women's club took over the restoration of the building in 1928. An addition was put on the north room of the first floor in 1965. The building is now used for meetings and gatherings and is run by the Livermore Association.

Enjoy the rest of the news letter which includes a couple of interesting Civil War bits of information. See you on the 18th.

**Polly S. Cote, President**

*It is time for Membership dues. Please fill out the form and mail in the enclosed envelope.*

ENCLOSED HEREWITH ARE MY (OUR) DUES FOR May 1, 2002 - April 30, 2003

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

WHAT COMMITTEE CAN YOU SERVE ON:

\*\*\*\*\*

INDIVIDUAL \$10.00  
COUPLE \$20.00

SUPPORTING \$35.00  
BENEFACTOR \$50.00-----

LIFETIME \$150.00 (OVER 50 YEARS Or AGE)  
LIFETIME \$200.00 (UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE)

**OUR NIG;  
Or,  
Sketches from the Life of a  
Free Black,  
In a Two-Story White House,  
North,  
Showing That Slavery's Shadows Fall  
Even There  
By "OUR NIG."**

This book by Harriet Wilson has engendered a good deal of interest in the Society. Peggy Miller wrote a stirring article in the CABINET in February. Several visitors to the Carey House have asked to see what the Society has concerning Harriet Adams Wilson. This year the Third Edition of "Our Nig" by Vintage Books and another one edited by R.J. Ellis which was published by Goaters Limited, U.K. have been donated to the Society. Polly Cote has brought in newspaper clippings about "OUR NIG" saved by Connie Wheeler and we plan to organize an exhibit in May.

"OUR NIG" was published in 1859 by Harriet E. Wilson. This book is believed to be the first novel published by an African-American, the first book published by African-American woman, and only the fifth book to be published in the United States by an African-American. This is quite a claim for a book that no one knew about for over a hundred years. The lack of attention to this book may be attributed to the belief by some that the author was a white person pretending to be an African-American. Some were sure the author was a man because the book was too well written and used too many literary references! Also the story line did not fit the Abolitionist program at the time and so was not used by that movement which might have made it famous.

More recently the book gained the attention of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. He set out to prove that this novel was written by an African-American. He did research in Milford in 1982. Proof was found that Harriet Adams lived in Milford NH, was listed as Black and married Thomas Wilson in 1851. They had a son named George Mason who died at 7 years of age. Due to the interest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Vintage Books published a second edition in 1983. Thanks to publicity "Our Nig" became widely known and seems to be used in Black History Studies in many universities.

Barbara A. White has done further research to find Harriet Adams Wilson in Milford. Her findings indicate that, although the book was presented as fiction, it is largely an autobiography. Barbara A. White's research and the conclusions she reaches concerning Harriet Adams Wilson are printed in the Third Edition of "OUR NIG". Consequently the information found about the author and the history of Milford are closely entwined. The Third Edition was published by Vintage Books in April 2002. Copies of the Third Edition are available at the Toadstool Bookshop in Milford

**LOUIE CAREY, CURATOR**

**ANNUAL MEETING** - Saturday night May 18, 2002 7:00 pm sharp at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium. Officers will be voted on this year, however, there is no change in officers at this time.

President - Polly Cote

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Jan Adams

Treasurer - Eleanor Fallon

Committee members needed: Building & Grounds and Membership

Following the Annual Meeting, our program will feature authors Mike Pride and/or Mark Travis who will speak on their book - ' MY BRAVE BOYS" 5<sup>th</sup> NH Volunteers who fought in the Civil War.

Open House is held at the Carey House every 2<sup>nd</sup> week-end of each month during the year on Saturday and Sunday from 2pm - 4pm. If you could give two house of your time to host an open house please give me a call at (603) 673-1998 or email [DFBOUDREAU@ADELPHIA.NET](mailto:DFBOUDREAU@ADELPHIA.NET). Some days are very busy and others are quiet. During the course of the year since last Annual Meeting over 100 people from surrounding Southern New Hampshire and England have toured the building.

There seems to be renewed interest in the book "Our Nig" by Mrs. H. E. Wilson, a Milford resident. Visitors during an open house have expressed an interest in artifacts available for research on Mrs. Wilson.

Thanks for your help.

**Jan Adams**

**Open House Chair**

**NOTE** - Please visit our new Web Site [MilfordHistory.com](http://MilfordHistory.com). Chris Thompson has done an outstanding job designing this site for the Society. The site has generated new members, lots of questions including Federico Rocca and the New Westerly Quarry, and French and Heald Furniture. Chris is adding new things all the time so check it out weekly.

## DEATHS:

Kenneth Wheeler of Amherst Street passed away recently. He and his wife Emma had been members of the Society for many years and were faithful attendants at all the Society programs

Robert Odell Sr. formerly of West Street passed away this winter. His son Robert Jr and daughter Jean Tedder, are members of the Society and stay in contact through our news letters. The family donated the beautiful wicker stroller on display in the children's exhibit on the second floor.

The Society extends its sympathies to both of these families.

## CIVIL WAR TIDBITS

The great Civil War song "TENTING TONIGHT" was written by Walter Kittredge from Reeds Ferry, NH

New Hampshire sent between 18 and 21 regiments with an estimated 34,000 soldiers to the Civil war. About 34 percent were wounded or killed. Growth of some New Hampshire counties was slowed and nearly stopped because of casualties in the war.\*\*

During the Civil War Union troops used the Washington Monument grounds for grazing cattle and storing hay.\*\*\*

New Hampshire possessed a distinguished Civil War history. In a long war where many acts of distinction and bravery are necessarily unheralded, New Hampshire regiments were frequently singled out as among the best. When the late Civil War historian Bruce Catton was asked which regiment had become his favorite after years of researching and writing about the war, he replied that it came down to a toss-up between the Twenty-third Michigan and the Fifth New Hampshire. (Bruce Catton was from Michigan) The "Fighting Fifth" took more losses than any other regiment in the Civil War - 1,500 of its 2600 men died over its bloody 3-1/2 year existence.\*\*\*\*

\* Milford Cabinet article December 13, 1984

\*\* Union Leader article October 28, 1988 on the NH Fifth Volunteers \*\*\* Senior Beacon article October 1988

\*\*\*\* Monadnock Men in the Civil War September/October 1988

**THANK YOU to the following  
CORPORATE SPONSORS:**

**NH Antique Coop  
Soiland, Inc.  
Alene Candle  
Hayward's Trading Post  
Desmarias Construction  
Ciardelli Fuel  
Bob's Appliance Center  
Paul Dargie  
Shaws Supermarket  
JP Chemical  
Silva Properties  
Harley Sanford VFW  
Bravo Pizza  
Northern Marble & Granite  
Ricciardi Hartshorn American  
Legion  
Medlyn Motors, Inc.  
Dr. Edward Klopfer  
Dr. John B. Kenison**

**OFFICERS OF THE MILFORD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER**

**POLLY COTE  
OPEN  
JANICE ADAMS  
ELEANOR FALLON**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:  
BUILDING & GROUNDS  
CURATOR  
MEMBERSHIP  
NEWLETTER  
OPEN HOUSE  
PROGRAM  
PUBLICITY  
REFRESHMENTS  
TELEPHONE  
WAYS & MEANS**

**OPEN  
LOUIE CAREY  
OPEN  
POLLY COTE  
JANICE ADAMS  
SAROOCH RICCIARDI  
KEN MACGRATH  
EVERYONE  
OPEN  
GERI DICKERMAN**

**The Carey House is open:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday & Sunday of every month 2PM – 4PM

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 9AM – 11AM