

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Presents
Another 100 Glass Slides
of Milford*

Town Hall Banquet Hall

*Wednesday, November 20, 2002
7:30PM*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lot of older residents know that a Milford company made equipment for post offices around the country. For those of you who do not know the story, I will try to retell a few of the details here. This information has been gleaned from the Ramsdell town history published in 1901 and The Granite Town history published in 1978. I am sure there are other facts that could/should be added here but this is what I have available.

In 1880, John McLane started making post office furniture. In 1886 he purchased the mill property on Nashua Street known as the Fuller Mill. He secured several valuable patents relating to post office boxes and he enlarged his business extensively. In 1885, his mill was inadequate for his business as there was a growing demand for improved equipment. He started a factory in Chicago with 25 employees, 40 remaining in Milford. In 1888, he had increased his facilities at home and as his lease expired in Chicago, everything was moved back to Milford in 1897, where he employed 30 to 40 men.

By the turn of the century, equipment for over 12,000 post offices all over the United States had been made here. Water power was used until electric motors were added around 1909.

McLane had purchased the adjacent buildings and added several mills, along with his line of post office equipment. With a hosiery mill in a part of the McLane complex of buildings on Nashua Street, it was understandable that Mr. McLane would build a box shop to supply the hosiery boxes for the mill. In 1890 he built a two story building northeast of this complex and it was here that the boxes were made until 1899 when the hosiery company went into bankruptcy. At this time Mr. McLane changed the box shop into a basket shop hiring George Hawkins of Peterborough as manager. The Hawkins family, father Floyd and brother Ernest, were involved in the company. The shop produced 12,000 baskets a month from locally grown oak. The company was called Standard Basket Shop. Mr. H. B. Needham of Peterborough purchased the Basket Shop business in 1904 and moved the machinery to an old piano factory building in Peterborough.

In 1915 McLane Company instituted the custom of morning and afternoon coffee breaks for its employees.

Business was good until the 1920's. Mr. McLane had died in 1911 and the business was reorganized but declined and the company was sold in 1927 to Robert and William Bourne of Templeton, MA. The Bourne Company made only furniture. The depression forced the Bourne Company to go bankrupt in 1935.

Harold Reed of Newport purchased the buildings on Nashua Street and established the world famous White Elephant Shop. The White Elephant Shop is another story for another newsletter.

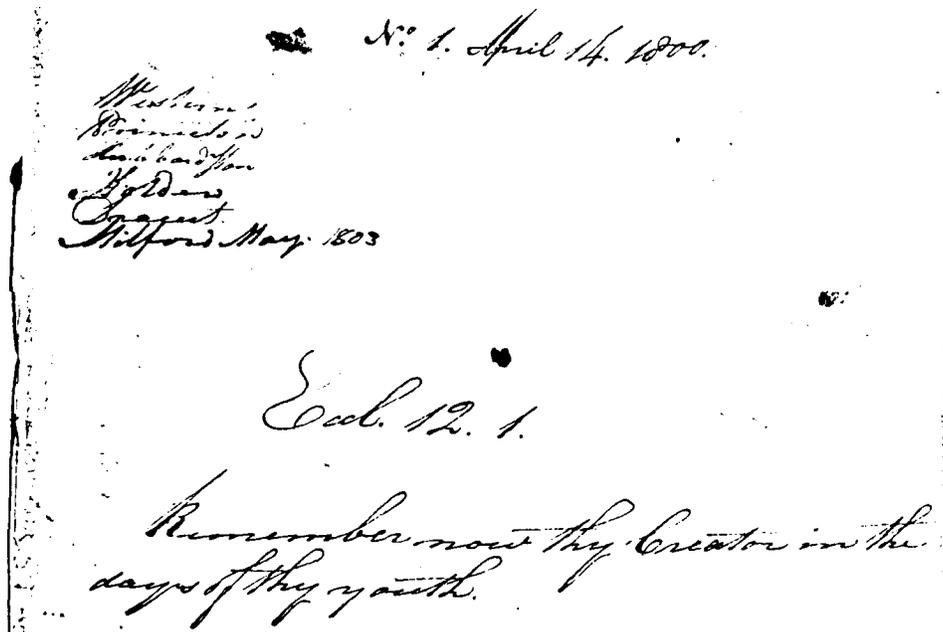
The McLane storehouse on Clinton Street was sold to Oliver Carleton, owner of a trucking and ice business in Milford.

A spectacular fire totally destroyed the historic buildings on January 23, 1966 (then The White Elephant) that had for so long been the home of the McLane Manufacturing Company. This building was located at the present day site of Cumberland Farms on Nashua Street.

The Society has a piece of post office furniture made by McLane on display at the Carey House. There is still much of this post office furniture around. One of the Society's members, Meredith Terrenzio, was in Maine this past summer at Sebec Village. The town has a beautiful, complete front of post office furniture in a renovated complex of buildings called the Sebec Village Store. Over the top of the window is written "Milford, New Hampshire". This piece of furniture was purchased off of eBay according to Meredith. It would be interesting to know where the post office was located - Eagle Hall or Town Hall - when the furniture was sold, who bought it and how it ended up on e-BAY. An investigation will be pursued.

The Program for November is the glass slide program cancelled from March 2002 because of bad weather. This is the last group of slides from our collection to be shown. Also, please remember that programs are cancelled if the weather is bad - snow, ice, etc.

POLLY COTE, PRESIDENT



MEMO TO THE MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In writing Thumbing the Files for 100 years ago this week (Cabinet of October 22, 1902) I came across a lengthy -13 full columns - describing the observance of the 100th anniversary of the coming to Milford of the Rev. Humphrey Moore. It includes the text of his first sermon. The Historical Society has, or did have, a collection of his sermons. Did you ever wonder where they came from? Perhaps the following news story, copied from that 1902 Cabinet, will be of interest. - WBR

History of Dr. Moore's Sermon

At this time when the anniversary of the installation of the Rev. Humphrey Moore, 100 years ago, the first pastor of the town, has been the subject of more than ordinary interest, the celebration of which has formed an important item in the town's history, it may be interesting to readers of the Cabinet, in whose columns the sermon appears entire, to learn how the original manuscript was obtained.

It appears that when George E. Foster was a resident of Milford, he often bought at auction sales, old books, papers and manuscripts and packed them away in sacks for future examination when he might have the leisure time. Some ten years after he removed to New York he was looking over some of the material he had purchased and discovered this sermon and several others that had in all probability been borrowed by some one now unknown and never returned to the author. This act was, of course, a wrong one, but was overruled for good in preserving for a century those valuable sermons of Humphrey Moore, the first minister of the town.

It is understood that Mr. Foster has kindly donated these sermons to the Milford Historical Society for preservation.

On the previous page is Humphrey Moore's first sermon delivered April 4, 1800 on Ecclesiastes 12: 1 - Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Rev Moore preached over 1400 sermons through at least 1836.

CURATOR COMMITTEE

For some time the focus of this committee has been the Civil War and Military History Room. Members of the committee have been painstakingly checking the records on the artifacts in this room and making sure everything is correctly recorded. It was originally named the Civil War Room for our fine collection of Civil War artifacts. It seemed important to add Military History to the title as there are many additional acquisitions from other times.

Currently our work is to bring the picture file up to date. I wish to thank Nancy Ashworth and Nancy D'Amato for the fine work they are doing on these files. Another benefit to the Society is the work of some Boy Scouts from Troop #407. These boys are volunteering to enter the artifact records into the computer database. It is a time consuming task and I expect these boys will have gone on to other things by the time this is finished. It will be very helpful to have easy access to this information. We appreciate the community spirit of these volunteers.

Again we are fortunate to have the help of three Girl Scouts from Troop #443. These girls have a double goal: first, to learn skills needed to preserve, care for and record historical artifacts, and second, to be of service to the community. They have done everything from data processing to searching out misplaced items to vacuuming and dusting.

It is time to recognize additional work done by volunteers over several years. The inventory of the Bernice Perry negatives is nearly finished. To learn what is recorded on over 40,000 negatives is a daunting task. Originally a group including Eleanor Fallon, Rosemary McEntee, Mary Proctor, Ann An and Joan Jones met at the Carey House to list the numbers, topics and dates on each negative. We had a good time together but it was a very slow, painstaking process. Then Lex Law offered to inventory the negatives on his data processor. Over the years he went through 70 boxes of negatives. (There are approximately 500 in each box). Later, the few remaining boxes were completed by Celeste Barr, Kelly Carter and Joan Jones on their home computers. A super and most appreciated job was done by all.

LOUIE CAREY

ODDS AND ENDS

An interesting article submitted by Bill Rotch is included in this newsletter.

FAIR DAY is December 7, 2002 hours 9:30 am to 1 pm. Please consider donating items to the 1st Annual Antique Fair sale along with the usual great food you members bake. This is a day when the Carey House is visited by a large volume of people, who tour the house, purchase food, historical items that are for sale, and hopefully a new venture in the Antique Fair sale. (Articles have already started arriving for the antique fair sale) These items don't have to be real "antiques" but rather an item that the Society will be able to sell for a few dollars.

ARCADIA BOOK ON MILFORD - See the order form enclosed. Get your order in before the first 100 copies are gone. However, they will be available again before Christmas and on an ongoing basis for some time. Chris Thompson has done an outstanding job on this book and he is to be commended.

THE BOOK "OUR NIG"

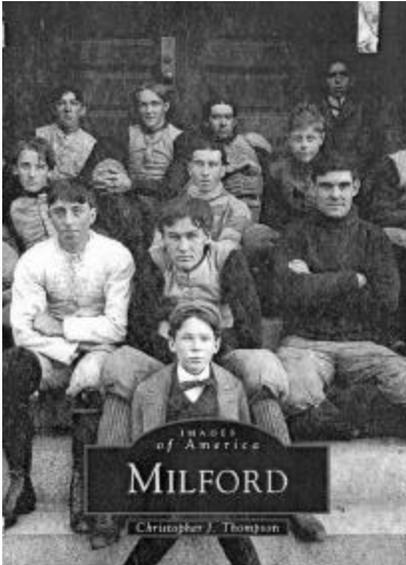
On Sunday afternoon, September 29, 2002 the Milford Historical Society hosted a book review on "Our Nig" written in 1959 by Harriet Wilson. The group visiting was the Business Professional Women's Heritage Association lead by JerriAnne Boggis. Also present were Yvonne Whyte, Delia Kostner, Pauline Boggis, and Susanna Northerner. JerriAnne led a video discussion of the autobiographical novel - "Why did Harriet Wilson write this book?" "Our Nig" is said to be the first novel published in the United States by an African-American woman, who lived here in Milford. Harriet Wilson is renowned in literary circles and in other parts of the country and in Europe, but is virtually unknown in her home town. JerriAnn is working on a documentary project which will give Harriet Wilson's "Our Nig" honor and remembrance as an historical figure.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS - The Executive Committee welcomes Norman Cote on board. He will be the Building and Grounds Chair.

SPEAKING CONTEST - The Society is expanding its Spring educational program to 3rd grade students. A speaking contest on the history of Milford is being established to go along with the walking tour and Carey House tour. We are working out the details with Heron Pond Elementary School and hope that this program will be set up and ready to go in Spring 2003. More details will follow.

Milford, New Hampshire

by Arcadia Publishing



The Milford Historical Society is now offering for sale a great new book on the history of Milford. *Milford, New Hampshire*, is scheduled for a November release as part of the “Images of America” series by Portsmouth based Arcadia Publishing. The book is currently being printed and will be ready just in time for the holiday season. It will make a great Christmas gift for all of your friends and relatives with Milford roots.

The 128-page book was compiled by society member, Chris Thompson and includes over 190 images and captions ranging from the 1860’s up through the 1960’s. Though the book will also be available at local bookstores, purchasing yours from the Historical Society will help the Society continue to preserve the past for future generations.

The book will have a limited printing quantity so be sure to get yours now before they are sold out.

For more information on the book, please visit <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com> and the home of the Milford Historical Society on the web at: <http://www.milfordhistory.com>

Thanks for your continued support of the Milford Historical Society

Please send me ___ copy (s) of *Milford, New Hampshire* (Arcadia Publishing)
@ \$26.95 each including shipping and handling

Please reserve for me ___ copy (s) of *Milford, New Hampshire* (Arcadia Publishing)
@ \$19.99 each. I will plan to pick up my copies at the Historical Society when they are available.

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The Carey House is open:

2nd Saturday & Sunday of every month 2PM – 4PM

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 9AM – 11AM

Visit us on the web at:

www.milfordhistory.com