

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Covered Dish Supper

*Tuesday, Sept 17, 2002
6:15PM*

*Main Auditorium
With
The Golden Smoothies
7:30PM*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe another year has gone by since our last covered dish supper. The Society has another interesting and varied program for you again this year, as we have planned more local programs of historic interest to Milford residents. *(Please note the change of day - Tuesday, not Wednesday, for our annual covered dish supper and entertainment.)* Anyway, come to the covered dish supper, bring some food to eat, enjoy the music and bring a friend for company.

While going through some of my own private collection of "stuff", I came across a little booklet entitled "Address Delivered at the Centennial Celebration of Wilton, NH September 25, 1839" by Ephraim Peabody. Mr. Peabody gave a brief history of Wilton during that past century. There are the usual Milford connections mentioned - the danger of Indians for about 10 years. There were two garrisons Wilton residents went to - one was in Milford, north of the Souhegan, near the Peabody Place and the other was in Lyndeborough near where Ephraim Putnam settled. And, of course, another was Shepherd's Mill in Milford, just seven miles distance. Before that, the first settlers went to Dunstable to mill.

There is a story I will relate here that I found very interesting about the raising of Wilton's second meeting house built during the ministry of Mr. Jonathan Livermore, father of Squire Livermore of Milford. Remember while reading this that it was written in 1839 but referring back to 1773.

"The building commenced on September 7, 1773. Such things were conducted differently then from what they are now. It was considered the work of two days. People came from distant towns to see the spectacle. There was great note of preparation. A committee of the town appointed the raisers, and ample provisions were made to entertain strangers.* *(*Among other things which - might indeed, in part, account for the accident that followed - the town "Voted to provide one barrel of West Indian rum. Five barrels of New England rum, one barrel of good brown sugar, half a bar of good lemons, and two loaves of loaf sugar, for framing and raising the meeting house")*

It was a beautiful September morning. And now might be seen coming in by every road, and from the neighboring towns, great numbers, men, women and children, to see the show. Some came on foot; some practiced the method, unknown in modern days, of riding and tying; some were on horseback, with their wives or sisters behind on a pillion. It was an occasion of universal expectation. The timbers were all prepared, the

workmen ready, and the master-workman, full of the dignity of his office, issuing his orders to his aids. All went on prosperously. The good cheer, the excitement of the work, the crowd of spectators, men looking on, women telling the news, boys playing their various games, all made it a scene of general rejoicing. The sides of the house were already up, and also a part of the roof at the east end of the building.

One of the raisers from Lyndeborough, Capt. Bradford, had brought over his wife, whom he left, on account of illness, at the place where Mr. Baldwin now resides, while he himself went on to take part in the work. Having to pass along the centre of the building, he observed that the middle beam, extending across the church, was not properly supported. A post was under the centre, but it was worm-eaten, and was already beginning to yield and give way under the pressure. In raising the middle part of the roof, the weight of the workmen would come in great measure on this beam, which was evidently not strong enough to bear up the timbers and men. He immediately ascended the roof and informed the master-workman, who, being made over-confident by the success thus far, replied to him, that if he was afraid, he might go home; that they wanted no cowards there. Indignant, Capt. Bradford went down, and started off for his wife, with the purpose of returning home.

But before he had reached Mr. Baldwin's, the men had already proceeded forward, confident and elated at their progress. They were swarming upon the unsupported beam and the planks and timbers which rested on it. They were raising up, with much exertion and shouts of direction and encouragement, the beams and rafters when suddenly, as Capt. Bradford was looking back, he saw the frame already erected, tremble, the men shrink back aghast; the building seemed to rock for a moment to and fro, and suddenly all, timbers and tools and men, rushed down together in one mingled mass in the centre. The crash was so loud as to be heard nearly a mile. For a moment all was silent, and then the air was filled with groans, and outcries, and shrieks of terror. There were fifty-three men on the frame that fell. Three were instantly killed; two died very shortly afterwards; others were crippled for life, and most of them were more or less mangled or wounded. To understand the impression that the event made at the time, it must be remembered that the whole population of the town, men, women and children, was scarcely five hundred. It was like so many men lost overboard from a ship at sea. It caused a general mourning, for there were few families which had not lost a friend, or connection or some one of

whose friends were not among the wounded. At a Fast which was kept, Mr. Jonathan Livermore preached from the words of Psalm CXXVII 1 which then must have been peculiarly impressive: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" Superstition came in to darken the event. A man by the name of Isaac Russell had been killed by the fall of a tree which he had himself cut, and it was ascertained that the fatal beam was made of this self-same tree." As the story continues it gets no better. The second attempt likewise fell. However, the meeting house was finally dedicated January 5, 1775. In 1804 the meetinghouse was struck by lightning. Its history parallels Milford's first meeting house in that there was no heat in the building for many years except for the women's foot stoves.

Such was life in the 18th and 19th centuries for those settling this new territory. It was dangerous, hard and also tragic.

Please read the list of upcoming programs; the Covered Dish Supper and the list of food to bring (which is optional) for this annual event, the "local" entertainment at this supper and the rest of the newsletter. Come to the programs, come to an open house which is held every 2nd week-end of the month and enjoy looking at the wonderful treasures from Milford's past, volunteer for one of our many committees - we can always use help - and, of course, become a member for only \$10.00 per year.

Speaking of volunteering, we are in need of a person to be the Building and Grounds chair for the Society. No lawns have to be mowed, no heavy work, just someone to keep an eye on the building to be sure it is in working order. If anything is not working that can't be fixed by the Building and Grounds person, the Board will review it and make the final decision. Please speak to someone on the Board if you are interested.

POLLY S. COTE, PRESIDENT

Please remember to pay your dues to Eleanor Fallon, our Treasurer. With the loss of our town funding this year, it is important that we be very diligent in paying our dues, which is a large part of the Society's budget.

ANNUAL COVERED DISH SUPPER

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT

Tuesday evening, September 17, 2002 at 6:15 is our annual COVERED DISH SUPPER. Please bring a dish according to the suggested following alphabetical list.

Of course, you are free to bring whatever you wish, the following is just a guide:

A - D -- DESERT

M - P -DESERT

E - H-SALAD

O - T - MAIN DISH

I - L--MAIN DISH

U - Z -SALAD

BEVERAGES AND ROLLS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE MEAL.

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With the publication of an article in the Milford Cabinet about the book "Our Nig", there seems to be a renewed interest in this subject. Our Curator and President have a splendid display of articles and books in the Humphrey Moore Room. An author from England was here to do further research on Harriet E. Adams Wilson as was Jerri A. Boggis who is also doing research on Harriet Wilson. Do come in and visit this exhibit.

As always, there is interest in "The Hutchinson Singers". One person spent two open house days doing research.

The Jaquith Family from Corvallis Oregon were here in July looking for their relatives and they also toured the house. (They told the President that had visited many historical societies around the country and this was the nicest building they had been in. They were particularly impressed with the display of Milford's artifacts.)

If you have not visited the Carey House in a while and have a free afternoon on the 2nd weekend of the month do visit us. Also your help is needed to host an open house. A very successful Corporate and Business open house was held on April 28. Please fill in a Volunteer Form and return to any Board member if you can help with an Open House.

Jan Adams, Open House Chair

The Board is trying a new Ways and Means project. At our December Christmas Open House, we would like to have an Antique Fair and Sale. Please help by donating things you may have around your house that would make a good sale item for this project. These would be items that the Society could sell and make a decent profit on. Please leave them at the Carey House on any Open House weekend until the end of November. Also, place a note with the item describing it and a fair price to sell it at. The Board thanks you in advance for all the help you can give us. With the loss of Town Funding we must try to come up with clever and unique money raising projects and the Board wants to try this. Hopefully it will become an annual event

Polly Cote, President

DATES FOR MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2002 - 2003 PUBLIC
PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002 6:15 PM ANNUAL
COVERED DISH SUPPER MAIN AUDITORIUM 7:30 PM
THE GOLDEN SMOOTHIES

WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 20, 2002 7:30 PM BANQUET
HALL - MILFORD TOWN HALL GLASS SLIDE PROGRAM
THIS PROGRAM WAS POSTPONED FROM MARCH 2002

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003 7:30 PM BANQUET HALL. MILFORD TOWN HALL
ARLENE GEORGE - History of Indians in New Hampshire and Milford

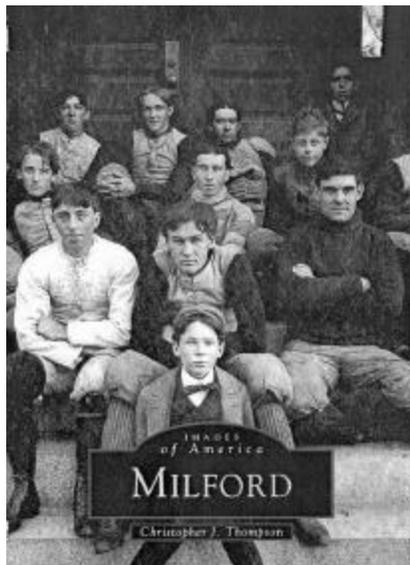
WEDNESDAY. MAY 21. 2003 ANNUAL MEETING WILD
FLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND

PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY FOR REFERENCE DURING THE COMING YEAR

PLEASE NOTE: If, on the date of any of the above programs, there is a snow storm or an Ice storm that makes travel dangerous to impossible, these programs WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CANCELLED. The President does not want any of you coming out on a bad night, have an accident/injury. We will reschedule that program to another time and date.

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.

Your Name _____ Your E-Mail: _____

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Send you check or money order along with this order form to:

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PO Box 609
Milford, NH 03055

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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