



Thornton Historical Society ***Annual Newsletter***

2013

Notes from the President

Gloria Kimball

In 2102, the Historical Society hosted three evening programs at the Town Hall, did a fundraiser at the White Mountain Boogie and Blues festival, and planned and hosted the 9th annual Old Home Day. All events were enjoyed by the people who attended them.

In July, a piece of history returned to Thornton. Frank Kyper from Marco Island, Florida, donated the West Thornton Railroad Station sign to the Historical Society. This generous donation is greatly appreciated and will be put on display in the Old Town House.

The parking lot beside the Old Town House is done and looks terrific. It will be much safer around there for the school ball games. We would like to thank the citizens of Thornton for appropriating the funds to do this.

Also, thanks is given to Jerol and Shirley Benton of Benton Enterprises for the work, materials and time put in on the job.

We are going to have some programs at three of the upcoming monthly meetings this year. A description of them will follow in this newsletter. The programs are sponsored by the NH Humanities Council.

The Old Home Day will be held on September 21, 2013, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, rain or shine. We would like to incorporate a celebration of sorts at the same time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the granting of the town.

On July 6, 1763, the township was granted to Daniel Pierce and others, in seventy three shares, of which Matthew Thornton was one, to contain 23,000 acres. The town was named in honor of Mr. Thornton, who subsequently became a member from New Hampshire of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. No Settlements were attempted under this grant and a new charter was issued October 21, 1768 including additional territory enough to make 40,071 acres in the whole which was to be divided into ninety shares. The Town was incorporated Nov 24, 1781.

Upcoming Presentations & Meetings

All Presentations & Meetings are at 7pm at Thornton Town Hall– Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday July 10, 2013

Cristina Ashjian, PhD.

Our presenter will be Cristina Ashjian who is an independent scholar based in Moultonborough, where she is presently the chair of the Moultonborough Heritage Com-

mission. Her current research focuses on late 19th and early 20th century country estates. She holds an MA in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London and a PhD in Modern Art and Architecture from Northwestern University.

Her presentation will be titled ***Exemplary Country Estates of New Hampshire***. In the early 20th century, the New Hampshire Board of Agriculture launched a program to boost the rural economy and promote tourism through the sale of abandoned farms to summer residents. The presenter will focus attention on some of the great country estates featured in the program between 1902 and 1913. Using historic images and texts, she will discuss well known estates now open to the public such as The Fells on Lake Sunapee, The Rocks in Bethlehem, and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish.

Wednesday August 07, 2013

Bob Kilham

Hearken back to the days before television, radio, and CDs: crowded, noisy, smoke-filled theaters, and a public who just can't wait to hear the latest "hit." Historical musician Bob Kilham recreates the sights and sounds of mid-19th century America. Much of the music from this pivotal time is still with us today. Familiar songs such as Old Dan Tucker, O Susana, and Camptown Races, written by the likes of Stephen Foster and Dan Emmet, form a basis of our present folk music tradition. Bob is a self-taught musician and vocalist and focuses on period instruments including banjo, fiddle, guitar, accordion, and flute. He uses original sheet music, period manuals and primary documentation to achieve a high degree of accuracy in his presentations. A variety of period clothing enhances the interpretation. Bob regularly performs at museums, fairs, historical organizations, schools and education centers, and any other venue that appreciates good old-fashioned American music. He served as staff musician at Strawberry Banke Museum, was on the UNH Elderhostel Faculty for several years, performed at Indiana University StoneSong Festival, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Bob has appeared on NHPTV's "New Hampshire Crossroads" and WBUR's "Here and Now." His performance of period music was featured on PBS' "American Experience - Stephen Foster, America's First Great Songwriter." Bob also plays with the mid-19th century social orchestra The Amoskeag Players.

Other Dates

Wed, September 05, 2013-THS Meeting

Sat, September 21, 2013-Old Home Day (Sugar Shack)

Wed, October 02, 2013– Program to be announced.

Board of Directors

President Gloria Kimball* **Vice President** Flora Boyce * **Treasurer** Barbara Sellingham * **Secretary** Jim Sacchetti