

# Historical Society Publishes Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse

## Elder Moody's Hat

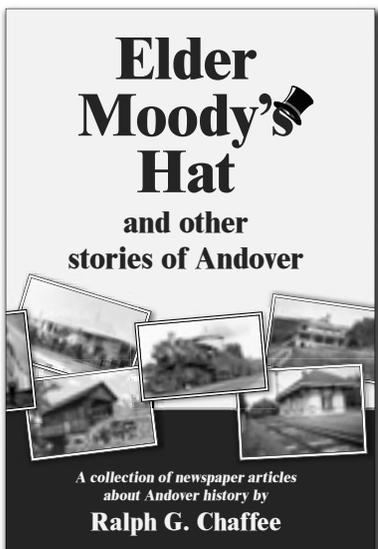
The Andover Historical Society is proud to publish *Elder Moody's Hat and other stories of Andover*, a 183-page book that compiles newspaper articles written by Ralph Chaffee in the 1960s. Ralph Chaffee was the very essence of a "town father" in Andover for over half a century. He served as Selectman for 30 years and also served as Trustee of Trust Funds, Library Trustee, Town Moderator, School District Moderator,

Farm – 500 acres on Emery Road that specialized in breeding and exhibiting prize Hereford beef cattle. From 1937 to 1963 he and his wife Grace lived on Maplecrest Farm on Chase Hill Road where they had an apple orchard and dairy operation. They pioneered the concept of "pick your own," which became a big attraction.

Ralph was also a prolific historian, writing *History of Andover 1900-1965*. He also wrote nearly a dozen other publications about the history of the area, as well as a popular column in the *Franklin Journal-Transcript* newspaper.

*Elder Moody's Hat* collects over 30 of Ralph's columns written for the *Journal-Transcript* in the 1960s. Illustrated with photographs from the archives of the Andover Historical Society, it is a wonderful collection of humor and vignettes about life in our small New Hampshire town. You will learn about the "base and disgraceful" treatment Elder Moody's hat received back in 1874 ... what happened to Andover's elusive elk herd of the early 1900s ... the story of the hill that moved ... and many other local facts and fancies.

*Elder Moody's Hat* goes on sale at the Historical Society's Old Time Fair on August 5 in Potter Place. After that it will be available in the Historical Society's gift shop in Potter Place, open weekends from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, and it will be coming soon to local bookstores.



and Trustee of the Franklin Hospital. He was also a member of the Andover Rescue Squad, the East Andover Fire Department, the Highland Lake Grange, and the Andover Fish and Game Club. He was farm manager from 1924 to 1937 for the renowned Halcyon Hills

By Donna Baker-Hartwell  
Andover Historical Society

There will be open house at the Tucker Mountain School on Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 3 PM. It will be hosted by Roger Henderson and Frank Baker III. Frank will be leading tours out to the Tucker Family Farm cellar hole, a short walk from the schoolhouse.

William Tucker donated a corner of his orchard for the building of the school in 1837. His younger brother Benjamin Tucker built the school for \$100. Its single room is 16 feet wide by 18 feet long with an attached woodshed and "two holes."

This information was found in the

John R. Eastman *History of Andover, New Hampshire- 1751-1906*. William Tucker was the son of William and Mary Tucker and was born in Andover (most likely at the Tucker Mountain Homestead) on July

13, 1794. He died in Andover on September 17, 1875. William married Julia Dickerson of Hill, New Hampshire in 1820. They had four children who were raised in this farmhouse. Most certainly the younger two were among the first students to attend the "Little Red Schoolhouse".

A collection of old ink wells will also be on display and young people can try their hands at writing with the quill pen.

The Historical Society's museum at Potter Place is open for the summer Saturdays from 10:30 AM to 3 PM and Sundays from 1 to 3 PM. The Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse (see Ed Hiller's map below) is open on the second Sunday of every month from June to October from 1 to 3 PM.





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**From *Elder Moody's Hat and other stories of Andover* by Ralph Chaffee:**

"Doctor" Mowe was an eccentric individual, seldom seen without a scarf around his neck no matter what the season, which he referred to as his "wampum." It is said that he never changed his underwear in winter but added another layer, as the weather got colder, and often wore three coats one over another.

In the room in his Tucker Mountain home, which served as both kitchen and bedroom, were two stoves, which were used on alternate days. He seldom bothered to saw his stove wood but kept the long sticks propped up on chairs or horses to be shoved along into the fire as the ends burned off. Before retiring for the night he would lay a fire in the unused stove for the next morning. From his bed he could reach across the room and light it by means of a bit of birch bark on the end of a long stick, delaying getting up until the room was warm. Not all laborsaving devices can be credited to the modern age.

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