

## History from page 23

splitting, rope making, and other farm-related skills. Craft demonstrations include spinning, weaving on antique looms, flax processing, felting, natural dyeing, lace making, and much more.

Revolutionary War Militia will set up camp and demonstrate their military maneuvers and artillery firing, reenacting the farm's history as the site of militia musters during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Draft horses, oxen, and smaller animals will be displayed. Antique trucks, cars, and tractors will parade at 3 PM each day, and work-saving antique small engines will be on exhibit. A non-denominational church service will be observed Sunday at 11AM in the Hardy-Pillsbury Barn.

Food, jellies, jams, and vegetables will be sold at the farm stand, and wonderful food will be served during the day, topped off with Muster Field's famous Roast Beef Supper on Saturday from 5 to 7 PM.

General admission is \$4; seniors \$2. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards. Museum members are entitled to free admission to Farm Days.

### The Fells

456 Route 103A, Newbury  
TheFells.org

On Saturday, August 16, from 10 AM to 3 PM there will be the Hay Day Family Festival. It's a fun-filled day for families of all ages. Enjoy hay wagon rides, children's games, musical per-

formances, demonstrations, live animals, and crafts. Visit with the flock of sheep and watch their wool being spun into yarn. Enjoy traditional lawn games and musical performances...something for everyone. There will be house and garden tours as well. Activities are free with admission to The Fells.

### Franklin Historical Society

Daniel Webster Birthplace  
Just off Route 127, Franklin

On weekends through the end of September, the Daniel Webster Birthplace will be open. Jack Tobey, a knowledgeable docent, will be available Saturdays and Sundays from 9 AM to 5 PM to answer questions and give out free vintage (1970s) postcards.

### New London Historical Society

179 Little Sunapee Rd, New London  
NewLondonHistoricalSociety.org

On Thursday, August 14, there will be a Carriage Driving Clinic all morning. Learn to drive or just watch, but there is a fee for driving instruction. At 7 PM enjoy *Carriages and Horses*, a presentation on horse-drawn carriages and sleighs by Roger Murray of the American Carriage Association. A 6:30 PM dessert will precede the lecture.

## Marlyn from page 22

the library, and the waterfront.

"Deb is hosting the first Camp Marlyn reunion on Monday, September 8, with an open house from 9 AM to 5 PM. Visit [CampMarlyn.com](http://CampMarlyn.com) for details.



Brian Shaw and Roger Henderson take a minute to discuss the next move as they race to get the hay in before the next storm breaks. Photo: Mary Hiller

## Racing Summer Thunderstorms

By Mary Hiller  
For the Beacon

On July 9, after several days of on and off again summer rains, the hay is getting too tall and needs attention. A morning of sunshine and tedding mown rows, and then a broken baler, causes Roger Henderson to call on Brian Shaw to come with his baler for a quick fix. The afternoon thunder showers have been a daily occurrence – "No hay in Franklin, no hay in Wilmot yesterday, it's always something with this business," says Roger as he eyes the bales just formed in his own pasture and glances apprehensively at the hazy sky.

Meanwhile Brian has driven up Franklin Highway to Jerry Hersey's hay fields, where his baler is again chugging away on fields of mown hay that will feed Jerry's cattle in months to come. This land has recently been put into a conservation easement and will be available for growing whatever is

needed in the future to feed our hungry bellies. But right now it is hay to feed Jerry's cattle, and the thunder storm is approaching again.

"Sorry I can't stop to talk," calls Jerry as he moves from tractor tedding to his own large hand hay-rake to turn over the mown hay before Brian's baler drives down the row.

"Trying to beat the storm!" he calls, making an unnecessary explanation.

Haying is an "iffy" business with the summer sun alternating with afternoon thunderstorms, but if the cattle aren't fed, neither will we be. Less than two hours later the heavens opened up and rain poured down, but there were no bales to see in either field.

The local farmers who are willing to keep on struggling to feed our growing population may become the heroes of the future as the concept of "Eat Local" sinks in and the cost of transporting food across the nation grows to unacceptable levels.

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