

Open House

Historic Tucker Mountain School

Sunday, August 14 from 1–3 P.M.

Tucker Mountain Rd., East Andover
For information call: Donna Baker-Hartwell 603 381-5586
or email donnabh@tds.net

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Andover Historical Society's 40th Anniversary: Part 2

Expanded during its second 20 years

Cheryl Swenson
Andover Historical Society

The second half of the Andover Historical Society's 40 years began with the addition of three new properties.

In 2003, the Historical Society accepted a gift of a tract of land on Route 11 from Dalbello Sports Company near what is now the Millennium Moving Company. Two months later, the Historical Society officially accepted the property of the Tucker Mountain School House donated by Madeline Baker.

In the fall, the B&M railroad shed was donated by RP Johnson and Sons and the Amos Johnson family. These buildings added extensively to the Historical Society's assets but increased the workload for maintenance and care.

The Historical Society undertook the Barn Survey Project, with support from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, to catalog all of Andover's historic barns. To quote Charlie Darling, "Left to themselves, old barns eventually fall down. And when an old barn vanishes, an important part of our New Hampshire heritage and our Andover history vanishes with it."

In 2004, the Andover Library Trustees placed their set of 13 historic Bachelor scrapbooks on indefinite loan to the Historical Society. The Freight Shed was used to store and exhibit larger and more cumbersome historical artifacts. A hand-cranked phone between the Emons store and railroad station was installed, to the delight of kids of all ages!

In 2005, the Schoolhouse was placed on the Register of Historic Places. The

Oral History Project moved forward, as did the Barn Survey. The grand opening of the Rail Trail, a 1.7 mile trail at that time, from Potter Place station to Blackwater Park in Andover brought an increasing number of visitors. Over 500 visitors signed the guestbook that year.

The highlight in 2006 was the production of "Our Town" in co-operation with the Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theater. It was a sold-out success that helped with on-going repairs to the properties.

Ken Reid and Bob Hamilton set up Emons Store as an old general store museum. The Gift Shop moved to the Store from the Railroad Station, and a group of volunteers worked on extending the length of the railroad tracks to provide for longer pumper-car rides during the Society's annual Old Time Fair.

In 2008, several informative historical DVDs and videos were produced. A "Welcome to Andover" video was created, with the first segment about the Andover Historical Society. A DVD was created from old movies to show ice harvesting on Highland Lake.

A series of video programs was created featuring 50 readings from Elder Moody's Hat and Other Stories of Andover: A Compilation of Newspaper Articles about Andover, New Hampshire by Ralph Chaffee. The stories were read by Andover residents and taped in and around Emons Store.

On June 13, 2009, the long-awaited freight car, arrived after two years in storage, and was placed beside the Freight Shed awaiting a face lift. A video was made of the freight car's move to Potter Place and shown on Channel 8.

In 2010, Donna Baker-Hartwell, with the expertise of Ethney McMahon, created a DVD reenactment of a day at Tucker Mountain School. A Secret Garden was created by Ken Reid and Bob Hamilton in the cellar hole of the old Potter place, with benches for relaxing, meditating, and enjoying the beauty of the garden.

In September 2011, the Historical Society organized an Antiques Roadshow-like event held at the Andover Fire Station with Dan Olmstead as the appraiser. Over 60 people came with antiques to be assessed and to observe the evaluations and to hear the humorous comments from Dan.

In 2012, the freight car was stripped with sand blasting. A map of the Potter Place historical area was created by Deborah Emeny. The Historical Society participated in the 175th anniversary of Colby-Sawyer College in New London, as most people who went to Colby arrived by train. There was a photograph-
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