

Andover Historical Society

By Margie Leber
Andover Historical Society

The annual meeting of the Andover Historical Society will take place October 24 at 7 PM. This meeting will be held at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. The short agenda will focus on the election of officers for the 2007-2008 year. The slate of officers is:

- President: Pat Cutter
- Directors of Museum Management: Pat Cutter and Susan Norris
- Director for Community Relations will be shared by Sue Currier, Membership, and Joanna Sumner and Robin Boynton, Public Relations
- Treasurer: Donald Gould
- Secretary: Mary Anne Broshek
- Chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee: Roger Henderson
- New Trustees: Alex Estin and Edna Peters
- Trustees returning for another term: Donna Baker-Hartwell, Paul Glorioso, and Ralph Ressler

A temporary change in the by-laws was voted on at the September 5 meeting of the Board of Trustees. This will allow Pat Cutter to serve more than the current two-term, two-year limit. Members at the annual meeting will be asked to ratify this change.

The Cornish Colony

After the short meeting outlined above, we are once again pleased to co-

sponsor our program with the Andover Service Club. James Atkinson, author of *Images of America: New Hampshire's Cornish Colony* will present *New Hampshire, the Cornish Colony, and the American Experience*. To quote from the New Hampshire Humanities Council's description of this program:

"In 1885, Augustus Saint-Gaudens sought 'Lincoln-shaped men' as models; Maxfield Parrish wanted a good place to live and paint. Modern Art and World War I ended Cornish's halcyon days, but the Colony's artists, poets, musicians, and philosophers left their mark on the American cultural landscape just as surely as they rooted the study of the human condition in New Hampshire's natural landscape."

This program is presented through a generous grant by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, the following books are available at both the Andover Library and the Bachelder Library:

- *Footprints of the Past: Images of Cornish, New Hampshire and the Cornish Colony* by Virginia R. Colby and James B. Atkinson
- *A Place of Beauty, The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony* by Alma Gilbert and Judith Tankard

Reminiscence

Percy Bliss: A Boy's View, Part 1

The following was written in long-hand late in life by Percy Irving Bliss (1895-1989), a longtime resident of New Hampshire and Vermont. It was found in a folder of old family papers by his great-nephew Larry Chase, a summer visitor to Andover for years and now a permanent resident. A second installment will appear in a coming issue of the Beacon.

My mother was the daughter of one George Jones living in Salem, Massachusetts, and making a living as a farmer. The Jones family are all enthusiastic Quakers or Friends now called. My father [Irving Erastus Bliss] was the adopted son of one Homer Breed living in Weare, New Hampshire, and operating a sawmill at that time. My grandparents lost their lives in a house fire, I believe.

Of necessity my father was taught to operate the saw mill and become a sawyer. Being Quakers and as they always gathered at quarterly meetings each year, I can assume that my father met Rose Jones there, and courtship ended in marriage.

I do not know why my father left Weare, where I was born, but I first recollect living on a small milk farm near Jones farm in Salem, Massachusetts. I can remember my sister Ellen stepping on a kitten and killing it. I can also remember Jack, the large bulldog, shaking a woodchuck, and one part went one way and the other the other way.... The family consisted of my brother Ernest, sisters Ellen and Elma and myself, and a beautiful but overworked mother....

On account of my mother's illness, said to be consumption, the doctor recommended living in pine woods. My father then found employment as a sawyer in East Andover. I can well remember our camp, which was a four-room house with two rooms upstairs. At that time, about 1898, portable mills were much in existence. So we moved to other lots when necessary.

My mother's condition did not improve, and sad to relate she passed on about December 1900 or January 1901. We were living over the general store at

that time.

Elma and I were placed on a farm in East Andover operated by Lee Heath and his wife Emma. I was going on six at that time and was to earn half my board. What a wonderful remembrance of those two years there! Lee was a typical farmer taking advantage of Nature's gifts and earning nearly all of his living from that small farm.

I can well remember hitching up four pairs of steers and going up in the woods for a load of wood on unbroken snow. After loading the sled and heading for the barn, all we had to do was hang on. One time Lee put a pair of larger steers in the barnyard and gave me the rope to guide them. They simply were too much for me, but Uncle Lee stood in the door and yelled, "Hang on, Percy." Oh, what a life.

That summer when woodchucks were fat, Uncle Lee caught one and we had woodchuck stew and if I do say it, it was as nice as chicken.

About this time my father decided to remarry. Her name was Leora Millen and she owned a house in the center of East Andover that is still standing. This house [Bryant Adams'] is on the edge of the stream of Lower Highland Lake.

As I now lived on the edge of a pond full of fish and good for swimming, one can visualize my active life between ages seven and 12. My brother threw me, a screaming kid, into the pond and told me to swim. I certainly did just that and can truthfully say that during these years I was almost always either on the lake or in it.

One beautiful recollection of a skating party: The lake was solidly frozen over, and an evening skating party was organized. A huge fire was built by the island and I can remember bringing packs of edgings from the sawmill to feed the fire. We skated about a quarter-mile to do this. Can you see the picture of a group of girls and boys, 12 to 20 years old, at that roaring fire with temperature of four below zero?



ENJOY LUXURY IN EAST ANDOVER!

Linens and Towels by Mascioni from Italy
Amenities by Molton Brown from England

Tea by Harney & Sons

*the first American Master Tea Blender
to supply the English Royal Family*

Lavazza Espresso from Italy

... and many more products used by luxury hotels worldwide. Each room has its own full bathroom, flat screen cable TV, and Wi-Fi access.

*The Highland Lake Inn,
a neighborhood landmark since 1767.*

COME IN AND VISIT US!

735-6426 • HighlandLakeInn.com

Pottery • Custom Woodcraft • Crystal • Early Bottles • Collectibles

Antiques & Artisans Too

at The Constant Quilter

October's Featured Item:

Three-Story Dollhouse

Lovingly made from an antique mahogany cabinet

ANTIQUES & ARTISANS TOO ... EVER CHANGING, ALWAYS FUN!

Pancake Rd. and Rte. 11
Andover NH
603-735-4100

Tues-Sat 10-5
Sun 12-5

www.ConstantQuilter.com

Fine Art • Vintage Clothing • Silver • Furniture • Linens

Estate Jewelry • Art Glass

Handmade Cards • Stained Glass