

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Perreault
NHCHF

Timber! That's a call that reverberated in the forests of The Great North Woods more than a century ago. Logging had its beginning in 1634 with the first shipment of tall pines to England for the King's Navy. This policy ended with the American Revolution.

Careless harvesting methods were a major cause of fires and deforestation until laws were passed to protect this great resource. Business slowdown during the Great Depression gave New Hampshire forests time to recover.

There are some wonderful stories about loggers and the river log drives. Loggers and river men were a hardy lot. It was a job that took stamina, skill, and strength. They worked 15-hour days in dangerous conditions. River drives ended in 1976 with the passage of Public Law Chapter 355.

Loggers were easily recognized in their grey pantaloons, red flannel shirts, long-spiked boots, and woolen hats. Accommodations were rough in the early years: log cabins or tents, with straw or bough beds. Most loggers provided their own blanket.

Food wagons followed the logging operation, and sometimes the cook-house was floated down the river. Either way, they were called Mary Anne. Four meals were provided. Some of the standard fare was beans, brown bread, flap-

jacks, potatoes, boiled meat, stew, soup, doughnuts, bread, and cookies.

In what leisure time the loggers had, they sang, told stories, played cards, mended clothes, and sharpened their tools. They tended to be single men.

A typical logger song:

The choppers and the sawyers, they lay the timber low,

The skidders and the swampers, they hollar to and fro

Next come the sassy loaders, before the break of day,

Come load your teams, my bully boys, and to the woods away.

Logging started the last of October and continued until March (which is probably why the loggers were single). Horses and oxen were used to get the logs out of the woods.

The logging industry provided many jobs in its time, not only in the operation itself but also in the many support services that it required and industries for which it provided the raw materials.

This program was of particular interest to our members, as some of their parents worked as loggers in the early 1900s. Also, many of the families of this time cut wood for fuel and had their own little logging operation during the winter.

Our next meeting will be our Spring Workshop at AE/MS on Saturday, April 30. If you are interested in attending any of our meetings, call 735-5493.



On Saturday morning, April 23, the Kearsarge Masonic Lodge held a pancake breakfast in Potter Place to raise money for summer camp scholarships for local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. In this photo, Worshipful Master Kevin Sleeper of Kearsarge Lodge #81 takes a break from his griddle duties to convey the warm and fraternal greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of New Hampshire, C. Wayne Libby, to the scouts along with two \$300 checks. Left to right: Brendan Coll, Don Clendenan, Nick Keniston, Kathy Bennett, Matthew and David Reynolds (front), Kevin Sleeper, and Chris Buswell.

Along with the hearty fare that Mason's pancake breakfasts are known for, the dozens of people who attended were also treated to warm and tasteful new surroundings in the Potter Place lodge. The wallboard has all been renewed and painted, and the old drop ceiling is gone, replaced with a graceful cathedral ceiling and elegant period-appropriate light fixtures.

You can see the lodge's great new look and help support our local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts at the Mason's next pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 7, from 7 to 9:30 AM. Photo and caption: Charlie Darling



On Sunday, April 10, the North Country Chordsmen, a barbershop chorus, performed during the regular Sunday morning service at Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Proctor Academy's Stone Chapel. The chorus was directed by Dan Falcone. A coffee and social hour followed the service. KUUF meets on Sunday mornings at 11 AM from September through the end of June. For more information, visit KUUFnh.org.

Photo and caption: Sally Bergquist



ANDOVER BIBLE CHURCH

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." Psalm 27:4

I invite you to call and share what comes to mind as you read this piece of God's Word.

Sunday Morning Service 9:30 am • Bible Study Wednesday 6:30 pm

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Bachelor Library, East Andover

Part-Time Library Director

Seeking an individual with library experience to manage overall operations of small town library starting on June 2. Familiarity with computer technology essential, excellent customer service/public relations skills required, extensive knowledge of books and authors for all ages, a love of reading and the energy and vision to make this library an outstanding resource in the community desired.

Duties include collection development, routine circulation desk functions, computer help and reference assistance to patrons, and finding ways to serve the community. The successful applicant must value professional development and participate in workshops and seminars. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.

Send resume, letter of interest, and three references by May 6 to:

PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 735-5332