



Docent Chris Norris shows Mr. Jensen's fourth grade class the new Secret Garden that the Andover Historical Society has created in the cellarhole of Richard Potter's place. "How long since Potter's Place burned down?" Chris asked the students. "What evidence can you see?" (Note the big tree on the right growing in the cellarhole. Photo: Don Gould

Fourth Grade Visits Area Historical Societies

By Michael P. Jensen
AE/MS Fourth Grade Teacher

On Thursday, June 2, Andover fourth graders participated in their annual "Round Robin Historical Society Field Trip." All three town historical societies – Andover, Salisbury, and Webster – did an outstanding job presenting the rich and important history of each specific town. A good time was had by all.

Salisbury

We started off our day in Salisbury, where we were whisked back in time to colonial and post-colonial New Hampshire. Standing around the cemetery were famous Salisbury "residents" of old. They told their stories, complete with the challenges and facts of their particular time period. Each person of historical significance was portrayed realistically, while still captivating the audience of interested fourth graders.

We were then given a tour of the surrounding buildings and old-fashioned artifacts. It was evident that a great deal of care and preparation had been set forth by our good friends from Salisbury!

Webster

Next, we made our way to Webster, where we were given a very interesting and thorough account of the town's history. It was there that this writer learned of the actual relocation of The Old Meeting House in the early 1900s by use of two horses and a turnstile. How fascinating!

Andover students listened eagerly to absorb the wealth of information provided by the wonderful folks from Webster. There were plenty of old tools and artifacts to observe and learn about. The children and chaperones alike felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn so much.

Following our informative time in Webster, we made our way back to Salisbury to enjoy a shared picnic-

style lunch with the fourth graders from the other two towns. We enjoyed lunch, had lemonade, cookies, and some World Famous Salisbury Iced Tea. Then all of the kids gathered together to play old-fashioned games such as hoop and stick rolling, ring toss games, and stilt walking.

Andover

We ended this fabulous day with our own Andover Historical Society's presentation. What a gloriously interesting and entertaining time we had learning about the Potter Place Railroad Station, the Post Office and General Store, and Richard Potter's old residence (which is now a beautiful woodland garden area). We played some more old-time games and enjoyed hearing stories of Andover's rich and fascinating history.

It was especially enjoyable to spend time in the beautiful post office and general store. We also thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the caboose and learning all about the bustling atmosphere that once existed at our own Potter Place. How fortunate we are here in Andover to have such inspiring individuals who obviously care so much about our town that they work tirelessly to keep these important facts and memories alive.

It was truly amazing and insightful to hear all of the historical accounts of our incredible town. It was really a great experience for me as a teacher to listen carefully and learn about my town's rich and diverse history. It amazes me that we have so many people who are so committed to our town. This is one of the many aspects that make Andover such a special place!

Next year, when I go back to teaching second grade, I will truly miss the Historical Society Round Robin Field Trip. Thanks so much to everyone who made this one of the best days of the year.

ROTARY CLUB ENCOURAGES READING AT AE/MS

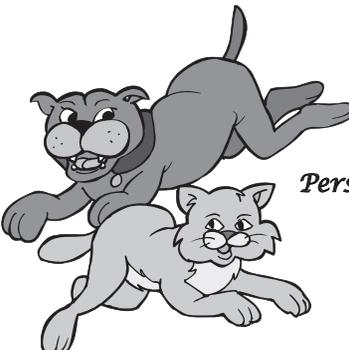
AE/MS press release

Thanks to the New London Rotary Club's Literacy Committee, each AE/MS kindergarten student received a copy of *Amazing Eggs*, a book from the popular *We Both Read* series. First graders were each given a copy of *About Pets*, part of the same highly-acclaimed series.

We Both Read books are designed for a child to take turns reading aloud with an adult. Diane Rice, a member of the New London Rotary Club's Literacy Committee, visited the kindergarten and first grade classrooms in June as part

of the "Rotarians Read in the Schools" program to share with the kindergarteners *How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills and with the first graders *Finn Throws a Fit*, by David Elliott, an award-winning writer from Warner. A copy of each was given to the classroom libraries by the Literacy Committee.

AE/MS would like to express its appreciation to the New London Rotary Club for these special gifts to the students as part of its project to support literacy skills and the enjoyment of reading for all.



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