



Kayla Hartwell has passed her candidacy exams for her doctorate in Anthropology/Primateology from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. The Andover Service Club awarded her a \$1,000 scholarship toward her research and thesis work. The money will help her with her expenses this fall while she does a DNA study in an Austin, Texas lab on the 32 members of a spider monkey group that she has been studying for the past eight years in Belize. Photo: Sarah Hewitt

## Andover People in the News

### Dean's List, graduations, and more

**Henry Bendel** was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Keene State College.

**Kayla Dansereau** was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at the University of Vermont and graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies.

**Tenzin Dickinson** earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a psychology/cognitive neuroscience minor from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

**Eric Johnson** received the 2014 Kendall Norcott Award from the New Hampshire Timberland Owners As-

sociation. The award is presented to a person who has worked on behalf of the organization above and beyond board involvement and committee work.

**Emma Jones** earned a degree in English from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

**Madalyn Pfeifer** was named to the Chancellor's List for the Spring 2014 semester at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Madalyn is a 2012 graduate of Proctor Academy and will attend the University of New Hampshire in the fall.

*Please send more "people news" to the Beacon! Business successes, school achievements, or personal milestones like births and marriages – your friends and neighbors who read the Beacon want to know!*

## NHCHF Hears the History of New Hampshire Mill Girls

\$5 per week, plus 25 cents for food

By Judy Perreault, NHCHF

"Mill Girls" was the last program for the New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family's Halcyon Seekers before we take a summer break. I'm sure many folks remember when the textile mills in New Hampshire were up and running. A majority of people in the area worked in the mills. At one time, New Hampshire had 32 of them.

Textile mill technology was brought to America by Samuel Slater. At the time, it was a crime to bring any drawings or designs out of England, but Samuel Slater had worked there in all areas of the textile industry and was able to reproduce textile machinery in the Colonies.

The first mill was built in Rhode Island in 1790 and was run by the "Slater System." An adult supervised, while children and teenagers ran the mill, and mom stayed home.

In 1813, Francis Cabot Lowell built a mill in Waltham, Massachusetts, and developed the "Lowell System" which recruited young women aged 17 to 20 to work in the mills. Actually, children as young as 10 worked in the mills. This technology moved through the New England states.

The employment market from farms was ripe, as farms were failing due to the short growing season, over-working the soil, and not replacing the nutrients.

The working day at the mill was from 5 AM to 7 PM, six days a week. Women worked in hot, airless rooms with extremely loud noise from the clacking of the looms. They received \$5 per week.

The girls lived in boarding houses, 25 to a house and up to six in a room. They were very strictly supervised and had to attend church on Sunday. The mill paid 25 cents per week toward their food.

The mill provided classes and lectures, but the girls were often too tired to attend. It sounds like a difficult life, but if you were working on a farm from dawn to dusk for nothing, it wasn't too bad.

Mills eventually left the area for the south, to be closer to the cotton supply and cheaper labor. By the 1950s, most of the textile mills had been replaced by shoe manufacturers. There is a wonderful museum in Manchester in the old mill yard complex which traces the rise and fall of the textile industry.

We will meet again in September, when our program will be "Food Gifts." If you are interested in joining our group, call 735-5493.



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