

**Florence from page 19**

enlisted right after Pearl Harbor. The Langley's, Bertagnas, and Ralph with his four brothers went into the military. Thankfully all of them returned safely.

Florence also left the service, but in March of 1946. They had corresponded for years and although there was no formal engagement, they had an understanding.

They were married September 18, 1946 at the Wilmot Center Methodist Church. Although this church was 100 years old at that time, they were the only ones to be married there. The church was struck by lightning one evening and was a total loss.

Florence Langley, well-known for her writings of Wilmot, sent Florence pictures of the inside of the church. Florence was very pleased to put these among her memoirs.

After the war, Ralph returned to his job at Ruggles Mine, and while there, he was tapped to open another mine, Blake's Mine, near where Florence was working as a long distance operator for the New England Telephone. Although she didn't have her GED yet, her military service years landed a position for her.

The children came along about this time: Gary in 1948, Beryl in 1949, and Karen in 1954. When both mines closed in 1960, Ralph went to work at Swenson's Granite in Concord and was there for 10 years.. He then went to work for IPC in Bristol, where he remained until he retired in 1985.

The Goves had bought the land their house stood on in 1951 and started right in to build. As Florence says, it took a

while and is not completely finished yet!

Florence had a variety of jobs, among them working for Sprague Electric, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. About this time Florence decided to do something she had wanted to do for a long time. She went to Claremont Vocational-Technical College to become an LPN. (Beryl later realized Florence's dream and became a registered nurse.)

Florence worked at Hitchcock for three years and New London Hospital for three years. She then went back to Blue Cross Blue Shield (more money) for 10 years. Ralph and Florence traveled extensively in the United States. In 1986, they drove to Alaska for the summer. Ralph died in 1987.

**From Florence's Daughter Beryl**

Although alone, my mother kept very busy helping Karen and Billy in their Kearsarge Mini-Mart and doing extensive traveling. She joined many travel groups, visiting over 15 countries. She was in Italy when the September 11, 2001 attacks happened, but she kept traveling. She always had her camera with her, as do I.

One other activity she has been involved with is fundraising for the restoration of the Bunker Hill Cemetery in Wilmot, where she plans to be buried, alongside her husband.

My mother has always been a native of Andover, and raised three children in the Andover schools. I'd like to surprise her with a Card Shower. If anyone wishes to send a note or birthday card to Florence Gove, her address is 289 Route 4A, Andover NH 03216-3117. Her birthday is July 22. 100 years old!

**Fair from page 14**

**Old Time Fair**

The Old Time Fair is the Andover Historical Society's biggest fundraiser and community event of the year, and this year the society is celebrating its 40th anniversary. After two years of the pandemic, the Andover Historical Society returns with a grand entrance, bringing back some favorite festivities including history displays, craft vendors, pumper car rides, food, music, on-site museum tours, and miniature train rides for kids.

The fair runs from 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, August 7, on Depot Street in Andover off Route 11.

**Flea Market**

The AHS will bring back its flea market, set up inside the Freight House, next to the historic Boston and Maine boxcar, and will offer a variety of furniture, lamps, jewelry, toys, and household items. All proceeds of the sale will go to support the AHS historic buildings: the Potter Place Train Station, Emmons General Store (1912), Lull House, and the Little Red Schoolhouse on Tucker Mountain Road in East Andover.

**Live Music!**

For musical entertainment, starting after the Richard Potter marker ceremony, back by popular demand, Lindsey Schust and the Ragged Mountain Band will play some country, folk, old-time music and original songs like "Slow Train" (by Grace Schust) and "Parallel Lines" (by Lindsey Schust).

**Hometown Food**

Food will be available for sale, provided by Donna Thompson and the Andover Community Church. All proceeds of the food sales will go toward the renovation of the historic Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover, home of the local music nights sponsored by the Andover Hub and the Andover Community Coffeehouse.

**More About Richard Potter**

Two hundred years ago, Richard Potter (1783-1835), for whom Potter Place is named, was the most popular entertainer in America and the first showman to win truly nationwide fame.

A masterful magician and ventriloquist, he personified showmanship and contributed to making popular entertainment a major part of American life. He was also a black man; his mother had been captured on the Guinea coast and sold as a slave in Boston.

Richard Potter moved to Andover in

1815 and lived there until his death in 1835. "Mr. Potter will cause Money to leap through a China plate, table, and cloth, pass and re-pass; to leap out of one man's hand into that of another," according to a broadside, courtesy of the JV Fletcher Library, Westford, Massachusetts.

Andover resident and historian John A. Hodgson heard about Potter when summering in Andover in the 1970s. His interest led to a 25-year research project, culminating with the publication of his 2018 book about Richard Potter. Hodgson's book has reached local schools, which now include a chapter on Richard Potter in their US History classes.

This new trend of New Hampshire schools, adding local history into their curriculum, inspired Proctor Academy to host an evening in September to celebrate Potter's influence on American theater history. This night will include an act by a professional ventriloquist and a talk by John Hodgson. This event will be co-sponsored by the Andover Historical Society and the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire.

**Volunteers Wanted**

For more information or to donate to the Andover Historical Society, visit their Facebook page at Andover NH Historical Society or visit AndoverHistory.org. The AHS is run by community talent, who take care of the historic district of Potter Place. Their Old Time Fair is the second biggest town event behind the Fourth of July, and they are always looking for helpers on the fair day.

If you are interested in joining the Old Time Fair 2022 volunteer team, please message the AHS on the Facebook page or email their marketing assistant, Lindsey Schust, at LindseySchust@gmail.com.

**Museum Hours**

The Andover Historical Society museum and the Freight Shed at Depot Street will be open this summer through Columbus Day weekend. Museum visiting hours are Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM and Sundays from noon to 3 PM. The Freight Shed will be open on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

The Little Red Schoolhouse on Tucker Mountain Road in East Andover will be open the second Sunday of the month, June through October, from 1 to 3 PM.

For more information on the Andover Historical Society, visit AndoverHistory.org. For more information on the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, visit BlackHeritageTrailNH.org.

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