

PROVINCE ROAD MEETING HOUSE



“KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE!”



Belmont Historical Society - 2016

History of the Society -

In 1727 Belmont was originally chartered as part of Gilmanton and eventually became Upper Gilmanton in 1859. The name of the town was changed to “Belmont” in 1869 and the Belmont Historical Society was formed 100 years later on the anniversary.

For four decades, Belmont Historical Society Members and friends have volunteered energy and time to preserving our special places and stories. Saving and adapting the Belmont Mill for a new community life is just one difference that local Society has made. Wallace Rhodes, the society's current president, also serves as the local “Historian”.

Reminder: If you haven't already renewed your membership or sent in your new member form for this year we would love to have you join us in keeping Belmont's history alive as well as helping to bring historical programs to the community such as those listed in this brochure. See membership form on reverse side or contact Wallace, Chris or Brenda (phone #s below.)

Province Rd Meeting House Project

The society's current focus continues to be on the restoration and revitalization of the society-owned Province Rd Meeting House located on Rte 107. The meeting house was built in 1792 and obtained by the Society in 1981.

The building received some badly needed attention in 2012-13 as a result of a state grant award. The foundation was rebuilt, the tower repaired, the roof reshingled, and siding repainted and replaced, the windows reglazed and the entire exterior was painted. However, a considerable amount of work needs to be accomplished on the interior of the building. **Funding and/or volunteer assistance is needed to bring the interior back to life and make the building usable again; we can't do it alone.** Numerous opportunities exist in the area of cleaning, carpentry, painting, etc. for individuals or groups to assist with this worthwhile project and help bring the meeting house back to its former glory.

If you or your group can help the society in moving forward with this project, please contact the president or vice-president. (see phone #s listed below)

The Gale School



Belmont Historical Society Officers & Directors

President: Wallace Rhodes - 267-6272
Vice President: Christine Fogg - 524-8268
Sec/Treas: Brenda Paquette

Directors - 3 yr. terms (expires Dec 31 of yr. listed)
Mark Roberts -- 2016
Bill Naughton -- 2017
Ken Knowlton -- 2018

2016 Program Summary

Belmont Historical Society Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings as follows:

- **January 19th** – Regular meeting & program selection. Belmont Senior Center, 7 pm
- **May 17th** – Program by Mark Stevens on **the Worsted Church in Canterbury**, 7 pm at the Corner Meeting House. (See more complete program information to the right.)
- **July 19th** – Program by Prof. Thomas Hubka, **“Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn”**, 7 pm at the Corner Meeting House. (See more program info to the right.)
- **August** – Participation at Belmont Old Home Days.
- **September 20th** – Program by George Morrison, **“Benedict Arnold--Traitor or Patriot”**, 7 pm at the Corner Meeting House. (See more program info to the right.)
- **October 18th** – Annual Meeting at Senior Center, 7 pm

Please consider joining the Belmont Historical Society

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Individual membership - \$10

Family or Organization membership- \$15

Complete, clip and send payment to:

Belmont Historical Society
c/o Treasurer, Brenda Paquette,
229 Dutile Rd.
Belmont, NH 03220

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail* _____

* Used only to provided program info and mtg. notices.

Two of BHS' three program offerings for 2016 have been funded by the NH Humanities, "Humanities-To-Go" Program. NH Humanities is dedicated to connecting people to their culture and history. *All three of the presentations are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. The facility is handicapped accessible.*

May 17th Program:

On Tuesday, **May 17th**, at 7 PM, **Mark Stevens** of Canterbury will present a program on **“The Worsted Church”** and the life of Sara Harper Monmouth who was born in Canterbury, NH. Mark talks about her struggles to keep the family farm and how she survives on very limited income, her writing ability and her thrifty ways. She preached, taught Sunday school, decorated, served as a guide for, and ultimately lived in the church that became known as the Worsted Church in Canterbury. He recounts her life, both prior to and after accepting duties at the Worsted Church and includes slides of the worsted decorations that adorned the church and the fire that destroyed it. The program also includes the recollections of friends and community members who remembered Sara, her struggles, the church services, its unique decorations and the fire.

July 19th Program:

On Tuesday, **July 19th**, at 7 PM, **Prof. Thomas Hubka**, will present the program, **“Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: the Connected Farm Buildings of NE.”** This program is funded through NH Humanities and is an illustrated talk that focuses on numerous case studies of farm building arrangements and discusses how and why farmers in NE (during 1800 to 1900) converted their typical separate house and barns into **connected farmsteads**. Prof. Hubka's discussion, follows this movement and demonstrates that the average NE farmer was motivated into developing this style of architecture as a means to supplement farm income, as they were in competition with farmers in other regions of America, who had better soils, longer growing seasons and fewer rocks to clear. Prof. Hubka's award-winning book on the subject of connected farm buildings will be available for those wishing more in-depth information regarding the historical development of connected buildings in New England.

September 20th Program:

On Tuesday, **September 20th**, at 7 PM, **George Morrison**, will present the program, **“Benedict Arnold, Patriot or Traitor.”** While we all think we know the story of Benedict Arnold, the American Revolutionary War general who fought for the Continental Army and then defected to the British in 1780. While many of us know him only as a traitor, in this program Morrison will discuss how Benedict Arnold risked his life and fortune for American freedom in numerous courageous exploits between 1775 and 1778, when the dream of independence was at its most fragile. In doing so, Morrison takes us along an interesting journey through New England, the Quebec Province, and New York exploring many historic and modern images, all while helping his audience better understand Gen. Arnold, his sacrifices, his frustrations and why he chose the path he did. This program is funded by New Hampshire Humanities.