

Warner Historical Society

September 2006

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Warnerhistorical.org

It's that *time* of year to all come together for the Warner Historical Society's annual meeting, Thursday-September 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Town Hall.

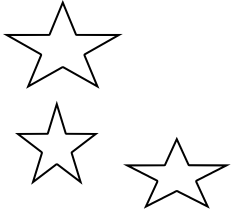
It's that *time* to hear what your Historical Society has been up to and to hear what is planned for the coming year and to vote on a new slate of officers.

It's that *time* to socialize with old friends and welcome new members over refreshments.

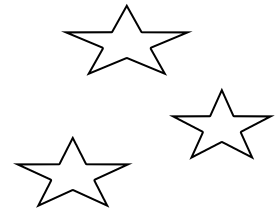
It's that *time* to sit back and relax and enjoy a program presented by Rebecca Courser on the River Bow Park (which was the site of the annual Kearsarge Agricultural & Mechanical fair in 1873). Learn how it grew into so much more including a racetrack, a haven for political speeches and local businesses exhibiting their wares. A tent was large enough to seat 1,000 people and be served dinner and how a separate train platform was built to allow passengers easy entrance to the fair.

It's that *time* to renew your membership... (A **red dot** on your label means we will gladly accept your dues at the annual meeting and/or any time thereafter). Your support is much appreciated and it enables your Society to present historical programs (and so much more) throughout the year.





President's Message



Dear members,

As you may know my term as President of the Warner Historical Society is coming to an end.

Over these past four years it has been a pleasure and an honor to work with such a large group of selflessly dedicated people. The result was a great reward for me, since I met and made so many very good friends.

I look forward to working with the new Executive Board and I promise you, as I promise them, that they will have my wholehearted support in the years ahead.

With your support the Warner Historical Society will continue to flourish and fulfill its position in Warner's future as it has in the past.

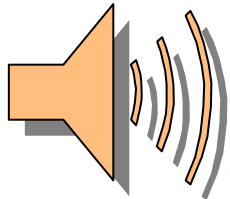
Sincerely,

Beverley Howe

Excerpts from the Kearsarge Independent Warner's first paper began publishing in 1884!

September 14, 1894

On Monday morning a little after 7 o'clock Arthur Thompson's apple evaporating manufactory caught fire from one of the dryers. The alarm called all the citizens to the spot, but nothing could avail to check the destroying element, and in less than an hour the factory was in ashes, with all its contents. For a time it looked as though one or two of the neighboring dwelling houses must go, but the absence of any breeze and the determined efforts of the citizens confined the flames to the factory. Mr. Thompson's loss amounts to about \$4,000. It was insured for \$1,300. (Mr. Thompson's business was located in the field across from Simonds Elementary School. He had another apple evaporator building located in Melvin Mills. Over the years he had purchased thousands of bushels of apples from Warner farmers. The loss was a blow for area farmers.)



WHY WE NEED THE BARN SALE

It creates awareness of the Warner Historical Society

It's neighbor meeting neighbor

It's recycling at its finest

It's less tonnage at the Transfer Station

It's bargains for all

It's \$\$\$'s for the Historical Society

October 27, 1899 *Kearsarge Independent*

A husking at J.C. Burbank's Wednesday evening was attended by over 80 people. 250 bushels were husked.

September 14, 1900

The electric lights have not been very electrifying to those who had to depend upon them for lighting purposes this week, and a scarcity of water in the river for the needed power seems to be the cause.

October 12, 1900

The Democrats have opened headquarters over Upton & Upton's store in the Robertson's block. Tomorrow evening the Republicans will have a kind of love fest at their headquarters' over Jewell & Lewis's store, which will consist of donuts, coffee, and the downfall of Adam and Eve. All the faithful are invited.

October 3, 1913

A fire lookout station is to be established on the summit of Kearsarge mountain. J.E. Marshall and Ernest Gagnon of Henniker are employed in the construction of a telephone line to the summit.



Upton & Upton
store in the Robertson's
Block



*The Civil War Letters of Joseph S. Rogers:
an update*

by Mary Cogswell

After a delay of a month and half for researching, writing, and mounting the Society's summer exhibit, we are back working on the publication of the Joseph S. Rogers letters. For most of July Rebecca Courser did more research on the town of Warner, in an attempt to further explain and define the residents and their occupations, their political and personal views about the War, the struggling economy, and the financial drain of personal loans and the town's budget that paid for the enlistment of Warner men in the Union Army. She spent many hours examining the 1860 census, thus compiling a list of occupations that ranged from 270 farmers to multiple small businesses, including coopers, bottle makers, wheelwrights, bakers, and shoemakers, just to name a few. All in an attempt to describe the economy of this small town and explain the support and opposition to the Civil War.

As soon as Rebecca's research is integrated in the chapter on Warner, there will be a fourth proofreading of the text. Upon format and layout approval, the "book" will be sent to the printer, followed by the creation of an index. Upon submission to the Historical Society for another proofreading and approval, the corrected and hopefully final version will be sent to the printer for publication. Then maybe around Christmastime, the book will be published and available!

The following paragraphs are a few more excerpts from the letters of Joseph S. Rogers. In the April 6, 1864 letter, Joseph writes to his sister Mary and gives specific details about his travels from Tennessee through Kentucky and Ohio, and back to Virginia, revealing the hardships of weather and lack of provisions.

"We are here at last [Cincinnati, Ohio] ... I can not tell you much about the journey as we were in Box cars & could not see much. It rained half of the time and altogether it was the most uncomfortable journey I ever took.. No chance to sleep at all hardly, besides being very cold. At Chattanooga there was 15 inches of snow. On the 2nd day of April it snowed & we could see snow most of the way on the road. Our camp here is not far from the track in a field, rather to [sic] level for comfort. When it rains the ground is very soft and muddy. Not half tents for shelter wet through, half froze ... We did not get much to eat, only what we bought on the road, but we have enough now. Water is very poor."

In the letter of May 11, 1864, when he is between Mine Run, Chancellorville, and Fredericksburg, Virginia, Joseph observes the effects of war in a painful description to his sister Mary Rogers.

“This is the 7th day of fighting part of the time. It is very hard. We are not far from Fredericksburg. The news is good on our side but there has been terrible slaughter on both sides. You can have no idea what a large Army & its outfit we have here. The roads full of wagons & troops and then when there is a Battle to see the trains of ambulances loaded with the wounded. Oh! It is a terrible sight. No one can look on without shuddering, but such are the effects of war. Would to God it was over as I hope & truly think it will be soon. Things never looked so bright to me as at present. It seems impossible with the force we have that they can hold out much longer. We have taken a large number of prisoners that I have seen & I had much rather see them so then see them either killed or wounded.”

In reading the letters of Joseph S. Rogers one really gets a sense of his thoughts of home and family, his closeness to his sister Mary, and his daily struggles, physically and mentally, as a foot soldier in the Civil War.



The home of Joseph & Ruth Roger's located on Main street. During the Civil War Ruth was living here with her five children. Daughters, Nellie and Josephine, died during Joseph's service during the Civil War. Ruth's sister, Nancy Watkins, was also living here with her six children. Two of Nancy's sons enlisted in the Civil War in 1863. Charles enlisted with the Sharp Shooters and was discharged disabled in 1862. He died from his injuries April 7, 1863 in New York City. It was a very small home for such a large extended family. This is currently (2006) the home of the John O'Neill family.

September 18, 1907 *Kearsarge Independent*

The grocery store of Lewis & Chase and the fruit store of S.H. Billings were broken into Monday night and several articles taken. Entrance to the Lewis & Chase store was effected by breaking in the glass in one of the front doors, after trying one of the side windows. The stolen goods included sweaters, shoes, collars, handkerchiefs, and other furnishings, cigars and tobacco and about 60 cents in money also being taken. At the Billings store a quantity of fruit was eaten, and about \$1.50, mostly in coppers, was stolen. Mr. Chase boarded the early train at Contoocook, saw two young men get on, wearing new sweaters and shoes which he instantly recognized as the same kind as the stolen goods. At Mast Yard a telephone message was sent of Officer Gay at West Concord, and the men confessed the crime and have been bound over to the October term of court. The names of the men are John Boisvert, age 24, of Adams, Mass.; and Rowe Hastings, age 19, of Brookings, Vt.

October 23, 1908

Herman A. Dow harvested over 1200 bushels of corn this season.

November 27, 1908

Carl L. Cutting began business at his creamery on Kearsarge street last week Thursday morning, getting 60 cans of milk on that day. The amount of milk received has increased since then. (Photo: Katharine (Bean) Henley with milk cans. Courtesy of the collection of Dory Henley)

September 5, 1911

Nearly 12,000 pounds of wool have been loaded at the Warner Station this week, making a carload. The wool came from nine towns and was on of the largest amounts ever loaded here. Two wool sorters from Boston were in town while it was being sacked.

November 13, 1914

The following supplies were consumed at the Republican supper on Tuesday evening: 40 gallons of oysters, 50 cans of milk, 50 pounds of butter, 40 pounds of cheese, 4 barrels of crackers, 20 pounds of coffee, one-half barrel of pickles, 150 dozen donuts. Mrs. Emma Gienty had charge of cooking the oysters. (Mmmm! Guess they didn't need to worry about cholesterol!)

August 31, 1917

Harvey A. Burbank went to Manchester on Saturday to get a motorcycle with sidecar, which he has purchased for use on his rural mail route.



“This Morning Broke Clear...”

Warner, N.H. in the Wake of the Civil War

The movie project progressing. It is very challenging to digest forty years of history into a script of one and a half hours. We keep reading, discussing, and whittling. In the meantime George organized a workshop titled, *Digital Filmmaking Demystified: A fundamental exposure to the basics of digital filmmaking* on August 5th in Concord. The workshop was funded by the NH Council on the Arts and demonstration equipment by Great Northern Video. It was attended by several enthusiastic Warner residents. We will begin recording voices in September. Currently, there are parts for forty-four readers in the script.

Donor Marquee

Underwriter	\$750 +
Producer	\$500—\$749
Directors Club	\$250—\$499
Patron	\$100—\$249
Star	\$ 50—\$ 99

Roll the credits!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donation amount _____ DVD _____ VHS _____

A DVD or VHS copy of the movie will be reserved for donors giving \$20 or more. Check your choice.

Warner Historical Society, PO Box 189, Warner, NH 03278

The Final Part of the Burnap District in the Mink Hills of Warner, N.H.

We continue with the story of Glover-Flanders family. Mary Jane Glover married Herbert Flanders, son of Thomas and Rhonda Flanders, of the North Village. Mary Jane and Herbert purchased the farm from Cerilla after the death of James in 1900 and Herbert lived there until his death in 1927, when the farm passed to his only son Elwin. This property still remains in the family today. Mary Jane and Herbert had two children, Elwin and Hilda. Unfortunately, Mary Jane developed breast cancer and despite surgery died in 1912 when Hilda was thirteen and Elwin fifteen years of age. Hilda dropped out of school to care for her father and brother. Later she became a nanny for the Whitford family before marrying Hiram Conant of Contoocook. After Hilda married, Elwin stayed on the farm. He enlisted during World War One but was never sent overseas. Before the death of his father he spent time working in Durham at the University of New Hampshire and the Baker Farm on the seacoast. Elwin was engaged to be married but his fiancée suffered a nervous breakdown and the marriage was canceled. He never married, remaining on the farm, before moving to Contoocook to live with Hilda in the 1960s.

Elwin writes in a letter to Katharine Brown in 1975, "When Fred Valley left the Minks and moved to Warner so the children did not have to get from there (Cunningham Pond) to school, the snow plow did not come past the four corners or even below to Pete Anderson's again. Even though it was still a U.S. mail route to my corner...The thought was if we did not like it, then move out. Or as Earle Nichols (Selectmen) told me to my face, then stay over there and starve. But I had snowshoes and could then still back-pack a fair load of groceries. But I finally walked off and left the place, which was soon picked clean." The house was literally sinking around Elwin due to a leaky roof and rotting sills. Men from town had to bring feed up by bulldozer one winter so his cattle would not starve. He offered his rescuers muffins made from cattle grain. Elwin was the last year round resident of the Minks.

The children in this neighborhood attended school at Burnaps' Corner from 1803 until 1920. The Free-will Baptists held their Sunday services at the school "under the hill" beginning in 1803. In 1854 the district bought the land from Joseph Burnap and built a new school house. It was not unusual for children ages three and four to attend school with their older siblings. Teachers boarded with different families during the school term, which met twice a year, for four to eight week sessions. Teachers earned between ten and twenty-five dollars a month depending on their experience. Water to the school was furnished by Joseph Burnap's well sweep located across the road. Dry wood was to be provided before the beginning of school and scholars often brought potatoes to bake in the stove.

The historical information about these farm sites is different yet similar. Similar in that most of the families were established prior to the 1800s. Many of the sons and daughters married the sons and daughters of neighbors. Farms were self-sufficient except for some necessities or tools that needed to be bartered for or purchased. Maple sugar, dairy products, lumber, apples, sheep, and horses were sold regionally thanks to the railroad system. Several of the men served in the Civil War and many families moved west for new opportunities in New York, Wisconsin, Montana, and California.

What differed was who stayed behind and why. Some stayed and made a living on the farm and participated in local government, taught school or kept house. Others stayed to take care of their parents and then left the farm after their parents passed away. Farms that burned, due to an accident or lightning strikes, forced a decision to stay and make a go of it or leave for other opportunities. Both of the Harri-man farms became seasonal homes. The Stewart and the two Glover farms either burned or fell in. The Young family took their home apart, moved it to Contocook and rebuilt it. The school house was sold and removed from its site.

Personal journals and oral history interviews impart richer details than just genealogical information about births, deaths, and marriages. There are still resources to research for more material on these sites; deed and probate records, the files of the Bradford and Henniker Historical Societies, New Hampshire Antiquarian Society, Tuck and State Libraries, and the Division of Archives.

The territory of “nearby” history is, obviously, both a training ground and a principal workplace for public historians. In exploring the past of subjects close at hand, a person learns to identify, collect, organize, and exhibit historical materials, to analyze complex factors, and to focus research to answer specific questions of importance to the historian. The emotional rewards of this type of “nearby” research are richly satisfying.



Elwin Flanders decorating a veteran's grave for Memorial Day.

The Upton Chandler House Museum Archival Storage Rooms

By Mary Cogswell

What is an archival storage room? And why do you have them at the Upton Chandler House Museum? I've been asked those questions a number of times this summer as guests visit the summer exhibit and tour the house, so I thought an explanation was in order.

Back in October of 2001, the Warner Historical Society hired Marc A. Williams of the American Conservation Consortium in Fremont, N.H. to do a collection preservation site examination of the future museum. He submitted a 34 page report that analyzed the building, with recommendations for construction of archival rooms in the ell.

He suggested that we build free-standing structures that are not attached to the existing building, but simply rest on the floor. These two rooms-within-a-room were constructed by Robert Shoemaker, Richard Cook and Charlie Betz (our exceptional carpenters!), made of 2 x 6s with fiberglass insulation and an 8 mil vapor barrier on the interior. The concept was to create a stable environment inside the room-within-a-room (referred to as the archival room), a room subject to limited air exchange with the exterior room (the ell). The UNICO system, the environmental control heating and cooling system installed in the museum is designed to circulate air around all sides of the exterior of the archival room, thereby maintaining a stable air and relative humidity environment inside the archival room. The window-less rooms have two fluorescent lights with UV (ultraviolet) filters on the bulbs. Since human bodies emit moisture and heat and will cause increases in temperature and humidity, once the rooms are established, human access will be at a minimum, primarily Collections Committee staff members. Small work areas were created near the archival rooms for cleaning and labeling objects. Once set up, the archival rooms will not be accessible by the public. The rooms are monitored by separate temperature and humidity controls that are connected to the fire and burglar alarm system, installed by Atlantic Security. If the temperature or humidity fluctuates to extremes, we are notified by the alarm system. The best range of relative humidity (RH) for archival storage rooms is 40-60%; if tight and consistent ranges can be maintained, even less deterioration will occur over time.

So why do we want to store some of the Society's collections in an archival room? The main reason for creating an archival storage room is to preserve the Historical Society's collections for future generations, protecting them from early deterioration and/or losing pieces altogether. Exhibits that include original artifacts, paper, photographs, etc. are designed to be on display for only three to six months, thus limiting their exposure to fluctuating light, humidity, and temperature.

Light, especially sun light, destroys the natural or maker-applied colorants in wood, dyes, finishes, paints and fabrics. Textiles and paper can be weakened by light to the point of disintegration, and the cellular structure of wood can be degraded. In severe cases, these changes are irreversible and permanent. Light can also raise temperatures of objects and the room where they are displayed; then relative humidity will rise after light is removed. Such fluctuations are detrimental to the preservation of the Historical Society's collections. Therefore, the storage areas must be completely dark. To provide further protection for items on exhibit, we have attached ultra-violet films to all the Museum storm windows. In addition, insulated roman shades have been custom made for every window.

Wood, finishes, textiles, paper, leather, metals, and paint are all affected by fluctuating relative humidity and temperature. Although fluctuation is a major problem, high temperature levels increase deterioration and high relative humidity levels (above 65%) promote mold and mildew growth, as well as corrosion of metals. Conversely, low relative humidity can cause paper to become distorted and brittle. Therefore, consistency and stability are vital to collection preservation.

If collections are not stored properly, the following list indicates the potential damage to various materials due to uncontrolled temperature and relative humidity.

Wood will swell, warp, or mildew if the relative humidity is high; if too low, it will shrink and split. Finishes and paint will bloom and mildew if the relative humidity is high; if too low, it will become brittle and crack. Metals will corrode and rust if the relative humidity is high; there is no effect if it is too low. Stone, glass and ceramics are not affected by either temperature or relative humidity. But textiles, leather, paper and photographs will develop mold and mildew if the relative humidity is high; if too low, fabric, paper and photographs will become brittle and distorted.

Therefore, in order to preserve the Historical Society's collection, we have created two archival storage rooms in the Museum, two rooms that provide a consistent and stable environment.



Museum Hours
Tuesdays 1:00—4:00 pm
Saturdays 9:00—12 noon
Open Fall Foliage Festival
weekend October 7 & 8
from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Programs

Eight Families in the Liberty Union School District

Benjamin Badger, originally from Amesbury, Massachusetts, first came to Warner 1785 at the age of 21 looking for work. According to Fred Myron Colby, money was so scarce in town that though he offered to work for meager wages, no one could afford to hire him. The following year he returned and found employment with Richard Bartlett of Burnt Hill, who owned by far one of the largest farms in town at the time. This gave Benjamin the opportunity to explore the area and decide where to cast his lot. In 1787 Benjamin along with his brother Stephen, purchased adjoining property high up in the Mink Hills. Both families lived in log cabins before being able to afford to build framed homes. Stephen Badger had a large family of eleven children with his second wife Sarah Sawyer and apparently grew tired of farming. In 1821 he decided to move to what was to become the Warner Village and operated a carding and clothing mill for several years. In 1826 all the mills and bridges along the river succumbed to a mighty spring freshet and Stephen lost his mill. Benjamin purchased his brother's farm and physically moved his house down the hill where he established a sprawling set of buildings to house his growing extended family. The farm was eventually sold in the 1890s by his grandchildren, Herman and Sophronia Badger. Herman and his wife moved to the village of Henniker and Sophronia moved to the Warner Village.

September 15—7:00 p.m. MainStreet BookEnds

Warner & Kearsarge Agricultural & Mechanical Fair

River Bow Park located on Nehemiah Ordway's intervale land along the Warner River was the site of Warner's fairgrounds. The first street fair was organized by Stephen Pattee in the fall of 1871. Despite a light snow the night before, participants happily paraded their teams of oxen and spent the day hauling a building up and down Main street. The enthusiasm propelled the men into organizing a more traditional fair the following year. In 1873 Nehemiah laid out River Bow Park and for many years it was the site of annual agricultural fairs during the month of September. Through the years exhibition halls, refreshment booths, a pavilion, a racetrack and a new road and covered bridge were built. The railroad added extra trains to their schedule and built a special rail platform allowing passengers to disembark right at the "Grand Entrance" to the grounds.

Annual Meeting September 28 7:30 p.m. Warner Town Hall

“This Morning Broke Clear...”

Warner, N.H. in the Wake of the Civil War 1860-1900

Last chance to view the exhibit ! Join us for refreshments on Friday evening October 13 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. or Saturday October 14 from 9:00—12 noon.



This guesthouse on Pumpkin Hill had a wide, breezy veranda offering a view to its guests. Fred & Emma Chase bought this house for \$1300.00 from Ed Sanborn in 1894. They farmed and operated a guesthouse called “Pleasant View” for several years. In 2006 this is the home of Gerald and Gretchen Leone.

A Walk in the Woods! We will explore the Liberty Union School District and see the sites of the families we learned about in the slide show on September 15th. We will visit Daisy Hollow, Badger Lane and eat our snacks overlooking Bear Pond. Wear good walking shoes and bring a snack and something to drink.

October 15 Weather permitting. Meet at the Main Street House at 12:30 p.m.

Slide program MainStreet BookEnds November 17 7:00 p.m.
Topic to be announced.



An award certificate from the fair to Miss Martha Hoyt Hopkins for “featherwork”.
1879

