

Etna Historical Society Meeting
April 22, 2024
Trumbull Hall
5:30 PM

Welcome

The Etna Historical Society assembled for its third meeting and welcomed some newcomers. Jay Barrett, author of books on Hanover and Etna and creator of town calendars featuring photos of both communities, was welcomed.

Etna Library Website

Jeff Metzler spoke about the photos and town documents that he has scanned and put on the website. He has set up a [flickr account](#) with photos in albums. People are encouraged to annotate the photos and add more.

In addition, Jeff will continue to post other documents on the library's website.

Hanover Historical Society

Liz Marshall gave an overview of her conversation with Cyndy Bittinger, president of the Hanover Historical Society. The HHS welcomes us to be a part of their organization. They are a 501c-3 (non-profit) organization. If we ever decide to do fundraising – perhaps to pay for improvements to the old fire house – she encouraged us to work with HHS rather than try to set ourselves up as a separate 501c-3.

Documenting Old Houses and Lands

Matt Marshall summarized some ideas sent in by Greg Franklin, who could not be at the meeting. He sent around photos of house plaques from Dunbarton, NH, and a mock-up of a poster with an overview of an old farm, with information about its structure and purpose over the years. He stressed that in addition to documenting old buildings, we should plan to document parcels of land, recording their use in years past.

Dick Baughman talked about his home and how he learned about its history. Much of what he knows was told to him by Etna residents he got to know over the years – Walker Weed and Niles LaCoste, for example. He feels that we really need to write down what we know - capture that knowledge before we all die! In particular, we need to capture the history of the Etna community in the years that we have all been alive. Etna and its surroundings continue to evolve and it is imperative to document as much of this evolution as we can.

Comments from Jay Barrett

Jay spoke to the group for about a half hour. He is delighted that the group is forming and is eager to be a part of it. The focus of our Etna group is very different from that of the downtown historical society.

Jay grew up near Mink Brook, just south of Hanover. Because of his early childhood, he has developed a lifelong interest in the geology of the area and how it has impacted the development over the years. He believes that geology has played an important role in how downtown and rural Hanover (Etna) have developed.

Books and Calendars

Over the years, Jay has researched many aspects of Hanover and Etna. He produced several town calendars. The 1995 calendar focused on Etna. The centerfold of the calendar is an accurate (to-scale) map of a stretch of road through downtown Etna, showing older buildings. A pdf of this map is being sent along with these minutes. He has written 3 books about Hanover, the second of which focuses on Etna. The photos used for the calendars and books are in a folder at Rauner Library (labeled Jay Barrett Photos) and free for the public to view.

Hanover celebrated its bicentennial in 1961. In addition to a memorable parade, a book was published to honor the milestone. The book contains essays put together by many of the people living in Hanover at the time. One story, *A Touch of Mink*, was recently rediscovered by Dick Baughman. A pdf is being sent along with the meeting minutes. It contains a lengthy bibliography, which is also attached with the minutes.

Dick also has a document called *Early Settlers and Prominent Residents of Hanover, NH*. This document, also attached, describes the Tenney and Dewey families, among others, and includes an early picture of the Tenney residence. The Tenneys are mentioned at the bottom of page 18 in *A Touch of Mink*.

Maps

In 2011, Jay did some presentations at the Howe Library about early Hanover. Some included the evolution of maps of the town. The earliest maps show the lot boundaries with names of the early landowners. Many of these landowners were never settlers. The Freeman family were early settlers and surveyors. They owned many lots that were subsequently divided and sold.

Overlays using several of these early maps and current road maps have been done over the years and most are available for viewing in the map room at Baker Library. One example is a map put together by Ken LeClair, Lou Bressette, and Bob McLaughry. Another map of interest was done by geologist James Goldwaith in 1926 that shows cellar holes throughout the town.

Additional Reading

Most of the books about early Hanover are out of print. Some may be found at the online bookseller AbeBooks.com. If not available in hard copy, digital versions may be available. A list of recommended books is below.

Hanover Centennial Book 1761-1961

Francis Lane Childs, The Vermont Printing Company, 196.

A History of the Town of Hanover

John King Lord (With an Appendix on Hanover Roads by Prof. J.W. Goldthwait), Dartmouth Press, 1928.

A History of Dartmouth College and the Town of Hanover to 1815

Frederick Chase, Edited by John K Lord, The Vermont Printing Co. 1928, Copyright 1891 John K Lord, Copyright 1928 Dartmouth College

A Light Touch of Mink (Mink Brook that is)

Mildred Derby Hoyt, July 24, 1962

A transcript of the original paper is housed in the Dartmouth College Archives. It contains maps and photographs. In this paper, pages 1-10 concern mills and 10-20 concern life in Hanover Center.

Hanover Selectboard Meeting Notes

It is possible that such a record exists, but we don't have any additional information yet.