Potluck Luncheon for Members

In January, we were able to take the time to thank our members with a potluck luncheon. It was nice to see so many members attending and enjoying this year’s Chinese “theme”.

Members came through with a vast variety of recipes that was enjoyed by all. And of course, dessert(s) included this beautifully decorated cake.

Entertainment provided by the Nashua Ukulele Trio. The N.U.T. had our members singing along and tapping their toes.

In honor of the Chinese New Year Margaret Garneau mentioned it was the Year of the Rooster. Heather McPhie tells the members about a Girl Scout badge she will be working on that will benefit the NHS.

President Joanne Ouellette gave a warm welcome to all the members.

NUT members: Kate Leonas on the left, Linnea Micciulla, and Mike Loce.
How the City of Nashua – Historical Names list came about.

Member Peter Vincent spends considerable time at the Society as Treasurer and volunteer. He noticed that we had no information posted in the Speare Museum that listed the various names through the years of what we know as the City of Nashua today. So, he did the research and now all can enjoy the result. Thank-you, Peter

City of Nashua - Historical Names

★ Watananock
The earliest known name given to the area by the Native American Indians.

★ Dunstable Township, Massachusetts, 1673 to 1746

★ Dunstable Township, New Hampshire, 1746 to 1790

★ Indian Head Village, 1790 to 1803

★ Nashua Village, 1803 to 1836

★ Nashua Town, 1836 to 1853
Between 1836 and 1842, Nashua Town included all of the territory both north and south of the Nashua River.
Between 1842 and 1853, Nashua Town included only the territory south of the Nashua River.

★ Nashville Town, 1842 to 1853
The new Nashville Town split from the Nashua Town after a dispute over the placement of a proposed new town hall.
It included only the territory north of the Nashua River.

★ City of Nashua, 1853 to Present
The two towns, Nashua and Nashville, were reunited as one in 1853 to form the new City of Nashua.

Come Celebrate Planet Earth
by
M.G Garneau

Do you remember where you were when the first Earth Day was celebrated April, 1970?

I was living in the Azores, a group of Portuguese Islands, waiting for my new husband Robert to finish his tour in Vietnam. The Island of Terceira had an abundance of hydrangea bushes growing along the roadsides. Each year the soil beneath the bushes would be organically treated so that the color of the flowers would change. Truly a beautiful spectacle. Since then Earth Day has grown into a global event now being celebrated in over 192 countries. People will be planting trees, picking up trash in their neighborhoods, shopping for local produce, setting up bird houses, and hopefully recycling items to demonstrate how much we care for the future of our planet.

On April 22, 2017, the Society is planning an event from 10 a.m. to noon, with an environmental theme and to celebrate our Horse Chestnut Tree. Both the Abbot House and Speare Museum will be open for tours, and special event chair Judith Jones and I are inviting several local groups to participate. Once again, Claire Young, Executive Producer, and Linda Temperino, host of the show “Beyond the Garden Gate” will be filming the event and will be shown on Access Nashua, our local Channel 96. We look forward to seeing all our members there!

An interesting fact I learned doing research for this article. There is another Earth Day. Usually celebrated on March 21, which is the equinox for Spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. This “Earth Day” is supported by the United Nations. A Japanese “Peace Bell” is rung in New York at the United Nations to remind everyone of our place on this precious planet Earth.

PayPal:
After some trial and error, you can now make donations, purchase items, take out a new membership or renew an existing membership by using PayPal on the Society's website.

For Sale:
Books:
- People and Places by Meri Goyette and The Nashua Historical Society $24.95
  The book is autographed by Meri Goyette
- A Testing Time; Crisis and Revival in Nashua by Stephen Winship $30.00
- Visions from a White Mountain Palette; the Life and Times of Charles A. Hunt by Roy Bubb $25.00
- An Electrifying History; Public Service Company of New Hampshire by Arthur M. Kenison $19.95

Misc. Items:
- Sun catcher featuring the Abbot-Spalding House $10.00
- Note cards and post cards from $.50 to $5.00
New Hampshire was the last state to maintain Fast Day as a legal holiday. In 1991 the New Hampshire Legislature abolished the observance of a day that had been celebrated for 310 years.

Fast Day was a holiday traditionally observed in the early colonies of the New England states. Proclaimed as a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence from secular activities, it first appeared in Boston on September 8, 1670. New Hampshire’s first recorded fast day proclamation was in the early 1680’s when the General Council asked God’s blessings for continued “peace and prosperity”.

Another fast day was proclaimed in 1681 when New Hampshire Council President, Mr. John Cutt, fell ill. The day of March 17, 1681 was declared a day of fasting and public prayer. Unfortunately, the piety of the masses appear to have been naught as John Cutt passed away on April 1, 1681.

State of New Hampshire.

A PROCLAMATION.

FOR A DAY OF
PASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

From a respectful regard to customs which have become venerable for its antiquity, and is recommended to us by the example of generations of good and pious men, and by the happy influence it is calculated to exercise upon the hearts and characters of all who observe it, I do, by and with the advice of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the 10th day of April next, a day of PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER throughout this State.

And the people of this State are earnestly invited to devote themselves on that day to the observance of the usual religious solemnities, and, assembled in their respective places of worship, to bow themselves before their Almighty Creator and Judge, and by humble acknowledgment of their transgressions, sincere penitence for the past, and holy resolutions of future amendment, lay a sure foundation for hope in his pardoning mercy.

Let us, on that occasion invoke the blessing of God upon our State—its churches and schools—its agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and all its various branches of useful industry.—Let us pray for the preservation of our freedom, and for the growth of those habits of public order and social and domestic virtue, on which our happiness and prosperity so much depend.

Let us implore our Heavenly Father to regard with favor our whole country—to preserve within its limits the blessings of health, plenty and peace, and by inspiring the people of this wide community with sentiments of mutual forbearance and good will, to allay the excitement of party violence and sectional rivalry: and strengthen and perpetuate the bond of our national union.

Given at Keene, the fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the fifty-eighth.

SAMUEL DINSMOOR.

By his Excellency the Governor.

RALPH MUSSEY. Secretary of State.

New Hampshire Governor Samuel Dinsmoor’s March 14, 1834 Proclamation of a Fast Day for April 10.

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship: Applications are now being accepted for the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship. Every year, NHS awards a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in Nashua. If you know of a student who is eligible to apply for the scholarship, please ask them to contact the Society or go to the link on our website: http://www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org/scholarships.html. Deadline for applying is Thursday, April 13, 2017.

Temporary Exhibit:

Many of you may know that we have a rotating exhibit in the entryway of the Speare Museum. The current exhibit is part of a stamp collection by one of our members, Robert Garneau. Please stop in to see this colorful and interesting exhibit.

This collection includes The Penny Black, which was the world’s first stamp. Issued in Great Britain (1840).

Star Wars stamps are always a popular attraction.

City Hall Exhibit:

The current City Hall exhibit features the history of hospitals in Nashua.
Why did I write
The Genealogy of My House at 51 Pine Hill Avenue, in Nashua, NH etc.?

I wrote The Genealogy of My House at 51 Pine Hill Avenue, in Nashua, New Hampshire (1850 to 2016) because:

1) I wanted my wife and 11 children to know what I had learned about the history of our house based on my year of research in 2016.
2) I wanted them to know what I knew from my observations of our house back in 1960, before I made any changes to the house and the grounds.
3) I wanted our children to know what improvements I had done to the house and grounds in the 17 years between 1960 and 1977, and why I did them.

When you have 11 children, you can’t remember who you told something and who you did not tell. This book tells them all everything about the house in which they were raised: a) everything I found out and b) everything I did. Each child has a copy of the book.

In early 2016, my research started as an attempt to find out when the house at 51 Pine Hill Avenue was built. I researched the deeds at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds on Temple Street in Nashua, going backwards through the owners, from the Garlands in 1958, all the way to the Conreys in 1850. Unfortunately, deeds indicate that there are “buildings” on property, but they do not indicate what the buildings looked like.

Over the past 20 years, I have been researching my and my wife’s family genealogies, so I hope that doing the same type of research on the families that owned and lived in my house would show something about its age. The more I learned about each family, the more interested I became in them and what they did in their lives. In the end, there was a lot of interesting things to be written, but I still didn’t find the specific age of the main house or its north ell.

In summary, I have broken down the genealogical history to the following:

1850 to 1858 the 8 Conrey years
1858 to 1901 the 42 Cornelius Sullivan years
1901 to 1911 the 10 Rev. Henry Lessard years
1911 to 1922 the 11 Wheeler years
1922 to 1958 the 36 Garland years
1958 to 2016 the 58 Hogan years

In short, what started with a simple question (in my simple mind): “When was my house built?” grew to be a type of book, that, to my knowledge, has no precedent, so I called it The … Genealogy of My House etc. Since the house was purchased in 1958 by my kid brother, Austin, and his wife, Marilyn, (whom I married in 1960 as a 22-year-old widow with 3 children ages 1 year to 5 years), perhaps I should have called it The Genealogy of the House of My Brother and His Wife, etc. Oh well!

James Francis Hogan
January 27, 2017