
HENNIKER HISTORIAN

SEPTEMBER 2019 NUMBER 77

NEWSLETTER OF THE HENNIKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Henniker Historical Society Board 2018-19

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Nicole Giradet, Marc McMurphy,

Yolande Nicknair, Martha Taylor

TALKING ABOUT THE FARM



The rural, small Henniker family farm was a common scene in the early 1900's. A popular crop was hay for the milk cows that produced the Henniker butter that was always in high demand. Apple orchards were plentiful, and apple cider was a profitable fall crop. Henniker resident Marshall Connor stopped by the HHS to share his farm stories and facts with HHS President Kristen MacLean.

If you have stories about your family farm, please stop by the Historical Society and Museum to share them with us.

Historical Trivia

In the Early 1900's approximately how many family farms operated in Henniker?

- a. 22
- b. 48
- c. 75
- d. 91

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all!

September is always a busy month at the society. Every year we prepare and mail both the Giving Campaign and this quarterly newsletter. In addition, the society has a booth at the Music on Main Street event which gives us an opportunity to sell merchandise and bombard the locals with Henniker history questions. Fall is the best time of year for our volunteers to comfortably work throughout the Academy Hall building because heating and cooling are limited to a couple of work spaces. We have a few short weeks to properly accession any backlog of artifacts and place them in our archives without getting chilled.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank everyone for their donations last year and we sincerely hope you will continue to give to our annual Giving Campaign so that we may achieve our goal of \$8500 for 2019-2020.

We look forward to hearing what you know about Henniker history. No story is too small!

Kristen MacLean, President

ACQUISITIONS

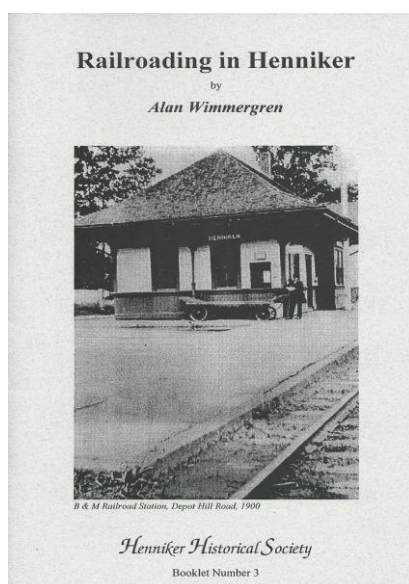
Throughout 2020, particularly in the summer, the Henniker Historical Society and Museum and its counterparts in surrounding towns will be sharing programs regarding railroads and their impact on our communities. The festivities begin at the **Warner Fall Foliage Festival on October 13th**, with a parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. The parade will be the first opportunity to showcase the railroad exhibition and will include a caboose and folks dressed in period clothing. During the two-day festival, a boxcar house will be on display.

In November (date to follow) there will be an opening event in the Warner Town Hall where the public will be invited to share items and stories relating their railroad experiences. Stay tuned!

The Henniker Historical Society will be presenting its program at the **Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020**, featuring railroad enthusiast, Dale Russell. Dale has many stories and photographs about the railroads in Henniker and their impact on community life. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to spring.

We hope that you will be able to attend some of these programs in the surrounding towns. A schedule of events will be published in up-coming newsletters.

ALL ABOARD!!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Historical Society is always in need of volunteers to help us in our mission to preserve Henniker history. No experience is needed! New board members are also needed. So, if you have some spare time you'd like to donate, please contact Deb Dow at 491-6686.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.hennikerhistory.org

email: society@mettelecom.com

Facebook

VISIT US AT ACADEMY HALL

51 Maple St

Henniker, NH 03242

603-428-6267

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Monthly board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in Academy Hall. Members and prospective members are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership expiration is noted on your mailing label. If yours is about to expire please renew to continue to receive the newsletter and support us as we preserve Henniker history.

To renew, send \$5.00 per person (checks can be made out to Henniker Historical Society) along with your name and address to:

Henniker Historical Society
PO Box 674
Henniker, NH 03242

THANKS TO ALL OUR ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS! YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HENNIKER HISTORY IS PRICELESS!

Answer to Trivia Question is D

FOUND IN THE MUSEUM:

TWISS FAMILY MOURNING PICTURE



The death of American's first president, George Washington in 1799 prompted Samuel Folwell, an artist from Philadelphia, to create designs for memorial embroidered pictures to honor his death. The picture was usually first drawn on silk and then either painted or embroidered with silk thread. Other artists followed suit with the embroidered pictures becoming known as *mourning pictures*. Soon they were assigned to young girls attending academies. Mourning pictures reinforced religious, literary and historical teachings. The picture would remember a lost relative. The picture would include grieving relatives surrounding a tombstone and later, urns. Willow trees were popular in the scenes as they symbolized the weeping of the family as well as the rebirth of the deceased.

A beautiful example of a mourning picture done in watercolors hangs in the Henniker Historical Society Museum for Elizabeth Twiss, the second wife of John Twiss, who died in 1848. The artist is unknown, but may have been composed by a granddaughter.

NEW TOWN HALL DISPLAY: ON THE HOMEFRONT

Be sure and stop by the Henniker Town Hall to see our newest traveling display of items representing life on the Homefront during WWII. We try to rotate items from our collections in the Town Hall display case twice a year to allow people to get an idea of some of the wonderful artifacts in our collection!

FIND A GRAVE FOR FREE

Your old friend, from out of town is visiting and she comments that her great-great aunt is buried somewhere in Henniker and she would love to visit the gravesite. However, she is not sure where the grave, or the cemetery, is even located! After all, Henniker has 8 cemeteries with over 4,300 citizens. How do you find great-great aunt? Unfortunately, you do not have a copy of the "*New Cemetery, Henniker New Hampshire, A Detailed Record of Burials and Gravestone Inscriptions, 1820 – 2000*" by Martha Taylor and available at the Henniker Historical Society. Without this valuable reference you think the internet might provide the answer.

A free website created by thousands of volunteers may offer the help you need. The Find A Grave (FAG), mission is to "find, record, and present final disposition information from around the world as a virtual cemetery experience." Since 1995, members, fondly known as 'gravers', travel to cemeteries and take photos of headstones. The material on the headstone is transcribed, noting plot locations. Once a memorial for an individual has been created the headstone photo is uploaded. A map to the cemetery location is also included in the website with GPS information. There are over 200 Million memorials currently located on Findagrave.com, included 4,371 names located in one of the 8 cemeteries in Henniker.

Worldwide over 50,000 people a day search the FAG website. The database includes 2,600 cemeteries in New Hampshire with over 750,000 memorials. While there is no guarantee that the information on the individual FAG memorial is accurate, you can contact the volunteer 'manager', the creator of that memorial, to suggest edits. If you join FAG as a contributor (It's free!) you can also ask to have your relative transferred to you from another FAGer, as the keeper and custodian of the memorial site.

Your friend is waiting. You search the FAG website for your friend's great-great aunt, Marie Fleming, inserting her name and date of death. Up pops up Plummer Cemetery on River Road in Henniker. You print off the picture of the headstone and head for Plummer Cemetery. It is a lovely day for a walk!

www.findagrave.com

Congratulations!

The Congregational Church of Henniker is celebrating the 250th year of its founding and the 185th year of the building of its fourth Meeting House and the installation of its Paul Revere bell.

From Joshua Darling's record book held at the Henniker Historical Society:

On the 8th day of February 1834 Page Eaton gave a note to the Concord Bank for a loan of \$100.00 on demand for the purchase of a bell for our church. We also gave Rev. Mr. Scales a note for \$150.00 to complete the purchase of said bell, bell yoke & bell rope and we depend on the subscription to refund the money, Page Eaton is to purchase and bring us the bell. Joshua Darling [subscriptions= pledges]

April 15th: settled with Page Eaton to help purchase bell \$100.00

Cogswell's History of Henniker:

The bell was raised to its position on May 8, 1834, the day the building was raised, its tongue peeling out to the gathered crowd, most of whom had never seen one before.



Not so Friendly Henniker?

In Henniker's early days, there was the fear that people would come to town unable to support themselves and become a burden to the town. Thus, it became the practice for the local constable to issue a warning to the newcomers that they must depart town within a certain amount of time with the understanding that this would absolve the town of any future responsibility for these people should they remain. This was issued to everyone, regardless of their financial status and although many did ignore the warning, there were some that took it to heart.

The following comes from Leander Cogswell's *History of Henniker*

Mr. Ward, in his genealogy of the Rice family, says that in one instance where this was done to a family of property of good standing, who came into town from another state where the practice was

not known, were very much astonished when the notice to leave the town was served upon them. They thought so seriously of the matter, that finally the husband inquired of the wife what it could mean. Said she, "I cannot, for the life of me, imagine what it is for. Have you said or done anything here to give offence?"

"I have done no more than civilly pass the time o' day with the people since we have been here," said he.

"Well, then," said the good wife, "who knows but what they think we have got the small-pox?"

Thus they queried, but could not account for it. The husband, having lain awake all the night long thinking about it, said to his wife in the morning, - "I'm going to pack up our things and go somewhere else, for this is not great place after all."

The following is an example of such a warrant:

Hillsborough SS.

To Mr. Jonas Bowman, constable of the Town of Henniker in said County, Greeting:

Whereas several Persons have come into this town lately which may Becom in habitants if not warned out, and are likely to become a Town Charge in any time of sickness or adversity; viz: Charles Greenfield and his wife, Hannah, and his son David, and his Daughters Hannah and Patty, who came from Boscawen this Province into this Town in the month of December, 1785, And Also Thomas Pingree and Mary his wife and his son Pearsons, and his Daughters Mary and Sarah, who came to this town from New Rowley in the Province of Massachusetts in the month of December, 1785.

You are therefore required to Warn and Notify all and each of these Persons to Depart out of this Town as they will then contempt under penalty of the law.

Hereof fail not and make Return of this warrant with your doings thereon as soon as may be.

Dated at Henniker aforesaid, this thirteenth day of December A. D. 1785.

Robert Wallace	}	Selectmen of Henniker
James Joslyn		
David Campbell		

On the back of the warrant, Jonas Bowman wrote the following:

Hillsborough ss, Henniker, January 1st, 1786

In obedience to the within warrant, I have warned all and each of the within mentioned persons forthwith to Depart out of the Town as the Law directs.

Jonas Bowman, Constable for said Henniker

These "cautions" were modified in after years, so as to include only those who it was feared might become really a charge upon the town, and about the beginning of the present century (19th), it was discontinued altogether. But few persons settled here for the first forty years after the original settlement, who did not receive this notice. In the light of these days it seems an inhuman custom, but viewed from the point of our forefathers, it seemed quite necessary and withal just.

Leander Cogswell, 1880

Henniker Historian

Henniker Historical Society
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Henniker, NH 03242

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN HAS NOW BEGUN!



By now you have probably received our annual Giving Campaign mailing. Your donations are vital to keeping Henniker's history alive. Having visited a fair number of historical societies around the country, I am constantly amazed at how much our small Historical Society and Museum has to offer, from the artifacts in the museum to the thousands of historical photos we are working hard to preserve and digitize, our Historical Society is a goldmine of information. If you haven't visited lately, we urge you to come by Academy Hall and see what we have to offer. In the meantime, we hope you will show your support in keeping Henniker's history alive with a donation to the Henniker Historical Society and Museum!

Preserve and Promote Henniker's History