

# Under the Hump

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

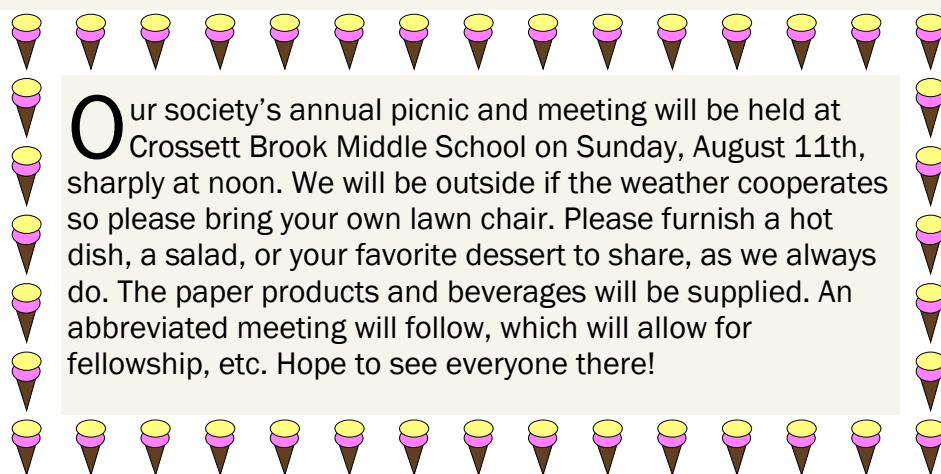
Sunday, August 11,  
CBMS, noon

- Our annual picnic and meeting is right around the corner! Please bring your own lawn chair and a dish to share with your friends.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue's Photo:  
Senator William Doyle



Our society's annual picnic and meeting will be held at Crossett Brook Middle School on Sunday, August 11th, sharply at noon. We will be outside if the weather cooperates so please bring your own lawn chair. Please furnish a hot dish, a salad, or your favorite dessert to share, as we always do. The paper products and beverages will be supplied. An abbreviated meeting will follow, which will allow for fellowship, etc. Hope to see everyone there!

We celebrated Duxbury's 250th! See more photos inside!



Carol Johnson Collins photo.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

Members: Eulie Costello, Debbie Sweetser, Lori Morse, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse

We continue to scan family photos to be added to our genealogy digital folders.

Eulie has been working on making copies of documents, photos, articles, etc. which Helen Davis wanted to share with the Society.

## Donation Artifacts/Documents

Zelda Lavanway — 1. Souvenir ashtray from the 1959 South Duxbury Church Old Home Day celebration.  
2. Vintage Postcard of Camel's Hump.  
3. 1928 spring photograph taken from Smith Bridge facing east (showing 1927 flood result).

Dorothy Merchant family — Collection of Duxbury Town Reports dating from 1947 to present.

## Monetary Donations Made to the Society

Richard Lindsley \* Shelly Welch & Dave Fuka \* Jane Hayes \* Lisa & Jeff Pidgeon

## Take A Hike

Duxbury has many areas of town that at one time had communities and roads that have since been abandoned. Have you ever wondered what that area of Duxbury looks like now? Do you like taking a hike and looking at cellar holes and learning a little history in the process? If you have an area of town that you know some of the history of, would you be willing to share? If you like to hike and want to learn some local history a "History Hike" might be for you. If anyone is interested in creating a hiking group maybe we can discuss it at the next meeting and decide how the group should take shape. Bring your ideas.

## Video Project

Do you have time to record, edit, and present a 45-minute video program for the society? Probably not! Do you have 5 minutes to record a video clip for use in a program? Probably! We have a nice new video camera and if we all contribute a little bit we could have some nice programs for our meetings and information for our archives. My hope was to have people contribute a few minutes with a story or recollection on different subjects. If we take video clips that are related we can make video programs out of them. By picking several topics and recording interviews on video as well as make copies of any photos or documents that you might have, we could potentially have a lot to work with. Before and after the meetings I will have the camera ready to record and if you have a story to tell or a photo to copy, we will be glad to collect it from you.

The first four subjects that I would like to start collecting material for are:

**1927 Flood** - Did your relatives have a story that was recounted to you that you would be willing to share? It was so long ago that many of the people that endured the flood are gone now. Can we collect some of their stories that they relayed and preserve them?

**Horses** - Something I'm familiar with because my family has always had a horse business in Duxbury. At one time just about every farm family had at least one horse. Did your family have a horse that knew the route through the sugar woods and every stop that should be made? Horses have always had personalities and purpose through the years. Share a story about your equine.

**Morses** - You can't travel through Duxbury without meeting a Morse. They are one of the founding families of Duxbury. When did they come here and from where? How is this one connected to that one? I am sure all the information is out there for a very interesting video. Would you be willing to share a few minutes to record a video or bring some pictures?

**Ancestor Occupations** - What were some of the occupations in your family from years gone by? Occupations over the years have changed and some are now obsolete. Do you have an interesting story or photo to share?

**Start a New Topic** - If you have a topic that you think we can get a collection of stories/photos to create a video please bring your ideas.

~Maureen Harvey

## CELEBRATING DUXBURY

By Stephanie Koonz

July 20th, 2013

If a tree falls in the forest...

Each morning when I wake up, I immediately go outside barefooted to welcome the new day. I stroll up and down the dirt road that helps define my property feeling the coolness of the dirt and the sharpness of the stones under my feet. I use this time to peruse what has happened overnight outside my doors. I do my inspection to the chorus of birds who do their part to make every day cheerful.

I knew today would be special in that a bit of history let go along the road last night, just below the house; the big "grandfather maple tree" let go and came heavily crashing across the road...if I wasn't here would it have made a noise?

This tree had been a beacon to us coming here so long ago for the summer (this tree stood out as we turned the final curve in the road before the house) and a beacon for many years as we watched a huge split occur right down the middle which everyone surmised would eventually be the demise of the elegant giant.

In the distance this morning I heard the gallant crow of the neighbors' rooster in the valley and wondered if he realized that he was in fact heralding in this gigantic change in my life.

Not a tree hugger by trade, I will admit talking to the old Grandfather Tree on occasion. When Louie and I first moved here we admired the tree's girth and anticipated a full measure of sap come spring from the mighty tree. Of course, we were disappointed when not a drop materialized; this tree had already given full measure. Over the years this tree became a beautiful participant in the seasons of OUR lives.

I use this vignette as a segue (love that word that is often used by the announcers on the radio station WDEV meaning a perfect transition from one topic to another) to my appreciation for all the community support during this year, our Duxbury 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Many trees have defined the history of this town — from the very beginning when Governor Benning Wentworth's signature gave a patterned meaning to the land here — as he divided the dirt and stones and forestland among 65 speculators.

Tucked among the "Whereases" of the original charter of the town...the charter further provided that 'all white and other Pine trees within the said Township, fit for Masting Our royal Navy (British) be carefully preserved for that use' and ... 'the largely wooded terrain played a central economic role in the 19th century Duxbury as seven water powered sawmills were in operation by 1858.'

To this day, we depend on our trees. Many older homes still exist bearing the weight with lumber 150 years old from our forests. Our newest tree house — from mighty trees on property gives witness to the continuing value the Duxbury tree has.

This is another segue into thanking Moose Meadow Lodge and Tree House owner Willie Docto, webmaster and guide of all publicity, for our Duxbury 250th celebration. His professional knowledge and patient attitude trumpeted to the world our events and programs; helping him get the publicity out were Shawnee Perry on Facebook and in the Forum, Christian Magnani (designer of posters), Jody Lavanway and Kelly Finnegan of Buy Monthly Publishing, Darrick Pitstick of Pack and Send Plus, Curt Prestash (designer of the T-shirt) and Ed Cawley Amalgamated Culture Works, Jason of the Flag Makers, Vicky McCormack of Old Maps, and Greg Trulson who single-handedly placed all the Duxbury banners in place.

My thanks go out to the Duxbury Historical Society for their cooperation in giving support, legally and individually, to the Duxbury 250th Committee. The committee was formed two years ago in August of 2011 and I thank the original committee members Justin Blackman, Ken Scott, Myra Perry, Mary Ethel Welch, Kelly Welch, Willie Docto, Ed Gormel and to all those who came aboard during the duration of the planning — Mame McKee, John Kerrigan, Steve Grace, Kym Andrews, Carol Collins, Mark Morse (as treasurer), and Bonnie Morse (Governor's costume maker).

Thank you to our sponsors — The Town of Duxbury, Moose Meadow Lodge, Potter's Tree Healthcare, Waterbury Tourism Council, SMW Construction, ECAC/General Dynamics, Mame McKee, Singing Spindle Spinnery, JW Auto, Connie's Cleaning, Grunberg Haus, Donald & Mary Ethel Welch, Kelly Welch, Maureen Harvey, Caroline and Steve Mitchell, and Welch Lumber and Custom Sawing.

My thank you to everyone who made the Opening Celebration on June 7, 2013 a success — Cathy Knight and the staff of the Crossett Brook Middle School, the DHS for putting on the picnic, Ann & James Harvey, Lisa Parro and the

## CELEBRATING DUXBURY

Barre-Tones, The Will Evans Band, Lori Morse and her students, Naomi Tilton (with the US Postal Service postmark), and Governor Benning Wentworth. Tending the tables — Carol Collins, Kelley Taft, Audrey Quackenbush - Land Trust, Elliot McElroy of The Children's Early Learning Space. The silent auction donators — Jim Welch, Eric Potter, Cindy Intindola, Willie Docto, James Jennings, Mary Spencer, Bradley and Gayla Welch, and U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. A special thank you to Bill Doyle (for just being there) plus Vince Franke for the anticipated video.

The Fun Run would not have happened without the volunteered help of Kym Andrews, Steve Grace, John Kerrigan, Tom and Charlotte Strasser, Kate Woodruff and Mothers of the Cross Country Team, Dave Cutler, and all the participants. There were 5 proud winners of medallions beautifully created by Eliza Joy Johnson Weissberger. Special thanks go to Winston Rost of Green Mountain Coffee, Amy Weller of Ben & Jerry's, and Ian Ormon of Cabot Cheese for the donations of coffee and coupons that were given out at the Fun Run, and to everyone participating in the Camel's Hump Climb.

The B&B Tour was such a pleasant surprise to all who attended. Who knew of such a variety of places to stay in our town? Thank you for opening your homes and businesses to all of us — Karen and Robert Cavaretto of the White Birch Cottage, Jeff and Linda Connor of The Grunberg Haus, David and Marie Specht of the Garden Tower, and Greg Trulson and Willie Docto of Moose Meadow Lodge and Tree House. As we ventured up into the tower at the Garden Tower, we got an insider's view of a chalet at the Grunberg Haus, saw the spacious rooms of the White Birch Cottage, and entered the natural kitchen of the MML, I think we all marveled at such truly exceptional accommodations for travelers to stay in in Duxbury.

What a parade we had!...

I must admit, I had always wanted to ride on a float in a parade. It only took 70 years to do it but it is now off my bucket list. The beauty of our entries into the "Not Quite Independence Day" parade in Waterbury was the absolute enthusiasm of the Duxburyites walking within the parade and those enjoying the parade on the sidelines! What a thrill to hear "Duxbury! Duxbury!" as we traveled the road.

Thank you to Adam Magee and Ken Scott "leading the parade" in the newly painted tandem town truck pulling "the little red wagon." And the flag carriers! Whose heart didn't swell up when that huge flag (18' by 36') passed by carried by Maureen, Caroline and Monique Harvey, Zach Foster, Mame, Willie, Shawnee, Lois Haslam, Don Welch, Bob Eisman and Mr. Whitehair? Next, Shari and George Welch carried on the family owned lumbering tradition with their float which came pretty close to garnering the prize for being the "Most Creative." Next came the real Governor Benning Wentworth (aka Mark Morse) on his tractor towing his family blowing bubbles and one totally over-exuberant flag waver dressed in a dress made from 3 Duxbury T-shirts (my own self). If only Governor Benning Wentworth was such an imposing person in real life...and not the scoundrel he is sometimes made out to be. And this float was judged the "best use of theme." Happy 250th Anniversary!

Next came Mark Foster and his wife, Darci riding their horses Mabel and (?). Jessica Goff joined in the festivities, riding her horse also.

To my knowledge, these were the only real life animals in the whole parade. Mark and Mabel's commanding presence rivaled any of the Knights of the Round Table.

The little "amen" to our entries was none other than Mary Ethel Welch who was scooping up the horse manure in a bright red, wheeled cart! Hooray for the joyous spirit she portrayed!

I am truly sorry for not knowing where the "Duxbury Elf Shelf" people ended up in the parade. We were moved from one place to another and I lost track of Ruth, Dana, Don, and Roy. FLASH FLASH! Through talking with Ruth today, I found out they got rerouted and ended up being with the Richmond Fire Department. We missed having you with us!

Our celebration year is half way over but we still have events going on. The first half concentrated on community action and participation, the second, more individual accomplishments. Climbing Camel's Hump during this year will be rewarded by numbered certificates to entrants at the end of their climb. Just go to the Town Clerk's Office after you have taken a picture at the summit to receive your certificate. This challenge ends at the end of the year.

The Duxbury Land Trust is sponsoring a photography contest of the best picture taken in Duxbury, Vermont this year. On a daily basis we are surrounded by beauty worth the proverbial "thousand words." Now is our chance to help define the "best of our town" through photography. Photos are due by the first of December.

We will also be having a musical conclusion to our community festivities in August on the 11th right after the Annual Meeting of the DHS! Bring a chair, a picnic, and your loved ones to this annual summer favorite. Join conductor Lou Kosma and the 65 piece Vermont Philharmonic as they pay tribute to Duxbury's 250th anniversary. Enjoy a program of exciting music, including light classical, popular and Broadway tunes. The pondside setting surrounded by the woods at



## CELEBRATING DUXBURY

Moose Meadow provide a natural amphitheater with surprisingly rich acoustics. The experience is magical! Duxbury residents get a \$2.50 reduction in the cost of a ticket — what a way to celebrate!

I have traveled outside while writing this — every so often because my eyes are tired — to see the fallen “grandfather” giant again. To mourn the passing but to hopefully create a future still for the dropped wood — I plan to salvage some sawn stumps 3 feet high or so for wooden tables to put my earth boxes on.

I had to chuckle last night as I heard my neighbor David, who had come down the road at 11:00 pm on his tractor to clear “the Grandfather” from the middle of the road, exclaim. His lights were out, the engine silent, and from the darkness I hear: “This tree is REALLY dead.” As opposed to what? — I pondered.

I admit I have watched this tree and others on their slow decline. I guess I see us all like trees and part of the forest we call Duxbury.

Thank you for encouraging me to be chairperson of the 250th Duxbury Anniversary celebration committee. Admittedly, I had wanted to do this for many years — way back to when I was actively working at the Town Clerk’s Office. Thank you to everyone who stood by during the give and take of committee work. If I have not mentioned anyone, please let me know — it certainly was not intentional. Most of the work was done through email — a totally new concept to most of us but necessary to some of us who need to go outside to carry on a phone conversation. Surprisingly enough, I was able to write this article from the over 1000 emails exchanged during the past two years and with “filling in the blanks” by committee members.

Happy Duxbury 250th Anniversary to everyone.

Sincerely and with love,  
Stephanie Koonz, Chair Duxbury 250th Committee

July 21, 2013...

As I stood again this morning by my old fallen friend, the huge trunks, in my mind became images of huge, darkened bones. There is a mammoth hole to the sky where the foliage used to be. Already the smaller offshoots of this massive icon are filling in. Much like at the death of a friend, those of us that stay on for a while begin to fill in where our love used to be.

A new day of history has begun.



Alison Magnani photo.

## DUXBURY'S 250TH CELEBRATION



Carol Johnson Collins photo.

The Barre-Tones

Duxbury's 250th Opening Celebration was held on June 7 at Crossett Brook Middle School. There was live entertainment by the Barre-Tones and the Will Evans Band, games, vendors, silent auction, potluck, and a special appearance by "Governor Benning Wentworth."



Alison Magnani photo.

Ken Scott participating in the games.



Alison Magnani photo.

Senator Doyle speaking with "Governor Benning Wentworth," portrayed by Mark Morse.



Alison Magnani photo.

The Will Evans Band



Alison Magnani photo.

Shawn Perry volunteering on the potluck line.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Duxbury was well-represented in Waterbury's Not Quite Independence Day parade on June 29. We were even mentioned in an article in *The Times Argus* by David Delcore. Here is an excerpt from that article:

Duxbury was another one of those towns and members of the Duxbury Historical Society, including one — Mark Morse — who came dressed as Wentworth turned out in force and ready for a little friendly rivalry.

"We've got the (Camel's) Hump. What do they (Waterbury) have?" joked Morse, who thanks to a costume created by his wife, Bonnie, could have passed for Wentworth if he wasn't wearing sneakers.

Morse recalled attending the 200th celebration back in 1963, a year when all Waterbury men grew beards for the occasion and wooden nickels were passed out as souvenirs.

"I've still got my wooden nickel," said the man in the long coat, top hat, knickers and New Balance sneakers.

The Duxbury crew came armed with a tandem truck pulling a little red wagon, three horses, an 18-by-36-foot garrison-style American flag, a tractor driven by Morse towing a tiny float, and a separate float created by George Welch that showed the evolution of his family-owned lumber business.

"We're just old hill people," joked Welch. "For us this is just plain, old-fashioned foolishness."

While Welch was laid back, Maureen Haney [sic] sounded more serious as she unfurled a flag that was carried in the parade by a dozen members of the historical society.

Duxbury's efforts didn't go unnoticed and judges agreed to honor them for "best use of theme" and very nearly gave Welch the nod for creativity.

Source: Delcore, David. "Never Too Early For Independence Day." *The Times Argus*. 30 June 2013.



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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

**[www.DuxburyVT.com](http://www.DuxburyVT.com)**

**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - AUG. 11**  
**CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - NOON**

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