



wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com

Waterville Valley Historical Society Newsletter
Volume 3, Number 3, July 2021

Dear Fellow Historians,

The Valley is once again abuzz with locals and visitors alike. It is wonderful to see so many smiling faces. Campers from our various camp programs can be seen throughout the Valley engaged in all sorts of activities, boaters and bathers can be found at Corcoran Pond, hikers are enjoying our many beautiful trails and some choose to just sit in Town Square with a cup of coffee and people watch. The Valley is alive!

We at the Society have not let any grass grow beneath our feet. Since our April Newsletter, we are happy to report:

- Our long awaited Website has become a reality. Please check us out at watervillevalleyhistory.org. Thank you Jacob Berowitz, Beth Goldsmith, and Rob Wilson.
- “The Little Museum at the End of the Road” has a new Exhibit featuring early Trail Signs, maps, and map-making tools on loan from Nat Scrimshaw, a descendant of the Goodrich family.
- Our Blood Drive on July 1st was very successful, netting 20 units of much needed blood. Thank you volunteers Jane McCaffrey, Deb Lievens, Deb Hurley, Tina Koppel, Jim Dunn, Reggie Breeckner and Reva Gertel.
- We offered our first Trolley Tours of the season on July 11th. Both tours were well attended and enjoyed by both guests and guides.
- We applied for and received a Grant of \$2,000 from the New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation. The money will be used to fund our “Oral Histories of the Valley” project. The funding for this grant comes from NH Co-op members who participate in the Round-Up Program and have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. Please consider supporting this program. For

more information on the program, please visit www.nhec.com/round-up-program.

- We are in the process of contacting members who have expressed interest in working on one or more of our committees. Please consider joining in on the fun. You can contact us at wvhistorybuffs@gmail.com
- We welcome member Charles Hastings to our Board of Directors. Charles is a renowned archeologist specializing in Latin America. He recently retired from the faculty of the University of Michigan and is moving to Waterville Valley, his long-time vacation residence.

Upcoming Events:

Beginning on **July 11** the Society will be hosting Historical Trolley Tours every Sunday

Where: Town Square Trolley Stop

When: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm

August 15 no pm Tour

August 15: Waterville Valley Historical Society Annual Meeting - All are Welcome

Where: The Mountain - Freestyle Lounge

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Keynote speaker: Nat Scrimshaw, World Trails Network

- We will begin with a social time and snack - Please bring a sweet or savory finger food snack to share. The Society will provide assorted beverages.
- Following the Social, our keynote speaker Nat Scrimshaw will talk about the trails of Waterville Valley and surrounding area, including conservation and upkeep needs. Nat is the representative for the Americas to the World Trails Network. He works actively on trail conservation and building in New Hampshire, and Costa Rica, and partners with colleagues from around the world through the World Trails network. Nat is a descendant of A.L. Goodrich who created the first trail maps of the Waterville region, and with his brother, sons and daughter, built and maintained many of our trails.
- Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Time to Renew Your Membership

Our Annual Meeting marks the time to renew your membership. Family memberships continue to be \$25. See the attached renewal form if you have not already renewed for 2021-22.

August 18 until August 31: Our archivist Anne Morgan will be back in town. Please stop by our HQ on the second level of the Town Square and say hello.

September 5: 3rd Annual Cellar Hole Hikes with Brenda and Preston Conklin

Where: Meet at the parking lot pull-off at the junction of Rt 49 and Upper Mad River Road

Times: 10:00 am
1:00 pm

The 3-mile hike should last 2.5 hours, depending on questions. It will feature a visit to the original Waterville Cemetery and stops at home sites of some of Waterville's earliest settlers. Hikers should bring their own water and wear comfortable shoes.

September 5: 4th Annual "Getting to Know the Valley"

Meet and Greet members of the many organizations and businesses that live in Waterville Valley. The Society's new caps and notecards will be available to purchase and we will be happy to show off our new Headquarters, located on the 2nd level at Town Square.

Where: Town Square

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

History Tidbit: Astronomy Lessons – Susan Scrimshaw

You can't be in the Valley very long without learning about the Rey Center and the remarkable legacy of Hans and Margaret Rey, authors of the Curious George books. Those of us lucky enough to be children in The Valley during the summers that the Reys spent there have many special memories of times with "Mr. Rey," as we always called him. Mr. Rey maintained that the classical drawings of constellations in the night sky were not logical, as the drawings did not resemble the creatures and mythological figures the constellations were supposed to represent. His 1952 book *The Stars: A New Way to See Them* featured line drawings of the constellations that looked like their names. Leo looked like a lion, Sagittarius looked like an archer, and so on.

On clear and warm summer nights in The Valley, word would somehow go out to meet Mr. Rey in the middle of the golf course for stargazing. Mr. Rey would set up his telescope in the darkness (only the Inn and a few dozen cottages provided limited light

pollution in those days). Children of all ages would gather, and be treated to an astronomy lesson. I remember the thrill of seeing the rings of Saturn through the telescope. I was less thrilled when an annoying boy shined a flashlight into the telescope as I was looking through it. Mishaps aside, those of us who were young in Waterville while the Reys were there still happily share our memories, including the magical nights with the stars.

Board of Directors:

President: Reggie Breeckner

Vice President: Susan C. Scrimshaw

Treasurer: Lori Horton

Secretary: Reva Gertel

Members at large: Rob Wilson, Beth Goldsmith, Rich Rita, Charles Hastings