



WAKEFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION NEWS

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Original pen and ink drawing by Judy Brenner

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome all to another year at Heritage Park, the Heritage Centre of Branch River Valley and the Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner. We have added several items to all exhibits and look forward to greeting you once again. The HO scale Boston & Maine Railroad train exhibit at the Freight House has expanded to include more details from the Sanbornville rail yard, including models of the coal shed and section houses. As a historically accurate representation, the layout teaches about Wakefield's heritage as well as being a truly fun, interactive exhibit. At the Union Railroad Station, you will see two restored depot benches. Other additions include railroad equipment, two rare Armstrong platters used in the dining room at the Sanbornville Station and several glass negatives of Union circa 1900. At the Heritage Centre in Wakefield Corner, we have added two early quilts from late 1800's created by local residents. The school bells from the Sanbornville Grammar School and the Primary School are centerpieces for the section depicting the 12 Wakefield School Districts, the focus of our newest exhibit.

We continue to acquire early photos and artifacts from Wakefield Corner and encourage anyone who may have items that would add to these exhibits to contact me. We gladly accept donations but we also copy and/or document items that owners may not be ready to give up but that help tell the Wakefield story. We added a National Historic District at Canal Road, the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal, and have begun working on plans for that area. Our Heritage Day, July 25, should be another interesting, fun-filled day. This fall, Heritage Park hosts a special visit by The Hikers, a philanthropic women's group based in Melvin Village, and in November, the 2015 Tour de Chooch once again includes the Heritage Park Railroad Museum and its 1909 Boston and Maine railroad model. Last but not least, ring in the holiday season at the third annual Christmas at Wakefield Corner planned for December 13, with additional historic home tours, a special musical program in the afternoon and dinner specials at the Wakefield Inn.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to your visiting us again.

Pam Wiggin, Chair
Wakefield Heritage Commission

◆ NOW ON SALE ◆
COMMEMORATIVE MUGS, CROCKS & CARDS



ABOVE: New this year and on sale -- The Wakefield Heritage Commission ordered a supply of hand-crafted mugs and crocks from Deneen Pottery. The original design is from Brookfield artist Judy Brenner's pen and ink drawing of the Newichawannock Canal and Bridge, built in 1868. The Newichawannock Canal was designated as the town's second Nationally Registered Historic District in 2014. The mugs and crocks are for sale at Union Station in Heritage Park, at the Town Tax Collector's office, and the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner. Cups are \$20, crocks are \$22.

Wakefield Heritage-themed items make great gifts!

Buy local and support the Wakefield Heritage Commission at the same time. The commission has an abundant assortment of historic books, maps, plaques and other unique items for sale this season at Union Station, Heritage Centre of the Branch River Valley and the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner, where admission is free, but donations are welcomed.



ABOVE: Hot off the press -- from locally owned Kingswood Press in Wolfeboro -- are packets of 10 note cards with matching envelopes in natural/buff high quality card stock for \$12. The design is the pen and ink drawing of the Newichawannock Bridge & Canal.

◆ 1909 BOSTON & MAINE HO SCALE MODEL ◆

Heritage Park Railroad Crew recreates history in exacting detail

By Bill Gaver

Advisor

Heritage Park Railroad Crew

Join us at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum and discover the industrial and rail hub of another century.

The late 1800's and early 1900's were a booming period for the region, and a HO-scale model railroad housed in the restored 1875 Freight House relives what was happening in Union, Sanbornville, Wakefield, East Wakefield, and North Wakefield in 1909 when steam ruled the rails.

Over the past winter railroad modelers have been busy researching businesses and industrial enterprises and recreating structures that depict life in the Greater Wakefield area in the early 1900's. Newly added structures include railroad section houses, the East Wakefield freight house, the Sanbornville steam locomotive coal shed along with many details that bring scenes to life such as people, animals, and horse-drawn vehicles. See how many you can find.

Visitors are encouraged to share knowledge of the area as the museum seeks to gather oral and written stories and documentation to add to the historical and educational exhibits depicting the nostalgic past.

As an added educational resource, the Wakefield Heritage Commission and the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association have joined forces to offer a Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge program scheduled for Heritage Park on August 1 and 8. The program is oversubscribed with a waiting list. If you are an interested Scout or know of one, call 522-9007 for additional information regarding other forthcoming Railroading Merit Badge programs. Instructor staff will be drawn from the volunteer Heritage Park Model Railroad Crew.



ABOVE: One of the newest model structures is of the Sanbornville coal shed, where Boston & Maine locomotives filled up with fuel.

BELOW: Section houses were used to store tools and equipment for sections of tracks.

(Photos courtesy of Rich Breton)



Mark your calendar and join us on Saturdays/Sundays for the 2015 season. Come visit and hear the model steam locomotives, their bells and whistles blowing, as trains of the 1909 era Boston and Maine Railroad travel through the villages and countryside of the Greater Wakefield area. ◆

◆ HISTORY OF GENERAL STORE ◆

Building that once housed general store in 1800s still stands

By Peter Brown
Vice Chair
Wakefield Heritage Commission

In the early 1960s Francis Rose closed Rose's General Store in Wakefield Corner ending a history that began between 1836 and 1838 when Major Samuel N. Smith planned and built the store that is now the offices of Hayes Real Estate. The store was built exactly as it stands today with the exception of an addition off the back of what once was a barn to create living space.

Major Smith operated the store, adding land in the back until the late 1860s. At that time there was a competitive store across the street operated by Brown and Goldthwaite. This store was purchased by A.J. Miliken along with the store of Major Smith. Miliken combined the stock of the two stores into what became A.J. Miliken's Store. After running it for several years, he rented the store (business) to George Yeaton who ran it for about 10 years.

It was then rented in 1898 to Lyman Brooks who ran it until 1905. Henry Tibbetts rented the store in 1905 and ran it until his death in 1938. The store then was owned by Alice C. Miliken (daughter of A.J. Miliken) who had given the use of it to Henry Tibbetts rent free until his death, whereupon it would go to the Episcopal Church.

In 1938 Robert T. Palmer purchased the store from the Episcopal Church. Palmer recognized the emerging opportunities of Wakefield as a vacation community with miles of undeveloped shoreline. He operated an ice service in the summer delivering ice in the morning and getting grocery lists from the ladies at camp, then delivering the groceries in the afternoon. He began a real estate brokerage and was instrumental in facilitating the sale of shorefront property, which today is the life blood of the community.

By the 1950s (post war) everyone had at least one car and lakeside campers could easily get to bigger shopping centers in Wolfboro and Rochester. As the need for a general store

declined, Palmer built a four-unit motel behind the store. It drew people on automobile trips in from Route 16 and provided another source of income. During this time the store also sold gasoline.

The post office was located there for many years. It shifted back and forth across the street depending on which political party was in office. Much was done on a barter basis. Half barrels were sent out to farmers who would fill them with "cider applesauce" in exchange for groceries; ox bows were crafted by farmers in exchange for goods. Nose baskets were bartered -- these were put over the noses of oxen to keep them from grazing when they were supposed to be working. Whale oil, gunpowder, cotton batting, and patent medicines (usually containing about 60 percent alcohol) were sold.

There was a candy counter. Flour, sugar, crackers, and meal were sold in bulk. Salt fish, tobacco, coffee -- fresh ground onsite -- whole wheels of cheese and much, much more were available for sale. Around 1867, A.J. Miliken introduced paper bags. Prior to this, wrapping paper was used for everything. There was hardware and even a women's section with necessities -- calicos, linen, lace, and whalebone.

Rum was sold in all of the stores and in the evening after work was done farmers stopped in to trade and to share a glass of rum. The rum barrel was kept next to a wall in the shed on the south side of the store. Some enterprising soul took it upon himself to bore through the wall and continue through to the barrel, where with an onion stalk he was able to extract a significant tot of rum.

There is much more to the story that will be developed over time as the Heritage Commission continues to develop exhibits at the Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner (old Grange building).

Take some time to come in and see how it is developing.

Sources: Wakefield Corner Store by Jasper Palmer; 1941 Diary of Paul Brown

At last, grammar school bell finds a permanent home

By Phil Twombly
Wakefield Heritage Commission

The antique bronze school bell that was once located in the tower on the grammar school in Sanbornville has found a new home at the Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner and Stage Stop Museum. However, the bell was certainly moved around a lot before reaching its final destination at the museum, where it is one of dozens of exhibits from the town's rich history.

Originally, the bell was in the tower of the Grammar School on School Street, attached to a long rope to pull to ring it. Only the seventh and eighth graders were allowed to ring it because their classrooms were on the top floor.

I remember when I would ring it that if I hung onto the rope real tight it would pick me right off my feet!

When they added on to the Paul School building, the old grammar school building was sold to an antique dealer who housed his shop there for many years. When the owners decided to move and sell the building, they offered the historic bell to the town.

There was lots of discussion on where to put it, but it was finally decided to build a copula on the then-fire station (which is now the Parks and Recreation office.) It took many volunteers to move it up to the copula because the bell was so heavy. The bell remained in the copula until the early 2000's (2001 or 2002). By that time the police department was using that building. After the municipal public safety building was built to house the police and fire departments, Police Chief Tim Merrill asked the school board if they would like the bell. Again, volunteers took it down and put it at the Paul School. Then Philip Sears made a base for it with wheels so that it could be moved easier.

When the school needed more room, the bell was moved up to the Parks & Recreation garage area. When more space was yet again required, the bell was moved to the Lovell Union Grange. It sat there for quite a few years and now it finally has it's own place at the Heritage Centre in Wakefield Corner.



ABOVE: Earlier this summer, volunteers transported this heavy bronze bell, which once rang from the Grammar School cupola, to the Heritage Centre in Wakefield Corner.

Bell facts

1. The bell was cast by the William Blake & Company, formerly the H. N. Hooper & Company of Boston, Mass., circa 1876.
2. Paul Revere cast bronze bells from 1787 until his death in 1818.
3. Joseph Warren Revere joined his father in Revere & Son in 1804.
4. In 1828 Revere & Son merged with James Davis & Son Brass Foundry to form Revere Copper Company.
5. Revere Copper Company produced copper sheeting and eventually stainless steel clad copper cookware.
6. Paul Revere III, William Blake and Henry Northey Hooper apprenticed to Paul Revere and continued his bell foundry as Boston Copper Company from 1823-1830.
7. The company became H. N. Hooper & Co. from 1830-1868.
8. It became William Blake & Company from 1869-1890, and subsequently Blake Bell Company, 1890-1898.

◆ SUPER SUPPORTER ◆

Benefactor supports Railroading Merit Badge program



TOP LEFT: Wolfeboro resident Russ Schundler at his Rainy Day Railroad model; closeup on right.

When Russell Schundler of Wolfeboro first read about the new Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge program at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum in the local newspaper, he was eager to get involved. Schundler, a well-traveled retired marketing executive with a passion for model railroading, has since volunteered his expertise, resources and time to this unique program.

The Merit Badge Program is a collaboration of the Heritage Park Railroad Museum, the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association, and the Wakefield Heritage Commission. The first session runs two Saturdays, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8, and filled up quickly with 12 scouts and a five-person waiting list. The program will also be offered during the school year on two successive Saturdays. Longtime Seacoast NMRA member Tom Coulombe of Maine, an experienced railroading merit badge counselor, is lead instructor.

After reading the story, Schundler contacted Heritage Park Railroad Crew Advisor and modeler Bill Gaver of Brookfield.

"I liked what they were doing," says Schundler, who visited Gaver at the Freight House where the HO scale model of the 1909 Boston and Maine Railroad line through the villages of Wakefield brings local history to life.

"When I was there Bill gave me a handout from Merit Badge program; often when you're doing a

marketing piece, you sit down with a lot of people and find out what's the need your filling, what are you selling, so to speak, and how can we crystallize the message and simplify it," says Schundler, adding that the final brochure was a collaborative effort. Once approved, Schundler underwrote the printing costs of the brochure. Additionally, Schundler is opening his home during the first class so that Scouts can see and learn about his model, "Rainy Day Railroad," which is based on the village in the German Alps where Schundler's family operated a furniture business and a rock crushing plant at one time.

Schundler's generous donation of his expertise, time and underwriting of the brochure is greatly appreciated by the Wakefield Heritage Commission and all parties involved in this new endeavor, as well as co-collaborator Seacoast Division NMRA.

"It is a masterpiece," wrote Seacoast Division NMRA Activities Chair Peter McKenney of Schundler's brochure. "The organization gratefully appreciates your stepping forward to volunteer to Bill Gaver to first serve as an instructor in the program, and then offering to design this promotional material ... Russ, your volunteerism is superlative. Thanks so much for doing this," he wrote.

Schundler's portion of the Merit Badge class will include a video of the Rainy Day Railroad, handouts, and a question and answer period.

◆ **NEW TO EXHIBIT AT UNION STATION** ◆

Donated B&M rail station settees have been restored

RIGHT: Wakefield Heritage Commission member and all-around handy-man extraordinaire Phil Twombly cleaned up and refinished these two settees originally from a Boston and Maine Railroad Station. The donated settees are among the newest exhibits at the restored Union Station at Heritage Park in Union.



LEFT: Look closely and you can see the "B&M R.R." lettering punched into the leather seats. Visit the Union Station at Heritage Park this season for a closer look at this and other historic artifacts, including the restored station masters ticket office.

Wakefield Heritage Centre locations/hours



Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner/Stage Stop Museum - 26 Province Lake Road (turn onto Route 153 north from the Hay Scales on Wakefield Road) in Sanbornville. Open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to noon.

Heritage Park campus in Union include: Heritage Centre of Branch River Valley/Freight House, Union Station, Russell Snow Plow, Blacksmith Shop - 282 Main Street at Chapel Street - Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. through Columbus Day weekend. Venues are also open by appointment.

◆ SAVE THE DATE - JULY 25, 2015 ◆
WAKEFIELD HERITAGE DAY

Residents and visitors alike are invited to celebrate the town's history on Saturday, July 25 when the Wakefield Heritage Commission hosts the annual Heritage Day at the Heritage Park campus in the village of Union, home to the restored Heritage Park Railroad Museum, Freight House, Russell Snow Plow and nearby Blacksmith Shop.

The sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with free admission to docent-led tours of all the exhibits. Make sure to stop by the Freight House where the history of the Boston and Maine Railroad line as it served the five villages of Wakefield in 1909 comes alive – in miniature. For more than two years, the all-volunteer Heritage Park Railroad Crew has worked on the meticulous HO scale model train layout, which is based on the actual B&M Railroad plans.

The restored Union Station includes numerous artifacts, photographs, furnishings and tools from the town's past, including items used when workers harvested tons and tons of ice from local lakes to ship to Boston, and when local factories powered by mills manufactured wood products such as matches, toys and boxes. Special exhibits at Union Station include a collection of antique local post cards and a series of circa 1900 glass negatives. Members of the Union Village Community Association will also be on hand to discuss and guide tours of the Drew Mill and dam project. Representatives from the Moose Mountains Regional Association will also be on hand to discuss the organization/s efforts to stimulate tourism to the eastern lakes region.

The event will be held rain or shine.

Refreshments including cold drinks, barbecued burgers and hot dogs and baked goods will be available for sale. For much more information, visit the recently updated web site, www.historicwakefieldnh.com or email wakefieldheritage@yahoo.com.



Are you interested in learning about Wakefield's history? Do you have time to spare as a volunteer? As a town-sanctioned nonprofit organization with a limited budget, The Wakefield Heritage Commission always welcomes assistance from community members in many forms -- whether that be time, talent or assistance with a particular task or financial or artifact donation.

I would like to donate to the Wakefield Heritage Commission to help them reach their goals.

Please apply my gift to: _____ The Blacksmith Shop _____ The Freight House
_____ The Stage Stop Gallery & Museum _____ Any need of the Wakefield Heritage Commission

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please send checks to:
Wakefield Heritage Commission
2 High Street
Sanbornville, NH 03872