

Hebron Historical Society Gazette

Hebron, NH

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50 cents



President's Letter by Ron Collins

The Hebron Historical Society is embarking on a quest to organize and operate a Museum of Hebron History. For all of its rich history Hebron is the only town in the area that does not have a museum of its own. The Society is working with the Town Selectmen to develop a strategy for creating a museum. The Board of Directors of the Hebron Historical Society has voted to work with the Town of Hebron to support the creation of a new Town Hall that will house the Selectmen, Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Your Society's Board has taken this step because we believe that if a Town Hall is built then perhaps the Society may be able to lease either the Academy or the existing Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office and build our museum.

Why does Hebron need a museum, you might ask?

Hebron is such a little village but its history looms larger than one might believe. Did you know that Portland, Oregon and Grand Rapids, Michigan, among other cities, were formed by people born and raised in Hebron? Did you know that one of President Abraham Lincoln's most trusted advisors was New Hampshire Governor Nathaniel S. Berry who lived in Hebron? Did you know that Sergeant John Ordway, 3rd in command of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, had family that lived in Hebron, including a brother? Did you know that Mary Ball, mother of President George Washington, had family in Hebron? Do you know about the soldiers from Hebron who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam and now Iraq? There is so much history in Hebron and much of it has been preserved. At present it sits in cubby holes, and closets at private homes. It sits in old filing cabinets and drawers that offer little protection from cold and moisture. It is hung about our library, and strewn

about other storage areas. Much still lies in private hands. Hands that are willing to donate objects and papers of historical significance if there were a place to keep and preserve them.

That is why Hebron needs a museum, and that is why your Society has started this campaign. If we are successful in obtaining a location for the museum then we will be soliciting tax deductible labor, materials and money to help pull it all together.

As this effort progresses we will keep you all informed.

Isabelle Robie Blodgett

by Barbara Brooks

Have you ever wondered about the woman for whom the Children's Reading Room is named? My curiosity took me to visit Louise Blodgett Bardsley and to learn about her step-mother Isabelle.

Born on Willow Street in Bristol to William and Lottie Robie on October 20, 1898, Isabelle was the oldest of seven children. She attended school in Bristol, the Tilton School and graduated from Plymouth College. She worked part time in the White Mountains at the Balsams as a waitress, while her dad tended to cows and gardens at the famous resort. It may have been then that she decided to teach.

Isabelle taught in New Hampton, Moultonboro and the first through eight grades in Hebron where she loved teaching reading. According to records, Isabelle started teaching in Hebron in 1923 for a time and returned in 1944 for seven years and again in 1954 for 12 more years! Teachers at that time usually boarded with a family and Miss Robie stayed with Louise's grandparents, Fred and Mabel Jesseman. She met and married widower Arthur Blodgett and they homesteaded on the Braley Road in the house Arthur had built for his first wife.

Long red hair braided around her head, tall and thin, Isabelle was a striking figure. Her long legs al-

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lowed for the outdoor activities she so much enjoyed. Taking her many students and friends on many outings, they could often be seen swimming in the river or sledging on any available hillside. "She would drop anything to go out and do stuff!" was Louise's comment.

Although teaching was her first love, Isabelle found time to tend her gardens. Canning the fruits of her labor in the vegetable garden was an annual task. With frames built for sustaining them, her sweet pea garden was outstanding. Going to pick wild strawberries in those days was not only a chore but an outing with a purpose as Isabelle's homemade strawberry jam was soon in great demand to buy. Her knitting became a favorite past time with hats, scarves, and mittens magically coming forth from the flying needles!

From 1929 to 1979 Isabelle was our town librarian. The upper floor of the "Academy" which now houses our Selectman's office, was the library. With her demeanor of easy laughter and friendly ways, you can understand how she became so endeared to many patrons.

In 1968 Isabelle started a nursery school in the Hebron School building but soon moved it to her home and added kindergarten. She called her school "The Bell Nursery School and Kindergarten." There are many residents today who can remember their time at this school or having Isabelle for a teacher at the "Academy."

Christmas always found a table sized tree with just tinsel for trimming and of course a star on the top. The tree came from the local woods cut down and brought home by Arthur.

After retirement Isabelle was able to travel to those far off places she had often read about such as, Hawaii, Alaska and the west which gave her memorable trips. With the years adding up, her back became a problem as did her hearing. Because she couldn't hear anyone knocking on the door, she put up a sign which said, "Door is unlocked, come in!"

In January, 2000 Isabelle passed on at the age of 101. With her love of books and children, it was only natural that the reading room be named in her memory.

Our Names by Ron Collins

Did you ever wonder why our roads, streams and hills have the names they do? Did you know that several of Hebron's roads and mountains have had multiple names over the years? In the early history of Hebron roads and hills often changed names based upon who was living there at the time, and the names written down on the early maps simply reflected the latest name at that time. Stream names often reflected what activities

were taking place upon their banks.

Our town name came from a suggestion by either Rev Thomas page or by Samuel Phelps who were both born in Hebron, Connecticut. Also, other early inhabitants of what is now Hebron came from the same Connecticut town. However, the original name suggested with a petition of incorporation in 1791 was "Weston." We were very nearly Weston, NH instead of Hebron, NH.

Now let us start with the **Streams:**

Our only river, the Cockermonth, is named after the town of Cockermonth, England which lies in the lakes district of west central England.

Bog Brook gets its name from the large peat bog it drains.

George Brook shares its name origin with George Road (see roads below).

Wise Brook was named after Ebenezer Wise who was one of the original signers of the petition to form Hebron in 1791 and a veteran of the American Revolution.

Tannery brook was so named because of the tannery owned by Nathaniel S. Berry that was located on its banks.

Hills

Hobart Hill (see Hobart Hill Road below)

Kidder Hill (also called Wade Hill) derives its name from Rueben Kidder who lived on it. Later Edward Barnard built a large farm on this hill and it was for a time called Barnard Hill. Later his farm was taken over by the Carlos Wade. The hill and road nearby were then called Wade Hill and Wade Road.

Tenney Hill, Tenney Lane and Tenney Mountain, seem to have been named after Rev. Asa Tenney who was the minister in town from 1828 to 1833.

Roads

Hobart Hill and Hobart Hill Road take their names from Asa Hobart who raised ten children on the hill. Nearly all his children in turn built homes on the hill as well. The old cellar foundation of Asa's house can still be seen at the top of the hill on Valley View Road.

George Road derived its name from James George who arrived in Hebron in 1810 and raised a large family along that road.

Braleay Road was named after Walter Braleay, the grandfather of our Richard and Norton Braleay. Walter had a large farm at the very end of the road. Flora Braleay has pictures of the farm.

Pike Hill Road is named after Daniel Pike who owned and operated Pike's Tavern which was located at its foot. Today we call Pike's Tavern "Six Chimneys."

Wade Hill Road was named after Carlos C. Wade who bought the Edward Barnard farm on what is now Wade Road and moved there in 1870. At one time 26 families had homes on Wade Hill Road and a Hebron school house was located there. The farms there were active until 1886. There still exists a cemetery on Wade Hill Road and Oliver Smith Blake, a veteran of the American Revolution is buried there.

Favor Road was named for Almon M. Favor who came to Hebron in 1868 and bought the Taylor Bedee farm on what is now Favor Road.

Cooper Road did not have anyone named Cooper that had lived upon it. Rather, there was a cooper shop run by John Gardner who made barrels and staves there.

Other Location Names

Onaway-Cilley Point: At one time six families lived on what is now called Onaway Point (after the girl's camp located there). In the 1880's it was called Cilley Point, named after Anthony Cilley.

Indian Point was so named because of a large Indian artifact deposit discovered there in 1901.

An Unusual Post Office

by Barbara Brooks

Let's take a drive up 3A in the year 1980 where a sign indicating the East Hebron Post Office catches our eye and we decide to stop.

In this pretty little house just off the road live Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their two young children, Sean and Shantelle. There are also 2 animals, Buffy the cat and Sophie the dog.

As we park the car and go up the few steps to the house, we notice that the American flag is billowing in a nice breeze and you turn to view beautiful Newfound Lake where there is at least one sailboat catching some wind and happy voices coming from the beach. Your thoughts are interrupted as someone drives up to use the big blue outside mail box.

Louise Bardsley is the postmistress but she is known as Miss Weezie and she does her job well. Opening the door and going in you find yourself in a VERY tiny room with – surprise, a window full of birds nests! There are big ones, little ones and some that look as though they have been there quite awhile for they are starting to fall apart. These nests have all been brought in by Miss Weezie and her friends. From the looks of the two dishes on the floor, one filled with cat food, the other with milk, it is obvious that Buffy is well taken care of.

On the counter, your eye catches sight of a colorful arrangement of wild flowers – buttercups, phlox, In-

dian Paint brushes, Queen Anne's lace and ferns. Every day, soon after Miss Weezie arrives, she and Sophie go for a walk in the fields next to the post office and it is there she finds the necessary ingredients for her arrangements. This one seems particularly pretty.

You hear a 'meow' and turn to see a beautiful cat with a big fluffy tail jump up on the very small shelf, stretch herself out and go to sleep. This obviously is Buffy. You would like to buy some of the pretty stamps that Miss Weezie sells but Buffie has decided to stay just where she is for her mid-day snooze. Miss Weezie is most accommodating as she comes out into the little room with some stamps for you to see, it would not do to upset Buffy.

No sooner is Miss Weezie out in the room with you than there is a commotion from the other side as Sophie makes herself known, telling Miss Weezie it is time for them to take another walk. Never a dull moment here!

On the shelf in the little room there is a rack which has a selection of post cards which you will find most difficult to duplicate. Miss Weezie spends many off duty hours going to stores and shops selecting just those cards which are of Hebron or this area. Next to the post cards are the "WANTED" notices, pictures of those fugitives wanted by the FBI which can be found on all post office walls. Decorating the remaining walls and NOT found on all post office walls are pictures painted, colored and drawn by Shantelle Smith, a budding young artist.

Miss Weezie sometimes has to go to the big city for meetings and when she does, there is a nice lady to take her place whose name is Marlene Johns. She smiles and greets everyone when they come in, and, like Miss Weezie, she doesn't have to ask their name when she gets their mail for them. Marlene is also there every Saturday.

Strangers are not rare in the little post office since it is on a main highway and often people stop to ask for directions to places nearby. It is rare indeed when they do not find the information they want for Miss Weezie and Marlene have a wealth of knowledge about the area and its people.

I'm sure you will agree with me that this is indeed a most unusual post office. A visit here, should be a must on any itinerary – whether to make a purchase to study birds nests or to visit with Miss Weezie and her friends.

Editor's Note: The house referred to in this article is presently owned by Mrs. Winifred Collins.

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Hebron's College Road by Ron Collins

This road has been known to us by many names, "College Road," "Governor's Road," "Colonial Road," "Wentworth Road," "Dartmouth Road," even "King George's Road." For the purposes of this article the section of interest is the route it took from West Plymouth into East Hebron to Hebron and up the Cockermouth Valley to Groton.

In the 1760's several influential citizens of New Hampshire who, for personal reasons, had hoped that Eleazer Wheelock (founder of Dartmouth College) would locate the new school which would become Dartmouth College, at Orford or Haverhill. They vigorously protested his choice of Hanover. One writer who called himself "Publicus" besought Governor John Wentworth to correct "Wheelock's mistake" by moving the college farther up the river to Orford or Haverhill, but Wentworth stood by Wheelock's decision. Writing from Wolfeboro on Sept. 7, 1770, in the friendliest manner to Wheelock, the governor reported the recent arrival of John House and party from Hanover. "Mr. House informs me of a good road to be made from Hanover to Winnipisioket Pond.... and I have required the respective Proprietors of the soil forthwith to clear and make it convenient; which being done will, I hope, convince by fact the inhabitants of this Province that the situation of Dartmouth College is not injurious to the Trade and Govt. of New Hampshire."

At the next session of the General Assembly, April 12th, 1771, an act was passed "To establish and make passable a road from the Governor's House in Wolfeboro to Dartmouth College in Hanover", in order "to promote the design of that valuable institution." This road, three rods wide, was surveyed by two parties: three men, with Joseph Senter of Moultonborough as chairman surveyed the eastern half from Wolfeboro to Plymouth; and three others, with John House of Hanover as chairman, surveyed the section from Plymouth to Hanover. The burden of clearing and making passable the road was laid upon the proprietors of the several towns. With only \$50 appropriated to get the work done; some towns and land owners laid a way through, sometimes for 4 miles regardless of hills and swamps without clearing any of it, and many more, ignored the order completely. The Governor evidently used British Soldiers to complete some sections.

From Plymouth, on the opposite side of the Pemigewasset the College Road went westward over

the hills toward East Hebron. Navigation points used in the survey, like "Silas Brown's" and "Widow Snow's" are not easy to locate accurately without reference to deeds; but from study of the Holland map and the 1805 plan of Plymouth it appears that the course of the College Road followed some of the back roads we still use today. The part we are concerned with came out in back of Kenneth Bell's house on the West Plymouth side of Hoyt Hill. This section is still there and we call it Bell Road. At the time the College Road was being built Hoyt Hill was much steeper than it is now. The road crossed the present course of Route 3A and came about 1/2 way up Hoyt Hill to the West of the existing Highway. It then started bearing off to the right into the area once used by Manson Smith as a sugar house. It then turned south and passed behind the old Hartford/Yarrick place, through what was Oscar Morse's sugar place and passed in front of the original Morse home site of 1782. It continued south back of the Richard Merrill's and intersected the present George Road approximately where Don Merrill's driveway does so today. It crossed the brook about where the bridge is now, passed in front of the Howard Oedel place and on to the Poulos place. At this point, the road took a sharp right turn and proceeded to the present Braley Road. It turned south down the present Braley Road pass the old Sam Hazelton place as far as the Cockermouth where it then turned West once again. It passed in front of the Old Rueben Hobart house (Now Brittelli) and followed the course of the Cockermouth to its source in Groton and then turned southwest crossing over the southeast corner of Dorchester and then on to Canaan.

Parts of the old road, stone bridge abutments, stone walls, etc, can still be seen through most of its course from the Smith sugar orchard on Hoyt Hill to Braley Road. The Morse family says they were told down through the years that the old bridge abutments were built by British soldiers, which supports the theory that perhaps Governor Wentworth had trouble finding help or gaining the cooperation of the local proprietors and used the soldiers for manual labor to get the road built.

According to the "N.H. Highways" magazine of July 1931, there was only one settler and his wife living in Hebron at the time the road was built. This must have been our first settler, James Gould, who came in 1771 and built a log cabin behind what is today Lee and Polly Alexander's house on Braley Road.

The road apparently was open for the Governor and his party of 20 to proceed to the Dartmouth

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graduation in 1772 but was probably hardly more than a bridle trail with ox cart ruts.

Tradition and the records say that Governor Wentworth and his party stayed over night in Hebron in 1772, 1773 and 1774, probably at the cabin of Samuel Hazelton. There is one interesting result of this Hebron visit, a law was passed by the Governor's party while in Hebron relative to borrowed articles; "When the owner of a loaned article wished it returned, he must go after it." One wonders what caused this law to be issued.

Today many sections of College Road and some original stone walls may be seen along George Road, but if any road in town can claim the old name it would be Braley Road, for nearly all of Braley Road from the bridge north was originally College Road, whereas, only the section of George Road from the Poulos place to Don Merrill's can claim to be part of the old road.

In Memory of Departed Supporters

Last July, two days short of his 74th birthday, Robert Hazelton Brooks passed away. Bob had been a Lifetime Member of the Hebron Historical Society and had served as Vice President of the Society for many years. A long time member of the "Over the Hill" gang at the Hebron Village Store, he was active in many Society activities and presentations. Bob's wife Barbara has also served as our Society's President.

In August, Caroline Oedel, wife of Howard Oedel died. Caroline supported Howard during his many years as one of the Hebron Historical Society's founders, President and lecturers.

Town Office Holders - Longest Serving

Recently while compiling a list of all the office holders of the Town of Hebron, I wondered who the longest serving members of the town were during its history. We do not have a complete list of town officers for several years during the 1800's but we do have the majority of records. The present compilation only includes Selectmen, Town Clerks, Tax Collectors, Treasurers, Police and Fire. In many cases people served in multiple offices during the same year. When that occurred I counted it as two years served. So the list below of the longest serving town officers is in office-years served. Of those still living Nelson Adams has served the longest. Nelson was Police Chief for 17 years, Fire Chief for 8 years and Selectman for 7 years, according to the town records. Add in his many years of Cemetery Committee, and over 50

years of being Fire Warden and Nelson is, without doubt, the longest serving member of the town. He is closely followed by Fire Chief John Fischer who has been at his post for 31 years. If you add in John's Emergency Management time (which the town records do not record) then I think he can claim to be one of the longest serving citizens of Hebron. Likewise, Bruce Barnard who besides 25 years in town office also is the town highway supervisor (another record not kept), ZBA Member, Planning Board, Conservation Committee and his total could match or exceed John's. From a family perspective, the Barnard, Adams, Morse and Braley families have served more office-years than any others. Collectively they are Morse - 97 years, Adams - 75, Barnard - 65 and Braley - 43. For the most members of a family the Adams had 8: Ambrose, Aquilla, Charles, Fay, Harold, Nelson, Rodney, and Wilson Adams. Between Nelson Adams and Richard Braley, they have held nearly every official position in the town.

Office Holder	Years Served
Oscar V. Morse	49
George D. Gibbs	40
Nelson C. Adams	32
John M. Fischer	31
Frank O. Morse	30
Justin T. McClure	30
Fred N. Barnard	28
Syd Huckins	28
Richard N. Braley	26
Bruce A. Barnard	25
Jane H. Ramsay	25
Ella B. Dunklee	24
Harold T. Reilly	20
William Cummings	19
Richard T. Covern	18
Roy M. Smith	18
Frederick Clement	17
Rodney S. Adams	16
William C. Ross	16
Jonathan V. Morse	15
Peter C. Fortescue	15
Albert E. Moore	14
Tracy H. Steenberg	14
Ambrose S. Adams	13
Foster F. McClelland	12
John C. Hammond	12
Manson Parker Smith	12
Jewell F. Jesseman	11
Myron C. Braley	11
Richard S. Merrill	11

Hebron Historical Society Program Events Calendar for 2005.

This calendar will be filled out as the year progresses and will be updated in each issue of the Gazette.

February 19 - "An Evening of New Hampshire Humor" by Rebecca Rule. Pot luck supper at 5:30, presentation at 6:30. There is no snow date. Donations to help pay for the speaker will be accepted.

June - "The Story of the Town Officers" (not now living) by Ron Collins

August - "The Settlement of Hebron" by Alan Barnard and Ron Collins

If you have a suggestion for a program please do not hesitate to tell us. Just call Ron Collins at 603-744-1048 and he'll be happy to hear your idea.

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Remember, your Historical Society has beautiful **Greeting cards for sale.**

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To purchase cards contact Barbara Brooks, 16 Brooks Circle, Hebron, NH 03241, 603-744-3597 .

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Contact Ron Collins, HHS Archivist at 744-1048 to place an ad in the Gazette.

Hebron Historical Society Gazette
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are gladly accepted.

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The Genealogies of The Early Settlers of Hebron, NH 1761-1800
written by Ronald Collins, archivist of the Hebron Historical Society. The book of 185 pages covers the lives of nearly 1500 people and is completely indexed. Price \$25.00 for non-members, \$22.50 for members.

The "Genealogies of The 19th Century Residents of Hebron, NH
written by Ronald Collins, archivist of the Hebron Historical Society. The book of 178 pages covers the lives of nearly 1600 people and is completely indexed. Price \$25.00 for non-members, \$22.50 for members.

The family names contained in these two volumes are: Adams, Ball, Barnard, Bartlett, Beede, Berry, Blood, Bowers, Braley, Browne, Butterfield, Case, Cheney, Cilley, Clement, Colburn, Colby, Crawford, Crosby, Cummings, Davis, Dustin, Estye, Farley, Farren, Fowler, Fox, George, Gilman, Goodhue, Gould, Greenleaf, Hardy, Hazelton, Heath, Hobart, Hoyt, Huckins, Jesseman, Jewell, Jewett, Johnson, Kelley, Kendall, Keyes, Kidder, Lovejoy, McClure, Melvin, Merrill, Moore, Morgan, Morse, Moses, Murch, Muzzey, Nelson, Nevens, Nevens, Norris, Noyes, Nutting, Ordway, Page, Parker, Perkins, Phelps, Pierce, Pike, Powers, Putney, Rawlins (Rollins), Remick, Roby, Rogers, Sanborn, Sealy (Cilley), Shuttuck, Smith, Vickery, Walker, Ward, Whipple, Whitmore, Wise, and Wright.

These books may be purchased directly from the Hebron Historical Society

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