

Hebron Historical Society Gazette

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The “Little Fair” That Put Hebron On The Map

by Kathy Begor

Once a year, on the last Saturday in July, a quiet little town at the northern end of Newfound Lake erupts into a sea of activity. The Hebron Church Fair becomes an incredible rallying point for the local community and church, an attraction for area family members of all ages, and a destination for crafters and craft enthusiasts from throughout the state. As attendees take in the myriad of sights, sounds, smells, and tastes during this intense day of activity, some may wonder how this all began.

The Hebron Church had been in existence since 1779 and by the mid 1900's, the Ladies' Aid had been holding many seasonal suppers and an annual summer Bazaar in the church basement as fundraisers. But in 1952, a group of young adults in the “Friendly Circle” finally convinced other church members to move the mid-summer Bazaar outdoors onto the picturesque town common. Several tables were set up for sales of homemade baked goods, handiwork, and crafts. And so was born the Hebron Church Fair!

In the early years of the fair, there were tables of books, rummage, plants, homemade candy and baked goods, preserves, handsewn items, crafts, and a barbeque supper. Of special note were delicious donuts made by Flora Braley, sold all morning long, every year, for 25 cents apiece (a tradition she started and continued for 45 years!). Funds raised in those first years went toward a new gas range in the parsonage as well as drapes and carpeting for the church itself.



1976 Hebron Fair Poster

The 1966 Fair, held on July 16, was promoted as an “all day bazaar on the common” and combined the efforts of the Ladies' Aid, the

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Friendly Circle, and the Youth Group. Of special note that year was the arrival of Congressman James Cleveland at 5 p.m. to dedicate the Veteran's Memorial Plaque which was mounted in a granite boulder on the Hebron Common. That evening, the Youth Group held a "street dance" in front of the school house and the "Modes" from Manchester provided the music!

The following year, the Annual Bazaar was held a bit later, on August 19, and featured a "Silver Tea" at 2 p.m. and a bean supper at 6 p.m.

The Fair Auction in those early years was held on the porch in front of the "grange hall" (now the Hebron Library). It was reported that the auction "realized a goodly sum" for the Fair and was always a popular activity, thanks to the talents of auctioneer Howard Oedel.

Throughout the late 60's and early 70's, the Fair continued promoting local citizens and their home made products. In 1976, however, the Bicentennial spirit was sweeping the country and additions were made to the growing list of Fair activities. A poster was created by Robert White, resident and marketing promoter. Dozens of copies were made and hung in several neighboring towns to spread the word. The poster featured over 25 Fair activities, demonstrations, and booths. A breakfast was held in the church basement that year. It was a popular addition to the Fair, but only lasted two years because the hall was needed for the ever-increasing rummage. There were demonstrations of quilting, soap making, and pottery and the Fire Department held a "muster" for the kids.

By the next year, there were enough crafters and demonstrations to require closing the road in front of the school for the day. The Fair now had over 20 crafters and featured a new snack table.

1979 was the 200th anniversary of the Hebron Church. A record crowd of over 4,000 attended the Fair that year. They were entertained by the New Chester Fife and Drum Corps and "Honest John" (Rev. John Fischer) was now in charge of the auction. A special item at the auction that year was the town's 1941 Chevy fire truck, bought by storekeeper Tom Jacques.

While changes in Fair activities had been taking place during its first 30 years, the Fair itself had been steadily growing and evolving into an important event drawing crafters from all over NH. The early craft tables had been filled with handmade projects, usually made by women as hobbies. Over time, crafters were becoming full-time artisans who were making a living with their handcrafted items. In the early 80's, it became necessary to establish rules for the crafters. Those guidelines still exist today - all craft projects must be made by hand.

Overseeing the organization of the entire Fair has been a function of the Church Cabinet. For a while, however, Beverly and Parker Smith helped to coordinate Fair activities, especially organizing the crafters and doing the advertising. The expression "It never rains on the Hebron Fair" has been credited to this dedicated pair. Although it seems like a daring challenge to mother nature, the Fair usually has fair skies, with an occasional episode of "heavy humidity"! The Smiths had promised to remain as co-chair until the Fair earnings reached \$5,000. This lofty goal was reached in 1984, with over 50 crafters and over 3,000 people in attendance that year!

The 1983 Hebron Fair had proven to be an exciting and exhausting experience for Rev. Fischer and his wife. Their youngest child, Jenny, chose that date to be born! After being up all night with Linda, John arrived at the Fair the next morning with the good news - and no sleep, ready to take on his duties for the day! Later in the afternoon, an ambulance was seen driving through town (reason is unknown). Some of the locals supposed it was Linda coming back to town to resume her regular post - to oversee the barbeque!

Doris and Doug Riddle were new residents in town, but pitched right in with church affairs and soon found themselves replacing the Smiths as co-chair in the mid 80's. They worked to organize and increase the number of quality crafters, improve the barbeque lunch offerings (without competing with the store), offer new kids' games (with prizes), and continued to add new venues and activities - including the new silent auction. Their daughter, Derry, designed a

(Continued from page 2)

Fair logo which has been used on T-shirts and note cards. The Riddles no longer manage the craft tables, but help their daughter Diane West, and husband Ron, with the daunting task of collecting and pricing White Elephant items, making the Fair a “family affair”!

Of special note in the 80’s were exhibits by the doctors of Plymouth Hospital, While-U-Wait portraits, a Christmas in July booth by the Hebron Village Kindergarten, an Indian teepee and native crafts, basket making, scrimshaw, and art exhibits by several local artists.

The face of the Hebron Church Fair has changed a great deal since that first year of moving the annual bazaar outdoors. It is such a huge undertaking that today it is run by committee, but runs like a well-oiled machine! The auction has had its own tent for several years and handles up to 250 items each year! Crafters now number 100!! Lines are now drawn with limestone to help crafters find their exact location! Activities and booths once ended at 1 p.m. when the auction began - now everything lasts all day! For the past 4 years, inmates from the Grafton County House of Corrections have been putting up the tents on the common before the Fair and taking them down afterwards - what a great help! The Hebron Fire Department now provides fritters, coffee, and fruit in the morning and keeps the water supply going for the Dunking Booth! People now come from many other states to visit our Fair, with the attendance approaching 5,000 in recent years. But, most importantly, what once started as an activity for the church has become a celebration of friendship, fellowship, and community building for the entire town. Everyone interviewed for this article could not thank the volunteers enough for their help and enthusiasm. The Hebron Church Fair enjoys being a special day for a special community.

Of course, with an activity as huge as the Fair, there are many amusing anecdotes that go along with each year’s events:

. . . After an overcast day, fairgoers were finishing their barbeque dinners when the sky opened up. As they collected under the dinner tent, the torrential rain continued. Those who were shar-

ing the final soggy minutes of the Fair that year witnessed one lonely sneaker go bobbing past the tent!

. . . With an unannounced overhead droning, a group of ultra-lites (flying lawn mowers) began circling over the Fair to get a great view of all the activity - and put an immediate end to the pony rides!!

. . . A fierce (but brief) thunderstorm passed through the area and toppled a tree on top of a Cadillac parked on the road side near the Fair!

. . . On her final day of donut making for the Fair (1997), Flora Braley made 400 donuts!

. . . One special auction moment found “Honest John” holding up a bed pan and selling it as a flower pot!

. . . Other memorable auction moments include unusual pairings of donated items, like a theater ticket and tattoo package!

. . . Ten yards of dumpster waste are generated at each year’s Fair, but hardly a scrap can be found on the ground when it is over! Thank you fairgoers for respecting the common!!

Flora Remick Braley

by Barbara Brooks

Born Flora Ursula Remick on January 27, 1918 little did the Groton, Hebron and Bristol areas ever dream what this little girl would accomplish. Having recently celebrated her 90th birthday, we felt it fitting to let our readers know some of Flora’s accomplishments.

Born at home in Groton with a nurse in attendance Flora was the 7th child of Alfred and Flora Guerney Remick. When she was 3 years old, her family moved to the house now owned by Louis Albert at the junction of Sculptured Rocks Rd. and this is where her parents ran the country store and manned the gas pumps.

Eight years separated her from her 3 older siblings, consequently Flora and her three other siblings; Warren, Mildred and Clarence made up a “younger family” of four who lived and grew up at the store. Flora was a big help to her widowed mother (Alfred had died of pneumonia when she was eleven). Always wanting to use the treadle

sewing machine, Flora soon became very capable of turning out clothes and other homemade items.

With an eye towards a hope chest Flora sold LARKIN products. The prize for the most products sold was a hope chest which she earned and still uses today. This was the first of many goals she would reach.

When it was time to go to school travel was (often walking), usually horse and buggy or by sleigh. With a January birthday Flora did not start school until she was seven. She graduated from the 8th grade in 1931 and in the fall went to Bristol High School. An older sister Lillian was married and lived in Bristol. For the first year this provided Flora with a place to stay and after that she went back and forth with her sister-in-law each day.

In the ninth grade, Frances Smith Morrill became Flora's very best friend, they remain so to this day. In 1977 they made a trip to Rota, Spain where Flora's son-in-law was in the Naval Air Service and stationed there. Flora was thrilled to see her family and especially her five year old granddaughter.

I asked when she met Richard Braley, Flora replied, "Well, he just lived down the road and always came into our store." Four years her senior, Flora and Richard were married in April of 1936.

On a small plot of land on Hobart Hill Road was a workshop which was a storage area for a boat. After purchasing this piece, Richard redesigned the shop and in June of 1946 they moved in.

Flora worked hard helping Richard to support their growing family of two girls, Carol and Myrna. For six summers she worked at Journey's End, a summer resort not only keeping house, but putting her love of sewing to work by making all the curtains and bedspreads for the cottages. Very capable and ever busy, Flora also ran the store and did the bookkeeping!

In 1946 the Superintendent of schools in Bristol hired Flora as his secretary. Pregnant with Carol she nevertheless continued to work and with her mother able to take care of the baby things worked out.

In 1952, daughter Myrna went to Washington, D.C. which was an exciting trip but she became very homesick and a call home meant that Flora had to go to Washington! Earning the money

to pay for the trip Flora made her homemade bread, donuts and rolls and sold them on the Common each morning at mail time. Norton Braley's wife and Carol accompanied her on this trip.

Manson Smith's sugar house on Hoyt Hill was not only well known for its delicious maple syrup, but for Flora Braley's cooking. Besides her pastries and breads and maple syrup she also made maple candy using the old fashioned molds. During July and August, Myrna worked along side her mother at the sugar house earning the money that would put her through college.

Dressing up the sugar house were curtains made by Flora. The house had ovens for their baking and the pine slab sign was Flora's creation. It was a sad day when they discovered the sign was stolen! There were some special times when the family would rent a cottage at York Beach, Maine or a vacation trip to Florida, as well as, many family get togethers. Memories the girls treasure.

Flora spoke of her church membership, which has continued since 1934 when she has been involved with the church suppers and the Friendly Circle group, which was instrumental in starting the now popular Hebron Fair. For forty five years Flora contributed her delicious homemade donuts and coffee to the fair, making as many as four hundred at one time. Now that is a lot of donuts!

Meanwhile, Flora continued with her secretarial job at the superintendent's office. In 1972 there were major changes and Flora's office moved to Meredith to be part of the InterLakes school system. In 1978 Supervisory Union #4 was recreated and she moved back to Bristol where she stayed until her 1982 retirement after 36 years.

Not one to slow down Flora continued pursuing her varied interests. Taking a cake decorating class in Laconia, she became well known for her wedding, birthday and specialty cakes, even giving lessons. Some of her students were Ginny Barnard, Lil Jacques, Gail Bartlett and Carol Gillery. The albums of some of her creations leave you admiring not only her talent but her patience! For a time she would travel to Manchester to learn how to make chocolates...all given to her family and friends. Yum! Yum!

In 1983 Claudine Huckins taught Flora how to make quilts and quilt them. Twelve of the 13 she

completed were given to family members, the one remaining beautiful quilt is on her bed. The quilting frame she used was made by her brother-in-law, and is a beautiful piece of work in itself. Taken out of storage only a few years ago it again was used for quilting.

Even with going to work every day and tending her garden Flora found time to make her own clothes and also for her daughters. After 36 years in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Flora was feted with a testimonial dinner and presented with a plaque naming the white building at the Bristol elementary school for her.. When I asked what accomplishment she was most proud of Flora said, “my family” which now includes six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and another great expected in December. She also said that she has been an AVID Red Sox fan since the 1930’s. For her 90th birthday in 2008 Hebron recognized and applauded Flora as one of our most enterprising and beloved senior citizens. We are proud to have her as a resident of Hebron.

Captain Uriah Pike

By Ron Collins

CAPTAIN URIAH PIKE was born 29 Jul 1794 on George Road in Hebron, NH, and died 24 Jun 1878 in Hebron, NH. He married in Hebron NANCY PAGE, daughter of Reverend THOMAS and BETTY PAGE. She was born 20 Sep 1796, and died 25 Feb 1870 in Hebron, NH. Uriah was the son of Uriah Drury Pike and Hannah (Keyes) Pike. He was actually the second son of Uriah Drury and Hannah Pike named Uriah. The first Uriah was born in 1785 and died in 1790, and following the custom of the day the parents reused the name for a future son.

The house in which Uriah was born was built by his father in 1782 and still stands today. Currently it is owned by Howard Oedel. When Uriah’s father bought the property it was part of the original Cockermonth Grant and he paid \$864.50 for the 206.5 acres and 17 square rods that comprised the farm. All of Uriah’s siblings were also born on this farm. While growing up Uriah had some neighbors who became famous in their day, such as, Sergeant John Ordway who lived up Tenney Hill from the

Pike’s. Ordway became the third in command of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Between the Ordway’s and Pike’s lived the Ball family. The Patriarch, Nathaniel was a cousin of President George Washington and two of his ten children left their mark in history: Deborah Ball, as the widow Mrs. William Powers, became the first self made female millionaire in the United States; and John Ball who was the first teacher, in what is now Portland, Oregon, also help found the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan. So Uriah grew up amongst some interesting folks. Following the War of 1812 Uriah joined the local militia and progressed to the rank of Captain. It was as Captain Uriah Pike that he is known in the town records after that date. Sometime around 1816 Captain Uriah married Nancy Page. Nancy’s father, the Reverend Thomas Page had died in 1813 following a long, and sometimes contentious, career as Minister to the Hebron Church. The Rev. Page was a staunch supporter of Thomas Jefferson, a Democrat, and he often fought with other members of his church who supported a Federalist philosophy. So Uriah married into an interesting family. Soon after their marriage Uriah and Nancy purchased the land that is now the corner of North Shore Road and Cross Street and currently owned by the Audubon Society. The foundation located close to this intersection was probably his house site which sat between his barn and North Shore Road

On this farm Uriah and Nancy had six children. One of whom, Austin Franklin Pike, became a U.S. Senator. Uriah and Nancy lived on their farm for the rest of their lives. Nancy died in 1870 and Uriah died in 1878 at age 84. Uriah and Nancy are both buried in the Hebron Village Cemetery.

Children of URIAH PIKE and NANCY PAGE are:

- i. AUSTIN FRANKLIN PIKE, b. 16 Oct 1819, Hebron, NH; d. 08 Oct 1886, Hebron, NH.
- ii. AMANDA M. PIKE, b. 12 Mar 1821; d. 01 Jan 1878; m. JOHN F. WHITTEMORE.
- iii. EMELINE D. PIKE, b. 01 Jan 1823.
- iv. URIAH A. PIKE, b. 05 Dec 1826; d. 17 Nov 1832.
- v. NATHANIEL ADAMS PIKE, b. 22 Jun 1832.
- vi. HARRIET A. PIKE, b. 20 Jan 1838; d. 10 Aug 1885; m. ROMULUS A. BUCKLAND,



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Hebron Historical Society Program Events Calendar for 2008.

August 23, 5:30PM - Pot Luck Supper with Program: due to popular demand we will again show the three Hebron Videos: Merrill's Campground 1930's, Historical Hebron and The Beauty of Hebron by Ron Collins
September 27, 5:30PM—Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Supper. Program to follow Annual Meeting to be determined.

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 Barbara Brooks, Membership Chair.**

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Sergeant John Ordway, A History with his Genealogy. Price \$10.00 for non-members, \$12.00.

The Genealogies of The Early Settlers of Hebron, NH 1761-1800
 The book of 185 pages and is completely indexed. Price \$20.00 for non-members, \$15.00 for members.

The "Genealogies of The 19th Century Residents of Hebron, NH
 The book of 178 pages and is completely indexed. Price \$20.00 for non-members, \$15.00 for members.

Names Included: Adams, Ball, Barnard, Bartlett, Beede, Berry, Blood, Bowers, Braley, Browne, Butterfield, Case, Cheney, Cilley, Clement, Colburn, Colby, Crawford, Crosby, Cummings, Davis, Dustin, Esty, 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 and DVD may be purchased directly from the Hebron Historical Society
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