



Wakefield - Brookfield Historical Society

P.O. Box 795 WAKEFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03872

Organized May, 1938

Meetings – Second Tuesday of each month from
May to October at the Little Red School House.

SPRING 2022

Our Mission: The collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts pertaining to the history of the communities of Wakefield and Brookfield and the preservation of the buildings and grounds under the care of the Corporation.”- 2002 By-Laws

Greetings to members and friends interested in the History of Wakefield and Brookfield:

Eighty-four years ago, this WBHS, our historical society, was formed by a group of residents of Brookfield and Wakefield who understood the importance of honoring our history through adherence to a mission of the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts as well as the care of buildings and grounds owned by this Society. What an amazing legacy we share and may we succeed in honoring it for centuries to come!

Sadly, Covid is still with us and its memory is pervasive: many of us lost loved-ones and we lost some of our most valued members. Although we are opening our doors to our traditional 6 summer meetings, we must be vigilant and flexible about care for the health of each of us. Appropriate clean air flow, seating space and masks (optional) must be operative.

Quite unexpectedly Covid and the closure of our buildings had a deleterious effect upon all aspects of our mission. As you can glean from our attached newsletter, your Executive Board has been focused on seeking expert advice on how best to approach the detrimental building, artifact and collections conditions. Thanks to the ongoing assistance of Strawberry Banke, NH Historical Society, and Preservation Alliance we are making good progress. In the next week our Preservation Consultant will be on site conducting a conditions assessment of our collection, buildings and grounds thereby enabling us to fashion a roadmap for remediation as well as exploring anticipated and much needed grant funding.

In addition to financial support, we need focused assistance and expertise from our members. For instance, recently our member Lance MacLean, computer specialist, has committed to 3 hours weekly! Remembering *It takes a village (or two)* ... please feel free to contact us with ways that you would like to assist. Send an email through our email - info@wakefieldbrookfieldhistoricalsociety.org, or I may be reached at revnsmith@gmail.com, or 802-498-5729.

Hoping you enjoy our meeting topics that are designed to focus us back on our beloved “Historic Treasures of Brookfield and Wakefield” that we are all committed to preserving. And, looking forward to seeing and being with friends again,

Nancy Spencer Smith, President

PROGRAM - 2022

May 10	7:00 pm	"DOMESTIC TEXTILES AND TOOLS IN WAKEFIELD AND BROOKFIELD, 1780 - 1820" Craig F. Evans
June 14	7:00 pm	"THE HISTORY OF WAKEFIELD'S CEMETERIES AND BURIAL GROUNDS" Phil Twombly
July 12	7:00 pm	"12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS: EDUCATION IN WAKEFIELD, 1796-1969" Pam Wiggin
August 9	7:00 pm	ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS "HISTORIC HOMES OF WAKEFIELD CORNER" Nancy Spencer-Smith
September 13	7:00 pm	"WAKEFIELD IN POSTCARDS, 1903-1950, INCLUDING SOME RARE HISTORIC IMAGES" Rick Poore
October 11	6:00 pm	ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER "THE SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS OF BROOKFIELD" Marilou MacLean

What Happened to the Sign?

Several people have inquired since the winter of 2020-2021 as to what happened to our large sign marking the site of the Society. Apparently, a strong wind and some weakened wooden parts brought the sign down. Luckily, it can be repaired and we are hoping to have the sign back in place by the end of this May.

Pandemic Relief

At the end of November, 2021, the Carroll County Commissioners announced a \$500,000 grant program to bring relief to non-profits in Carroll County. Our treasurer was able to quickly write the grant and prepare the financial evidence required to be successful in the end result. The Society received a grant of \$4,000 to help pay for the expenses of keeping the Society going. As you know, during the two years of the pandemic the Museum was basically closed to visitors and our usual programs and no membership fees were collected. Even with membership fees collected, in recent years, membership fees come no-where close to covering the expenses incurred each year.

Year End Fund-raiser

This past December, the Executive Board decided to do an annual appeal to collect what we hoped would be the matching funds for a grant which was applied for during the same period. We are very grateful to all those who contributed to the appeal. The total received was \$3,355, which is close to the match that we will need. Twenty-one members, 3 local businesses and 1 local Trust generously responded to the appeal.

Preservation Alliance Grant

In the last months of 2021, Pam Wiggin spear-headed a grant application to the NH Preservation Alliance to assist in performing a conditions assessment report on our two historic buildings. In January we were informed that we were successful and would receive a \$4,500 grant that we must match. The choice of a Portland, ME Preservation Consultant Company - Barba+Wheelock - was included in our proposal. Their staff will oversee the team of consultants who will look at all aspects of the Schoolhouse with the addition, and the Cobbler Shop, and provide a thorough conditions assessment to the Society, with prioritized work suggestions and approximated costs for each aspect of the work recommended. Expect to hear a lot more about this effort in the coming months. Future funding is dependent on completion of this condition assessment.

Gifts Received

At the end of 2021, Victor Becker kindly donated his personal collection of Wakefield Annual Reports, dating from the 1860s through today. Along with the Reports already in our possession, we expect to have a complete collection available in our archives. In January, we received a spectacular album quilt dated February 14, 1893 and associated to the Brookfield community with over one hundred names inscribed. The quilt was donated by descendants of the Isaac Cate family of Brookfield, in honor of Gretchen Wood West Brown, a family member who recently passed away.

A Society and Museum Website!

In early February, the Executive Board launched a website for the Historical Society. While in the early stages of development, we have an experienced webmaster working with us to slowly develop the site. Look for this newsletter on the website very soon, with the list of programs, and watch as we add more information about the collection and the activities of the society and museum.

Email : info@wakefieldbrookfieldhistoricalsociety.org

www.wakefieldbrookfieldhistoricalsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individual @ \$15 _____ Sustaining @ \$40 _____
Benefactor @ \$75 _____ Life @ \$100 _____ Donation: \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 795
Sanbornville, NH 03872-0795