

# UPSTREAM UPPER PEMIGEWASSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
SUMMER, 2008  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.LoggingInLincoln.com](http://www.LoggingInLincoln.com)**

## LINCOLN HERITAGE DAY



**SATURDAY JULY 12  
WAYS OF THE WOODS**

On Saturday, July 12, we'll have a celebration of Lincoln's Logging Heritage. Set up in front of The Village Shops, on Main Street, will be: *Ways of the Woods: People and the Land in the Northern Forest* It's the Northern Forest Center's exhibition and education program, housed in a 53' long 18-wheel truck, which explores the culture and heritage across the Northern Forest region of New Hampshire. The NH Timberland Owner's Association and the Forest Service will also participate.

Scheduled events include lumberjack contests and demonstrations, traditional crafts, bluegrass music, exhibits of early logging equipment, raffles, hands on fun for the kids, food, etc. The inside of the trailer has several interactive displays relating to logging and life in the Northern Forest. In addition, there will be outdoor exhibits as pictured above. This traveling exhibit has never been set-up in Lincoln.

**Fun for all. Guaranteed!  
AND FREE!**



### **Hunton Mine Today**

Our last newsletter included an article about the lead mine in North Woodstock, known as the Hunton Mine. We're passing along additional information we've learned since that time. The photo above shows the mine today. It's not easy to find and some of it has collapsed. Jim Boyle and Alvin Lee took me up to it and we took a number

**VISIT OUR MODIFIED MUSEUM ON CHURCH STREET  
THIS SEASON'S NEW EXHIBITS:  
LOGGING EQUIPMENT, COG RAILWAY & MORE**

of photographs of the mine and the surrounding area.

Leonard Sawyer, a retired attorney from Plymouth, sent two letters with information on the company. Fred Hunton purchased the land on Oct.31, 1905, and transferred it the next day to the Hunton Mining Co. The company took out a mortgage from the First National Bank of Binghamton, NY. Apparently, the mine made little, if any money and the bank foreclosed on this mortgage less than five years later, on August 6, 1910. Fred Hunton owned mining rights on land owned by Harry Sawyer, but never tried mining on that property. After the bank foreclosed on the lead mine property, it changed hands several times over the next few years. It does not seem that any further attempts were made to operate the mine.

There were three other mines in Woodstock, according to the USGS website. One is referred to as “The Homer Mine”, a lead mine. Another is identified as “The Woodstock Silver Mine” and another is simply identified as a lead mine which also produced some zinc. I’ve also seen references to a mica mine in Thornton, in the Mill Brook area. Perhaps additional information on this chapter of Woodstock’s history will turn up.

## Thanks are Due

We sincerely appreciate the support of our members. Our collections and displays continue to improve because of your generosity.

Faith Desjardins has loaned us most of the Cog Railway material that is now on view in the Museum. She worked for Ellen Teague for a number of years and has some very interesting material.

Dave Clark and the Clark family have loaned a wide variety of logging camp items that were used in the Lincoln Woods. These are on display in the lower level of the museum.

Jean Paul Boudreau is a descendant of the Barron family. They operated the Twin Mountain House, The Crawford House, Fabyan’s, The Summit House and more. He has donated a number of items that have descended in the family, including a very rare 1858 Profile House menu.

Charlie Harrington continues to donate interesting material and continues to repair and frame panoramic photos for us.

When you visit the Museum, you’ll see that we appear to have gained a lot of additional display space. This is because Jim Fadden helped us solve the problem of the sloping floor. He built and donated platforms that allow us to use much more floor space.

As you read through these newsletters, it’s obvious that much of the information is coming to us from members and neighbors. We hope this continues.

### Diesels are nothing new on the Cog



**Railway. This one was built in the 1970s when Ed Clark was the railroad’s General Manager.**

**(Courtesy Faith Desjardins)**

# The Beard Opera House

By Rick Russack



In the last issue of the newsletter, I asked if anyone had a photo of the Beard Opera House, in North Woodstock. Edmond Gionet not only had some pictures, but he also had been in contact with a descendant of the Beard family who provided details about the family before and after North Woodstock. He gave me the name of his contact, and that man agreed to let us publish the family information. Barbara Avery also sent us articles by “Justus Conrad” (Elmer Woodbury) that she transcribed from the Plymouth Record, describing the building.

William Beard and his wife, Mary moved to North Woodstock in 1889. They bought the Sunset Farm from William’s uncle, Stephen Sharon and turned it into a boarding house. (That house burned in 1926.)

In 1897, William built his Opera House. Nothing I’ve read, so far, tells us why he decided to build it. It was on Main Street, next to the Fairfield Hotel. As you can see in the photo, the front of the building had three stories, while in the back there was an additional lower level. The building was

70’ x 46’ and the first floor was rented to Newman and Lewis, clothing and dry goods merchants. Hardy and Dobson, “newcomers to town” rented one side of the lower level for a steam laundry. E.A. Sawyer operated a bowling alley on the other side of the lower level. There was an Odd Fellows hall on the second floor.



According to “Justus Conrad”, the building was very well built, using first class materials. Forrest Berry of Laconia was the architect and supervised the planning. He had previously built the Moulton Opera House in Laconia. The seating capacity of the Opera House was 500; the seats were removable so that the large area could be used for dances and balls. There were two private boxes near the stage. The stage was elevated 40 inches from the floor and was 25’ wide and 15’ deep. Dressing rooms for performers were included. The formal dedication of the building took place on May 25, 1897. It was a Masquerade Ball and “Justus Conrad” tells us the evening was judged a success by all who attended. The Opera House was the scene of many musical and comedy shows during its short life.

On February 20, 1908, the Opera House, along with several other buildings on Main Street burned to the ground. The Plymouth Record states that the fire began in the Opera House and nearly all the tenants in the building lost everything. Few were insured.

The fire also destroyed the Fairfield Hotel, the stable behind the hotel, Willoughby's Block, and Melvin Sanborn's block. The central office of the Baker River Telephone Co. was destroyed but was relocated the next day.

The Beard family genealogy appears to have their dates wrong on subsequent events. If the newspaper is correct in stating that the fire was in 1908, then the family is incorrect when it dates the fire as 1905. It says that after the fire, in 1905, William Beard, his wife Mary, and their daughter Bernice, moved to California. It says they were in San Francisco the day before the 1906 earthquake. It's probably correct when it says the family settled in Pomona, where Bernice got a job as a telegraph operator. William and Mary later moved to San Gabriel where they became chicken ranchers. Mary died March 19, 1935 and William died March 16, 1952 at the age of 89. Perhaps the Beard family had taken a trip to California in 1906 and perhaps that accounts for the discrepancy in dates.

At any rate, Beard's Opera House was short-lived. However, it appeared to have been a successful and much appreciated addition to the town of Woodstock.



**Fairfield Hotel with Opera House**

### **SUPPORTERS**

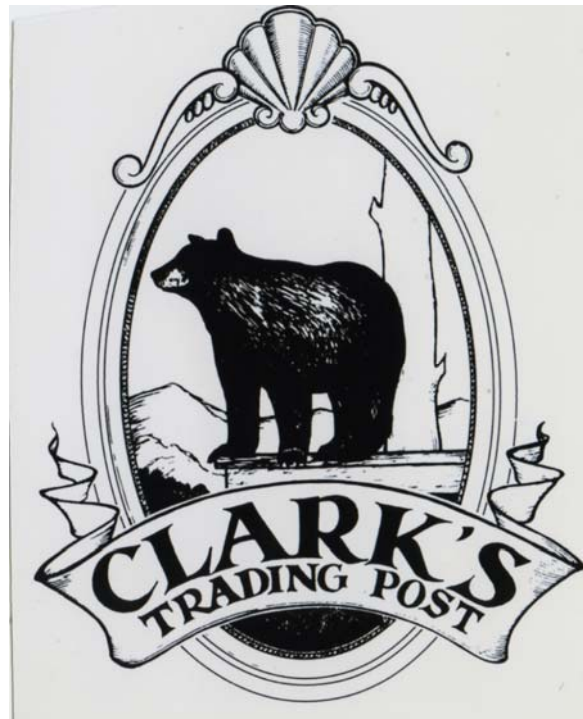
These companies are supporting the U.P.H.S. Many thanks! Please contact us if you'd like have your business appear here.

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## Our Programs

Our May program, the Betty and Barney Hill story, was one of our most popular yet, with over 85 attendees. Apparently, many folks wanted to learn more about Lincoln's "Alien Abduction". (And since the program, more than one Lincoln resident has told me of seeing flying saucers in Franconia Notch. So, keep your eyes open.)

Speaking of Franconia Notch, our **July 17<sup>th</sup>** program will concern the Notch. At 7:00pm, in the Museum on Church Street, Kimberly Jarvis will discuss her recently published book: "Franconia Notch and The Women Who Saved It". The book describes the efforts to preserve the Notch and the little known involvement of the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs in that effort. The following day, Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, Dave Govatski, from Jefferson, and Kim Jarvis, will lead a field trip in the Notch. It will depart from the Cannon Mountain parking area at 9:45 am. Part of the trip will include a short hike at the Summit of Cannon. The field trip is free but there will be a charge for the trip on the Tram.

**We've already described our July 12<sup>th</sup> event, our Lincoln Heritage Day and the Ways of The Woods exhibits.**

**We'll do another Antiques Appraisal Day on Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.** Our appraisers for the day will be the well-known father-son auctioneers, Archie and Josh Steenburgh, from Pike. They are kindly donating their services for the day. The event will run from noon to 3pm at the Museum on Church St. Last year's event brought some neat things out of area homes and collections. I hope that we'll see some valuable things on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. At the very least, we'll have some fun. And who knows what treasures may be donated for our Silent Auction.

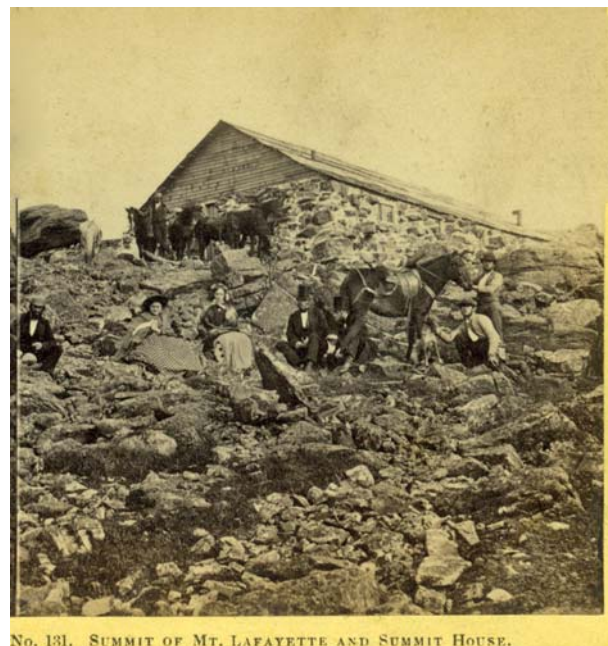
## Summit Houses

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many visitors to the White Mountains were able to stay in mountaintop hotels. They certainly were not as grand as the Grand Hotels in the region, but they offered a different experience. The best known of the mountaintop hotels, of course, was the Summit House at the top of Mt. Washington.

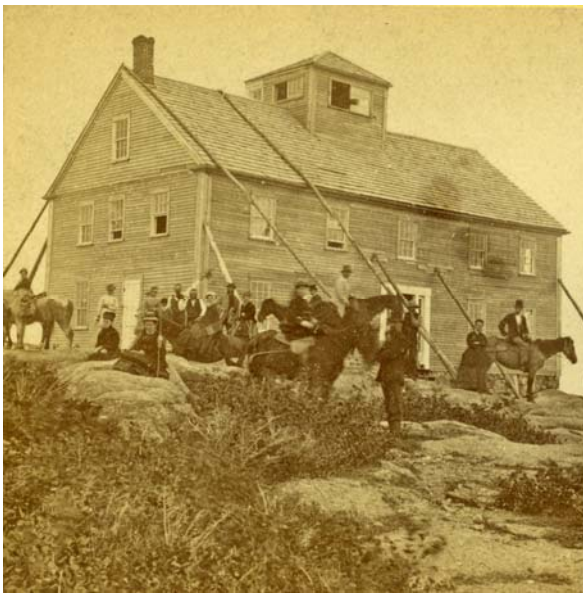
Some are pictured below.



**Mount Moosilauke House**



**Mount Lafayette House**



**Mount Kearsarge House**



**Summit House, Mt. Washington, 1861**

## **Charles Henry's Alabama Cotton Mill**

Each of J.E. Henry's sons pursued a variety of other business interests. Charles was the youngest son and one of his major interests was in Jacksonville, Alabama.

In 1904, J.E. Henry, along with members of his wife's family invested in a company in Alabama that was planning to build a cotton mill. Henry was the largest stockholder, and in 1905, the large mill was in operation. In 1907, things were going well, the mill was expanded and 90 houses were built for employees. Net profit for that year was over \$40,000. That year, however, seemed to be the last profitable year. The Henrys had continued to invest and were both the largest stockholders and the largest creditors. It was about this time that Charles Henry got involved.

In 1911, Charles agreed to lend some of his own money to the mill and sent his friend, William Greenleaf (possibly a son of the family that owned the Profile House Hotel.) Charles also took advantage of his majority interest to reduce the Board of Directors to just three: himself, his brother George, and Greenleaf. They also changed the name of the mill to the Profile Mill.



**The Profile Cotton Mill buildings**

Over the next few years, Charles Henry

invested in several other businesses in the town, including an electric power plant, a fertilizer company and additional mills. In about 1912, he bought a large old southern plantation. The home was in poor condition and appears to have been abandoned for a number of years. Charles and his wife, Katherine, restored the home, and added a large dairy barn, which is the only building that still survives.



**Charles with his wife and daughter in front of the un-restored house.**



**The restored house, with mule team and driver.**

Records survive in Jacksonville that provide some details of the work done and money spent, on the house and barn. \$407 was spent on mantels, \$84 on locks and more on paint

and bricks. The 13,500 square foot dairy barn cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Charles and his family divided their time between Lincoln and their Alabama homes. After Charles died, in 1922, the Alabama properties were eventually sold to William Greenleaf. It had not been a smooth relationship and Henry's wife Katherine was involved in extensive litigation after Charles died.

Most of this information has been taken from a 2004 Nomination of the mills for a National Register designation. At that time, the mills were still standing, but consideration was being given to demolishing them. Eventually, they were demolished. David Schneider, of Schneider Historic Preservation, did the work. Katherine Henry Benedict, Charles' daughter, gave the photos of the Plantation to the U.P.H.S. The person who took them extensively annotated the photos, but that person is not identified.

It's interesting to note that much of what Charles did in Alabama repeated what the family had done in Lincoln. A large dairy barn had been built in Lincoln, an electric light plant had been built.



**A Horse Powered Cider Mill on an unidentified North Country farm.**

## Odds and Ends From the Plymouth Record

*August 26, 1911:* "At an auction in Manchester last week the old Shirley Hill coach sold to the highest bidder for \$6.50. It had been built by the Abbott factory in Concord about 1847".

*Nov. 2, 1902:* Lincoln "The Lincoln Hotel is now open. Anyone wishing good board, clean, comfortable beds, and warm rooms for the winter will do well to call there. Mr. Henry has built a fine hotel."

*Feb. 7, 1903:* "Shipments by J.E. Henry for the week : 40 cars lumber, 9 cars laths, 9 cars slabs and 2 cars charcoal."

*Feb. 4, 1905:* "J.E. Henry & Sons is about to start the electric power plant they have been installing for some months now. They have built two large dams across the East Branch and here installed the electric generating apparatus."

*March 2, 1907:* Johnson "Sunday morning about 7:00 Johnson's store was found to be on fire. The flames spread so rapidly that some of the clerks and bookkeepers, who had rooms above the store, were forced to jump from second story windows. The post office was also in this building and nothing was saved."

*Jan. 29, 1910:* Lincoln "C.A. Andrews, Union Spar Co. of Gloucester, Mass. is loading several carloads of spars at Camp 16. There is only a limited number. Some will be used in the building of the large whaling vessel now being built in Essex, Mass.

*Feb. 19, 1910:* Lincoln "John Bodwine, an employee of the clothes pin factory pleaded guilty to the charge of intoxication and was fined \$10.12, which he paid."

Copies of the Plymouth Record courtesy of Joe Boyle.

