

UPSTREAM UPPER PEMIGEWASSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
WINTER, 2008
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

THE F.W. WHITEHOUSE MILL

On July 8, 1893, The White Mountain Echo printed an article entitled: "The Franconia Notch Outrage". It was referring to the "cancerous sawmill" that had been built in the Notch, on the road between the Flume House and the Profile House. An 1895 hand-drawn survey map shows a mill and 7-8 other buildings on both sides of the road through the Notch. Carpenter's Franconia Notch Guide Book tells us that Whitehouse had two mills, "in the usual monotonous red ochered color" about one mile above the Flume House.

Less than a year after J.E. Henry started in Lincoln, Frank W. Whitehouse, of Pembroke, Mass. bought land just below the Basin and built a sawmill and other buildings. The heirs of Richard Taft, owner of the Flume House and Profile House, had sold the land to George James, who sold it to Whitehouse. (It's interesting to note that the land the newspaper complained about had been sold by owners of the hotels, who one would think, had a major interest in preserving the scenery.) The Whitehouse enterprise lasted less than 5 years, ending in bankruptcy. During that short time, a logging spur was built from N. Woodstock, and for a brief period, a logging railroad existed.

Lincoln town records show that 1894 was the first year that Whitehouse was taxed by the town. His mill was assessed at \$6,000, other buildings at \$600, land at \$4,000 and he had 44 men working for him. Logs on hand, waiting to be sawed, were valued at \$6,000. Three years later, again according to town records, in 1897, the mill assessment had increased to \$9,500. His other buildings were valued at \$5,500; he had \$7,000 worth of logs and \$900 worth of sawed lumber awaiting shipment. There were 72 men listed as working for the company. He owned 52 horses and \$1,800 worth of goods in his company store. In this year, and only this year, he was taxed for 2/5 of a 2 1/2 mile railroad. He was assessed \$4,000 for the railroad. (Frank Hall was taxed for another 2/5 of the railroad and Charles Burns was taxed for the final 1/5).

The three mills were apparently close enough together that they could all benefit from sharing the railroad line. F. Hall and Co first appears on the Lincoln tax records in 1896, with a mill assessed at \$7,500. Charles Burns first appears in 1897, with a much smaller mill, assessed at only \$1,700.

**Our Museum is closed for the Winter
Please visit our large display in the Village Shops, Main St. Lincoln**

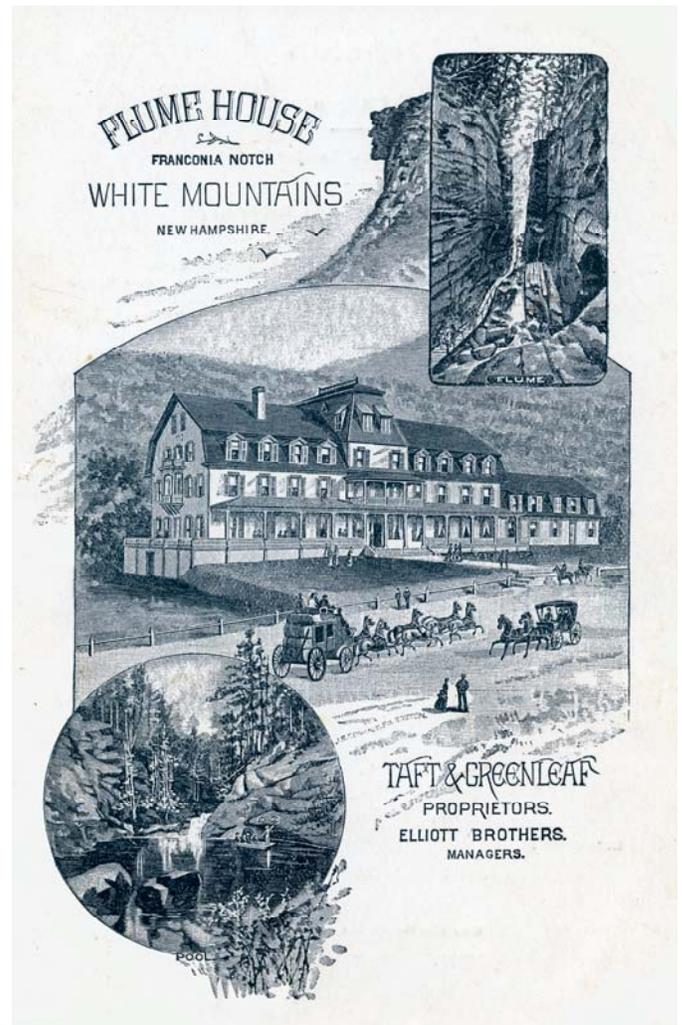
Apparently, the Whitehouse operation was successful in the beginning. The Plymouth Record reported on Jan. 4, 1894 that Whitehouse had sawed 40,000 feet of lumber and on Feb. 29, 1896, the paper reported that he sawed 75,000 feet of lumber. Although doing well, Whitehouse may have over-extended himself in late 1896 when he bought 1,500 acres from George James and the New Hampshire Land Co. James held a mortgage on the property.

It would appear that in December 1897, Whitehouse experienced major financial difficulties and declared bankruptcy. The Plymouth Record of Aug. 20, 1898 reported that Whitehouse reached a settlement with his creditors, mostly Concord banks. He offered to pay 35 cents for each dollar owed and that offer was accepted. George James foreclosed on the 1,500 acres and regained ownership.

And so ended the brief career of Frank W. Whitehouse, lumberman and railroad operator, in Lincoln.

In April 1899, I.E. Hanson, of North Woodstock, purchased the buildings of the “defunct mill village” (Plymouth Record, April 29, 1899) with the intention of moving them to town.

Interestingly, we do not have any photographs of the Whitehouse mill or village. Nor do we have any photographs of the Hall or Burns mills. If anyone has such photos, we’d really like to see them.



The Flume House as it appeared when the Whitehouse Mill was in operation.

Douglas Philbrook Collection

In the next few issues of this newsletter, we’ll be including information about some of the other wood-products industries that functioned in Lincoln. These would include the Kindling Wood factory, the Boothby Company and the Dodge Clothespin Factory.

The Heel Mill

The United Shoe Machinery Corporation opened a heel mill in Lincoln in 1928. Parker Young built a new building,

which it would share with USM. Parker Young would use the upper floor of the new 600 foot long building for a sawmill and chairstock factory. United Shoe would use the lower floor for cutting and drying hardwood to be used in making heels for ladies shoes. Parker Young expanded it's own sawmill to provide the heel mill with raw material. They supplied about 30 cords per day of maple and birch logs in 4' lengths. USM cut these logs into strips approximately 2 inches square by 4 feet long. Not all were exactly the same dimensions. USM produced various sizes as various styles of shoes required different size and shape heels. They then dried the maple and birch strips in the kilns which were built as part of the mill. (These kilns survive today. The brick walls in the Village Shops were the kilns.) After drying, USM planed the strips smooth on all four sides.

When dried and planed, the strips were sent to USM shoe factories where they were made into heels as needed for the shoes being produced. Sending each factory just the right size and shape would save USM substantial amounts of money. (Information appeared in Pycolog.) The heel mill closed in 1947.

Our Recent Programs

Our September program, on the **Salem Witch Trials**, was our most popular yet. One hundred and nine people gathered to hear Robin DeRosa's presentation.

Archie and Josh Steenburgh, from Pike, did the appraisals for our **Antiques Appraisal Day**. A quantity of really neat things were brought in but it was an ash burl bowl, at the end of the day, that was the big treat of the day. Josh Steenburgh appraised the bowl at about

\$8,000. Between appraisal fees and our Silent Auction we had a very successful day.

Thanks to the Steenburghs.

There was a good turnout for the **Annual Meeting**. The evening started with two rarely seen silent movies made on Mt. Washington in 1904 and 1905. The movies were followed by Ben English's slide show on Railroading in Crawford Notch.

On Nov. 18, Adam Apt presented an illustrated program on **White Mountain Maps**. We saw maps dating from 1677 to the very latest Google Earth maps and learned about the different types of maps that were produced over the years. Forrest Seavey, from Campton, recorded the program for us so we now have it on DVD.

Bear Hair Mittens

Clark's Trading Post has donated a pair of mittens woven from the hair of one of their bears. Clark's does not sell these mittens but we're selling Raffle Tickets for this pair. You can get them at the Library in Lincoln and at Jim Fadden's General Store in North Woodstock. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at our Spaghetti Dinner in January.

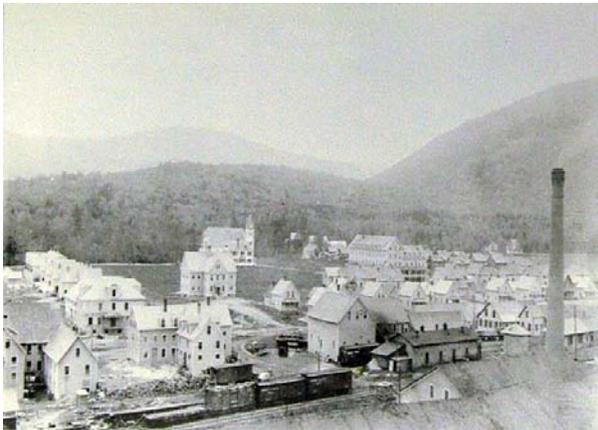


Membership Dues

U.P.H.S. memberships run on a calendar year basis. So it's time to renew your membership. Inserted in this newsletter is the return envelope, with our dues structure. **Single memberships remain at \$20.00** and other categories of membership have not changed. Membership dues support this newsletter, published 4 times a year, and all of our other programs. So far, all of our programs have been free. We've put on 11 programs this year and the **combined attendance at these programs was over 1,000**. We need your support in order to continue.

We think Membership in the UPHS makes a great gift for friends and family members who may no longer live in the Lincoln-Woodstock area. The newsletter will remind them of the varied local history, the photos we reproduce will show what the area used to look like, and perhaps one of our programs will encourage additional visits to our towns.

Please consider a donation over and above your membership dues. It will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.



Lincoln in 1909 from Sulphite Mill

Murder

When I think of the way things were in this neighborhood 100 years ago, I think of farms, mills and friendly people going about their business. I do not think of murder. My mistake! The Feb. 11, 1867 edition of the Granite State Free Press describes "the brutal murder of George Maxwell at his home, about two miles from the village of Franconia". The murderer stole whatever valuables were in the house as well as Maxwell's horse and buggy. The murderer, who was believed to be Samuel Mills, fled to Gorham and took a train to Canada. Local officers were unable to capture the suspect and the Selectmen of Franconia hired Moses Sargent, a private detective from Boston. To shorten a long although interesting story, Sargent eventually caught up with Mills in Galena, II and together with a New Hampshire officer, brought Mills back to stand trial. Mills was convicted and was hung on Main Street in Woodsville on May 6, 1868. The New York Times, the next day, reported on the hanging, saying "After he had hung for about half an hour, life was pronounced extinct, and the body was cut down".

This may have been the last public execution in New Hampshire. Apparently, the next execution, on Nov. 9, 1869, took place at the state prison in Concord.

It would seem that public executions were major "entertainment" in their day. A man named Burnham was executed in Haverhill in 1806 for the murder of two men he had shared a jail cell with. According to William Whitcher, writing in "Some Things About Coventry-

Benton” the execution took place on Powder House Hill, in Haverhill, “in the presence of 10,000 people who had gathered from near and far to witness the gruesome spectacle. Entertainment was rare in those early days and the most was made of this one.”

This could be a much longer article. From August of 1739, when two women were executed in Portsmouth, to the last in 1939, 24 people were executed for murder in New Hampshire. (According to the Nashua Telegraph website.)

A Strike in 1905

The Plymouth Record, in Dec. 1905, reports on Lincoln’s first strike. According to the paper, the papermakers were persuaded to join a union. They presented the Henry’s with their grievance. The men wanted to work fewer hours for the same pay they were receiving. The Henrys said they would discuss the request with the men as individuals but not as a union. On a Friday, the men stopped working and the mill was shut down. On Saturday, the Henrys paid the men and let them go. The mill was back in operation with non-union help. It wasn’t Lincoln’s only strike, but it was probably the first.

Franconia Paper Strike, 1962



Upcoming Programs

We’re working on scheduling our winter programs. There will be one on Native Americans in our area, another on social history, and one on the history of the Auto Road on Mt. Washington, which goes back to 1861. We’re also planning a special event in conjunction with the Woodstock Inn on the brewing of beer in early New Hampshire. This will be a fund raising event for us and we appreciate the support of Scott Rice and the Woodstock Inn.

With the help of the Rotary Club, we’ll have a Spaghetti Dinner at the Rec. Center on Tues. Jan 27. Woodstock Police Chief Doug Moorehead will be the chef. Many thanks to Brian Baker and the Rotary members.

Check our website for details on these programs. They’ll be posted as we confirm them.

The Last Peg Mill

Did you know that the last operating Peg Mill in North America is in Bartlett? It opened in the 1870s and continues to operate, with much of the original equipment still in use.

Kearsarge Peg Mill



Times Have Changed

In 1848, the town of Lincoln had a surplus of \$38.00. They had raised more in taxes than they spent. What to do with the money? The town's solution was simple, but probably not what might happen today. It was decided to return the money to the taxpayers. There were ten families in town with a total of 40 people. Each family received 95 cents for each person in the family. One family, with only person, received 95 cents and one family with seven members received \$6.65. Safe to say- those were the good old days.

While we're on the changing times theme, consider some of the town officers needed in those bygone days. In 1806, Lincoln had a Highway Supervisor for the east side of the mountain and another for the west side. There was a "pound keeper", two "fence viewers" three "hog reeves", and two "tithing men".

For the curious: it was the job of the pound keeper to keep and care for stray livestock until the owner claimed the animal. We're not talking about dogs and cats-we're talking about cows, oxen, sheep, pigs, horses, etc. Fence viewers were responsible for seeing that neighbors maintained their share of common fences. Each was expected to be responsible for one half of the common fence. Apparently there was little problem with fencing meadowland but fences along rock ledges, etc could require someone to be sure the job was done properly. Some towns (but I'm not sure about Lincoln or Woodstock) required that fences be "hog tight" and "horse high". The "hog reeve" was responsible for rounding up wandering hogs and turning them over to the pound

keeper. In early days, hogs were required to wear a yoke and have a ring in their nose to reduce possible damage to neighbors' crops. A hog reeve who found hogs without yokes or rings could remedy the problem and charge a small fee for the service. If hogs did damage crops, the animal's owner might be liable for damage, but sometimes only if the affected party had proper fencing.

Tithing men collected the taxes mandated for the support of the church and the minister of the gospel, if any. They were also expected to report on idle or disorderly persons, profane swearers or cursers and Sabbath breakers as well as those selling liquor without a license.

So it would seem to be safe to say that times have changed. But perhaps not in all ways. In 1919, there was an interesting warrant article in Lincoln. It would have allowed any voter at any town meeting to purchase from the moderator, at one dollar per quart, two quarts of the best alcohol and one quart of the best brandy "that can be obtained in domestic or foreign markets". Delivery would have been due within two weeks. The article was defeated by a 14 to 3 vote.



The CCC Camp on Tripoli Road

SOME INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS



Charcoal Making In Franconia



Brick Making in Lebanon

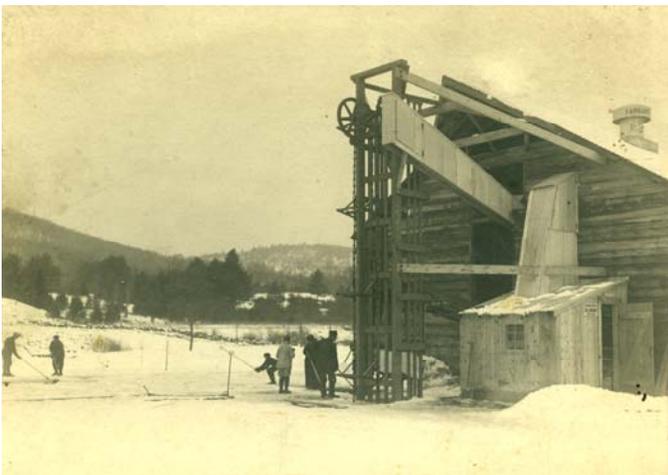


Bees Being Removed From a Log

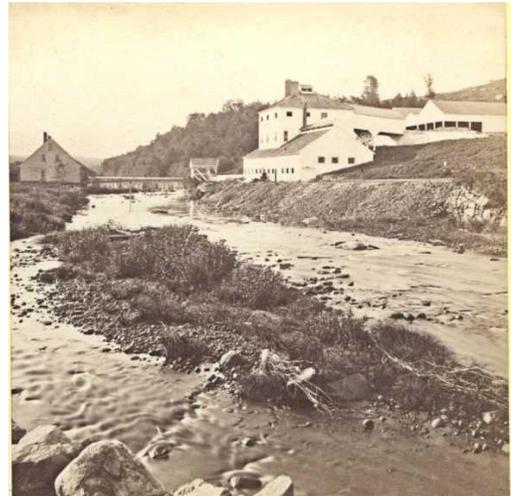


Blacksmiths at Work Outdoors

Ice Harvesting



Iron Works in Franconia, before fire



SUPPORTERS

These companies are supporting the U.P.H.S. Many thanks!

