

RAYMOND-CASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SPRING, 2012

Attention All Members

Summer is quickly approaching and we need volunteers to be at the Museum this season so that we can remain open and active through the summer.

If you would like to donate some time this summer, please contact the executive team today!

BECOME A MEMBER

The Raymond-Casco Historical Society is always looking for new members. Come join our team and enjoy working with us on any level that works best with your schedule. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. \$5.00 from each dues payment goes directly to the RCHS Endowment Fund. For more information please feel free to call Pam Grant at (207) 655-2438 or Linda Alexander (207) 655-4640.

REMINDER

Next RCHS MEETING
April 9th, 2012
At roughly 7:45 pm
(Following the Dowsing Presentation)

YOUR SUPPORT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

The Raymond/Casco Historical Society is now completing its 40th year of preserving the history of Raymond and Casco, Maine. Both towns which once were one known as one, which was "Raymondtown".

The big excitement of this past year is the publishing of a new book on the two towns which can be purchased from the society for \$21.95 plus shipping. Please see page 15 of this newsletter if you are interested in purchasing this book.

Now gift giving goes two ways and we at the museum are always searching for items to add to the museum collection related to our two towns. Space does not allow us just to collect everything so our efforts are directed to just our two towns artifacts and research material. We have an awesome research department and have aided many in researching family histories.

Another great way to support your local historic museum is a donation to our endowment by sending a Check to RCHS, Box 1055, Raymond, Maine 04071. The endowment is established to pay out up to 5% of the invested returns annually to support the operation of this all volunteer endeavor. Each member of the society makes an annual contribution as well to insure its long term objective of financial security and survival.

2012 Spring & Summer Meeting Schedule

April 9, 2012, 6:30 pm (Raymond Public Safety Building):

- Wayne Holmquist will be speaking on Dowsing
- RCHS Meeting to follow at 7:45 pm (Roughly)

April 14, 2012, 9:00 am - 3 pm (Watkins Flat on Route 302, Across from Watkins Farm):

- Casco Old Fashioned Farm Days (Rain Date April 15, 2012)

May 14, 2012, 7:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- Elizabeth Bullen will be speaking on Heritage Scrap booking
- RCHS Meeting to follow at 8:15 pm (Roughly)

May 26, 2012, 1:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- RCHS Opens to Public

June 11, 2012, 7:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- John Manoush will be speaking on Life in the Early 1800's
- RCHS Meeting to follow at 8:15 pm (Roughly)

July 9, 2012, 7:00 pm (Friends Schoolhouse Behind Casco Rec. Building):

- RCHS Meeting here at 7:00 pm

July 15, 2012, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- Janet Connor will be giving a class on Folk Art Rug Hooking (Fee for this class to be determined)
- There may be other events on this day (*to be announced*).

July 26, 2012, 7:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- Appraisal Night with Harry Hepburn

August 13, 2012, 5:00 pm (Hackers Hill):

- RCHS Picnic (To be Confirmed)
- No meeting this month



NOTE

This Meeting Schedule only reflects our agenda as of March, 2012. Other events may be added to our schedule before the next quarterly newsletter is released.

Thanks to all members and friends for their support in our 40th year.



Casco Old Fashioned Farm Days

Brought to you by: The Horse & Mule Club of Maine & Dingley's Frozen Custard

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, April 14th (Rain Date: April 15th)

Location: Watkins Flat on Route 302 (Across from Watkins Farm near Naples town line.)

Come to see and even take part in how farming was done by our ancestors when Casco was young. Enjoy a fun filled day of wagon riding and other events. See the beauty of fine work horses and the equipment they pulled. Bring back the memories of your childhood days on the farm and come to Casco Old Fashioned Farm Days. Trophies to be awarded by Matt Barker.

Events:

- Horse pulled plowing • Harrowing with discs pulled by horses • Wagon rides • Belgian, Persian & Other horses
- Picture Taking • Vintage Autos & Antique Equipment • May be other animals such as Oxen, Mules & Steer

*RCHS to be opened for event. (Depending on weather Hot Dogs, Chips & water may be available.)

NEW RCHS SUMMER HOURS

Wednesday
Saturday
Sunday

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
MAY 15 - OCT 15
2012

*Special Thanks
To
Celeste Hyer, Harry Hepburn
& Carol Drew
for their wonderful presentations,
& To The
Raymond Fire & Rescue Department*

Did You Know...

Jesse Holden built a saw mill on the Songo, in 1853. After his death the mill was sold to Dr. Weston, who operated it for a few years before having it torn down. The steam mill that began operation at this site in the 1900 was built by S. M. Mitchell, and later bought in 1905 by S. O. Hancock, who operated it in connection with a large lumbering business in the vicinity.



Role Change



Anne Miller (*shown above*) was born in Luton, Bedfordshire, England and came to America in the mid fifties with her United States Air Force husband Dave from Auburn, Maine. Her diverse background led her to teach ballet in Montana, coach a swim team in Syracuse, NY and produce her own tri-weekly radio show called “*Tea for Two*” in Montana and Norway, Maine.

In the seventies Anne served as Community Relations Director for Stephens memorial Hospital in Norway, Maine. She retired from the American Red Cross after serving for sixteen years as Field Representative covering Cumberland, Androscoggin and Oxford Counties.

Having been raised in England by parents who had a keen interest in history it was only natural that Anne loved hearing stories and seeing places from the past. She became involved in the Raymond -Casco Historical Society when she read in the paper that children had been vandalizing the 1849 “Friends School House” in Casco Village. She was asked to take over the care of the school house. Over the years she held an Open House at the school house during “Casco Days”, and had local children dress in period clothing and show how a typical school day went. Anne hosted many former students and teachers in the school house. At that time she took the responsibility of media relations for

the Raymond-Casco Historical Society.

Time marches on and Anne has decided that it is time to pass on her role as “Media Relations Correspondant” to a younger person who can better keep up with the latest and greatest computer gadgets that seem to get more complicated on a daily basis.

*“I am so glad to have Craig Sharkey take over as RC^{HS} Media Relations Correspondent. I know that he will do a great job and I wish him every success.”
Anne Miller*

Craig moved from New Hampshire to Maine in 1995 where he worked at various printing companies including Spencer Press in Wells, Wise Business Forms in Portland and Spectrum Printing in Portland.

In 2009 Craig started his own business called “Sharkey Graphic Solutions” where he provides graphic design and printing from his home office in Casco.

While at the first local business table top show at the Casco Community Center a couple of years ago, Craig met Betty Glassford of RC^{HS}. After talking with Betty, Craig decided that joining the Raymond-Casco Historical Society sounded like an interesting idea. He thought that not only would this be an excellent way to meet some of the great local people in the area, but would be a great non-profit charity to take an active role in.

Since Craig’s membership in RC^{HS}, helped with design and printing various items needed. As 2011 came to a close, Craig was approached by Ann Miller about the possibility of taking over the role of Media Relations Correspondent. After giving it more serious thought, Craig decided to accept the role and it was made official at our January 9th meeting.

“I am very happy to take over the role as Media Relations Correspondent from Ann Miller. Anne has been a true pleasure for me to work with, and has helped tremendously to make this a smooth and virtually seamless transition. Thanks Anne for all of your great work!” -Craig Sharkey



1911 – 1912 RAYMOND MAINE REGISTER LISTING

Twenty miles N. of Portland. On stage-line from Portland to So. Casco; also on stage-lines from Gray on M.C.R.R., and New Gloucester on G.T.R. First settled by Capt. Joseph Dingly, 1771. Incorporated the 146th town, June 21, 1803. Named after Capt. William Raymond, who had the grant in 1767 for himself and company, in consideration of services in the Canada expedition, under Sir W. Phipps. Contains 36,000 acres. First represented in general court in 1810, by Samuel Leach, First church, F. Bap., gathered in 1792. Town of Casco taken off in 1841. Population - 1790=345, 1850=1192, 1860=1229, 1870=1120, 1880=1132, 1890=927, 1900=823. Valuation, 1860=Poles 274, Estates=\$167,260., 1870=Poles 305, Estates=\$229,121., 1880=Poles 284, Estates=\$227,213., 1890=Poles 266, Estates=\$223,351, 1900=Poles 235, Estates \$213,576.

Postmasters. – E.A. Plummer, East – Henry J. Lane,

North – F. M. Hawkes, Mountain – Nellie E. Strout.

Selectmen – East – F.H. Witham, North – C.W. Shackford. E.A. Plummer.

Town Clerk – East – Orrin B. Lane

Treasurer, Constable, Collector – F.W. Plummer

School Committee – H.L. Forhan, G.M. Leach, East – C.K. Thorpe,

Superintendent – So. Casco P.O., L.S. Mains.

Board of Health – Geo. M. Leach, sec.

Physician – East, L.H. Jordan

Clergyman – S.B. Brown, Bap.; East – Freelon Starbird, F. Bap.

Justices – W.H. Smith, July 27, 1903; E.A. Plummer, Jan. 31, 1903; F.H. Witham, Mar. 24, 1905; F.M.

Hawkes, Nov. 19, 1903; Quorum: I.D. Jordan, Apr. 23, 1904; L.W. Welch, Jan. 25, 1906, Trial.

Merchants – E.A. Plummer & Son E.B. Harmon general stores; East – H.J. & O.B. Lane, Elias Bartlett general stores; Mrs Annie Brown millinery; North – Geo. S.D. Churchill general stores.

Manufacturers – Ernest Skillings harnesses; I.D. Morton smith; F.L. Strout, D. Sears, F.E. Hayden, Carl Leach, Albert Strout Carpenters. Robert Leach Shooks & Lumber; H.L.

Forhan canned goods; F. Smith, S.J. Plummer Painters;

W.E. Spiller, Geo. Hall Butchers; C.H. Plummer mason;

East – L.N. Jordan, Sidney Foster carpenters; O.H. Lane, E.H. Hall painters;

Willard Strout mason; J.O. Berry, C.H. Berry Stone workers;

Gould & Plummer undertakers; W.H.H. Spiller smith; North – Chas. Shackford carpenter;

Mountain – W. I. Knight carpenter; Elias Bartlett shooks & lumber;

W.A. Parker painter; So. Casco P.O. Spiller & Strout shooks & lumber.

Insurance – East – O.B. Lane.

Associations - K of P, Hawthorne, Sat.; East – P.of H.; Riverside No. 98.

Hotels – The Elms, W.H. Smith; East – Lake View House, T. J. Brown.



Frank & Betty McDermott

Betty McDermott's family has true roots here in the "Lakes Region". Her father's family were early settlers in Raymond and Casco, and her mother's family were early settlers in New Gloucester and helped build the Blockhouse there.

Betty was born in New Gloucester, and lived in Gray and South Portland where she attended school. She married Nick Pitarys in 1953 and they moved to Raymond with their three children in 1958. In 1965 Nick passed and her family wanted her to move back to Portland but she choose to remain in Raymond with her children. In 1968 Betty married Frank McDermott, the principal at Jordan - Small School. Frank was a widower with a son and they had a daughter. For the most part Betty was a "stay at home mom" but was also very active in organizations in town. She was the PTA president as well as the treasurer of the Library for 33 years. When her and Frank's children started the college route, she went to work at Windham High School as the attendance officer and activities treasurer for 15 years. When she retired, she served on the Raymond Appeals Board for 15 years and select person for 9 years, 2 as chair. During that time she set up the Committee to develop a "Veterans Memorial Park". Betty also served as a ballot clerk and election warden from 1984-2006.

In 1969/70 Ernest Night and his sister Carol Hartley asked Betty to help collect pictures of old Raymond to be used in Ernie's books "Raymond Then and Now" Volume 1 & 2 In 1971 Betty and her husband Frank became Charter Members of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society and she has served as Treasurer since 1994.

Betty is a Charter Member of the Raymond Lions Club and has served as its Treasurer since 1994. She received the "National Melvin Jones Lions Award" in 2007 of which she is humbly proud. She is also a life member of the "Descendants of the Mayflower" on both sides of her family as well as a member of the "Hawthorne Garden Club".

Aside from everything that Betty has done for RCHS, she has also shown true and faithful dedication to her community by her undying support, and positive attitude. Thank you Betty for all of your outstanding contributions, and to join with so many others to help make Raymond and Casco a wonderful place to live and work for ourselves and our children.

Frank grew up in Portland and graduated from Cheverus High School in the late 50's. He attended the University of Maine in Portland and graduated with a B. A. in Elementary Education from Gorham State College. He taught for 3 years in Falmouth and was a teaching principal there for 2 years. Frank came to Raymond in 1967 to teach 5, 6, 7 & 8 grade math and also to be principal. In 1975 he become Superintendent/Principal and served in that capacity until 1987. He was hired as the Assistant Superintendent MSAD #6 (Bonny Eagle) and filled that position until he was named Superintendent there in 1997. Frank also holds a MA in School Administration from the University of Maine at Gorham as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Administration from the University of Maine Orono. Upon retirement from public education Frank became Director of Education at The Elan School in Poland, ME. where he served until 2010.



MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER

Frank has received many awards during his years in education but is most proud of receiving the “Professional Distinctions Outstanding Leadership Award” from the State School Superintendents Association and the Commissioner’s Award of Outstanding Educational Leadership 1995.

Frank served three terms as President of the Cumberland County Superintendents and was treasurer of that organization for many years. He also served on the Executive Board of the State Superintendents from 1982 to 1998. He also served as chairperson of the MSSA Technology Task Force from 1991 - 1996. While at Bonny Eagle he headed the system’s adoption of Total Quality Management Systems for Continual School Improvement and was also involved nationally in training other schools in adopting these practices.

Frank is a charter member of the “Raymond Civic League, the Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club and the Raymond Casco Historical Society. He was named a lifelong member of the Raymond PTA and served as president of the Raymond Recreation Association. He has been on the Raymond Budget Committee as well as chairman of the Raymond School Committee. Frank continues to work on a part time basis as a specialist at the Apple store in South Portland as well as consulting to private schools and programs.

Frank’s accomplishments are unsurpassed by most. Aside from his involvement in the Raymond-Casco Historical Society, Frank has contributed enormously to educating future generations. Thank you Frank for all of your admirable contributions to our children and our society as a whole.



Raymond-Casco Historical Society
PO Box 1055
Raymond, ME 04071



Winter Donations

Since we closed the Raymond-Casco Historical Museum last fall for the season, we have received several wonderful donations. Among them are these two "Farmers' Almanacs" donated to us by Wally Waugh.
-Thanks, Wally!