

RAYMOND-CASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



WINTER, 2011

RCHS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



- **Paul Edes** - *Vice President/Curator*
- **Wayne Holmquist** - *Assistant Treasurer*
- **Craig Sharkey** - *Corresponding Secretary*
- **Pam Grant** - *President*
- **Betty McDermott** - *Treasurer*
- **Linda Alexander** - *Secretary*
- **Betty Glassford** - *Historian (Not in photo above)*

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 CRHS Endowment Fund. For more information please feel free to call Pam Grant at (207) 655-2438 or Betty Glassford at (207) 655-4854.

REMINDER

Next RCHS MEETING

January 9th, 2012

At roughly 7:45 pm

(Following the Genealogy Presentation)

HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITY

The Raymond/Casco Historical Society is now completing its 45th 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 of \$3.00. Please see page 7 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 Holiday 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.

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GROWTH UPDATE

Skip Watkins has written a 20 year lease to RCCHS for free use of his barn for additional space for our displays. Skip's ongoing generosity to the RCCHS should not go unrecognized.

We are still currently waiting on the electrical estimates for the barn wiring which was promised by the end of this month. When estimates come in, Wayne Holmquist is hoping to apply for any appropriate grants that may be available to help us handle the wiring costs. We will continue to give updates on the project as they become available.

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that the first town election of Casco, Maine was held at the Friends' Meeting House on March 30, 1841, and Daniel Cook was chosen moderator of the Meeting. The first town clerk was Alpheus S. Holden and the first selectmen were Isaiah Gould, Richard Cook and Frederick Nutting.

PICTURES OF YESTERYEAR

Some of you may have already noticed, but for those of you who have not...There are a variety of four historic pictures hanging in the Casco Recreation Center. They will soon be accompanied by four more pictures as well as descriptive plaques below each. Within the next few months there will also be four photos going up in the Raymond Town Hall. All of these historic photos are from the early times in the town which they are hanging in, and have been recreated using photos from the Raymond-Casco Photo Archive Collection. If you have not already done so, please make a point to view these restorations. Special thanks to Pam Grant & Betty Glassford for all of their time in efforts to locate these very special moments captured in time. Should any of you have any old pictures of Raymond or Casco that you would be willing to donate to RCCHS or if you know someone who does, please contact Craig Sharkey, Betty Glassford, or Pam Grant.

**If anyone wishes to have any type of photo restoration work done on any of your own pictures for your own use, please feel free to call Craig Sharkey, and he will be happy to discuss your needs with you.*

***Pam Grant: (207) 655-2438
Betty Glassford: (207) 655-4854
Craig Sharkey (207) 655-8668***



2012 Meeting Schedule

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

- Celeste Hyer will be speaking on Genealogy
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 7:30 pm (Roughly)

February 13, 2012, 6:30 pm (Raymond Public Safety Building):

- Harry Hepburn will be speaking on Antique Clocks
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 7:30 pm (Roughly)

March 12, 2012, 6:30 pm (Raymond Public Safety Building):

- Carol Drew will be speaking on Gardening
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 7:30 pm (Roughly)

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

- Wayne Holmquist will be speaking on Dowsing
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 7:30 pm (Roughly)

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

- Elizabeth Bullen will be speaking on Heritage Scrapbooking
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 8:00 pm (Roughly)

May 26, 2012, 10:00 am (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- RCCHS 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
- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 8:00 pm (Roughly)

July 9, 2012, 7:00 pm (Raymond-Casco Historical Building):

- RCCHS Meeting to follow at 7:00 pm

July 15, 2012, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Friends Schoolhouse behind the Casco Rec. 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.

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

- Appraisal Night with Harry Hepburn

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

- RCCHS Picnick (To be Confirmed)
- No meeting this month

Thanks to all members and friends for their support in our 45th year.



OLD BUSINESS

- A new grill was purchased last fall by Betty McDermott, and was put together by Paul Edes. This will be great to have for our future fund raising events.
- A new United States flag is on the list of new purchases.
- Thanks to Betty and Sonny for the great job calking around the RCHS building!



On October 14th, 2011 Penny Laura gave a Powerpoint Presentation on Civil War Medicine. The turnout was great! Thanks Penny!

On November 14th, 2011 Liz Bullen gave a Presentation on making penny rugs. Elizabeth demonstrated the process of using pennies and wool scraps to make many decorative ornamental rugs as they did in Colonial America and during the Civil War. Another great turnout! Thanks Liz!





Genealogy

Discovering Your
Ancestors

Celeste B. Hyer

1/9/2012 • 6:30 pm

Celeste is the Membership Secretary of the Maine Genealogical Society (MGS) and has written book reviews for The Maine Genealogist and provided genealogy searches in answer to inquiries to MGS, the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society and patrons of the Casco Library. She is a member of the Wassabec Genealogical Society, the Dover-Foxcroft and Otisfield Historical Society, Maine Historical Society, Maine Old Cemetery Association and The New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Celeste retired from Hewlett-Packard in Littleton, MA. in 2003 as a Complex Problem Manager in Customer Services. She and her husband David moved back to their native state of Maine and live on Thompson Lake in Otisfield. She received a B.A. in American History from the University of Maine and a Masters of Library Science from Simmons College. Celeste is also a member of the Board of Trustees and active volunteer at the Casco Public Library. With her mother, she has researched all sides of her family genealogy since she was a child and has also done her husband's families. She has continued to add to her mother's collection of over 200 Maine Town History books and related items. She will be presenting a short program of "How to Start a Genealogical Search for Your Ancestors".

Antique Clocks

Do you have one?

Do you know its history?

Harry Hepburn III

2/13/2012 • 6:30 pm



Harry has been a full time antiques dealer since 1971 and has specialized in antique clock repair since 1968. He is a licensed and bonded auctioneer and appraiser of antiques and personal property since 1977. He is well recognized throughout New England as an authority on early clocks, period furniture and their accessories.

Harry is on the Board of Directors of the Maine Antique Dealers Association. He also the Vice President of the Maine Chapter of the National Clock & Watch Collectors Association.

If you have an antique clock, Harry encourages you to bring it when you come.



Gardening

Getting ready for
Spring Planting

Carol Drew

3/12/2012 • 6:30 pm

Carol is the owner of Watkins Flowers and Greenhouse on 791 Roosevelt Trail in Casco, Maine. She will be talking about starting seedlings, and how to plant them. She will demonstrate how to prepare seedlings for flowers and vegetables. Carol will also explain proper scheduling on when to start your seeds so that you can get them in the ground in a timely manner.

If you do any type of planting every spring this is a presentation you don't want to miss, so mark your calendars today!

Dowsing

Finding Water &
Grave Sites

Wayne Holmquist

4/9/2012 • 6:30 pm



Wayne will be demonstrating his experience in dowsing for old family cemeteries. Not only can he find cemetery plots and tell where the corner posts were, but Wayne can also tell if there are men, women or children buried there.

This is a program of special interest to people who have private family burial grounds on their property.





Heritage Scrapbooking

Elizabeth Bullen

5/14/2012 • 7:00 pm

Heritage scrapbooks are an excellent way to share, organize and preserve family history info, photos and memorabilia. Please come and join the Raymond-Casco Historical Society in May 2012 as Elizabeth Bullen of Casco offers a presentation on heritage scrapbooks and their importance as future family treasures.



Early Life In The 1800's

John Manoush

6/11/2012 • 7:00 pm

As a trustee of the Hawthorne Community Association for the last 10 years, I have learned a lot about what Nathaniel Hawthorne's early life was like when he lived in Raymond between about 1812 and 1825. The fact that the Hawthorne's home is still standing after 200 years attests to the fame of its former resident -- but what about the average working person? What were their homes and lives like?

Consulting a number of sources including books of the late Ernest Night of Raymond, a founding member of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society, I have attempted to construct a picture of what everyday life was like in the following subject areas:

- Making a Living • Life and Death (Health and Illnesses)
- The Homes (Size, construction, heating) • Eating, Drinking and Smoking • Shopping and Entertainment • Travel



Folk Art Rug Hooking

Janet Connor

7/15/2012 • 9:00 am

Have you ever admired the simple and whimsical designs of hand hooked rugs? Genuine hooked rugs use wool fabric strips, not yarn, and are rich with texture and color. Like all old fashioned crafts, rug hooking is low-tech, simple and lots of fun! Your instructor, Janet Connor, is known as the "Happy Hooker" and she is an experienced teacher who LOVES working with beginners! Learn the sequence and procedure of rug hooking, from start to finish. Every step will be demonstrated. You will choose a rug hooking kit for your project, available directly from the instructor. (\$35-60 depending upon size) We will briefly discuss the history and tradition of primitive rug hooking, learn about finding and preparing materials, and research sources for design inspiration. Your rug hooking kit will include everything needed: hook, instructions, design suggestions, binding, burlap, hoop and a selection of one-of-a-kind heirloom and hand dyed wools. Designs may be previewed at:

www.jconnerhookedrugs.com.

You may reserve a kit by emailing Janet at:

fcjc@roadrunner.com.

If you have a favorite pair of sharp fabric scissors, please bring these to class.



Appraisal Night

Harry Hepburn III

7/26/2012 • 7:00 pm

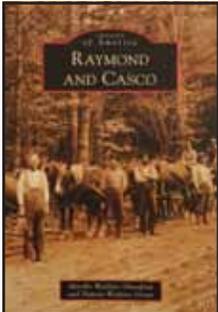
Harry has been a full time antiques dealer since 1971 and has specialized in antique clock repair since 1968. He is a licensed and bonded auctioneer and appraiser of antiques and personal property since 1977. He is well recognized throughout New England as an authority on early clocks, period furniture and their accessories.

To have your antiques appraised, don't miss this opportunity.

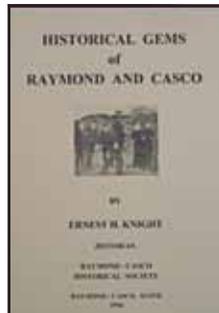


RCHS Items For Sale

To purchase any of the items below, just send your check for the amount listed under the item you are ordering and add \$3.00 for shipping and handling, then send to RCHS, PO Box 1055, Raymond, ME 04071.



Images of America
Raymond & Casco
Book: **\$21.99**



Historic Gems of
Raymond & Casco
Book: **\$10.00**



Growing Up on
Quaker Ridge Road
Book: **\$25.00**



Assorted Local Postcards
.75 ¢ Each
10 for \$5.00



Raymondtown
Trivet
\$5.00



RCHS
T-Shirt
\$10.00



RCHS
Cap
\$10.00



Schoolhouse
Paperweight
\$5.00



Schoolhouse
Magnet
\$2.00



Schoolhouse
Mug
\$5.00



Casco
Sesquicentennial
Coin **\$10.00**



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

Metal Cemetery Monuments

Researcher: Wayne Holmquist

Back in the 1886 zinc was the lightest building material available and started to be used in cemetery monuments as it appeared to be made of a bluish grey stone. These monuments are actually made of molded metal. The material was called White Bronze to make it more appealing to customers, but is actually pure zinc. Left exposed to the elements the monuments rapidly form a tough and very durable skin of zinc carbonate that protects the underlying metal and gives the monuments their characteristic bluish grey color. These monuments were fairly common in United States, Hawaii, and Canada.

They were typically ordered from sales agents with a catalog, and were very inexpensive ranging from \$6.00 up to \$5,000. These marker manufacturers copied the same shapes and styles as marble and granite monuments. The stone dealers seldom sold the metal monuments. The general rarity of these monuments is due to the fact that they were only produced for 40 years and never really accepted by the public. Some cemeteries passed regulations that prohibited their use and never fully accepted the claims they were superior to stone.

The originators were M.A. Richardson and C.J. Willard who perfected the method of casting in 1873 and the process was sold several times before finding a financially solid manufacturer who could afford to produce them. The process was for an artist to create wax models which were used to create plaster molds for creating the individual pieces. The company used a patented process for fusing the larger pieces together. Zinc was heated to temperatures way above its melting point, then poured into the joints between individual pieces. This caused the adjoining surfaces to melt together, welding them into a single unit, a much stronger process than soldering.

The zinc carbonate that gives the monuments their characteristic bluish gray color also created a hard protective skin so that the castings remain extremely sharp and clear. The unfortunate characteristic of these monuments is that they are very brittle and may break if hit with a tree branch, and the fact that over time some would creep or sag. Zinc being a non ferrous metal is resistant to rust and corrosion.

Sears used to offer to construct and ship monuments in their catalog to any place in USA and Canada. Typically they ranged in height from 2 to 14 feet high, had a base which resembled stone, but most were in the shape of an obelisk, four-sided monolithic tapering pillars. Some of the symbols one could choose in their casting were often of a religious nature. Others a bushel of wheat symbolized that the great harvest has come and life ended. Also wheat rather than bread was a symbol of the body of Christ. Roses which were common, symbolized beauty and the Virgin Mary. The letters I.H.S. were found on many crosses and were an abbreviation for the Greek spelling of Jesus. Scenes in which hands are clasped are meant to state that the union of love and family is stronger than death. Other common symbols featured wreaths, lilies, and angels.

Some monuments were made with bolted plates cast with the names or dates and were loosened and replaced as other family members died and were added to the monument. Toward the end of World War I they were losing favor and some tried combining copper to the metal to replicate bronze, however, cast monuments did not regain popularity after the war. Time has proven the sales mans pitch that they were superior to stone even if they were not acceptable to the taste-setters of the day.