

RAYMOND-CASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



FALL, 2011

NEW RCHS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



As shown above, new RCHS Committee members include:

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

SOLVE

SOLVE is a group of individuals from local area historical societies, which will be meeting at the Raymond-Casco Historical Society building on Route 302 at 10:00 am on October 11, 2011. Wayne Holmquest will be demonstrating his experience in dowsing for old family cemeteries. Please bring your own sandwich. Deserts and beverages will be provided.

REMEMINDER

Next RCHS MEETING
Columbus Day, October 10, 2011
At roughly 7:45 pm
(Following the Civil War Medicine Presentation)

MEDICINE OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Raymond Casco Historical Museum will be presenting a special program on Monday, October 10 at 7 pm in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

Penny Loura, RN will give a MS Power Point presentation on Medicine used in the Civil War. During those four horrific years many soldiers on both sides of the conflict died not only from gun shot wounds but disease. The field hospitals were small tents, many troops suffered greatly from lack of medical knowledge and supplies. Come and listen to Penny as she tells us stories of our ancestors and their experiences during these turbulent times.



Refreshment will be served. The RCHS museum is located in Casco on Route 302 as you approach the Naples town line. For more information visit our web site at www.raymondcascohistory.org or call Pam Grant at 655-2438.

Submitted by Anne Miller 627-4989

MONTHLY SPEAKERS

The Raymond Casco Historical Society will be working to bring in a variety of speakers on a monthly basis, covering various historical related interests. If you have a particular interest, please let us know. If we have not already scheduled someone to speak on your interests, we may be able to do so in the future.

FRYE'S ISLAND WITCH HUNT

It was back in Canal Boat days - a good century ago, when word spread about that a witch was living on Frye's Island down in Sebago Lake. If this was true, it just couldn't be tolerated, and the inhabitants of bordering villages intended to do something about it. Of course, everyone was busy, but in those days everyone would turn out for any occasion to help a neighbor, such as husking bees or barn raisings. Nobody wanted a witch for a neighbor, and as the story passed from one to another, plans were formulated to do something about it.

There were a number of canal boats plying the waterway. Several of them were passed into service for an armada that would set sail at a given time, so that they might converge on the island, landing on all sides almost simultaneously. Nearly every able-bodied person for miles around boarded the vessels, ready for the encounter and, as the landings were made, they scrambled ashore, methodically searching every foot of ground.

Did they find the witch? Of course not - for if there had been one, she'd mounted her broomstick and, as UFO, had escaped, perhaps crossing undetected and seeking refuge in the dense forests along the shores of the mainland.

She might have been the legendary last witch of Salem, who reportedly became known as the "Witch of Muddy River Bog" about whom a poet was written. Later, the verse was uncovered among papers found in a Naples attic and presented to the NHS archives. Anyway, she was never heard of again, and the poet who composed the verses will never be identified, for no name appeared on the manuscript.

The events above mentioned were told to the writer by an area resident. She was told the story by her mother, who was a little girl at the time and who could remember the excitement that the episode generated.

Submitted by Betty Glassford

WE'RE GROWING!

Plans are moving forward on properly rewiring the additional barn which will be used by the RCHS in addition to its current barn. Electricians have already begun to make initial assessments of the work which will be needed.

DID YOU KNOW...

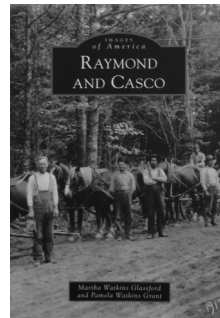
Did you know people would gather in parties of 20 or more to roll blackened logs of a fallow (land tilled but left unseeded during a growing season), after a fire had consumed the smaller branches? A day's rolling and lifting would transform half a dozen acres of blackened trunks into huge blazing fires at night time. In place of the one who would pass the jugs of rum all day, the fiddler would form the center of attraction. The rugged and blackened heroes of the logging leading maidens clothed in homespun clothing through the quiet dance. It was no uncommon event when going home from one of these dances to encounter a bear.

Submitted by Betty Glassford

OLD BUSINESS

- The cookout and new book signing at our open house on July 8th was a great success, and thanks to all who helped out.
- \$490.00 was made from donations in memory of our past member Phil Cole which will go into the endowment fund.
- Appraisal night on July 26th was very successful. Thanks to all who helped out with that.
- Many new donations continue to be made. Among them were 30 scrap books of the local towns from the 1930's and up. These should prove to be a great resource for all who are interested.

RCHS STORE



Images of America - Raymond & Casco Book (Shown Left).....\$21.99

Historic Gems Book.....\$10.00

Growing Up on Quaker Ridge Road Book.....\$25.00

Postcards: \$5.00 (For 10) or .75 ea

Raymondtown Trivet.....\$5.00

RCHS T-Shirt (Shown Right)..\$10.00

RCHS Caps.....\$10.00

Schoolhouse Paperweight...\$5.00

Schoolhouse Magnet.....\$2.00

Schoolhouse Mug.....\$5.00

Casco Sesquicentennial Coin..\$10.00

