



Hebron Historical Society

P.O. Box 294 Hebron, Maine 04238

www.hebronmehistsoc.org

Newsletter

Volume 5 summer 2024

Appologies for this late Newsletter, but it's been a crazy busy Fall, Winter and Spring.

Our Building

Last fall a remodel was started to spruce up the building interior to create a more welcoming environment for everybody. All the ceiling seams in the main room had cracked, and paint was peeling. There was left over water damage stains prior to the windows being replaced. The damaged area was replaced, ceiling seams were stripped out, retaped and remudded. Much the same was done to the walls where needed. Countless screws were popping, but have been redone.

The ceiling has been painted along with the walls. Windows and doorway trim was touched up with matching paint. An interesting part of the remodel has to do with the original building construction. Long ago the assembled structure utilized trees trunks as top plates. Being that they are tree trucks their shape and placement has them jutting beyond the wall where the wall meets the ceiling. We are slowly crafting molding that will allow us to cover these junctures. The pace is picking up, and the inside is coming back together. Once the molding has been finished the already waiting curtains will be hemmed and curtain rods installed to finish the look.

Chair Donations

During all of this Benjamin Campo Jr. a generous Attorney from Yarmouth Maine donated their 6 retired matching office chairs to us. It helps us present a comfortable, and united look for us and our visitors. Thank you Mr. Campo Jr. we appreciate you!

Everything helps even if we are accomplishing it in small steps!

Second floor lighting

We are finally able to report that after having contracted with a different electrician we now have lighting and outlets in each room on our second floor. The second floor remains unremodeled, but in the future we hope to finish each room. It would be nice to have space

where Directors could do research, and not worry about packing and unpacking their projects each time they visit.

The crash!

One cold night last January a driver for whatever reason left the road traveled through the plowed snowbank across our snow covered lawn, and came to rest on our front porch.



The porch roof was left hanging precariously attached by one lone corner, all the supports save for 1 were no longer upright. Inside the building the jolt was enough to knock all but two framed photos off of the display rack and brake their glass. Luckily nobody was hurt, but this additional work on our building slowed everything down to a crawl. The front entrance was now blocked for safety concerns.



The Clean up

A few days later after a visit by our insurance company adjuster we gathered a crew to help remove the roof hazard for safety reasons. Things were going fine until they weren't.

While attempting to pass a metal support under the roof to aid in lifting it, the roof suddenly detached from the

building and fell flat as a pancake onto the old porch floor. We were quite surprised, it took our breath away, but nobody was hurt.

Since then we have removed the top section of the porch floor, and found it was unattached to the building, but simply resting on top of an old rotted floor itself supported only by loose rocks. All the debris has since been removed and carted away. There was quite a void under the old porch, and with the help of the Town of Hebron Town Public Works Dept. who delivered a truckload of dirt which we used to fill in the empty space. We are also hoping for some future dirt deliveries to help fill in a low area adjacent to our building. In the meantime Director Richard Hatch had deftly felled a good size tree that was too close to our building. Our plans are to not only replace the roofed porch, but add a disability ramp so everybody will have access to our building.

The Replacement

Thanks to both Directors Robert Swift and Richard Hatch who joined together to design the new structure that is both functional and appealing to the eye. Normally replacement of the damaged structure would be grandfathered, but the new design is bigger to accommodate the ramp per the American Disability Act (ADA) standards. Following the rules the Building inspector was required to deny our building permit, and we appealed. Monday June 10 the selectboard met and agreed to conditionally approve the variance providing the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) would also approve our construction design. After meeting with MDOT engineers we are again required to apply for another variance, but this time with the MDOT Commissioner. In the mean time we have redesigned the porch hoping to obtain the required approvals.

The Train Building

The train building status has remained the same do to the other pressing issues. Our next step as time permits is to replace rotted roof boards on the front side with boards that we have already purchased. The rear roof was repaired and resingled completed late last summer.

Summer Yard sale

Hebron Academy has completed their annual "Green Sweep" sale and has generously allowed us to pick up the remaning items. We appreciate the Academy for helping us with our fundraiser to keep our organization running. Once again we gathered a crew. We transported everything back to our building. As we have done in prior years after our yard sale we will donate our unsold items to charitable groups. Items that were donated previously during the year are stored in our building. The yard sale is scheduled for June 28th and 29th.

Fund Raisers

This year we have decided to forgo the calander drawing not because it wasn't successful, but to give things/people a rest. Director Andea Powers has done a wonderful job alongside Director Bruce Conant in collecting prizes. We Do intend to have a food sale and raffle on Election Day November 2024. As the British would say nobody can accuse our organization of being "layabouts"

Speakers

So far this year Director Bruce Conant has been able to arrange two very interesting speakers with more already scheduled. Kudos to Bruce for continuing to find interesting presentations.

April: Author Dale Porter Clark with her book *Escape From Bunker Hill* informing us about the Civil era, and the Underground railroad. It's always a pleasure to have the Author talk with us in this intimate setting.



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May: Anne Morin of Rumford Maine spoke about the publication "The Life of Josiah Jensen by a former slave". Anne had a first edition copy that she rightly prized. Anne was passionate about this story and we appreciated her.

Publication

Our latest publication a refresh of the Hebron Then and Now book is in the final stage of proof reading and will be sent to the printer shortly. These books take quite a bit of time and effort to organize with photos and stories. Although it's impossible to cover every aspect of Hebron in one publication great effort has been made to broadly cover the town. A well deserved thanks to Beth Francis who has worked so hard to bring it all together. I am sure she will be glad to see the work completed and in print.



Hebron Maine historical Society Membership Application

Type of membership: Individual [] \$10 Family [] \$20

Name of Individual/Head of Family: _____

Address: _____

Family member names: _____

E-Mail address of Individual/Head of Family: _____

If mailing to us: Hebron Historical Society

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