

CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

From the President's Desk:

A new season is here - YAY for Spring Reopening! We got going with a terrific revival of the Duck Derby on April 23. It was a wonderful day, lots of great prizes (thank you donors!) and such fun for the grownups and kids.....there must have been well over 100 participating. Our volunteers tending to the duckies in the river were super, and Aaron Parker was an awesome announcer. This was also a very successful fundraiser for the Girl Scouts and our Bonney Memorial Library.

We want folks to know that several members of Historical serve the town on the Pike Hall Committee and the Land Ordinance Committee. We are so grateful for the town's contribution at March town meeting; this truly supports our operations. We are also grateful for the wonderful building we share with the Library. Their Pie and Book Sale on May 21 was such a happy community event.

The uptick in Covid infections complicates our planning for events as we want to be safe for our speakers and visitors. At this time masks are recommended but not required, as we try to figure out how to offer history programs. We welcome your ideas and helping hands to do this - give us a call!

Lately our Cemetery Committee has been very busy cleaning and documenting even more outlying burial grounds and discovering several "lost" early sites. Please contact Gary Mason at this specific email address if you know of an outlying cemetery or would like to join in - it's really interesting and a fun group to work with. cornishocg@gmail.com Gary is working on writing an updated and more complete directory for these cemeteries, a huge project.

We continue to receive queries about ancestors : Bragdons, Seaveys, Coles, Jones, and Flye/Fryes this past month. Please contact us for assistance with your genealogies and house histories. The Bicentennial of Maine Statehood and the Spanish Influenza and WWI Armistice exhibits are still on display. Please stop in when the open flag is out!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer!

Sandy

“From the Secretary’s Notebook”

In an earlier CHS newsletter, I mentioned that the Riverside Cemetery is interested in making our map more “reader friendly” for all the families of Cornish. Cemetery signage is an ongoing project and we have also been busy preparing for our 2022 Memorial Day tribute.



Colonel Brad Nadig from the Sacopee Valley JROTC brought nearly 30 cadets from that program to our cemetery to place 398 American flags at the burial sites of every Veteran....from Revolutionary times to current service.

What a site to witness: 30 young adults with a handful of flags searching for names throughout the whole cemetery and then reading the stone, straightening the military stake, and inserting the flag.

We salute the JROTC.

Also, two Girl Scout troops each led by Amy Muccio and Jessica Benson planted over 200 geraniums in Riverside cemetery.

We salute Troop 2271 and Troop 658.

CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Sandy Howe	(207) 625-4813
Vice President	Diann Perkins	(207) 625-3281
Secretary	Cynthia Mason	(207) 671-6354
Treasurer	Dorothy Maxwell	(207) 787-1478

Just a friendly reminder - Annual dues for 2022 were due on January 1st. If you have not already paid your membership, we would appreciate you sending payment now to help support the activities and programs of the
Cornish Historical Society.



The Historical Society at 40 Main Street is open when the flag is out and by chance or appointment. We hope you will stop in to see our exhibits or to use our Archives room to help you with historical or genealogical research. Watch Your Weekly Shopping Guide for more information about what we have planned for 2022.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us keep 40 Main Street open for more hours during the summer. No special skills required - we can provide easy instructions to operate videos and printer. You can let us know what works for you.

Norman Pierce Sawyer, Jr. passed away on May 5, 2022. He was the grandson of Dr. Samuel Sawyer who lived and practiced medicine in the building that is now home to Cornish Historical Society. Earlier this spring our historian Linda Griffin was working at 40 Main Street and put out the Open flag. By chance Mr. Sawyer and his wife Lana came to visit the old family home, as he had many fond memories of summer vacations in the Sebago Lake area. Sadly he died soon after and his family has requested contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or to CHS.

It's never too early to start thinking about 2023! We are starting to gather pictures and stories for our next calendar with a *seasonal or holiday theme*. Do you have a photo of a visit with Santa or a favorite Halloween costume? Maybe picking apples or a day at the pond? As always we need your help, you can bring photos into The Inkwell to be scanned or email photo in .jpg format to theinkwellcornish@yahoo.com
If you have a short anecdote, either inspiring or funny, we would like to hear that, also.

Our good friend Emily Lyle Ward passed away on May 15, 2022 after a courageous battle with mesothelioma. She was born in Portland and grew up in Cornish.

Emily had a 43 year nursing career, gave endless devotion to her family and friends, and also to her dogs. She was active in the affairs of the town she loved, including serving as a select person, supervising the renovation of Pike Memorial Hall, an active member of CAB doing whatever needed to be done, and a member of the Cornish Historical Society Board.

We will miss Emily's caring attention to all of us, her enthusiasm and her sense of humor.



8th Annual Daffodil Duck Derby

Saturday, April 23rd





Some of our volunteers!

Daffodil Duck Derby is a community event and everyone has fun!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and the businesses that make this CHS annual event a success!

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes - We couldn't do it without you!

We hope you will support the businesses that support us.



Girls Scouts from Troop 658 sold Girl Scout cookies!

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| At Once All Agog | Kezar Falls NAPA |
| Paul Howe | Cornish Subway |
| Village Jewelers | Archie's Strike & Spare |
| Call's Shop-n-Save | ARCH-Maine |
| The Axe Pit | The Inkwell |
| Full Circle Artisan's Gallery | Amolette Herbal Apothecary |
| Mystery NH Escape Rooms | Bay Haven |
| Krista's | Friendly River Music |
| Lily's Fine Flowers & Antiques | Pingree's Maple Syrup |
| The Local Gear | The Whistle Stop |
| Cornish Hardware | Bloomer's Ice Cream |
| Foothill's Fitness Center | Brady's Screenprint & Embroidery |
| York's Wild Kingdom | Angel's Acres Flower Design |
| Palace Playland | My Maine Manis/Color Street |
| Funspot | Ossipee Valley Music Festival |
| Maine Mariners | Highland Farms Gift Basket |
| Nannie's Kitchen | Sacred Paws |
| The Red Sox | Pywacket Antiques |
| Sea Dogs | Ossipee Valley Fair |
| Sofia's Pizza & Roast Beef | The Strand |
| Kezar Falls Hardware | |



Always a good time at the library food table!

**Cornish Historical Society
open for the first time this year
during the library book & pie
sale and UCC tag sale.**



BAKE SALE

Look for us when you go to vote at the primary election on June 14th - CHS and the Fairgrounds Committee will be having a bake sale with the usual assortment of delicious goodies. Remember - when you vote you are also helping to make history!

**“TAKE ME OUT TO
THE BALL GAME”**

Vintage Baseball Game

Saturday, June 11th

12 Noon

Cornish Fairgrounds



Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club

vs.

Boston Union Base Ball Club

Bring a blanket

or chair

Donation Only

Hosted by - Cornish Fairgrounds Committee

F.MI. Kate 625-3095 - or - Diann 625-3281



Once again the Friends of Hillside Church have helped with the maintenance and restoration of our treasured Hillside Church building, built in 1805, and organ, gifted in 1905. Since our last report, members of the congregation are enjoying the sounds of the restored organ during the church services that are held there. In addition, a lightning protection system was installed last spring to safeguard the building from the furies of Mother Nature. Much still needs to be done to the building to ensure its longevity, however. Steeple repair, repainting, and a shoring up of the foundation will be necessary sooner rather than later. The building's underpinnings are a continuous concern as the ground beneath the building is wet from water running down the same hill the church was skidded down in 1858.

We are always grateful to old Friends and new for helping to keep this historic building standing and usable. If you would like to become a Friend of the Hillside Church (dues are \$10/year for an individual or \$25/year for a family), please contact Jan Goldsberry at 625-7139 and you will be put on our mailing list. Of course, donations are always welcome and deeply appreciated. You may send them to Jan at 30 Cumberland Street, Cornish, 04020.

Thanks to the Historical Society for all they do to remind us why we love living in Cornish!

We are fortunate to have two historic church buildings in Cornish.

The United Church of Christ 37 Main Street, Cornish, Maine

The church has been a tourist attraction since 1843 because of its beautiful steeple...

There have been many repairs made over the years. In 2019 we had a complete evaluation done by an engineer and received a 37 page report explaining what needs to be done, a complete restoration.

In November 2020 the estimated figure was \$153,000. We are going to make an effort to raise \$250,000 for our goal by September of 2022. The reason for setting this higher goal is because of the inflated prices of building materials since 2019. We know this will not be easy.

It was suggested that maybe if we could get just \$1.00 from each person willing to help, that figure would be amazing by itself. The first part of the goal is to get to \$60,000 for a matching grant from the State Grant fund. We will keep the Faith and see what the Good Lord allows us to receive.

If you wish to donate or would like more information, our address is: Cornish United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 235

Cornish, ME 04020

Please mark donation for Church Steeple Fund.

- IN FAITH -

Fundraising Chair, Merle Googins



Spirit of America Award

2021



Diann Watson Perkins was born in Cornish, Maine in April of 1937. She graduated from Cornish High School and the University of Maine in Orono. Her teaching career started in 1959 at Brewer Junior High and continued at Old Town High School, Bangor High School, University of Maine Orono, Gorham State College and then in 1967 Sacopee Valley Junior Senior High School until 1992.

Diann married Linwood Glen Perkins in 1958 and they raised two boys, Jay Farley and Perry Hugh. The family returned to Cornish in 1965.

Her love for the town of Cornish and her sense for civic responsibility were inherited from her parents, growing up she saw their volunteer work during World War II, the 1947 fire and on many other town committees.

One of Diann's favorite activities has been working regularly at the polls during elections where she sees all her friends and neighbors. With her tireless energy she has been a dedicated member of many town boards and committees.

Her committee work includes:

- Cornish Comprehensive Plan I & II Committee
- Cornish Fairgrounds Advisory Board
- Cornish Historical Society
- Cornish Memorial Day Committee
- Cornish School and Alumni Association
- Cornish Planning Board
- Cornish Recreation Committee
- Eagle Mill Park Committee
- Pike Memorial Hall Committee
- Water Level Ordinance Committee
- Sacopee Valley Recreation Council

The Spirit of America Award was established to recognize volunteerism and the Cornish Board of Selectmen selected Diann W. Perkins as the 2021 Spirit of America recipient for her tireless dedication to many hours of committee work.

Outlying Cemetery Group



We've been busy this spring. The above pictures are before and after of the Whitten cemetery on the Long Pond Road. This is just one of the cemeteries we have discovered and worked on. This part of the history of Cornish is disappearing fast. We believe it behooves us to honor those that came before.

These cemeteries were part of family farms, and most came before the Riverside Cemetery was established. Unfortunately, a few only had fieldstones for markers, so those souls remain unknown to us. Also, some monuments have been moved by "helpful" individuals, so it makes it almost impossible to find where they go. If anyone should come across one don't try to move it. We can try to properly place it later.

With the heat and insects in the summer, it makes it more difficult to search and clean.

We'll start again, in earnest in the fall. If you would like to join us please contact:

Gary Mason at 207-749-3461 or cornishocg@gmail.com.

Your help or information would be greatly appreciated.

Do you want to be a Friend of Pike Hall?

The Pike Hall Committee is selling 2 ½" x 1" name plates at \$25 each, engraved one or two lines, approx. 15 characters (including spaces) per line. The Friend can be yourself, your business, or in memory of a loved one. The large wood plaque



can be seen at the town office and will eventually be hung beside the stage. This project will help to fund future improvements to the Pike Hall auditorium. FMI call 625-3177.

If you wish to order a name plate, please make \$25 check payable to Town of Cornish (memo line Friends of Pike Hall project), print clearly what you would like on the name plate and include your phone number in case there is a question. Mail to Town of Cornish, 17 Maple Street, Cornish ME 04020 or you can put it in the Pike Hall donation box at the town office.

Thank you to Glass Graphics of Conway NH for their help with this project.

A NEW CHAPTER for the CORNISH INN



The historic inn near Thompson Park variously known as: The Lincoln House, the New Lincoln Hotel, the Cornish Inn, The Cornish Country Inn, the Inn at Cornish.....has changed hands again and there are many exciting changes coming this summer.

The new owners asked to learn the history of Cornish's landmark hotel. Sandy spent many hours gathering photographs, maps, talking to former employees and doing title and census searches to sketch out what the building was like at different times and what life was like for the proprietors and their families.

It became clear that ownership stayed within the same family for several generations. The story goes that Cotton Lincoln, a trader from Gorham, built his home on the site about 1820 after marrying the girl next door, Betsey Thompson, and starting a family in Cornish. There is no connection to Abraham Lincoln for the name of the Inn! A daughter, Anne Lucette and her husband may have added on and begun taking in boarders, but it was her cousin Calvin Woodbury who added the 3d floor and made it a true hotel in the 1870s at the start of Cornish's downtown heyday of manufacturing, commerce and the arrival of the train station across the Saco. Cornish Historical owns the "Depot Wagon" that was used to transport travelers from the station to the "Lincoln House" .

In 1922 Fred C. Small, a dynamo of a town businessman, purchased the building and contracted John Calvin Steven's architectural firm to totally update and enlarge it. Our Society owns these original blueprints. The old inn was transformed over the year with a new exterior and roofline, electrical wiring, refrigeration, running hot water, modern kitchen, a dining room with seating for 60, 27 guest rooms with new furniture and bedding, plate glass picture windows, etc. It opened as "The New Lincoln" in August of 1923. It was an immediate success!

The Depression saw many changes in management, ownership and upkeep but it was open year round most of the time and was still a center of activity in Cornish's downtown. Some families even spent their winter lodging there because it was easier than heating their own homes.

It is fun to read the brochure of 1960 when Don Jack's family owned the New Lincolnlook at those prices! Families booked their Thanksgiving dinners here, tourists and spouses of summer camp directors stayed and dined at this popular hotel and many local Cornish folks were employed for the kitchen, dining room and housekeeping.

Since the 1980s the Inn has had many different owners. Beginning in 1990 the porch was the site of the Apple Pie Contest held in September's annual Apple Festival in the park, until CAB disbanded about 2018.

Cornish Historical Society has made the new management well informed of the importance of this town landmark and wishes them a great success in this year's re-opening!

RATE SCHEDULE	
<i>European Plan</i>	
All rooms with running water	\$2.50, Single \$4.50 and up, Double
Private Bath or Showers	\$4.00 and up, Single \$7.00 and up, Double
Family Plan or Winter Rates sent on request	

CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 404

Cornish, ME 04020

What we'd like you to know about Cornish Historical Society . . .

Being a member can be much more than attending our monthly meeting - in fact you don't need to attend a meeting at all!

There are many ways to be a member. Maybe you would like to learn more about our town's history by spending time in our archives - or share your own memories of growing up in Cornish so that we can all learn from your experiences.

If being outdoors is more your style, you might be interested in one of our more recent projects locating, documenting, and caring for some of the small isolated cemeteries in Cornish.

If you have a special interest or area of expertise, would you like to speak at our museum in a casual atmosphere, or write a few paragraphs for our newsletter? We are always looking for new ideas for programs, exhibits, or contributions to the newsletter.

Would you like to help with a yard sale? Maybe you like to bake and could contribute to one of our bake sales held during voting - or have some old photographs you would like to identify. You get the idea - being a member of Cornish Historical Society can be what you want it to be!



----- MEMBERSHIP FORM -----



Name (s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Check here to receive your CHS
Newsletter by email. (in color)

Sign me up as a member _____ \$10.00 for single member _____ \$15.00 Family _____ \$100.00 Lifetime
annual dues annual dues

Please mail your dues and membership form to: Cornish Historical Society,
P.O. Box 404, Cornish, ME 04020 – Thank you for renewing / joining!



**CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, June 16th at 6 p.m.

40 Main Street

All are welcome to attend!