Since our last issue 2 years ago a lot has happened at The Penacook Historical Society in Penacook, New Hampshire. Our properties located on Penacook St. are comprised of the 1774 Nathaniel Rolfe House and the 1790's Rolfe Barn as well as the 1834 Abiel Rolfe House, all known as the Rolfe Family Historic District from a nomination on the State Register of Historic Places.

First, Happy New Year to our members and supporters of the Penacook Historical Society. We are over two months into the year and still we have snow but they say Spring is here! Let’s hope for a short mud season with rain holding off until most of this snow has melted.

It has been two years since our last newsletter but not because we have been asleep at the wheel. With all the changes going on in our village we have partnered with the City and other organizations to help with the process and try to make it as painless as possible. If you would like to know what has been happening and see the weekly updates by the City starting this Spring, go online to the Facebook page set up just for this reason at https://www.facebook.com/PenacookVillageStreet.

Celebrating 250 years in Concord! The kickoff was the New Year’s Eve Gala at the Grappone Center in Concord. And we were tickled-pink to be asked to join other groups to help with the process and try to make it easier to plan for seating and snacks.

Never the less, this Thurs, March 19 we are showing a film produced by Althea Barton of Penacook Films called, “Penacook History Tour with John Brookfield” which is about the men and music that made Penacook famous after the Civil War.

On Thurs. April 2 will be a “History of Concord Public Library” at the Concord Public Library. Without listing the whole calendar, go to Concord 250 and click events to see everything. This is the link for those reading this online, http://concord250.org/events-3/

You don’t want to forget the opening of the 1965 time capsule, Sunday June 7 by the Concord Historical Society. Due to the construction it was actually unearthed last summer but has been stored in Merrimack County Savings Bank. Another is supposed to be filled to bury for the next 50 years but again due to the construction that will be delayed until Sunday, August 16.

It is very important that when you visit the event page online that you click the event to see more details like the start time and a full description.

The big celebration for all the Villages of Concord is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

The Society has been fortunate to receive many new donations and are currently in the process of cataloging and displaying these collections. Last May Walter Pelletier donated in his father’s name, Paul A. Pelletier, forty large pictures including old prints of Penacook businesses, three Arch McDonnell’s and a color copy of a “Birds-eye View” framed picture of Penacook. This picture of Penacook. This is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

The Society has been fortunate to receive many new donations and are currently in the process of cataloging and displaying these collections. Last May Walter Pelletier donated in his father’s name, Paul A. Pelletier, forty large pictures including old prints of Penacook businesses, three Arch McDonnell’s and a color copy of a “Birds-eye View” framed picture of Penacook. This picture of Penacook. This is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

The Society has been fortunate to receive many new donations and are currently in the process of cataloging and displaying these collections. Last May Walter Pelletier donated in his father’s name, Paul A. Pelletier, forty large pictures including old prints of Penacook businesses, three Arch McDonnell’s and a color copy of a “Birds-eye View” framed picture of Penacook. This picture of Penacook. This is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

The Society has been fortunate to receive many new donations and are currently in the process of cataloging and displaying these collections. Last May Walter Pelletier donated in his father’s name, Paul A. Pelletier, forty large pictures including old prints of Penacook businesses, three Arch McDonnell’s and a color copy of a “Birds-eye View” framed picture of Penacook. This picture of Penacook. This is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

The Society has been fortunate to receive many new donations and are currently in the process of cataloging and displaying these collections. Last May Walter Pelletier donated in his father’s name, Paul A. Pelletier, forty large pictures including old prints of Penacook businesses, three Arch McDonnell’s and a color copy of a “Birds-eye View” framed picture of Penacook. This picture of Penacook. This is during the week of August 10 – 16. As soon as plans are finalized, they too will be on the event website and of course all of the events for Penacook will be on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety) and website:

http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/
Another surprise arrived last summer, it started with an email from Issaquah, Washington by Mr. Peter Burr. He told a story of receiving a box of artifacts from his grand father, Percy S. Brown of Laconia, NH on Christmas day, 1957. Percy was a long time resident of Laconia, a prominent business man and very interested in archaeology. The box contained “Pre-European contact stone artifacts including chisels, gouges, arrow heads, a net sinker, polished adzes, finely pressure-flaked points, a drill, Axe heads of exquisite molding…a fine display of Stone Age technology” as told by Peter.

His grand father told him the artifacts were from digs in the area and were thought to be from the Penny Cook Native Americans indigenous to this area. These too are on display for everyone to enjoy, fulfilling Mr. Burr’s dream to get the items “back home.”

There were several other donations that are in the process of being cataloged. Come by and visit us to see them!

Okay, here is one more we just picked up. Still looking for the train station sign but look at this!

From here on in it will be known as the planter. This area will be taken care of by the Society and we have submitted an application to the City for an Adopt-a-Spot.

If you haven’t been to the roundabout at the intersection of Washington and Village Street, all the sidewalks have been replaced and Boudreau Square has been made larger. What really made the area nice was the new old-fashioned street lights and all the overhead wires have been buried.

This year, the last leg of the Village Street project should be complete from Bonney Road to Abbott Rd., in front of Woodlawn Cemetery. Starting again this spring there will be weekly updates on the project on a Facebook page set up just for that purpose. (https://www.facebook.com/PenacookVillageStreet)

So, what else? Yes, there is more! First, we are planning more presentations this year that arel sure to be enjoyed by both the young and not so young. These are usually the second Wed. each month (except for July and August) following a potluck that starts at 6 PM.

Then, there is Memorial Day weekend; May 23 we are planning a GRAND Concert in Penacook and another in Concord Sunday, May 24. The band will play down by Contoocook River at Riverside Park and we are trying to have a small parade before the music starts. The Band is the Wildcat Regiment Band and they play Civil War era music.

Would you like to help with any of these events? The best way to help is to give us a donation. I know, another organization asking for money. Well, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, privately owned and operated group with a mission that includes fostering the appreciation for the history of the village and vicinity of Penacook. Our vehicle is not just the potlucks/presentations but we also partner with other local organizations like the Penacook Village Association to have the Penacook Farmers Markets and we have partnered with the Penacook Community Center Seniors to meet at the Rolfe House for their functions. Thanks for your support and help.

The Penacook Farmers Market will start up again this June 22. They are held at the 1834 Rolfe House at 11 Penacook St in Penacook and will be every Monday night from 4:00 – 6:30pm. Last year we averaged 207 shoppers every Monday with a high of 307 in July. That is certainly more than in prior summers and will only get better as more people hear about it. Our plan every week this summer is to have live bands or musicians playing farmers market type music or a live DJ playing tunes from decades gone by. Also, we are working to get more vendors, including craft merchants. The Penacook Village Association and we thank you for all your support. The gift shop will be open and we will let you look around on a guided tour. Just ask one of our historians! The Penacook Branch Library will have a couple tables set up with free books.

Community Gardens were once again a popular summer activity shared with children from PCC and the community. This summer should be fantastic! Last year the PCC had a yield of over 1500 lbs of vegetables. One third of the garden area will still be available for community rental at a price of $25.00 for 15’ X 15’ blocks. This price includes automatic watering daily via permanent irrigation. All proceeds are used towards the water bill. Reserve yours now, only a couple left!

Find us on,

Website = http://www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/

Facebook = https://www.facebook.com/PenacookHistoricalSociety

Recipe Book for Christmas - 2016

We are still looking for recipes for our recipe book. You know, that special recipe you only make once in a great while that everyone loves and your family wishes they could get a copy of before... Let’s just say you’re not available. This effort will be used as a fund raiser and all proceeds will be used for free events we put on for the neighborhood and community.
Thank you for your interest. Take a moment to let us know what you think. Due to many requests, a separate membership form is being enclosed to allow you to keep the entire Newsletter after you send it back.

************************

Save the Dates

***
March / April - Garden sign-up.

***
2nd Wed. of the month Potluck / Presentation.

***
April 2 - 6 PM, Concord Chats - History of Concord Public Library.

***
April 11 - 9 AM, Penacook Village Association general meeting at the 1834 Rolfe House.

***
April 16 - 6 PM, Concord Chats - History of First Church in Concord.

***
May 1 - Farmers Market Vendor applications due.

***
May 23 – Memorial Day Grand Concert by the Wildcat Regiment Band/Parade – check website (penacookhistoricalsociety.org) for details.

***
June 7 - 1965 Time Capsule opening with the Concord Historical Society and Merrimack County Savings Bank.

***
June 10 - Potluck 6 PM / Presentation 7 PM, “Native American Basket Making” by Sherry Gould

***
June 15 - Last day to buy a brick for the Poulin Park Fund raiser.

***
June 22 - Mondays 4:00 - 6:30 Farmers Markets, 11 Penacook St, here in Penacook.

***
Aug. 10 - 16 - Concord 250 City Celebration is different events(TBA) in the Villages of Concord.

***

***
Oct. 1 - 6 PM, Concord Chats - A History of Capitol Center for the Arts at 44 South Main St in Concord.

***
Nov. 7 - 2015 Time Capsule Burial at the City Plaza in Concord.

***
Dec. 31 - News Years Eve Gala by the Concord YMCA and Concord 250 at the Grappone Conference Center.

New Items in Our Gift Shop

PENACOOK ball cap $25.00  S+H is FREE! Our top seller for the last 2 years has been this ball cap. If you would like to show your Penacook “Pride” on those days when you need a little cover on your head, get this lid. It is a one-size fits all and has a Velcro strap on the back. “Penacook” is embroidered!

Puzzle - 1834 Rolfe House $19.95  99 Piece puzzle of the 1834 Rolfe House which is located at 11 Penacook St in Penacook NH. In January 2008, the Society purchased the house built by Nathaniel’s son Abiel in 1834. This 14-room farmhouse remained in the Rolfe family into the early 1990s, and has many original features intact. The Society is using the first floor for meeting and exhibit space and is renting office space and a small apartment on the second floor. The Rolfe House is on the State Register of Historic Places and is listed Nationally as being in The Rolfe Family Historic District.

Puzzle - Cows in the Pasture $19.95  99 Piece puzzle of the view from the South side of the 1834 Rolfe House. This pasture is owned by The Morrill Family Farm, as well as the cows, which you may find grazing. This fact doesn’t really have much significant historic value but it sure is an attraction for the locals. Maybe, it is due to the demise of many family farms; the Morrill Family Farm is one of two which is still in operation in the Concord, NH area. Or maybe it is just because people love to watch and talk to cows!
Become a Member today, re-up for 2015 or share with a friend!

Choose your membership category according to the contribution you are able to make:

- [ ] Senior (62+) and Student $5.00 - 25.00
- [ ] Individual $15.00 - 25.00
- [ ] Family $35.00 - 50.00
- [ ] Contributor $50.00 - 100.00
- [ ] Sponsor $100.00 - 250.00
- [ ] I am interested in making a gift of stocks.
- [ ] Donation for The Rolfe Family Historic District
  (This money is used to repair and/or the upkeep of the 1774 House, 1834 House, and the 1790 Rolfe Barn)
- [ ] My Company ______________________________ will match my gift.
- [ ] I would like to give a donation towards the garden project.
- [ ] I would like to order a Penacook baseball hat $24.95 ea. (S+H Incl.).
- [ ] I would like to order a Rolfe House / Cows(circle one) Puzzle $24.95 ea. (S+H Incl.)

Total $____

Name: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
________________________________________
Telephone:__________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________
Please make checks payable to: The Penacook Historical Society and mail to:

The Penacook Historical Society
16 Penacook Street
Penacook, NH 03303

- [ ] Please notify me of monthly meetings via phone number (   ) ___ - ____
- [ ] Please notify me of monthly meetings via email _________________________
- [ ] I will check online for schedule at www.penacookhistoricalsociety.org/meetings.htm
- [ ] Please send events Calendar / Newsletter
- [ ] Please notify me of volunteer opportunities in ______________________________
- [ ] I would like to use a plot of the garden, contact me at ______________________________
- [ ] I would like to recommend this person to join and realize my membership fee is free next year if they join.
  Name ______________________________
  Address __________________________________________________________________________
  Phone (   ) ___ - ____

Any ideas or thoughts ________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

The Penacook Historical Society is registered with the State of New Hampshire as a non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status under the Internal Revenue Act of 1986. Underwritten by grants from the NH Charitable Foundation and the Bagan Foundation.