

Bethel Historical Society Meeting Minutes  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Opened at 7:03PM by VP Janet Burnham

Members Present: Janet & George Burnham, Louise & Loraine Putnam, Helen Miller,  
Fran & Bill Johansen, Dave Aiken, Don Brown, Heidi Nikolaidis

**Secretary's Report** accepted as presented

**Treasurer's Report** - none

**Old Business**

Civil War Expo at Chester

Janet is trying to get more interest in the event

This is the first year it was moved to Chester. In the past it was at the Tunbridge Fair grounds

Museum inventory

We need to keep working on it. Not many folks came the last time a gathering was scheduled.

Heidi passed around the four lists we currently have.

One is the list of Abbott items currently in our possession.

List two is the one from the insurance company, which is from an appraisal done in 1985.

List three is the one showing the items supposedly "loaned" to BHS by Irene Cushing

List four is the inventory done in 2001

We need to find out what the status is on some items. Were they donated or just loaned?

There seems to be no record of that information.

Nick will call around to try to schedule a meeting, maybe some afternoon

To continue the inventory in the museum

Newsletter articles

Heidi is still looking for more articles. The Summer issue will go out soon.

Upcoming Schedule

The Flats walk – October, 6<sup>th</sup>, rain date 7<sup>th</sup>. Meet 2PM at Kep's place.

Bill J reported that he has had some help from John Dutton and Keith Bollman in cutting the trail. He said the first half of the trail is pretty good but the second half isn't as good. There are tall ferns and shrubs and logs on that part of the trail which makes it difficult to walk.

Kep Tailor has also cut the lawn where we would enter.

So, Janet recommended that we do the walk in two parts. Walk the first half and then come in from the other end.

On another note.

Fran said, this hasn't anything to do with Bethel, but they went on a walk in Tunbridge recently which was led by Euclid Farnham. They went up to Brockle Bank(sp?), where there used to be a granite quarry. They were told that the quarry and about 300 acres are owned by the country of Lichtenstein. They pay taxes to Tunbridge.

Bill J read an interesting article from the Bethel Courier, 1908, relating a story about a sheep owned by Fran's Grandfather.

Bill J also reported that he found out about a house on the Flats that has been a mystery up to now.

The mystery house wasn't the Sturdevant house...but a building BEHIND the house...behind Kep Taylor's present house and business. It shows up in the 1886 sketch of the town...and a couple of other places besides. As Bill J mentioned, the folks who did the historical dig leading up to a new bridge, could not identify it...but knew it had once existed. In Bill's perusal of the old Couriers he found mention of a small stone finishing business that Sturdevant had....and it would seem plausible that the mysterious building may well have been where that business was located. Bill also said that there are the remains of quarried stone scattered around there. And further, that whatever the building was, it was probably destroyed by the flood of 27.

### **New Business**

Janet reported that she heard about a place in Michigan where a group had an interesting idea. Kids interviewed the older folks in town and with those stories they wrote a play. Janet contacted Susan Rule about possibly doing this in Bethel. BHS could sponsor this. Possibly this could benefit the Town Hall

George asked if we had a membership card. Heidi said we do. Membership cards were mailed out with a newsletter.

We will have to make sure everyone gets one. The new cards will go out with a newsletter at the beginning of the year, as folks renew

Next Meeting October 1st

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Nikolaidis