



# Spinnings

## Chesterfield Historical Society Newsletter

Number 41

Fall 2016

### OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Pot Luck Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in Chesterfield's Town Hall. Everyone is invited to participate in this enjoyable get together. Please bring a dish to share and a small item for our after dinner drawing (example: a jar of jam or a few stray items from your garden). We will also have a short program and meeting immediately following our dinner. We look forward to seeing our old friends and hopefully some new ones too.

### MEMORIES OF SPOFFORD PROGRAM

On July 20<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society presented a slide and video presentation, Memories of Spofford. Over 40 people attended this program. It was a blast from the past for those who have been long time residents of Chesterfield. It was also informative for those of us who are relative newcomers (I've only been here 23 years). It was an enjoyable evening of reminiscence, good conversation and delicious treats.

### CELLAR HOLE PROJECT

Tom Dustin is currently working with Keene State College students on a Chesterfield cellar hole project. They will be mapping the locations of the cellar holes and giving a presentation to our Historical Society on their findings. We eagerly anticipate hearing the results of their studies.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING PROJECTS

One of our upcoming projects will be the updating of the Spofford Lake book authored by Martha Dodd Potter. We will need a volunteer to work on this project.

We are also looking for volunteers to update our Cemetery Book.

If either of these projects interests you, please call Neil Jenness (363-8018) or come in to the Historical Society on Thursday morning from 9:30 – 12:00 noon or on Sunday from 2 – 4 P.M.

## WE'RE ALWAYS BUSY AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our volunteers are always busy working on on-going projects. Audrey Ericson is completing the 2017 calendar. Audrey is always looking for that perfect photo for each month. Next year's calendar should be as terrific as those of past years.

Other projects our volunteers are working on include: cataloging photos and artifacts, creating a history of the Chesterfield Police Department (at the Chief's request), entering vital statistics and indexing news clips, writing our newsletter and other miscellaneous projects that come up on a regular basis.

Our regular Thursday morning volunteers include: Of course our leader, Neil Jenness, Audrey Ericson, Pam Walton, Carol Riendeau, Rae Egan and Peg Fegley. We not only work on important historical information for the town of Chesterfield, but we have a lot of fun doing it.

## CHESTERFIELD GIRL GETS OLYMPIC GOLD

Tessa Gobbo, 25, grew up in Chesterfield and went to Chesterfield school and attended Northfield Mt Herman for high school. She began her rowing career when she was a sophomore at Northfield Mt Herman and later rowed at Brown University. Her team won gold in the woman's 8 at the 2016 World Rowing Cup 2 and the 2015 World Rowing Championship and the World Rowing Cup 2 before winning in the 2016 Olympics. The Women's 8 won 11 world and Olympic titles since 2006.

Tessa's parents, twin brother, boyfriend and family friend were in Rio to cheer Tessa on. Tessa rowed in the #5 seat of the 8 seater. Their winning Olympic time was 6 minutes 1.49 seconds. Tessa was a guest speaker at the Chesterfield School recently where the children got a chance to touch Tessa's gold metal.

### SOME TALL FISH TALES FROM SPOFFORD LAKE

Article reprinted from the Vermont Phoenix newspaper – Nov. 3, 1893

A.O. Foster of Chesterfield and A.T. Newsam of Lynn, MA, were fishing Monday in Spofford Lake, Chesterfield. They were trolling and after some moderate sport Foster felt a tremendous pull upon his line. He called Newsam to his aid, and together, with the aid of a gaff and after much hard work, they landed a monstrous pike.

It measured four feet in length and weighed 25 pounds. Tradition has it that a specimen of the same species was once caught in the same lake which tipped the beam at 28 pounds, but with that exception this is believed to be the biggest fish yet captured in Spofford Lake.

(Can any of our present day anglers beat this record? if so, let us know)

### A CLEAR FISH SPEARED IN SPOFFORD LAKE

Article reprinted from the Vermont Phoenix newspaper – Nov. 3, 1893

E.P. Sabastian recently speared a “clear fish” in Spofford Lake. This species is very rare and can only be obtained during the six weeks of the spawning season, when the shoal waters are sought. For the remainder of the year the fish live in the deep water. Owing to the smallness of their mouths, they cannot be caught with a hook, and as they are constantly on the move it is difficult to spear them. The name is derived from the fact that all the bones and veins are clearly discernible in the full sunlight. The meat is hard and fine grained and of excellent flavor.

### OTHER TIDBITS FROM CHESTERFIELD IN THE 1800s

From the Vermont Phoenix:

John Langdon Britton, a native of Chesterfield, who is now living in Springfield, MA. At the age of 89, danced the highland fling as a diversion. Mr. Britton went up to the front during the Civil war as a drummer, although he was over 55 years old. He intends to visit the national encampment at Pittsburg and to play his drum before thousands of comrades.

We learn that C.W. Chamberlain has a Jersey cow, recently purchased, which has made within the past week 14 pounds of butter.

Burglars entered the store of J.C. Farwell at Chesterfield Factory Thursday night of last week by breaking a window. They pried open the cash drawer and took the small sum which it contained. They carried away a quantity of goods, consisting of razors, jewelry and underwear.

Chesterfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 204  
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0204

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The Chesterfield Historical Society thanks you for your past support. To join in 2016 or 2017 or to contribute, please complete this form and return it to:

**Chesterfield Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 204**  
**Chesterfield, NH 03443-0204**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I/We enclose \$10 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_ or \$20 (family) \_\_\_\_\_ membership \$25 (group) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for help with the work of the Historical Society

Comments/Items to Share: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would be interested in helping with:

Buildings and sites \_\_\_\_\_ Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_ Research \_\_\_\_\_ Old Photos \_\_\_\_\_

Date entering \_\_\_\_\_ Scrapbooks \_\_\_\_\_ Cataloging \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Our hours are Thursdays 9:30 – 12:00 noon and Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**For more information call Neil Jenness (363-8018) or Audrey Ericson (363-8856)**