



Spinnings

Chesterfield Historical Society Newsletter

Number 30

Fall 2011

CHESTERFIELD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chesterfield's 250th Anniversary celebration began on Friday evening, July 1st with a dance featuring 40's, 50's and 60's music. **Now and Then**, a lively band composed of three talented musicians, kept the sold out crowd rocking and rolling as well as slow dancing to the golden oldies. Some folks got into the mood by wearing period clothes. The hit of the dance was the silver disco ball which created dazzling patterns on the ceiling and walls.

On Saturday the weather cooperated beautifully for a day filled with continuous events. Over 75 vehicles participated in the antique car and tractor show which captured a large appreciative audience.

The parade featured several floats including: Grand Marshalls Jane and Bill Allen, Audrey Ericson and Bill Mitchell. The Moses Smith Family was represented with their canoe. Several historical occupations were featured on the Chesterfield Historical Society's float: a spinning wheel; a cobbler; an old time teacher and a washer woman. The Chesterfield Library float told stories from around the world which was this year's children's reading program theme. A 1780's farm float and the Putnam Family float rounded out the float entries.

Also included in the parade were the Boston Post Cane recipient Ernie Hansche, the Black River Fife and Drum Corp from Vermont, the Spofford Fire Department Waterous (the old pumper), the Nelson Town Band, cars featuring locals representing Madam Sherri, Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone and sculptor Larkin G. Mead. The parade concluded with fire equipment from the Chesterfield, Spofford and Westmoreland Fire Departments.

Tim Butterworth acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Opening Ceremony. He shared of some of the stories of our early families. Dot Hunt, Chaplain of the American Legion, gave the invocation and a tribute to our current active military soldiers.

Food concessions were run by the Grange, Friends of the Library, Boy and Girl Scouts, Lions, Legion and Hinsdale Fire Department.

Afternoon events included: Children's old-time games, a Civil War reenactments (North and South). Steven Coronella, sponsored by the Friends of Chesterfield Library, presented a program of historical stories and songs. The Chesterfield School Drama Department, under the direction of Ege and Deniz Cordell, presented historical skits in Town Hall. A children's workshop was held under the large tent. Kits were donated for this workshop by Home Depot. Both Saturday and Sunday the Historical Society's Open House was attended by a large number of people who enjoyed the many interesting displays. A very successful antique & old auto and tractor show was held on the common.

The Spofford Fire Department held a lobster/steak dinner which was enjoyed by a sell-out crowd. The successful celebration was culminated by fireworks over Spofford Lake after dark.

Unfortunately the games scheduled at the lake for Sunday were rained out; however, Bob Mills fireworks were enjoyed by an appreciative crowd on Sunday night.

CONTINUING THE 250TH CELEBRATION

The Historical Society is planning a tour of historic sites in Spofford, Chesterfield and West Chesterfield by school bus for adults on Sunday, September 25th from 2-4:30 P.M. A \$5.00 donation would be appreciated. Anyone interested in taking part in this tour call Neil Jenness (363-8018).

Look for more information on an October program sponsored by Friends of Chesterfield Library – GHOSTS OF CHESTERFIELD.

The final event in the 250th celebration will be held on November 5th – the 250th Anniversary Party held at Chesterfield School.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You are invited to attend the Chesterfield Historical Society's Pot Luck Dinner and Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 19th - 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall. Please bring a dish to share and an item for our raffle.

DISPLAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

If you haven't been in to see the Historical Society displays lately, we think you will enjoy them, they include:

A display depicting pre 1800 homes in Spofford, Chesterfield and West Chesterfield; women's clothing from the 1800's, old baseball uniforms, and a chart naming Chesterfield's first families (some descendants still live in the area)

What happened in Chesterfield from 1740-1761? Come in and check out Dave Allen's informative chart listing these historical events. Our hours are: Thursdays 9:30 A.M. – noon and Sundays from 2-4 P.M.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Board voted at their meeting of September 6th to pursue the possibility of purchasing the historic old Stone House on Route 9 for the Chesterfield Historical Society. At this time the Board is in the process of gathering pertinent information.

On Thursday, September 15th sixteen interested residents met to discuss the possibility of purchasing the Old Stone House. A committee was formed that will contact Maggie Stier of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for help on deciding how to proceed with this project.

Three new members were voted onto the Board at the September 6th meeting, they are: Shirley Vittum of West Chesterfield, Stacy Edwards and Peg Fegley, both of Spofford.

ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Programs for the 250th celebration, which includes a time line of events from 1736-2011, are still available - \$3.00; HISTORY OF CHESTERFIELD by Oran Randall on DVD - \$10.00,(published 1882); 2011 calendars - \$5.00, previous calendars (buy them for their wonderful pictures) - \$3.00; Chesterfield 1858 Maps - \$8.00; Coloring Books of Chesterfield Buildings - \$4.00; Note Cards - \$1.00; Old Town Reports - \$1.00; Spofford Lake Book - \$35.00; Spofford Lake 1898 Map - \$8.00.

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?

The Historical Society has an extensive collection of local genealogy. Come in and browse or check into your family's history. Assistance is available. Some of our local families have roots going back to Chesterfield's earliest settlers.

WE HAVE INFORMATION FOR CIVIL WAR BUFFS

The Chesterfield Historical Society has extensive information on the Civil War. We have the medicine bag Dr. Butler used in the Civil War. Civil War memorabilia from Chesterfield residents is also available. We have most of the regimental histories of the Civil War, as well as a letter from a Civil War prisoner of war at Richmond, VA, the great uncle of Larry Gates who lived in Chesterfield. In addition, we have a collection of papers of Sewell Rugg (written on July 6, 1861) who was a Quartermaster in the Civil War.

You may have seen our Civil War display at the Chesterfield Library this summer. Come in and look over our extensive collection.

Chesterfield Historical Society
PO Box 204
Chesterfield, NH 03443-0204

The Chesterfield Historical Society thanks you for your past support. To join in **2011** or to contribute, please complete this form and return it to:

Chesterfield Historical Society
PO Box 204
Chesterfield NH 03443-0204

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email address _____

I/We enclose \$5 (individual) _____ or \$10 (family) _____ membership

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

Comments/Items to Share: _____

I would be interested in helping with:

Buildings and sites _____ Genealogy _____ Research _____ Old photos _____

Data entering _____ Scrapbooks _____ Cataloging _____ Other _____

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