

GLOVER HISTORY



Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past
1783-2002

Vol. 11, No. 2

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Summer 2002

Warning

The annual meeting of the Glover Historical Society, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 2002 at the Glover Municipal Building, at 7 p.m.

The principal agenda will be the election of four Directors to replace the following whose terms will expire as of the date of the meeting: Martha Alexander, Betsy Day, Rita Lombardi and Peggy Day Gibson. At the Society meeting on May 15, the Nominating Committee re-nominated all four incumbents for election, to serve for three years through the 2005 Annual Meeting; all but Peggy Day Gibson agreed to serve if elected. The nominating committee then contacted Eleanor Bailey who agreed to serve in Peggy's place if so elected. In addition to these four candidates, nominations will be accepted at the meeting from the floor.

Also on the agenda will be a review of Society finances and accomplishments during the past year, followed by a review of activities and publication plans for 2002/2003.

All members are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, please vote by proxy by designating another Society member to vote and act on your behalf. Proxies in writing should be mailed to the Glover Historical Society, Inc., Municipal Building, 51 Bean Hill, Glover, VT 05839, to arrive at least one day prior to the meeting date.

President's Report

It has been a year now (15 May 2001) since Wayne's passing (Wayne H. Alexander, former president, for new members), and every task I undertake I miss not being able to ask him for the correct way to accomplish it.

However, we are moving on and our membership has been stable with a roster of 171 members (including complimentary ones), most of whom have renewed for 2002. We have had delays in publishing our new map of Glover but are keeping at it in hopes of having one in the not too distant future.

We plan to publish the Westlook Cemetery book before year's end. It will have much more than the inscriptions on the stones, including missing dates and other valuable information for genealogical research.

The Runaway Pond Park is now being much better maintained with the assistance of Greg Bodette who will mow four times a year, and the Glover Garden Club and Kate Butler who have planted new flowers. The Park has many visitors for picnics and visits during the summer months.

The Historical Society collections are open to the public by appointment. Call Gisele Clark at 525-8855.

Be sure to come and visit our table at Glover Day this July.

- Bob Clark

Books for Sale!

Don't forget these books when you think about Glover History or your favorite history buff. Please make checks payable to Glover Historical Society and send to: Martha Alexander, Treasurer, Glover Historical Society, 1225 Perron Hill, Glover, VT 05839. Or join us on Glover Day!

Memories of Glover: Reminiscences of a Mid-Nineteenth Century Vermont Village. Letters from the Rev. Benjamin Brunning published by the *Orleans County Monitor* in 1907. 32 pp., illustrated. \$10.00 *ppd.*

History of the Town of Glover, 1783-1983. Originally published by the Glover Bicentennial Committee in 1983; reprinted by Glover Historical Society in 1992. 140 pp., illustrated. \$20.00 *ppd.*

Glover Stories & Memories - gathered and retold by the students of Glover Community School. This not-to-be-missed 32-page book of writings and art work is still available in limited numbers. And it's free!

Glover Pioneer Day Camp in 2002

The sixth annual Glover Pioneer Day Camp will be held this year the last week of June and Monday through Wednesday, July 1-3, the next week, culminating in the creation of a float for the Barton Fourth of July Parade. The first week will be our regular routine schedule, which is described below. The short second week will be devoted to putting our float together and doing some special activities. On Wednesday, July 3, starting at noon, we will hold our traditional old-fashioned cookout, with music, games, demonstrations, and the official unveiling of the parade float. Everyone who wants to come is invited.



Paul Daniels and Bernard Urie demonstrate how to cut wood with Bernard's old cross cut saw, while David Paul, Glover School science teacher, looks on. Bernard and his saw (and his wife, Elaine) have come to the Pioneer Camp Cookout every year.

This year Pioneer Camp is funded by the 21st Century Grant through the Orleans Central Supervisory Union and, as always, is sponsored by the Glover Public Library, with encouragement and input from the Glover Historical Society.

Pioneer Camp is a chance for Glover kids to learn about the history of their town, explore some of the old roads, work at skills that the early settlers needed to survive, and meet a few of their older neighbors. We go on hikes, do hands-on activities in focus groups, and record oral history.

Campers meet at the West Glover Church at 9 a.m. and start each morning by playing some timeless children's outdoor games, like jump rope and kick the can. Then we meet together to get organized and talk about the

day's activities. In the mornings we are going to have two 45-minute blocks of time, with snack in between.

The first block will be a rotating activity, with kids divided into five groups by age. One day they will go to the municipal building to visit the Historical Society Museum and the Town Clerk's Office to see the old land record books and learn how to look up the history of a piece of land. Another day they will learn how to lash, and work on lashing a small bridge across the ditch behind the church. Another day they will make parts for the float for the parade with cardboard cutouts, paint and fabric. One day they will learn how to make felt from wool fibers. And on still another day they will make paper.

During the second block on the first day everyone will make bottles of ginger ale so that it will have time to brew to be ready for the last day's cookout. Every other day we will hear oral histories. For many campers and counselors, this is the best part of Pioneer Camp. It may be the most important contributor to our vision of camp as a community builder.

We invite older residents of the area in to talk about the old days, and record them on a high quality tape recorder that we borrow from the Old Stone House. Everyone goes up into the sanctuary of the West Glover Church, where the acoustics are great, and the atmosphere promotes respect. To many people's surprise, the kids are very interested in the old days, and ask a lot of wonderful questions. It is a great opportunity for them to meet some of the older folks around town. By hearing the old stories when they are kids, they will remember them, and when they become old themselves, they will have heard firsthand of

Glover History

An occasional publication of the
Glover Historical Society, Inc.
Municipal Building, Glover, VT 05839

President Bob Clark
Vice President Betsy Day
Secretary Ulo Sinberg
Treasurer Martha Alexander

Additional Board Members

Joan Alexander, Jean Borland, Gisele Clark, Peggy Day
Gibson, Harriet King, Rita Lombardi, Elaine Magalis,
Randy Williams

times that stretch back farther than their own lives. Maybe some day they'll be the ones interviewed about their oral histories.

Last year we only had time for one oral history, but it was a good one. Gisele Clark and her girlhood neighbor Eleanor Bailey came in to talk about growing up in West Glover. It works well to interview two people at once, because they can remind each other about things,



Sarah Rose (Bob and Gisele Clark's granddaughter from Burlington) and Dustin Pray showed the simple wooden toys that they made in their focus group to the attendants at the 2001 Pioneer Camp cookout.

and they are not so nervous. It was great to hear about Gisele, the shy French teenager moving down from Quebec with her family, and Eleanor who lived across the road, whose father cut cedar up on Gisele's family's land. We'll be contacting people to come share their stories with the kids, so be sure to let us know if you want to volunteer.

Around 11:15 everyone gets their backpack with a bag lunch and heads out for the hike. On Wednesday we will be taking our annual hike up to the top of Lone Tree Hill, which is the long way to the Parker Settlement. From the top you can see a large part of the town and beyond. We always take maps and compasses,

and try to figure out in which direction everybody lives.

Every other day we will board Sheila Butler's school bus for a short ride to the beginning of our hike. Monday we are going to go to the old West Glover Cemetery on the Hinman Road and become reacquainted with some of the early settlers. We'll make some gravestone rubbings like we did last year at the old French Cemetery up on Dexter Mountain.

For our other hikes this year we plan to explore the northeast corner of town, and look for the original road that went from the Parker Settlement to Keene Corners, up around the area of the old French Cemetery. The road passed by Aaron Wilson's grist mill on the Barton River, just behind the house at Green Mountain Fence Company. As this newsletter goes to press, the hike leaders are in the process of finding the old road.

In the afternoon we go to the Parker Settlement, the site of the Glover's original settlement. Betsy Day and Randy Williams have generously invited Glover children to explore and spend time there since the first Pioneer Camp in 1997. The kids break up into three interest groups. One very popular group, led by Keone Maher and Betsy Day, will do some primitive building using stone and wood. Another group, led by Barb Delzio and Kit Basom, will try their hand at early pioneer skills, like cooking over an open fire and making butter and bread. The third group, led by Jane Ceraso and Heidi Ecker-Racz, will forage for useful wild plants, which the settlers might have used for medicines, teas, food, dyes, or household needs.

Finally, we come to the favorite part of the day for many campers. We go swimming in Parker Pond off Gary and Gail Lyman's lot at the bottom of the Parker Settlement driveway. Parents come and pick the kids up there at 3 p.m.

Pioneer Camp is fun for the kids and counselors. It's a lot of work, but we like it. We get a lot of support and interest from the Glover Historical Society, and in fact count on members for historical research for our hikes.

Please feel free to join us at noon on Wednesday, July 3, for our end of camp celebration. We will have plenty of food, but you can bring a dish if you want. There will be music, games and demonstrations, as well as the first official showing of the Glover Pioneer Camp float.

- Peggy Day Gibson

Looking for the Old Roads for Pioneer Camp Hikes

by Peggy Day Gibson

One of our main activities in Pioneer Camp is hiking on the old roads through town. This is a way for the children to get to know the territory of their town, and to relate to the early settlers by walking the same routes. Landowners have been very generous in allowing us to cross private property, and on occasion have led us to old cellar holes, apple orchards and wells. Some of the old roads are still recognizable, with compacted impressions of long-gone wagon wheels, 100-year-old maple lanes that can be seen among the new growth forest, and stone walls and split rail fences running alongside. But sometimes the roads have been so long unused, and the land has gone through so many changes from agricultural and logging practices, that they are all but invisible. That is the case with sections of the road that we are looking for this year.

Parker Settlement to Keene Corners Road

One of the earliest roads in town was the trail from the Parker Settlement to Keene Corners, which was a settlement of pioneers from Keene, New Hampshire, located on what we now know as Dexter Mountain. On page five, in the accounts of the early settlers in the *History of the Town of Glover, Vermont* a trail is mentioned that was built in 1805. It went east from the Parker Settlement through lots 115, 114 and 112 to the Bliss homestead in the northeast corner of town, beyond Keene Corners. Deacon Stephen Bliss traveled on it to visit his son Ziba. The road went by way of Aaron Wilson's grist mill on the Barton River, which was located just behind the current Green Mountain Fence Company. This was the same Aaron Wilson who came up with the idea to cut an outlet on the north end of Long Pond (which naturally flowed south into the Lamoille River) to increase the flow of the Barton River during a spring drought in 1810. Aaron Wilson's mill was obliterated by the ensuing flood, and Long Pond has been known as Runaway Pond ever since. The Parker Settlement to Keene Corners Road appears on the composite map of town that is printed inside the cover of the *History of the Town of Glover, Vermont*. It appears to follow the Hinman Road from the Parker Settlement to Borland Road, then turn left up the road

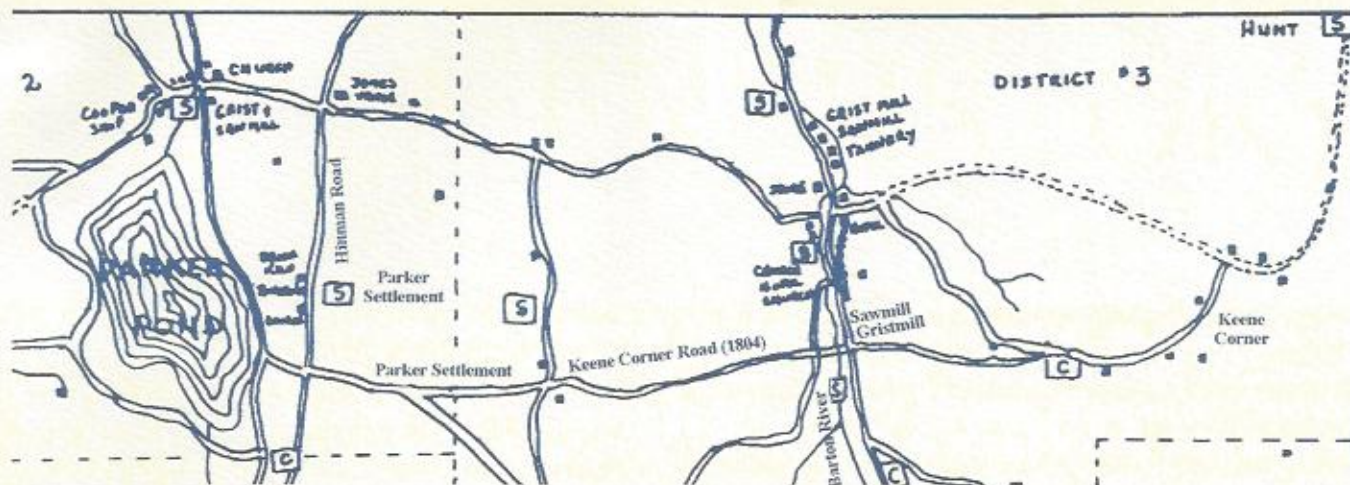
but continue straight cross country to the old Person's Place when the current road veers right. It runs from the Person's Place down to where Ed and Arlene Hobbs live. The "thrown up" old Persons Road was described by Wayne Alexander in a list of roads and proposed road names presented to the town for adoption at the 1993 Town Meeting. "Robert and Nancy Person live on one end of this old "pent road" that became an "open road" when the nearby school house was discontinued circa 1872." After the Hobbs' driveway, the old trail then turns left to follow the current Still Hill Road down to where the existing road takes a sharp left. At that point the old road continues straight and finally goes down a steep hill to the Barton River where Aaron Wilson had his mill. The composite map shows the road continuing straight from there on to the old French Cemetery at Keene Corners.

Jean Borland's School District Lot Research

I stopped by to see Jean Borland, who has collected historical information about all of the 144 lots that make up the town, and grouped them into notebooks according to school districts. She has drawn each lot in a 6" inch square on a page, marked the roads that were known to cross it, and noted property owners and historical details. This astounding piece of research is in the Glover Historical Society Museum on the second floor of the Municipal Building. I borrowed her book of School District #3, photocopied the pages, and taped them together to show continuous roads. The map shows the Person's Road, but not the continuation to the mill, or the road to Keene Corners. It shows an old still for collecting the oil from cedar, tansy and hemlock that was located along the Person's Road. We plan to use Jean's books to focus on a different section of town each year. We are going to have the kids copy all of the square lots, and put them together like a patchwork puzzle for each school district. The sections will be mounted on the wall of the Municipal Building.

Planning and Technology

The day of our first planned exploratory hike we began our investigation at the Town Clerk's Office,



GLOVER TOWN

1800/1870 Composite Map of Roads, Schools, School Districts, Industries, Churches and Cemeteries.

Key:		
S School House	C Cemetery	— Road
- - - School District Line	— River or Brook	== Lesser Road

meeting with Bob Clark and Nick Ecker-Racz in front of the aerial map of town in the listers' office. Nick has been researching old roads from town records, and Bob had gone with Wayne Alexander looking for the old roads a few years ago. Both Nick and Bob had a general idea of the route from the Person's Place to Aaron Wilson's mill, and figured the section from there to Keene Corners was pretty much a straight line, but exactly where it started and ended they were not certain. We decided to start by looking for the section of road that ran from the Person's Place on Borland Road down to Aaron Wilson's mill. Using a GPS (Global Positioning System) compass, which takes readings from satellites to find your exact location on earth, we marked waypoints at Aaron Wilson's Mill, the Hobbs' driveway, the Person's Place and the Parker Settlement. After our first attempt was delayed by a drenching thunderstorm, we finally walked the route from Person's Place to the Barton River just behind the Green Mountain Fence Company on June 10. Our exploration team consisted of myself, Heidi Ecker-Racz, and my daughter Leanne Gibson.

The First Exploratory Hike

The first part was easy. The old road was muddy, and at times became a stream, but it was clearly enclosed by a stone wall and a split rail fence. As it neared Ed and Arlene Hobbs' it became a riding trail. We came out on Still Hill Road, turned left, and walked down it until the sharp turn, and kept going straight into Marguerite Histed's field, and then into the woods. At this

point we were just bushwhacking. There was no semblance of a road. We heard the saws at the Green Mountain Fence Mill and kept walking toward them in the direction that the GPS told us to go towards our waypoint. We came to the Barton River upstream of the point we were looking for, but as we walked along the bank of the river we suddenly came upon a big stacked stone abutment that had been the foundation for a bridge across the river. That was it! This must be the road we were looking for. We were out of time that day, so we took off our shoes and crossed the river, balancing on slippery rocks and leaning against the current of water above our knees. We had left a car at the mill so we had to get across, but decided that when we lead the kids on this hike it would be safer to turn around and go back up to Still Hill Road.

Some day soon we will cross the river to the stone abutment and follow it uphill, looking for the actual road. At the time this report is being written we still have another couple of weeks to find the rest of the old road that we want to hike during Pioneer Camp. There is excitement in the exploration, even though we are right in town, just a few miles from home. That excitement in learning about our town is the feeling that we hope to convey to the kids who come to Pioneer Camp. Being kids with young energy, they just love hiking across the countryside with their buddies. But I know that they'll remember when they get older that once they traveled the same old roads as the early settlers, and found relics of life from another age.

Glover Day

On Saturday, July 27, 2002, Glover residents will hold their seventh annual Glover Day celebration. The day will include the 12.5 mile Tour de Glover Bike Race, the "Run, Chamberlin, Run" 5.5 mile foot race, and a one mile long kids' race.

Other events are: the bake sale sponsored by the Parents Club, what has been called "the biggest library sale ever," the Glover Church auction, Union House offerings of baked goods and crafts, and the annual Orleans County Citizens' Advocacy Barn Sale. A white elephant sale is also in the works.

Children will enjoy games and face painting, including

the Jupiter Jump Spacewalk. And, of course, the annual "Great Glover Duck Race" will be floated. Don't forget to buy your tickets!

Good food and entertainment will be on hand all day. If you still want more to eat after trying everything that's grilled and barbequed, and tasting the cotton candy, you can try the Ben and Jerry's ice cream at the church auction at 1 p.m.

And don't forget Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. when the Dixieland Jazz Band will play at Lake Parker, first circling the lake on a boat and later, lakeside, in a concert open to the public.

Watch for posters and press releases for details.

Flags on Parade!!!

Have you noticed the 21 flags that have graced lightpoles in Glover and West Glover since the beginning of June? They are a gift to the town by the Historical Society in memory of Wayne Alexander. We would also like to thank Verizon and Citizens Utilities for their advice and assistance, and the Glover Fire Department for hanging them so quickly and so capably.

Displaying our History

The Historical Society is planning to encourage Glover residents and business people to display the construction dates of their buildings. It is hoped that the dates will help Glover citizens and visitors alike think more deeply about the history of their town. If you're interested in this project and would like to obtain an appropriate sign, please contact the Society.

In Memoriam

Helen H. Workman. December 2000. So. Burlington.

Arlene Anderson. June 26, 2000. Hyde Park.

Andrew Urie. December 8, 2001. Glover.

Edward (Ted) Alexander. Feb. 18, 2001. Orleans.