

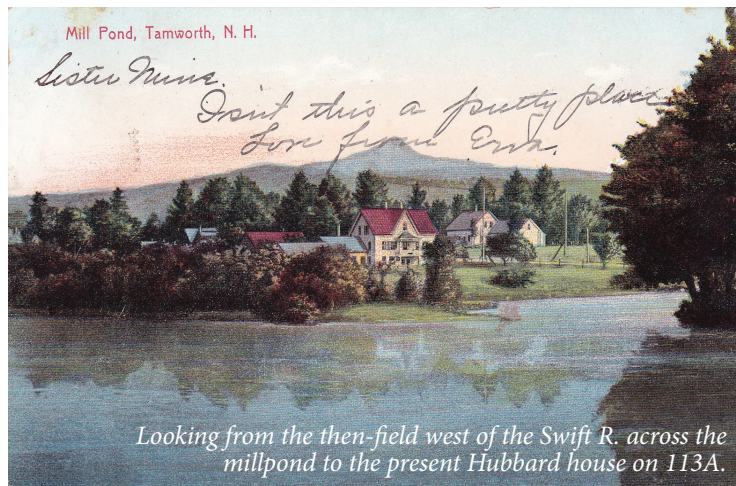
STORIES OF TAMWORTH VILLAGE

Imagine a mostly treeless landscape, with farm fields stretching out around the Village. Then picture a series of dams and mills lining the banks of the Swift River above the bridge. From before the Revolution until about 1910, the Village hummed with water-powered industry that at first provided the essentials - flour, lumber, fabric - and later produced exportable timber-sourced commodities like pegs, spools, coffins, and furniture. Mill yards stretched from the river to the present 113 and from the bridge to the present Hubbard place. In 1888, Arthur Wiggin "paid \$10,000 for poplar wood, and had 30 teams drawing it to the station." The product was "small spools for cotton and silk - the mill annually produced \$18-20,000- worth." Besides providing winter work for local farmers, the spool mill employed nine young men who lodged at various Village houses (1888 census). And every winter, villagers spent their free time skating on the big Mill Pond above the dams, warming up around bonfires on either bank.

Again this summer, as in 2020, we mounted an outdoor exhibit, accessible to all without Covid risk. Twelve two-sided banners, placed up and down Main Street, told stories of the Village through time. An adjunct exhibit, curated by Michelle Longley, is still in place at the Center. Call 603-726-1832 to make an appointment to enjoy a wonderful variety of Village-related photos, costumes, furniture, household items, and stories.



For 2022, we plan to keep the indoor exhibit and set up the outdoor one again. Neither was mounted until August, and this will give everyone more time to enjoy both - while we focus on our collection and programming. Look for workshops, talks and explorations at the Center and around town.



Looking from the then-field west of the Swift R. across the millpond to the present Hubbard house on 113A.



Charlie Bennett recalled: "I used to take corn to the Elwell mill to be ground. He had a flume - all water power. They ground on round stones that went the opposite way. The mill was painted red and was two stories...Father would send me with a bushel of corn...There was a hopper that let the corn down into the hole in the middle of the stones through a spout...There was a drawer and you could scoop the meal out. They charged 15 c a bushel for grinding it - or they would take a toll - 2 quarts. We didn't raise any wheat and the stores didn't carry wheat flour. We raised rye and put it in with the corn to make it sweet."

FINAL PHASE OF RENOVATION STARTS

Clark Moses is carefully gutting the five still-untouched rooms on the second floor. Next, Meadowlark Builders will replace and strengthen sections of the c. 1830 frame - and finally insulation, electrical, HVAC and finish work will provide us with space for storage, exhibits, work and study. Thank you to all the generous donors who are making this possible.

Exhibit Errata: We made three factual errors on our Main Street banner exhibit. 1) 28 Main Street: Gertrude Behr first visited Wonalancet with her husband Gustav Behr, not her father. 2) 101 Main Street: Frank and Gussie Whipple raised three daughters here; we omitted Marilyn, the oldest. 3) Innkeeper Carey Haskell did **not** know in advance about the 1961 heist of the bell clapper from the church steeple! Apologies - and thanks for your corrections!

New Executive Director Position Funded!

THC is most grateful to the Tamworth Foundation for granting our request for \$11,100 to fund a part-time Executive Director for one year. The Foundation will fund the position for a second and third year if it is clear that the ED is having success in increasing THC's fund-raising and outreach. This is a step toward professionalism THC has been hoping to take for some time. The search for the right person is underway.

THE VILLAGE GREEN/THC FRONT LAWN (which name do you prefer?!)

Green or Lawn, we're happy it has seen so much use since we brought it back to health in 2015. It has hosted croquet games, ultimate frisbee, auctions, street fair booths, shish-kabob and cookie sales, old car shows, memorials and baby playtimes - and acted as a fine outdoor gallery for our 2020 "Women of Tamworth" exhibit.

This year, we again enjoyed being the venue for Karen McDonald's and Kelley Jon Scruggs' Monday Night Lawn Games. More people join in each year, and it's a delight.



THANKS, as always, to Kent Hemingway, our faithful lawn care volunteer, and to John Wacker for his vision for this green space back in 2014; and to all who contributed to our landscaping project and joined our work sessions.

OVER THE LAST YEAR, with gifts in memory of Tamworth gardeners Joan Casarotto and Joan Gilmour, we've been able to improve our grounds. Scott Aspinall removed invasive shrubs, and we planted grass along the west side to expand our shady lawn. Volunteers dug, hauled and raked, edging the building with gravel. And new flowerbeds appeared. Join us next spring for more!



SEPTEMBER VISIT OF THE BRETT SCHOOL FIRST GRADE



The Green - or Lawn - is the perfect place for this annual event. This year we shared stories and photos, old bicycles, dolls and doll carriages, toy horses, a sled and a toboggan.

Lots of great questions and discoveries, as always.



Fall-Winter
NEWSLETTER

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Printing:
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Press



THANK YOU, MICHELLE!

THC extends a heartfelt thank-you to Michelle Longley for her three and a half years of dedicated service. Michelle joined the board as Treasurer in June 2018, not long after moving to Tamworth with her family. She was elected Chair in October 2019. In addition to filling both these roles with energy, skill, and imagination, she coordinated our ongoing building renovation, led our fundraising efforts, organized parts of our collection, drafted our newsletters and appeals, and largely curated our exhibits on the Civil War, the Women of Tamworth, and Stories of Tamworth Village. She introduced us to GoogleDocs, and found (online) the banner technology for our outdoor exhibits. Her family, especially Nick and Derek, helped out in a myriad of ways as well. We wish her all the best as she embarks on new adventures.



Outdoor board meeting, May 2021. L to R: Michelle, Betsy Loughran, Norma Grasse.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on Saturday, October 16. A fine potluck lunch was enjoyed by about 20 in the new meeting room, followed by a business meeting and program held outside in the driveway - a surprisingly pleasant venue - attended by about 35. Kate Thompson gave a talk about old stores in Tamworth Village. A new slate of officers was elected: Betsy Loughran and Kate Thompson, Interim Co-Chairs, Liz Rowe, Treasurer. Vice-Chair and Secretary positions are open, and volunteers for either would be most welcome.

NEW MEETING ROOM FOR RENT IN VILLAGE!

This spring we were happy to inaugurate our completed meeting room on the north side of the old Hall-Dyer House. Originally perhaps a shed or barn, later the kitchen and living room of Charlotte Dyer's apartment, it's now a spacious, light-filled space. At 12 x 20', it provides plenty of room for gatherings of up to about 25 people - whether meetings, presentations, or social events. The kitchen still needs a few lights and a microwave, but is otherwise ready to go. Contact us at 603-726-1832.



RENTAL RATES

Evening or
half-day: \$20

Evening or
half-day,
with kitchen: \$30

All-day: \$30

All-day with
kitchen: \$40

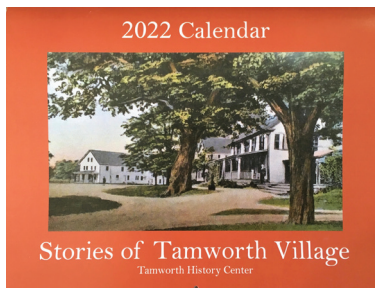
Other:
Work out on
individual basis

TAMWORTH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

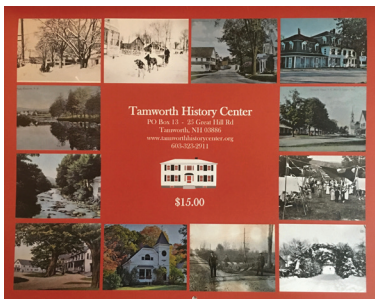
This past summer, former Tamworth resident Margo Mallar approached THC with a generous offer to conduct some oral history interviews while spending the summer here. She joined forces with Sandwich videographer Ted McIntire, and under the joint aegis of THC and the Cook Library, they recorded conversations with 28 residents, old and young. Ted added five videos on "Tamworth Places". He is editing all the videos from his winter home in N. Carolina. Once interviewees OK their videos, they will be available to view online. (Details soon.) And we hope to keep building this collection for all to enjoy.

For a preview, here is a 'Places' piece: THC Co-Chair Betsy Loughran gives a tour of the History Center: <https://youtu.be/Fqcb2ZMVFhU>





2022 CALENDARS! Our 2022 Calendar continues our exhibit theme with twelve photos of Tamworth Village scenes, through the year and through the years. Photos and tinted postcards highlight buildings and events from the 1890s to the 1960s. \$15



JIGSAW PUZZLES This colorful 18x24", 500-piece jigsaw puzzle has four familiar and historic Tamworth Village scenes. Three images are watercolors, one a postcard. Perfect for a winter evening. \$29 (Pricy, we know, but our profit margin is small!)



Both items at our gift shop, or order by email (ktt5461@gmail.com) and we'll deliver or ship.

This was Robertson's store, next to the bridge in the Village - later Edna Mason's Post Office, now Tatarczuk's. It stood there for as much as a century before it burned in 1928.



Where, what and when was this building?
The answer is somewhere else on this page.

CHINOOK CELEBRATION

In February 2020 THC helped to host the Chinook Owners' Association winter weekend. Visitors enjoyed a get-together on our snowy lawn, our



Chinook exhibit inside, and time in Wonalancet. Covid hit soon after, and there was no gathering in 2021. We cautiously but very much hope this annual tradition can be resumed in 2022!