

⁴ UPCOMING EVENTS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, July 17 5:30 PM
King House

Bring friends and family to an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on the King House lawn. Pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of neighborly visiting. The Society will provide ice cream and entertainment.
Raindate: Thursday, July 24

MEMBER SURVEY

You will find enclosed a member survey. We have never done one before. We think it's important for all of you to have input on Society programs and activities, and this is your opportunity.

Please fill it out over the summer, and return it to Art Sikes, Jr., 1175 River Blvd, Suffield, CT 06078 or drop it in the designated box at the library. Let us know what we can do to make our Society better and more interesting to you personally.

Suffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 893
Suffield, Connecticut 06078
(860) 668-5256

www.SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org

King House Museum
232 South Main Street

Open to the Public
Wednesdays and Saturdays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May through September

Newsletter Editor
Maggie Philippon

POLISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE

This committee meets at the Senior Center on the first Wednesday of each month from September through June. The aim of the committee is to document the history of the Polish immigrants who settled in Suffield. The Map Group has placed the homes of most of the immigrant families on a map of the town. They presented their work at the Show and Tell meeting. The Society received a \$2,500 grant from the Amiel P. Zak Public Service Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to copy photos of the immigrant families and to purchase archival materials for their storage.

The members are actively seeking information, photos, and memorabilia about each immigrant family. You can help by sharing names and addresses of descendants of these families. Some members of the committee are willing to "interview" descendants and help them write their stories. Contact Harry Kozikowski 668-0011, Lorraine Rapacki 668-7455 or Della Winans 860-633-1728.



The King House Museum

Vol. III, No. 3

A Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

July 2008

The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

Suffield Historical Society

President
Edward Chase, III

Vice President
Arthur Sikes, Jr.

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Gary Mandirola

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Nancy Noble

Historian & Curator
Lester Smith

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Robert C. Stewart, *Programs & Events*
Arthur Sikes, Jr.,
Membership
Barry Sisk, *Long-Range Planning*

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Edward Chase, III
William Connelly
Hazel Phillips

Stony Brook CURRENTS

Original Proprietors: Five Barber Men

by Ed Chase

Five Barbers were among the elite group of Suffield's original proprietors, and yet today little remains to mark their efforts in building and defending our town.

The first to arrive in 1674 were brothers John, Jr. and Thomas Barber from Springfield. They received adjacent grants of 50 acres each on Feather St. (now East St.), north of the current Bridge St. John Barber, Sr. received a 60-acre grant on Springfield Rd. (now Mapleton Ave.) in 1680. Two years later, freeman John, Sr. was elected one of Suffield's first selectmen.

The other two Barber land grants were given to Joseph and Benjamin, twin sons born to Thomas and his wife, Anne Chase¹. The boys were the first twins born in Suffield and granted 40 acres in 1682 with the provision that their father "pay and discharge all rates and charges" until the "tyme they came of age." Thomas not only shouldered this responsibility but served as a sergeant in the militia and father to six other children.

But within the next few years, the story of this prominent and growing family takes a dramatic turn. Thomas died in 1689 and the following year his father and brother, John, Sr. and John, Jr. respectively, died as well. The twin son, Benjamin, also died in 1690 and was followed by his mother, Anne, in 1691. Quaker records from Salem County, New Jersey in 1691 show the names of three of Thomas's orphaned sons: Aquila, b. 1679; John, b. 1684, and Moses, b. 1867. The family of Anne Chase Barber had known Quaker connections, and it is probably this that led to their being taken in by the Salem Quakers.

Ten-year-old Aquila Barber had been apprenticed out to John Pynchon following his father's death, but was taken back by his mother shortly before her own death. Those Quaker records show Aquila prospered in New Jersey, purchased 1,500 acres in 1700 and later married Mary Graves. Together they were parents of eight sons and one daughter. Similar success was accorded to both John and Moses. But the Barber name had disappeared from Suffield town records completely.

References: *Documentary History of Suffield, 1670-1749*, H. S. Sheldon, 1870; Account books and letters of John Pynchon; handwritten Quaker Records from Salem County, NJ sent by Jean Likens of Cornville, AZ; *Descendants of Thomas and Aquila Chase*, John C. Chase and George Chamberlain; *Marriages in New England Prior to 1700*, Torrey.

¹ Anne Chase Barber of Newbury, MA was the daughter of Aquila and Anne Wheeler Chase, the immigrant ancestors of Edward W. Chase, III, author of this article.

SUFFIELD VETERANS PROJECT

Launching a new Suffield Veterans History Project, volunteers are preparing to compile a database of local veterans and former military personnel whose names do not appear on the Suffield Veterans Memorial.

Residents past and present will be invited to apply for listing in the database, supplying such information as branch and dates of service, rank or specialty. Applicants will not need to have been residents at the time they entered or served in the military but they will be asked to supply their address(es) with pertinent dates of residence in Suffield.

Application forms will be available after September 1, 2008, at the library and the Town Clerk's office. In the meantime, inquiries may be sent to suffieldvetshistory@gmail.com.

When names were gathered for the Suffield Veterans Memorial dedicated on November 11, 2003, space available on the monument limited the number of names which could be listed. To accommodate space limits, guidelines required that persons listed had to have been residents of Suffield at the time they entered the military. Space limits are not a concern for the database.

The project is a volunteer initiative, not officially appointed or designated. The group needs workers and a fearless leader. Inquiries may be e-mailed to Suffieldvetshistory@gmail.com.



One of the old mills in Harrisville, NH visited on our May Field Trip.

HISTORICAL RECORDS PROJECT

The New England Historic and Genealogical Society is promoting a new project to search out private and other never-before-published genealogical records to be scanned, indexed, and made available to members on the Society's web site.

Art Sikes, a long-time member and a volunteer in the library's Historical Room, mentioned to Ralph Crandall, project director, the one-of-a-kind sources to be found in Suffield's collection. Mr. Crandall and two archivists have since visited the Kent Memorial Library and pronounced the archives a genealogical "gold mine."

Suffield's Library Commission is enthusiastic about the project, as scanning items from the collection has long been a goal. Extensive indexing will be a big plus. The library will get a copy of all work done, and costs will be born by NEHGS. The Suffield Historical Society trustees voted to support the project with a gift, as major fundraising is currently ongoing to fund this important initiative.



Eleanor Chase and Joyce Goodwin Brin in front of Barrett House, New Ipswich, NH

CURATOR'S REPORT

Two big events have brightened the start of this year's season, one quite customary, the other unprecedented.

The customary event was the three-day period of visits by the nine fourth-grade classes of Suffield Intermediate School. The fourth graders are always a pleasure; they're mature enough to be interested, ask good questions, and understand the answers, yet not so old that that the boys feel they have to act bored, even if they're not.

Two classes responded with letters after their visits. Dan Bahl wrote, "I liked the button collection, because it showed that anybody can like anything, no matter how old or educational it is."

FUND DRIVE UPDATE

SHS Treasurer Gary Mandirola reported that as of press time the Annual Fund Drive for 2008 is just over half its \$9,000 goal. Money from our 2nd Annual Fund Drive is designated to create a climate-controlled, archive storage area in the ell, to repair loose veneer of the sideboard in the dining room, and to improve surface drainage around the foundation of the King House.

To date we have received 69 contributions totaling \$4,775. This represents a response of 26% of our 263 members. If you have not contributed to date, your response would be most graciously received.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Joyce LaFlesh and Gloria Gregory.

Membership Application for New Members Only

I/we subscribe to the mission of the Suffield Historical Society as published in its newsletter and wish to be included in its membership.

Please check any committee or committees that are of interest to you.

Miss/Ms/Mr./Mrs. _____

___ Collections ___ Development

Address _____

___ Docents ___ Exhibitions

___ Property ___ Membership

Telephone (optional) _____

___ Program ___ Special Events

E-mail (optional) _____

___ Publicity and Marketing

Dues: Individuals \$10 Family \$15

 Youth (under 18) \$2 Patron \$25

 Donation _____

The Internal Revenue Service has granted tax exempt status to the Suffield Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to