

Denmark Historical Society

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Mud Season Around the Corner?

Or is it? Having just endured “Nemo,” the Winter Storm of 2013, probably each of us is hoping for an early spring. However, long-time Mainers know that it is wise to stay prepared for snow well into April—and historic data support that theory. In March 1888, a blizzard raged throughout New England from the 12th to the 14th. While not as badly hit as other parts of NE, 12-18” of snow was a surprise. Apparently, 12-14 March are favorite dates for Mother Nature, because on those same dates in 1993, A blizzard coated Maine with 10-20” of the spring-delaying substance. But most cruel of all—just when you think it is safe to wash the salt off your car—comes an April event. On April 6, 1982, a blizzard dropped over 16” in Portland and surrounding areas. The bottom line is, of course, don’t count your mud puddles until they melt.

Message From the President:

Hi...hope everyone has had a healthy and uneventful winter (mainly no problems from the blizzard). As most of you know we lost one of Denmark’s finest in the passing of Winnie Moore (story on page 4). If not for her, you would not be receiving this newsletter or have the gathered historical data we have at the library, but most of all the way she touched people’s lives—she is sorely missed. We hope to see many of you at the Winnie Moore Workshop (this page) to honor Winnie’s DHS contributions and help with missing historical information.

JoAnne Harbourt represented the DHS at the Congregational Church Christmas Bazaar and was able to recruit some new members, sell some raffle tickets and spread cheer. The Bazaar itself was very successful and everyone seemed to be having a great time. We thank you for your support

With monthly meetings beginning again in March, we will be working to complete our display room in the lower level of the Library and getting ready for a summer open house in July. I truly hope that everyone receiving this letter will be able to attend the open house and bring a friend. And, the monthly meetings are not just for board members, everyone is welcome, we value your input on the direction the Society should be taking to best serve Denmark. With our expanded capabilities, we will be able to show DVDs and pursue more genealogical inquires. Again, I hope to see everyone at the Winnie Moore Workshop in April and our open house in July. Daryl Kenison

Winnie Moore Workshop

The Denmark Historical Society will hold a Winnie Moore Workshop at their April meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013. Generally our meetings begin at 7:00 PM; however, Society members will be on hand from 3:00 to 8:00 PM. We will meet in the lower level of the Denmark Public Library. In 1991, Denmark’s Kate Griffith, a charter member of the Denmark Historical Society, conducted an extensive and very interesting interview with Winnie Moore about her memories of growing up in Denmark. Sometimes, history focuses on the dates and details of major occurrences and forgets that everyday people still had to live



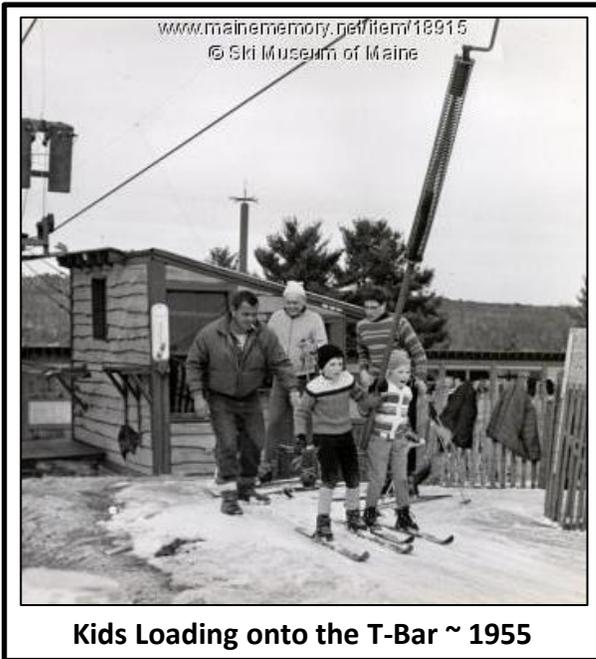
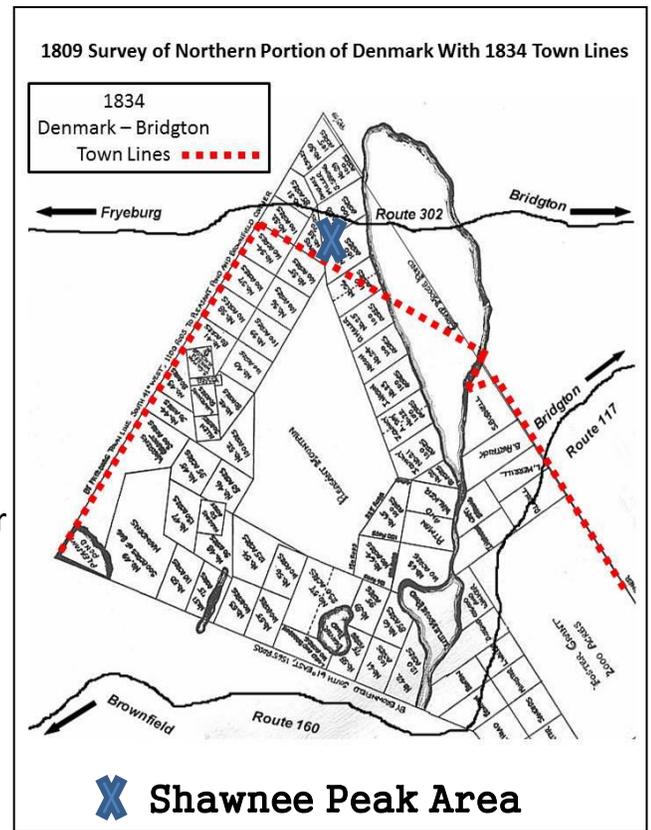
their lives, and feed and raise their families. As one of the primary initiators of the Denmark Historical Society, Winnie’s recall of fascinating facts about how she, her

family, and fellow Denmark residents were leading their lives is most enlightening. We need Denmark folks (or children of folks) who have had similar memories to help us add to Winnie’s Interview. We need specific information on house, camp, building, and business locations and information. Who held Corn Husking Bees? What was the Maccabee Hall and/or Association? What was the *Denmark Bread Pile*? Does anyone else remember a ‘pig’ living in a Pinto? Where was the Pickling Factory? Just a few of the mysteries we need to clear up. Please join us and bring photos if you have them. We have a scanner and you will be able to take your pictures home with you. Please come to honor Winnie’s contributions to the DHS. Refreshments will be served.

How Denmark Lost the Shawnee Peak Area

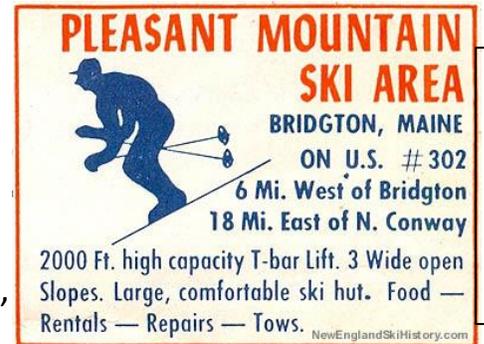
When Denmark was incorporated on 20 March 1807 nearly all of the Pleasant Mountain Area (called the Pleasant Mountain Gore) was included in the newly formed town of Denmark. It was not that Denmark valued or saw any potential for the mountain. In rural and agricultural America, mountains and lakes (except those used for transportation) were considered wasted land. You could not plant or graze livestock on it. Most people, Denmark residents included, saw both land features as something to have to get over or around.

This belief is likely the reason that neither Denmark nor Fryeburg put up a fight when the State of Maine required them to give the town of Bridgton a portion of their lands—a total of 3700 acres. This annexation occurred in 1834 as compensation to Bridgton who had been required to give up 2500 acres in its southeast corner to help make up the town of Naples.



Kids Loading onto the T-Bar ~ 1955

Denmark provided the land west of Moose Pond—the portion that contained the area that ultimately became, first, the Pleasant Mountain Ski Area, and now, is known as Shawnee Peak. The Pleasant Mountain Ski Area began operations as a skiing destination in 1938 with the construction of a trail and a short tow rope. One of Denmark's earliest settlers, John Douglass, settled on the North



1
9
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5
AD

side of Pleasant Mountain about 1811. He became a Bridgton resident when his land, along with all others in the area, was annexed to Bridgton. Douglass was a Revolutionary War veteran, born in 1750 and died in 1851. His feelings about the annexation remain unknown.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, March 11, 2013: 7:00 PM -- Business Meeting – Lower Library Level
- Monday, April 8, 2013: 3:00 – 8:00 PM -- Winnie Moore Work Shop – Lower Library Level (Refreshments)
- Monday, May 13, 2013: 7:00 PM – Business Meeting - Lower Library Level
- Monday, June 10, 2013: 7:00 PM – Work Shop - Lower Library Level
- Thursday, July 11, 2013: 1:00 – 5:00 PM Open House – Lower Library Level (Displays, Demonstrations, Programs, Genealogy, Refreshments, and more)

Out And About in Maine

Post-Revolutionary War Migrations

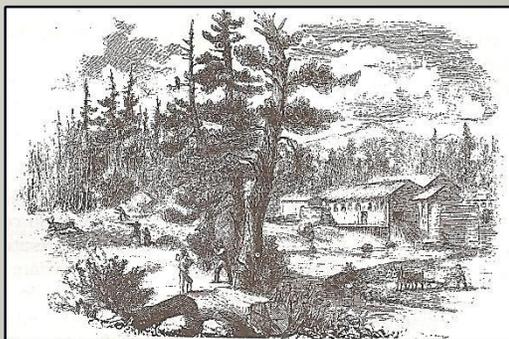
After the American Revolution, newly minted Americans were on the move. Of course, for many the Trans-Appalachian West was the destination. However, Maine too experienced a large influx of people into the area, and most of them came from other parts of New England. We know this to be a fact because of two insightful census collectors.

In 1800, the United States of America conducted its second census. The first, conducted in 1790, basically counted *free* heads for tax purposes and to appropriate seats in the House of Representatives. No names were taken. The 1800 census recorded the name of Head of Household, the resident township or territory, and the number of other free persons in the household (by age, gender, and race—but not by name). At that time, Maine comprised the six northern counties of Massachusetts and was therefore included in the census. To that end, twelve men from twelve different Maine towns set out to conduct the 1800 census from Kittery to Eastport and points north. Included in the group were George Haliburton of Penobscot and Samuel Cony of Hallowell. Both men decided it was important to record where people had originated and why they migrated to Maine.

The reasons for migrating to Maine rather than the west were generally for the safety of the more established towns and their familiarity with the area. Most were from other parts of the Maine territory, New Hampshire, and the more southerly areas of Massachusetts. But the fundamental reasons for migrating were the same. People were looking for affordable fresh farmland that would sustain the family and accommodate the need to provide land for their sons when the time came. Independent competencies (producing enough for the family and being cared for in old age) relied on keeping the family intact. Land in the older townships where they originated was limited, expensive, and in many cases worn out. Maine drew farm families by the thousands.

The table is a grid with columns for 'TOWNSHIP', 'MALES', 'FEMALES', and 'TOTAL'. The rows list various towns such as 'Denmark', 'Berwick', 'Lebanon', etc. The data is organized into columns for different age groups: 'Under 16', '16 to 20', '20 to 25', '25 to 30', '30 to 35', '35 to 40', '40 to 45', '45 to 50', '50 to 55', '55 to 60', '60 to 65', '65 to 70', '70 to 75', '75 to 80', '80 to 85', '85 to 90', '90 to 95', '95 to 100'. The 'TOTAL' column at the end of each row shows the sum of all individuals in that township.

1800 Maine Census Page



From Joseph Whipple, *District of Maine History of Acadie, Penobscot Bay and River* (Bangor 1816), Frank C. Deering Collection. Fogler Library, University of Maine.

No less a part of this immigration movement, Denmark population grew rapidly during this period. Between 1775 (when Daniel Boston came to Denmark from Sanford), and by the year 1820, over 50 notable families had settled in Denmark. As with the rest of Maine immigrants, most of them came from places like Berwick and Lebanon, Maine; Henniker and Concord, New Hampshire; and Ipswich, Andover and Danvers, Massachusetts.

Summarized from an article by Jamie H. Eves in *Maine History*

Winifred R. Moore

(June 18, 1925 – December 12, 2012)

The Denmark Historical Society mourns the passing of Winnie Moore. Winifred Rae (Richardson) Moore was 87 years old. Winnie is predeceased by her beloved husband Merle Rankin Moore.

Winnie was born, grew-up and lived in Denmark nearly all her life. To report that Winnie was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother is certainly true as her family can readily tell you. However, to the rest of Denmark she was a friend, supporter, and resourceful leader of so many Denmark activities she could easily be granted "Exemplary Citizen" status. And, through her work as an RN and Director of Nurses at the Bridgton Hospital she was invaluable to the Lakes Region at large.

Winnie graduated from the Central Maine General Nursing School in 1947 as an RN. The success of her Professional career as a nurse, administrator, teacher and advisor was underscored when she was awarded the first "Winnie" Award by the Bridgton Hospital. *The Winnie R. Moore, R.N. Clinical Nursing Award* is given to one nurse each year in recognition of outstanding Nursing skills.



Friends remember Winnie as someone who "always had to be busy." That assessment certainly is borne out by the extend of her community work and the way her family recalls all the memories, advice, and talents she passed on to them.

Winnie was a member of the Eastern Star, Rebecca's, Rainbow Advisor, DAR, the Denmark Congregational Church, a Sunday School Teacher, member of the Church Guild, Denmark Library, Historical Society, Denmark Draggers, Denmark Senior Citizens, and she served on many Town boards.

Winnie recalls in a 1991 interview that people kept telling her that Denmark needed a historical society. She reported, "one day in the post office Allene Feindel said "When are you going to start a historical society?" So I said to her, when can we have a date?" Allene kept the Library Community Room calendar. That was in 1990, they decided if they could get eight people monthly they would make a go of it. The Denmark Historical Society held its first meeting on January 8th, 1991.

Even now, when one works with DHS collections you can see Winnie's dedication and service to her community in so many ways.

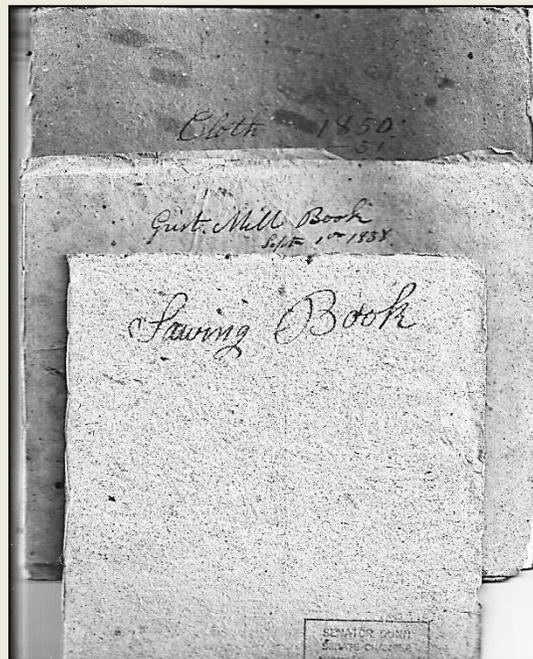
The Mystery of Senator Dunn and Denmark

David Dunn was born in Cornish, Maine on January 17, 1811. He represented the town of Poland in the Maine House of Representatives from 1840 to 1844 and was Speaker in 1843 and 1844. Dunn was



elected to the Maine Senate and served as its President following the resignation of Stephen Chase of Fryeburg in 1846. He lived and

worked in Washington, D.C. from 1857 to 1861. When he returned to Maine in 1861 he practiced law in Mechanic Falls. We tell you all this because our admittedly brief search on this Maine politician reveals absolutely no connection to Denmark. And yet, we have in the DHS collection three account books; "Sawing," with entries beginning in 1831,



"Grist Mill Book," entries beginning in 1838, and "Cloth," entries beginning in 1850. Each one is stamped in the lower right corner with a Senator Dunn Senate Chamber stamp as shown above. We know the books are associated with Denmark because many of the names listed in all three are well-know Denmark names from that period. We know that Denmark had grist mills and many saw mills, but have no records of any type of business that handled cloth exclusively and in the quantities indicated in the account book. Perhaps the books were part of Dunn's files as senator, or perhaps part of a personal collection. If any one has better answers or knows how we acquired the books please contact us.

Denmark Through The Years



About 200 Years Ago

The DHS has in its collection an account ledger dating from the early 1800s, believed to have belonged to George Murphy. On the inside leaf he lists the names and birthdates of his children (Nancy Anne—1801, Lydia Kimball—1812, George Lendyson—1815, Eben Berry—1819, Jenny—1822, Jesse—1823). The first entry is on August 12, 1810 and the last appears to be December 29, 1892. It is likely that George used the ledger initially and then it was used by others through the years. Later entries are not in chronological order, writing styles vary, and it is not neatly kept—with doodles, side notes, and cross-outs throughout. The ledger also contains a receipt for money paid by Murphy to the estate of Abby Berry, wife of deceased Seth Berry, dated May 6th

1910; a letter to one of the Murphy men from his niece, Anne Murphy, dated October 8, 1879. You will likely recognize many of the names entered in the ledger. This is one of the many fascinating artifacts that will be on display during our open house in July. With white gloves provided, you will be able to carefully study the ledger and its contents.

About 150 Years Ago

1862 Denmark Selectmen, E.P. Ingalls, J.H. Warren, and F.L. Rice were worried about the ever increasing costs to support Denmark schools, the upkeep of the roads, and in caring for the poor.

Funds Appropriated in 1861

- Schools--\$1005.44
- Roads--\$1000.00
- The Poor--\$390.12

In their remarks to the town folk, the Selectmen cited the distraction and immense expenses of the U.S. Government [the Civil War], lamented the diminishing means to meet those expenses, and impressed upon Denmark citizens the importance of a rigid economy in conducting the financial affairs of the town.

About 100 Years Ago

Like the rest of Maine and New England, Denmark was invaded in in the 1890s by a British moth, called the Brown Tail Moth. The moth can damage trees but primarily it causes problems for humans. The protruding hairs on its body, particularly during the caterpillar stage, are toxic. The hairs become detached and cause a painful rash to skin, an irritant to eyes, and respiratory problems when inhaled. From 1897 to 1915 this moth expanded its numbers and territory. For most of those years Denmark appropriated annual funds to fight the infestation. In 1913, the amount stood at \$124.77. In 1915, for unexplained reasons, the moths began to reduce their territory and are now found in Maine mostly on a few Casco Bay Islands.

About 50 Years Ago

The 1963 Denmark Planning Board made the following recommendations to Denmark citizens. "The 1956 Ford truck should be traded in for a new one, since it still has some trade-in value and its earning record on the town books is still in the black." And, they recommended that "a town skating rink be built and maintained in the area across from the Shavings." The "Shavings" was a sawdust pile that was located across from what



is now the town beach on Moose pond. We think that skating rink is still a good idea.

2013: History Under Development



The citizens of Denmark and the Denmark Lions Club mourn the passing of Lt. Col. Clark Milburn McDermith. Clark retired from the military in 1978 and moved his family to Denmark, Maine. From the moment he arrived in Denmark, he applied the same character and determination to his new community that had earned him numerous meritorious decorations during his military career. He was an active member of the Denmark Lions Club for over 30 years, earning their highest international honor—the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Early in his Lion career, Clark assumed responsibility for a fledgling Lions Scholarship Program that offered scholarship funds to Denmark students seeking post-secondary education. And, from then on, managed the program for the Lions—ensuring that Denmark students had a little extra to help with their education. Clark also was one of the clubs most favorite Lion Tamers. His successors will be hard pressed to lead the *Lions Roar* with as much enthusiasm and verve as did Clark. Clark, along with Winnie Moore, join the long and impressive list of Denmark citizens who have added to the richness of our community and our impressive history.

Business in Denmark: Then and Now

The Many Lives of an Old Store

The unassuming white building on the corner of Mill and Main Streets in the Lower Village has had many lives and many looks. Originally built around 1880 its early life was that of a small country store that served Denmark—along with other shops and industry on Main Street.

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Lower Village **E. W. MITCHELL**
GRAIN, MEATS AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Charles Hartford WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

DENMARK, ME. *Lat 8* 1934.

Sept 5.	1 sack	15-	Sept 27.	1 2 lb	105-
1 sack	30		4 lb	lard	60
1 sack	10		2 1/2 lb	Pork	42
2 lb	08		1/4 cr	tartar	10
1 box	15		1 soda		57
1 shoe	22.5		10 sugar		54
Sept 4.			1 P sugar		09
1 bag	25-		1 vanilla		10
1 call	10		3 tub.		50
1 red	15		1 soap		07
Sept 13			1 Rancit.		25-
1/2 2 lb	110		Bal from Aug.		261
10 sugar	54				16.26
4 lb	60				
3 tub	50				
1 cr	58				
8 lb	25-				
1 P	32				
1 P	09				
1/2 cr	19				
Sept 20					
1 bag	25-				
1 7 lb	110				
4 lb	60				
1 2 lb	21				

Paul F.W.M.



A circa 1930 picture of the interior of the store shows Hector Blake and his son, the late Roland Blake of Denmark. Hector was the store manager. Displayed around them is the vast array of goods available, from fresh bananas, canned goods, medicines, tea, to clothing and furniture. The store was an important resource for the people of Denmark.

This 1934 invoice to a Charles Hartford lists charges for various dates in September and an August balance. F.W. Mitchell extended credit.

E. W. Mitchell was one of the earliest store owners until the late 1930s when it was sold to a man named Late. In the latter 1950s, the store passed to a new owner and was called Weeman's. Weeman's lasted for a time and then the building was vacant. In the 1970s, it became Rocky's Trash and Treasure. In the late 1980s, it began its new life as a restaurant and became The Old Store Restaurant. First owned by the Linnell family and later sold to Hazen Crone and Marleigh Ulitsch. The Old Store Restaurant lasted into the early 21st century. The Old Store is now a residence.

A Bridgton News ad dated, January 23, 1992 announces the reopening of the Old Store Restaurant with a new owner. A February 14th article in the Saco Valley Current wholeheartedly welcomes the return and admits that the old owner's homefries were good, but the new owner's are "excellent!"

Old Store Restaurant

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VOL. 1 NO. 1

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This is the banner displayed on a 1994-95 menu for the Restaurant. The menu displayed the interior picture above and provided a little history of the building they used as a restaurant. The menu also sported local ads and other historical tidbits.

Denmark Families (The Transue Family)

Under the heading of Denmark Families go places: This 1993 Bridgton News article of Wendy Transue's experiences from her year in Spain delightfully explains what her year was like. Wendy underscores that even if different countries have different traditions and practices, most people share the same needs and dreams. Wendy graduated in the Class of 1993 at Fryeburg Academy. She is the daughter of Jay and Judy Transue and the granddaughter of Irene Parsons, a long time Denmark resident and supporter of the DHS. Mrs. Parsons passed away in July 2012 at the age of 93.

Page 12A, The Bridgton News, June 3, 1993

Denmark student ready to return

DENMARK — Wendy Transue, daughter of Jay and Judy Transue of Denmark, has been an exchange student in Madrid, Spain, since September. She has been attending Ramiro de Maeztu, one of many public schools in Madrid.

To get to her school, Wendy has a short ride on a city bus at a cost of 125 pesetas (about \$1) one way. She finds that one of the biggest differences in the school system there is that the students stay in one place all day while the teachers move from class to class. The student population is about 1000 plus, making it very difficult to buy something in the cafeteria at break time. Wendy has been taking classes in philosophy, English Spanish history and literature.

She has visited many places but perhaps the most impressive was a cathedral in Toledo. She often travels to Guadarrama, a mountain village where her host family has a vacation home. She also enjoys many of the beautiful parks in Madrid.

Meals are scheduled at quite different times than Wendy is accustomed to. Lunch is at 3 p.m. and dinner at 10 or 11.

Most people go to cafes in between and have snacks (called *tapas*). The preparation of food is mostly *a la plancha*, fried. What food does Wendy miss most? Microwave popcorn with butter!

Wendy says she finds the Spanish people friendly and helpful. They are very social and happy most of the time. If she could pick one most important thing she has learned from her experiences abroad, Wendy says that after once conquering the language and culture of a different country, you find that the people are the same as those in your own country.

Wendy would like to send her classmates at Fryeburg Academy, the Class of 1993, best wishes for a happy, successful future. Although she will be unable to participate in commencement exercises, her thoughts will be with her class members on June 13.

She will return to the U.S. on July 20. Her host sister Belen, with whom she has become very close, will be returning with Wendy for a short visit.

Wendy's exchange is sponsored by North Conway Rotary Club.

New Acquisition

The Denmark Historical Society extends its appreciation to Gordon Stuart of Westbrook and a long-time summer resident of Hancock Pond for donating Denmark road documents. The documents are on 11" x 17" paper and consist of four pages. They deal with a petition in 1834 to the county to allow the construction of a road from what is now Route 117 to Hancock Pond, and then another petition in 1891 to discontinue the use and maintenance of the road. The documents are very hard to read and we have just begun to transcribe them. We believe the petition to be for what we now call Hancock Pond Road, but we are not sure.

Prior to the advent of the Bridgton and Saco RR (1882) that stopped at the Perely's Mills Station (near what is now Hancock Pond Road), there was a lucrative mill at that site called Clifford's where lumber, shook, staves, and shingles were manufactured. So if the road requested in 1834 was to support the Clifford's operation, the new road would make sense. But it would not make sense to discontinue the road in 1891.

The Perely's Mill Railroad Station, complete with its own station master, was heavily used by Denmark merchants from 1883 to 1930. We look forward to the full story and again, we are indebted to Mr. Stuart for his donation.



Small Town Denmark Wandering Cows

A Bridgton News article, dated July 1, 1982, tells of the wayward trip of three Denmark cows.

Early Monday morning, three cows were seen roaming the town and there were many phone calls trying to discover where they belonged. They turned out to be Nick Brown's and were last seen going toward home. They had enjoyed quite a trip.

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