

# The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514  
Bartlett, NH 03812

## The Bartlett

www.BartlettHistory.org

## Historical Society

Fall 2020 Edition (2020:4)

### The Campaign Continues...Thank you for your Continued Support

*Thank You.* Two simple words that have so much meaning. We have several major milestones in our project plan to fully renovate and reopen the former St. Joseph Church building as our Bartlett History Museum. In August, we hit two of those milestones – the installation of the new roof on the building and the completion of Phase 1 of our renovation project. *Our ability to meet these two milestones is a direct result of the generosity and support of over 350 donors for this campaign. To those who have donated so generously, we sincerely thank you. This roof would not be in place without your support.*



With Phase 1 complete, we now turn our attention to Phase 2 of the project – the renovation of the interior with some additional exterior work. Phase 2 key components include:

- ◇ Framing for new walls to define the lavatory, curator work space, archive area, and closets
- ◇ Installation of the mechanical systems of the building (e.g. electrical, plumbing, HVAC)
- ◇ Installation of new exterior windows to provide insulation as well as protect the stained glass windows
- ◇ Installation of new front steps and sidewalk plus work on the front foyer of the building
- ◇ Installation of a new handicapped accessible lavatory and exterior ramp
- ◇ Installation of wall insulation, wallboard and trim work
- ◇ Sanding the floors of the building to allow them to be finished
- ◇ Completing all of the finishing details (e.g. hanging light fixtures, painting and staining the walls and trim, and many other finishing details)
- ◇ Finally setting up the museum for a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration.

There's a lot of work listed here but with the continued support from our membership and other donors, we can and will be successful!

We've included another museum supplement with this newsletter to show the path to the new roof, give you a look at our new front walk and steps and add more detail to our next steps.



To complete Phase 2 of this project, we estimate we need about \$300,000. With the cost of materials rising faster than one can imagine, the sooner we can raise this money and complete the work, the better off we will be. If you would like to talk more about this museum and how you can help bring it to reality, please contact Phil Franklin, BHS President and point person for the project, at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org).

Campaign Progress: To date, through the generous donations of 359 people, grants and businesses, many have made multiple donations, we have raised \$237,729 out of a \$525,000 renovation estimate. To do the work for the hazardous materials removal and a few other tasks, we have spent \$94,437 plus another estimated \$90,000 for the roof (final invoice pending) and \$24,000 in other miscellaneous museum expenses. We are always searching for additional support for Phase 2 of the renovation to complete this project. If you know of anyone who is interested in adding their name to our growing list of donors, please contact Phil Franklin, at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). Thank you. Donors from 07/01/2020—09/15/2020

* In Memory of Bert George Bartlett VFW* David & Cheryl Alander* Richard & Diana Allen* Donald Aubrecht & Mary Nodine Darlene Barrett*	Lloyd Chandler* Roxann Cox* Nancy Crowther Dean & Nancy Davis, honoring Norman & Kathleen Head Stefi & Peter Hastings	Robert Holmes* Brenda Keir* Gary Kezerian (& other grand- children of Hattie Evans memory of Hattie) Louis & Margaret Lavender* Jean Mollicone	Donna Osgood* David & Patricia Pomeroy Ray & Arden Schoen Edward Stowell* Irene Szymanski Tom & Cori Troon* Howie Wemyss
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## **President's Message**

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health. As we move into another fall season here in the White Mountains, the leaves are turning to their brilliant red, orange and gold; the air is crisp, especially in the early morning. Looking back over the past quarter, we have accomplished several things that have advanced the renovation work on our museum project and furthered our involvement in the community. I'd like to share a few highlights with you.

Let's start with the big news about the museum project. As you read on the cover page and will see in the enclosed Museum Project Supplement, we have a new roof on the building! Our thanks to Bill Duggan, our friend and general contractor, and his crew for successfully completing this major step in the renovation process. Let's keep the project moving forward!

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing the major economic shut down in March, we were forced to cancel all of our fundraising events including three quarterly presentations and our golf tournament. In June, the state of NH announced the establishment of a NH Non-Profit Emergency Relief Fund. We applied to this fund to attempt to recover our lost fundraising dollars. While competition for the funds was stiff, we were pleased to be awarded \$4,177 from this fund, about 75% of the amount we requested. We greatly appreciate the support we received from the state.

Fundraising for our museum campaign is still continuing. To assist us in this effort and get our remaining funds raised as quickly as possible, we have engaged several BHS members to assist in the effort. We are broadening our network of personal contacts, expanding our social media presence and relooking at our grant funding options to raise the funds needed to complete the renovation and bring us to a grand opening of the museum. We greatly appreciate your help in this effort. Let's get this museum open!

School started in Bartlett on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Under normal circumstances, this would signal the start of our Bartlett History Project with the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. However, the school's new COVID-19 protocols are causing us to relook at how we run this program. Still, in a conversation with Joe Yahna, the school principal, and Jennifer Lord, our main faculty contact, we are all committed to finding a way to make this program work for the 2020 – 2021 school year. We'll have more on this program as we move forward.

We were pleasantly surprised recently when the grandchildren of Hattie Evans contacted us. I met with them and had a wonderful conversation about Hattie and their family. The story of Hattie Evans is very inspiring. She is best known as the mother of four children and widow of a railroad track section foreman who, after her husband's death on the railroad, continued to live in their house next to the tracks just below Mount Willard. There, she raised her family and cared for the railroad workers who worked for her husband. Her story is told in the book *Life by the Tracks* by Virginia Downs. We'll have more on her story in a future newsletter.

Finally, we are again at that time of the year when we kick off our membership drive for the coming year. Our 2020 Membership Drive was a great success with another 12% growth in our membership as we thanked our renewing members and welcomed 34 new members. We hope that our 2021 Membership Drive is even more successful. The Board of Directors of the Bartlett Historical Society remains committed to our mission of preserving and protecting the history of Bartlett, NH and the surrounding region and offering educational opportunities for people to learn about this history. Our museum project, 8<sup>th</sup> grade program, railroad research and growing collection of artifacts are all examples of how we are working to make this the best historical society anywhere. We look forward to receiving your 2021 renewal dues and, if you are not a member, having you join us as an active new member. We appreciate your support. If you have questions about the historical society, please contact me at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). I look to meeting you.

Sincerely,

*Phil Franklin*

President, Bartlett Historical Society  
[Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org)

## Searching for Nicknames of Bartlett People—Past and Present—Update

*Snapper, Bullethead, Gomp, Firpo, Lefty, Jeep, Bruddie, Skippy, Hatseed, Moo, Gunbolts, Hedgehog*

*Just a few of the many nicknames that have been sent to us!*

Response to our nickname request has been great. We've received several lists of nicknames, some short, others pages long. One thing that this request seems to have inspired is friends and family members getting together to remember some of the old names and, most importantly, the people associated with the names. While some of those folks have passed on, many are very much alive and well in the neighborhood.

We're still searching for more nicknames of people so if you know them, please send them in. If you think we may already have a name, don't worry about duplicates. We'll sort out duplicates and we may find that someone had different nicknames for the same person depending on their school, neighborhood or they outgrew one nickname and grew into another. As we expected, we've received a few nicknames where people don't seem to know the person's real name! That's why we decided to ask for your help in assembling the Nickname Roster. We don't want this type of history to fade into the sunset.

We're looking to include as many people as possible, from the past and in the present, in this roster. We're asking for the following information about you, people you know or your ancestors:

- Their given name—their "real" name
- How you know or knew them or of them—your relationship
- Their nickname or nicknames, and
- The story (if known) behind the nickname because that's what adds the color to the moniker (e.g. how they earned it or how it came to be, any other significance to the name).

*How did you get that nickname?!*

People who have replied said they had a great time recalling the names of their friends and family. Please join in the fun. If you can help us with this venture, please send your information to our BHS email – [BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com](mailto:BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com) or directly to Phil Franklin at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). We're not looking to embarrass anyone with the list of nicknames but, rather, capture these names so they don't get lost over time. The people of Bartlett and our region, past and present, are the foundation of our history. This roster will be a way to capture another aspect of their life stories. We'll also add a little color to each story. We thank you for participating in this name finding adventure.

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### **Thank you to ALL of our Newsletter Sponsors**

We thank our many sponsors who cover the cost of this newsletter. Your support for this quarterly publication is greatly appreciated.

#### **To our BHS newsletter readers —**

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bartlett History Project—Enters its 3rd Year!

We are at the doorstep of our third year of the Bartlett History Project working with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade faculty at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School (JBES) in this collaborative effort. Over the past two years, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have tackled some interesting topics related to Bartlett history and, in the process, learned some different things about their hometown.



At the end of the 2020 program, we needed to modify a few things because of the pandemic and the switch to learning from home. As we start the new school year, we are now faced with new pandemic protocols. Over the summer, Phil Franklin met with Joe Yahna, Principal at JBES, and Jennifer Lord, our faculty contact. Both expressed a desire to continue with the program as they see it being beneficial to the students. At the same time, we all recognized that we need to make adjustments to restart the program with the COVID-19 protocols in place. We'll have more on this program in coming newsletters.

### Railroad Committee Update

The Railroad Committee is continuing to research the Bartlett and Hart's Location railroad history. In our last newsletter, Scotty Mallett asked for input from our readers as he assembles a list of and information on Bartlett and Hart's Location railroad workers. Several people have replied to Scotty's request and he extends his thanks to all of the people who have contacted him. He's still looking for more information on railroaders who worked in Bartlett or in Crawford Notch. Some of the family names that come to mind are Ainsworth, Neally, Rowell, Gardner, Evans, Clemons, Kelley, Mallett, Hunnington, Dudley, Monahan, King and Morse. He is not limiting his search to these names but would like information on anyone who worked along these rail lines or families who boarded with these and other families (e.g. names, relationship to you, their railroad jobs, times of service to the railroad, etc.). Scotty is willing to do a Zoom meeting or can be contacted at 603-383-3040, by USPS at PO Box 35, Glen, NH 03838 or email at [Scottymallett@gmail.com](mailto:Scottymallett@gmail.com).



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### St. Joseph Church—Our Future Bartlett Historical Society Museum

If you know of anyone interested in helping support the restoration of an historic building, please have them contact us.



We'd enjoy talking with them.

Phil Franklin  
603-374-5023 or 860-638-7966  
[Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org)

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## 2020 Quarterly Presentation Series!

### Cancelled due to the risks with COVID-19—Wednesday, October 21: “A Century of Railroading in Crawford Notch” with Ben English



We were looking forward to Ben’s great presentation but out of concern for the health of our members and guests, we have decided to cancel this presentation and postpone our BHS Annual Meeting. We will send information on the rescheduling of the Annual Meeting in a separate mailing.

## Announcing our 2021 Quarterly Presentation Lineup!

In 2021, we are continuing our long running Quarterly Presentation Series. Each year we look for different presentations that will appeal to broad audiences. We hope this year is no exception. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our concern for the safety of our audiences, we will announce locations soon.

### Sunday, January 24: “The History of the Limmer Boots by Peter Limmer

Peter Limmer & Sons boot manufacturing business has been in town for 101 years. Limmer boots are known throughout the hiking and trekking community for their top quality workmanship and long lasting custom fit. Join us to hear about the history behind these famous boots from the owner himself.



Location TBD, Time: 2:00 p.m. (We are doing this program early on a Sunday afternoon so everyone can get home in the daylight.)

### Wednesday, April 21 “NH Fish & Game—The History Behind this State Department”

This program, requested by a BHS member, will provide an overview of the work of the Fish & Game Department. We’ll hear about their work as law enforcement officers to their management of the forests and wildlife throughout the state of NH. This will bring the Northwoods Law TV program to life for us!



Location TBD, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 16: “A Vigorous, Full-Blooded, Ardent Club: The History of the Appalachian Mountain Club” by Becky Fullerton, AMC Archivist

Founded in 1876, the AMC’s mission is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors. Becky will tell us about the long history of the AMC and their work in the White Mountains.



Location TBD, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 21: “A Century of Railroading in Crawford Notch” with Ben English


From the 1860’s to the late 1950’s, the railroads played a major role in the growth and vitality of the area. Ben, a railroad historian and BHS member, will tell us about the rise and fall of the railroads in our area. (Rescheduled from October 2020)



Location TBD, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

**All of our programs are open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted at the door to help cover the costs of each presentation.**

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## Interesting Things From Around Bartlett

### Union Congregational Church

Did you know that the Union Congregational Church (or Bartlett Congregational Church as it says on its street sign) was dedicated on September 9, 1897 making it 123 years old this year. Located on the corner of Route 302 and Albany Avenue, this tall white church is among the town's youngest churches according to Aileen Carroll's book, *Bartlett, New Hampshire ... in the valley of the Saco*.

In 1889, the Union Congregational Society was established in Bartlett for "the encouragement and support of evangelical preaching in Bartlett." The society attracted a number of followers by 1895 and the church was organized. It was originally called "Christ's Church." The first minister was J. R. Horne, Jr. The church was built on land donated by Frank George. The George family still owns a home on the opposite side of Route 302 and has a direct view of the church from their front porch.

The building cost \$4,000 to build and money was raised by subscriptions and "money-raising schemes." Again from Aileen Carroll's book, we learned that the architect was paid \$80 and local men constructing the building were paid \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day. In a 2014 conversation with Bert George, he said that the steel girders, which were specially ordered from a mid-western company, were brought to the church by railcar through Crawford Notch. The problem was that when they arrived, it was discovered that they were too big or at least bigger than planned. Rather than order new girders, it was decided to build the church to the size of the girders. That explains why the roof has such a tall peak. The Morgan family, then owners of the Kearsarge Peg Mill, donated the large stained glass window over the altar to the church.

For many years, parishioners hosted church suppers in the basement of the building for tourists arriving on late trains. These meals eventually turned into the community suppers held every Saturday evening in February until about 2015. Today, the church is still open with a small and devoted congregation. With the new COVID-19 protocols at the elementary school, BHS cannot use that building for meeting. The members of the Congregational Church have generously opened the door to their meeting room to give the BHS Board of Directors a place to meet. We thank them for their support.

### Bartlett's Tythingman

Aileen Carroll's book is full of interesting little stories of Bartlett's past. She tells of a man named Thomas Spring, who in 1790, was appointed the Tythingman of Bartlett. He carried a badge that was a "black staff tipped with brass or pewter." His job was to fine people caught using profane language or traveling on the Sabbath. He was also the inspector of the "licensed houses" where liquor was sold. His compensation was one half of the fine amounts. That was a nice incentive to do his duty. His job differed from the constable in that the constable was the tax collector, law enforcement officer and process server. In other words, the constable had the civil jurisdiction while the tythingman handled the morals.

### Date Line 1920—1921

A total \$18.40 was received in dog taxes; \$9.00 was spent to maintain watering troughs



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# Bill King

## “The Historian of Hart’s Location”

By Phil Franklin

If you ask someone in Hart’s Location about an event, person or place in town, they are usually quick to say, “Call Bill King. He’ll know about that topic.” And, a call to Bill will, in fact, get you the answer to the question on your mind. Bill has rightly earned a reputation for knowing the history of the “smallest town in New Hampshire and the first in the nation to vote.”



Bill King

I had the opportunity to talk with Bill about a variety of topics including his family, naval career, work background and civic service to Hart’s Location. I met Bill in his beautiful home in Hart’s Location sitting at a round oak table in his dining area. Bill commented that this table was used for several years as the table on which first in the nation voting took place. I noticed a gouge in the otherwise smooth grained table top. Bill said that the mark was the result of his mother accidentally firing a .22 caliber bullet from a rifle into it. She apparently thought the last bullet had been fired but, to her surprise, the last one ended up in the table top.

Bill was born on June 12, 1934 in Whitefield, NH. His parents were Peter King, a railroad worker and Dot (Monahan) King, the Hart’s Location postmaster (while the town still had a post office). Bill had a sister, Shirley, who is now deceased. Life in the King and Monahan families revolved around the railroad.

Taking a step back in time, we learned that Doris Catherine “Dot” Monahan, born on January 1, 1910, was one of six children, all girls, born to Joseph and Florence Monahan. They lived in the Willey House dwelling/station along track section 128 which is near the Ripley Falls area today. Florence was the Hart’s Location Postmaster from 1903 to her death in 1936. She was also the telegrapher and did the housekeeping for several railroad trackmen who worked for Dot’s father. At the time, Joseph was the foreman for section 128 of the track then owned by the Portland and Ogdensburg (P&O) Railroad.

When Dot and Peter King married, they continued to live with Dot’s parents so Dot could assist her mother with the housekeeping chores while Peter continued to work for the railroad. Dot took over the position of postmaster upon her mother’s death.

Bill said that the family lived at the Willey House dwelling until one day in late 1940, his grandfather, Joseph, came home and informed Peter and Dot that he had retired and they needed to move out. This was a sudden announcement but the King family moved on and landed at a place nearby called Camp Webster. It was there that they spent the winter in a very cold setting with their two small children, Bill and Shirley.

In May 1941, Peter and Dot purchased what was known as the Carrigain Dwelling located immediately next to the railroad tracks at the base of Frankenstein Cliff. (Carrigain was a small and short lived logging settlement in Hart’s Location from 1892 to about 1898. This building, once an equipment house for the

P&O Railroad, was originally built for the Carrigain logging effort.) With this move, the town’s post office also moved and became known as the Willey House post office (#2). Bill referred to his original family residence at Ripley Falls as “the other Willey House” and the Carrigain residence as the “Willey House.” A bit confusing, admittedly, but as the Willey House post office changed, so did the name of the buildings where it was housed (zip code 03893). The real Willey House, where the family of Polly and Samuel Willey met their tragic end in a 1826 landslide, is farther west on the same tracks near the current Willey House Visitors Station on Route 302. So, yes, there were three “Willey House” locations in three different time periods.



Carrigain Dwelling/Willey House Post Office #2—  
Photo from late 1800’s

### Bill and Carolyn King

Bill commented that he met his future wife, Carolyn, in 1958 while he was in the Navy stationed at the Oceania Air Station at Virginia Beach, Virginia. They were married in 1962. ... continued on next page

Bill King continued ...

Carolyn and Bill lived at several military posts throughout the initial years of their marriage. They would eventually return to Crawford Notch and Bill's hometown. They have two children. Their son, Peter, is an electrician living in Farmington, NH. Their daughter, Angela, is an administrative assistant at the White Mountain School in Littleton, NH. Bill and Carolyn have two grandchildren. Oliver is attending Plymouth State College. Tucker is a senior in high school. Angela is the mother of both boys. As he should be, Bill is very proud of both his children and grandchildren.

Bill and Carolyn purchased the Carrigain/Willey House and former Hart's Location post office from his mother in 1989 when he returned to town after his tour of duty with the U.S. Navy and civilian jobs in Maine and New Hampshire. By this point in time, the Hart's Location post office had closed (It closed in 1974 and Hart's Location mail started being delivered to Bartlett). Bill and Carolyn started renovating the Carrigain house but found it in irreparable condition. As a result, they built their current home immediately behind the house they had just purchased, a few feet farther back from the tracks. This is where the King's live today. The old house was torn down. In the demolition process, Bill said that they displaced hundreds of bats that had made their home in the eaves and attic of this building. He commented that Carolyn told once him she counted about 200 bats leaving the building one evening, just from one side. He figured that there were another 200 heading out for night "patrol" from the other side of the building. Today, he says he will see the occasional bat flying above his yard, certainly not like the days when the sky was thick with them chasing the night bugs.

#### Grade School, High School and the Military

Hart's Location, being a very small town, had limited school offerings in the first half of the 1900's. Today, in 2020, children from the town attend school in Bartlett for grades K – 8 and either Kennett High School in Conway or Fryeburg Academy in Fryeburg, ME for high school. Bill's mother and her Monahan siblings, along with the children of Hattie and Loring Evans, who lived farther up the tracks, attended schools in Bemis (the present site of The Notchland Inn) or at Fabyan (a section of the town of Carroll, NH). They were transported to the schools by the railroad and their attendance was based on the timetable for the different trains passing through Crawford Notch. Bill, however, attended grades 1 - 12 in Twin Mountain. Monday through Friday, he boarded with an aunt and uncle at their bed and breakfast inn in Twin Mountain. He returned to his parent's home on weekends. In high school, Bill played baseball and basketball. The school also *required* the students to run cross country but admitted that he truly disliked that sport.

Immediately after graduating from high school in 1952, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was off to the United States Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, MD for basic training. This was the start of his naval career that spanned 24 years until his retirement from the Navy in September 1976.

Bill's naval career took him to a number of bases in the United States, Caribbean, Cuba and Europe. Following basic training, Bill was assigned to a technical training school in San Diego, CA. From there, it was back to the east coast and New London, CT for service on board a patrol craft that was experimenting with the use of different forms of sonar.

... continued on next page





Bill King continued ...

Next, he was assigned to an auxiliary supply ship that cruised up and down the east coast delivering all sorts of products, supplies and machinery for the naval stations in the area. He was then assigned to the boat LST 1156, the Terrebbonne Parish, (named after a town of the same name in Louisiana) based in Little Creek, Virginia.



LST 1156, USS  
Terrebbonne Parish

In the early 1960's, Bill applied to and was accepted into submarine school. He said that he never made it to the nuclear power program but while in submarine school, an unusual opportunity was presented to him. He said that he was pulled from the school and ordered to report to a certain building and room in Washington, D.C.

The mysterious order landed him at a Naval Intelligence office in the nation's capital. There, he was offered an opportunity to join Naval Intelligence, learn Vietnamese and report to Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, he would be working to stop a rash of thefts involving military supplies destined for use in the war. Bill said it was a voluntary assignment and he turned it down as he favored the submarine service.



USS Runner  
(SS-467)

From 1963 – 1968, he was assigned to the submarine USS Runner (SS-476) out of Norfolk, VA. The Runner was a diesel boat that, at the time of Bill's duty on the boat, patrolled the Atlantic Ocean. It took him to Scotland and various other ports in the Atlantic. During WWII, the Runner patrolled off the coast of Japan and was credited with the sinking of a Japanese minesweeper. It was also one of ten submarines present in Tokyo Bay at the formal surrender of Japan to end WWII.



Other assignments included duty on radar picket ships (small naval ships used for work close to shore or in harbors) out of Newport, RI. He also had a two year assignment in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he served on the base security force. This wasn't exactly the duty assignment he wanted in Cuba but as he said, in the military, you do as ordered.

In 1969, after 16 years of duty at various posts, Bill was assigned to shore duty as a recruitment officer for the Navy. Starting in Syracuse, NY, he had different posts in this role. He received this assignment because of his broad background in different naval operations. At one point, the Navy decided that they wanted to open recruiting offices in Europe. Bill was ordered to England to scout out good locations for recruiting stations in Europe. What was to be a 90 day assignment ended up being a four year assignment with a base location in Germany but he involved traveling all over Europe and northern Africa. By this point, Bill had earned the rank of Senior Enlisted Advisor. He said that as a recruiter, he frequently had to deal with young men who had problems in their lives and were looking for opportunities to turn things around. During his time in Germany, the Navy moved his wife and two children to be with him on that post.

Upon his naval retirement in 1976, at the rank of Master Chief, Bill and his family returned to the United States to begin civilian life. With such a varied background in assignments and posts, I asked Bill to name his favorite out of all the places and assignments. Without hesitation, he said "Submarines." I noted that Bill is rather tall and left little clearance for submarine bulkheads. He said with a chuckle and rubbing the top of his head that he took a few bumps on the noggin during his time aboard the Runner.

#### Post Military Life

Arriving home in 1976, Bill and his family moved in with his mother who was then living on George Street in Bartlett. He started looking for a job and landed one with a machine company in Lancaster, NH. Before he could even start work in Lancaster, the company told him they needed workers in their plant in Bangor, ME. Another temporary assignment such as his experience in England, led to a two year position in Bangor. He moved his family to Brewer, ME where they lived for this time period. Following this job, he took a position in an outside machine shop at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In 1979, after only six months on the job, he was promoted to be the foreman of the shop. This apparently didn't sit well with the other workers who had more seniority but Bill wasn't turning down a promotion. He worked at the shipyard for five years before leaving for a position at the Dover, NH post office. ... continued on next page

Bill King continued ...

After three months in Dover, he moved to the Rochester, NH post office. In 1985, he moved to the North Conway post office where he worked until 2006 when he retired from the postal service.

### Retirement and Civic Service

Retirement from active employment didn't mean that Bill was resigned to a life of sitting around and watching television. To the contrary, Bill has led an active retirement. Following in the tradition of his parents and grandparents, Bill turned his energy to civic duties in Hart's Location.

In small rural towns, local citizens take on multiple roles and, as the old saying goes, "The same people seem to volunteer all of the time." It's no different in Hart's Location. In Marion Varney's book, *Hart's Location in Crawford Notch*, she lists the civic positions held by members of the King and Monahan families. She writes that Bill's mother, Dot, as we mentioned served as the postmaster and telegrapher but she also served on the Hart's Location Board of Education and was the tax collector, auditor, treasurer, supervisor of the checklist and town clerk. His father, Peter, was a selectman, tax collector, town clerk, treasurer and, at different times, road agent. His grandfather, Joseph, was a member of the town Board of Health in 1902. In 1905, again from Marion Varney's book, he was elected as a selectman and served in that role for 22 years. He also served as the supervisor of the checklist, was a constable and the town road agent. His grandmother, Florence, again, was the postmaster and telegrapher. Bill's wife, Carolyn, was a member of the school board and supervisor of the checklist.

With such a long family tradition of civic service, it's no surprise that Bill has worn and wears many hats in town as well. Bill was a town selectman (1989 – 2013). According to the *2019 Hart's Location Annual Report*, Bill is currently the town's Fire Warden while also holding a position on the town's Planning Board and is one of the E-911 Coordinators. Bill was also a member of the rescue team that would go into the mountains to assist lost or injured hikers. He added that he has stopped doing this because he's not as stable on his feet as he used to be but he still will assist where he can as his home is centrally located for the coordination of rescue operations in the Hart's Location area.

I asked Bill how he acquired the moniker of "Town Historian." Bill laughed and said he really didn't know how that came about but he doesn't shy away from this designation. While on the subject of history, we talked about several topics.

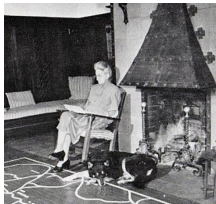
- ◆ We talked about how the Crawford Notch railroad trestles were guarded by troops in the two world wars to prevent saboteurs from damaging them and causing disruption in the transportation of military supplies that were brought by train from the upper mid-west to Portland, Maine. Bill recalled seeing battle tanks and large gun mounts for war ships being hauled down the tracks. He said his grandmother, Florence, used to feed the soldiers who were at the Frankenstein Trestle. A similar story is told about Hattie Evans feeding the soldiers who guarded the trestle over the Willey Brook at the west end of Hart's Location.



Frankenstein Trestle from an undated old postcard

- ◆ Bill also mentioned that railroad workers made carvings in boulders when they had down time as they were building the rail line through Crawford Notch. Those carvings still exist today if you know where to look for them (that location remains closely guarded to preserve them).

- ◆ I asked if he knew Mrs. Florence Morey, the owner of the Inn Unique (today's Notchland Inn). He said that he only knew her from their interaction when she would pick up the mail at the post office but he acknowledged that she was quite a character. I asked if there was any truth to the story that Mrs. Morey sold a Hart's Location gravel pit to the state of NH not once but twice. He said to his knowledge, yes, she was clever enough to sell the same pit to the state of NH two times. He added that she did a lot of good things for Hart's Location and the North Country in her time as a state senator.



Florence Morey in the living room at the Inn Unique (lines on the floor are a map of NH)

... continued on next page

Bill King continued ...

- ◆ We talked about the different land disputes left over from the 1800's that left the border between Bartlett and Hart's Location in flux for many years (According to Marion Varney's book, in 1971, the final 12 acres in dispute were resolved to be part of Bartlett and the decision was ratified at a Hart's Location town meeting March 7, 1972).
- ◆ In a previous conversation, Bill provided a great deal of information on the logging settlement of Carrigain. Remnants of this long past settlement are still visible but are now on private property. In the same conversation, Bill enlightened me to the logging history in the town.

Bill's knowledge of town and regional history is evident. It's no wonder that people refer to him as the "Historian of Hart's Location."

### ... In Closing

I have known Bill for several years and always enjoyed talking with him as he is a great conversationalist with a tremendous knowledge of the history of the area. As we closed our interview, Bill offered to schedule a field trip with me to point out some of the lesser known sites in the town such as the location of the Cobb Farm Cemetery, the site of an airplane crash that occurred in the Flume Cascade and those carved figures that came to be by the whittling of the stone by the railroad workers. That's a walk in the woods I won't pass up!

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Bill for sharing the story of his family and himself with us. We appreciate his time and willingness to open the door to his life's story.

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## **Reminder—There are Many Ways to Contribute to BHS**

BHS exists through the philanthropic support of our members and donors. We truly appreciate the support so generously given through membership dues, museum renovation fund donations, general operating fund donations, fundraising events and grants. Contributions to BHS can be made in the form of:

- \* Cash or checks
- \* Credit cards
- \* Transfer of appreciated stock (contact Phil Franklin for details on the process for this type of donation)
- \* And gifts-in-kind (again, contact Phil about these donations).
- \* Amazon Smile also offers a donation program that allows you to donate while you shop at no additional cost to you in your purchase—even small donations add up (\$209 over the past year)!

We are exploring a safe, secure method to allow donations to be made directly to BHS via Square credit card processing through our BHS website. We'll have more on this development soon.

## **More Odds and Ends From Bartlett's Past**


From a 1902—1903 town Annual Report, we learned:

- \$55.19 was spent to maintain the public library.
- \$15.00 of this amount was salary paid to the librarian
- \$32.34 was spent on books bringing the total number of volumes in the library to 531 books

*Every day we write a new page in the history that tells the story of our lives.*

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BHS uses The UPS Store for all of our shipping, printing and copying needs. We thank owners, Tom and Terri, for their support.



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

# The Historical Herald

[www.BartlettHistory.Org](http://www.BartlettHistory.Org)

**Facebook: Bartlett Historical-Society**

## 2021 BHS Membership Drive

As we approach the end of 2020, our 2021 membership drive for the year calendar year January 1, 2021—December 31, 2021 is up and running. Looking back at the past few years, the number of members of the Bartlett Historical Society has been on the rise with our most recent numbers showing a 12% increase in membership from 2019 to 2020 bringing us to 221 members. We welcomed 34 new members in 2020! This is great news for BHS and we truly appreciate your continued support. Still, BHS is a relatively small society when compared to our neighbors in Conway and Jackson, but you have to start somewhere and we are growing each year. Thank you to all who have taken a membership with us. Please remember that this is YOUR historical society. Your support keeps us growing, energized and focused on our mission!

For 2021, we have maintained the same membership dues as we have for the past few years. They are:

- ⇒ Individual/General Members      \$20.00
- ⇒ Patron Members                      \$50.00
- ⇒ Business Members                    \$100.00

Your membership helps us:

- ◆ Demonstrate to foundations and other donors (with real numbers) that ours is a viable historical society worthy of their support
- ◆ Generate this newsletter four times a year
- ◆ Bring in interesting guest speakers for our quarterly presentation on historic topics
- ◆ Obtain “Bartlett artifacts” that appear online bringing them “home”, and
- ◆ Cover our society’s operating expenses (e.g. insurance, association fees, office supplies, etc.).

Your membership should also give you the satisfaction of being a part of a non-profit organization that is focused on preserving and protecting the history of this town plus providing educational opportunities for people to learn more about Bartlett. When our museum finally opens, we will display Bartlett’s history for all to enjoy. We also plan to expand our educational offerings.

To those who are our current members, please consider renewing your membership now for the 2021 calendar year. For those who are receiving this newsletter and are not members, please consider joining and becoming a member of the Bartlett Historical Society. As always, we *Thank You* for your support. A 2021 Membership Form is enclosed in this newsletter.

Membership form and information can be found at :<http://bartletthistory.org/bartletthistory/join.html>.

### Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors

Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
J. Hadley Champlin, Secretary	Open Position

### BHS Board Advisors

David Eliason, Michael Chandler, Norman Head, Annette Libby,  
George Howard, Anne Pillion



**Fall is here! Will the Pumpkin People return?**