

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514, 13 School Street
Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Spring 2025 Edition (2025:2)

The Bartlett

Historical Society

Thank You to All Recent BHS Donors

The Board of Directors for the Bartlett Historical Society wishes to express our deep gratitude for the generosity and support of our donors. Your support enables us to carry out our mission to discover, preserve, and share the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore.

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To all of our donors, we say, "Thank You!"

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President's Message

Winter was relatively mild this year with a couple of cold snaps and a period of small but frequent snowstorms. As usual, though, winter is being stubborn and fighting back as the new season works to push it out the door. As we await those spring flowers, we continue our work to preserve and share our local history.

We continue to welcome new visitors to our museum. Our guest book contains entries from visitors who live locally and from away. It's very gratifying to read comments left by our guests. We enjoy talking with our guests about various topics, and many have become new members. Those who remember the old church have been quite pleased to see the results of the renovation. If you haven't made the museum one of your destinations, please try to make time for a visit.

Recently, there has been an increased interest in the Willey family disaster of 1826. For those unfamiliar with this story, a very destructive storm on the night of August 28, 1826 took the lives of the Willey family plus two men who worked for the family in Hart's Location. In March, we received an 1880 pamphlet written by Edward Melcher, one of the twelve Bartlett men who went to the Willey homestead to recover the bodies of the family members. While there are many accounts of this topic, Melcher's provides the only known firsthand description of this tragic story with some new historical information highlighting the storm's impact. We've put a copy of Melcher's pamphlet on the BHS website and a short article about this story in this newsletter.

We have also started to look at our local history from a geological perspective. Our thanks to BHS members Buzz Query and David Shedd for opening the door to our focus on this topic. There are many geological features that we see around us daily and, in non-technical terms, we've highlighted a few in an article in this newsletter.

Our 2025 BHS Membership Drive is going quite well. As of March 18th, we received membership dues from 199 people with many new members among those responding. If you haven't sent in your membership dues for 2025, we ask that you please take a moment to do so now. While we gratefully accept new memberships or renewals at any time of the year, it is very helpful to have members join or renew in the first part of the year. Your membership dues help us with the funds we need to operate our museum and, even more importantly, help us demonstrate to foundations and others that BHS is a well-supported organization. As always, we thank you for your support.

In addition to the membership dues received, many have generously sent donations to BHS to support our efforts or in memory of someone. This added support is a tremendous help as it reduces the stress we need to put on extra fundraising efforts. To all those who have made contributions, we truly appreciate your continued support for BHS and our mission to preserve and share the history of our area. Thank You!

Finally, on behalf of our BHS Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of BHS. If you have any questions, comments or ideas about BHS or Bartlett, Hart's Location or Livermore history, please let me know by dropping me an email at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society

A color version of this newsletter is available on our website at www.BartlettHistory.org.

The Historical Herald by Email? If you would like to receive your BHS newsletter via your email, please let us know by dropping us an email at BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com

BHS Notes

BHS Note Cards

Just a reminder that we have sets of note cards with four scenes from Bartlett of old on the front cover. Greta George is the local artist who developed these for BHS. We sold out the first batch that we printed so we've ordered a second printing and have them available at our museum or by mail. While this is a BHS fundraiser, these cards also make a wonderful gift. The scenes are below:



Second Iron Bridge



Garland Ridge Cemetery



River Street Iron Bridge



Sawyer's Rock by the Saco River

We are asking \$15 for each set of four cards (online order charge will be \$17 to cover mailing costs).

Our thanks to Greta for her sharing her artistic talent with us.

What Else is Happening at BHS?

We have a few projects underway in our museum.

- ♦ Inventorying our BHS Library: BHS member, Diana Levy is developing an inventory of all the books in our BHS library. This library contains a variety of books from historical books, including ones dating back to the 1800s to more current books telling of the history of our region. While we do not loan books for home reading, anyone is welcome to review the books here at the museum
- ♦ Cataloging BHS Artifacts: Our Curator, Kathy Howard, is working through a significant effort to catalog all the items under BHS ownership. While we have many items already cataloged, when we consolidated our collections of artifacts as we were opening the museum, we found several that were not listed in our files so Kathy is going through each item now one at a time. We are finding many historical treasures in this process., and so far, she has added over 100 additional entries for artifacts in our collections that were previously undocumented
- ♦ BHS Museum Catalog Online: Kathy is also working to broaden your access to our museum by getting our BHS Museum Catalog installed online with a software tool called PastPerfect. When this tool is made available, it will be accessed via our BHS website. We'll have an announcement when this is available and more information on the capabilities it provides to access our BHS museum day or night
- ♦ Record of Town Officials: We are starting a research project that will, to the best of our ability, develop a listing of all the town officials dating back to 1790 when Bartlett was first incorporated. While the town has always had the standard positions of, for example, selectmen and town clerk there are several other unusual positions that no longer exist such as Snow Warden, Tithingman, Fence Viewer, Field Driver, Hog Constable, and Pound Keeper. We'll include job descriptions for some of these more obscure positions in this record
- ♦ Old Town Records Donated: Recently, Bartlett's Office of the Selectmen donated three large boxes of old town records covering most of the years between 1900 to 1950. The records in these boxes document a wide variety of things related to the town's business and, as we sort through them, should provide important information from the "recent" years of Bartlett's history.

Museum Hours of Operation

Our Bartlett Historical Society & Museum building (13 School Street, Bartlett) is open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (except holidays) or by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling our telephone number – 603-374-5037 – or by dropping an email to Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Admission to the museum is free and all visitors are welcome

Railroad Research Committee—Looking for Research Volunteers

Scotty Mallett, a BHS Board members, is also a railroad historian. He has done a considerable amount of work tracking down the history of the railroads in Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore. However, there still more history to uncover. Scotty is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping continue the research our local railroad history. If you'd like to join him in this research effort, please contact him at 603-383-3051 or by email at scottymallett@gmail.com.



“Chippy” – Our Museum Mascot

Several museum visitors noticed a little stuffed animal chipmunk in the building. Visiting children have played with him. This is our museum mascot, Chippy, and, of course, there's a story behind him. During the renovation, Phil Franklin noticed that we had at least one chipmunk residing in our basement. Chippy didn't belong there and trying to treat him kindly, we set a have-a-heart trap and tried to plug all the little holes in the foundation. We were concerned that he would find a taste for the electrical wire casings or, worse, get into documents stored in the building. As hard as we tried, our little friend figured out how to get the bait in the trap without springing it and found new entry spots as we closed others. However, we finally plugged all the entry spots so we haven't seen Chippy roaming our basement for quite a while. But, as a remembrance of our furry visitor/resident, a stuffed animal version of Chippy now watches over the museum.



How Can You Donate to BHS?

There are several options:

Cash or Check; Credit Card; Gift-in-Kind; Stock Transfer, Matching Gift from your employer, Memorials, Estate Designations

Donations to BHS will help with our operational expenses as well as be used to help us research and preserve the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore as well as offer different opportunities for people of all ages to learn about our rich history.

All donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you for your continued support.

Bartlett Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 organization. All donations may be tax deductible



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BHS Quarterly Presentation Series News

The BHS Quarterly Presentation Series is a way for the Historical Society to offer informative presentations on topics of local interest and/or history. Some of these topics touch directly on our local or regional history while others highlight the experiences of local people in their life professions or experiences. If you have an idea for a topic that you'd like to see us pursue, please let us know.

What's Next

Wednesday, April 16, 2025: Fly Fishing on the Saco with local fishing expert, Steve Angers, owner of the North Country Angler shop

This presentation is a bit of a departure from our usual presentations on local history but fishing in our local rivers, streams and ponds has been a staple of life in the area since it was first settled. Steve will tell us about the sport of fly fishing and share news of expanded fishing opportunities in the local waters.



Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18, 2025: A Soldiers' Story of Duty in the Middle East with Karl Dieter Chandler, 1st Lieutenant, US Army, Blackhawk Helicopter pilot



Karl grew up in Bartlett (son of Hannah and Mike Chandler). He joined the US Army as an ROTC cadette and eventually served in a number of locations in the United States. In 2008, he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Aeromedical Evacuation Pilot. Karl will present a before and after view of the Middle East—before the war and after the war, talking about his experiences as a Bartlett native in a foreign land.

Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025: TBD—We are working on scheduling a very interesting and entertaining presenter

Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

BHS Quarterly Presentation Series—What are your ideas for topics?

We'd like to hear from you—What topics, focusing on local or regional history, would you like to hear about? Please send your topic ideas to Phil Franklin (Phil@BartlettHistory.org) and we'll consider each suggestion and see if we can find a presenter for the topic.



Upcoming BHS Events

Black Cap Grille Dining Event: On May 1st, BHS is being hosted at the Black Cap Grille in North Conway for a dining fundraiser. Black Cap will donate 10% of their evening's meal receipts to BHS. Please join us for a great meal and show your support for BHS.

Kickoff of our BHS Workshop Events: And, by the time this newsletter reaches you, a workshop titled "Researching the History of Your Old House," scheduled for April 5th will have already occurred. We'll report on that event in the next newsletter. We're excited about our new effort to offer more in-depth workshops and look forward to scheduling more in the future. If you have an idea for a workshop, please let us know at BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com.

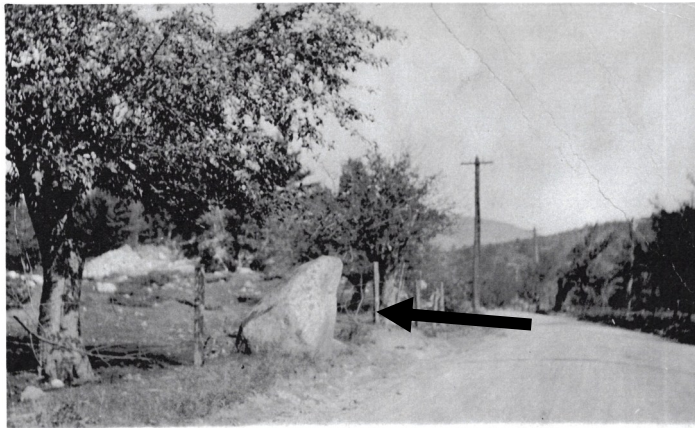
Help Wanted! – BHS Volunteer Program



We are still looking for help as we are starting to get several projects underway to engage more people in BHS activities. One of the first things we'd like to do is get an active BHS Volunteer Program underway. We know that there are many very talented people among our membership so we're putting out the "Help Wanted" sign. As we start the program, here are activities where we'd some help:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Online Sales</u></p> <p>BHS has several items that were left over from our past yard sales plus items from our museum building that we couldn't use in the renovated building.</p> <p>We are looking for someone who knows the ins and outs of online sales to help us get these items sold.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Museum Operations</u></p> <p>Our BHS Museum is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We are looking for help in covering the museum hours.</p> <p>This includes following our opening and closing procedures, greeting visitors and answering questions about local history (knowledge of local history is helpful but this is something you can learn also).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Program & Fundraising Coordinator</u></p> <p>BHS, like any other non-profit organization, is in a continual fundraising mode.</p> <p>We are looking for someone to help coordinate/evaluate existing fundraising programs, plus discover new, interesting programs that could be fundraisers as well as assist with the scheduling of events.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Video Editing & Transcription</u></p> <p>We have several video recordings in tape formats plus others that are digital. We want to get these recordings all in digital format and edited so we can load them onto the BHS YouTube channel. We also have several voice recordings that we would like to get transcribed, so we have the text in a digital format.</p>

Some of the items we've listed do require technical skills while others just require a desire to help by joining in on some things that we need to do to keep BHS moving forward. For more information on any of these Help Wanted listings, please contact Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.



Bartlett Frog

spent many years on the front lawn of the building that was the Road Kill Café, just a few hundred yards down from the Head's house. Also, we learned that when that location was a Chinese restaurant, the frog was painted as a Panda bear. But where did the frog travel before its Road Kill stint? If you know anything about the location shown in this old black & white photo with the arrow pointing to the boulder and/or the travels of the frog rock, please contact Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.

Bartlett Frog

As you drive along Route 302 in Bartlett, you'll pass the home of Kathleen Sullivan-Head and her late husband, Norman Head. In their side yard, you'll see a green large boulder that is painted to look like a frog and the shape of the stone adds to that likeness. A couple of years ago, Greta George patiently repainted the frog as he was looking a bit tired. Here, we've placed a photo of what we suspect is the original location of the frog boulder but we can't determine where it is. We know he

Our Bartlett Frog is watching over Route 302 traffic in the Head's



History From a Different Perspective – A Geological History

When we think of the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore the first thoughts that come to mind are of early settlers, railroads, logging, early tourism and tourists, and the like. However, there is another history that is just beneath our feet and all around us – history from a different perspective. That is the history of the geology of our mountain home. If you are not into technical discussions of competing earth borne pressures, forces driving the plate tectonics, rock cycles, and geologic time don't worry, we are not getting into that depth of a geological history. Things such as a high level look at how our mountain home was shaped, "glacial erratics," sand and gravel, and crystals and minerals.

The idea to look into our geological history started when I received a note from one of our BHS members, Buzz Query. Buzz is a member of a Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club. He saw the giant smokey quartz that we have on display in the museum – a quartz that was found here in Bartlett. He wanted to know if we would be interested in another mineral specimen that he would loan to us for display.

Our conversation with Buzz led us to discover that the mountains around us have many distinct types of minerals and crystals buried in them. The smokey quartz that Buzz has loaned to us is but one of many fine examples of what is under our feet if you know where to look. David Shedd, another BHS member, showed us a piece of quartz that he found near his home on the Rocky Branch River. David explained how crystals grow at intersecting zones between diverse types of rock. As we learned more, we discovered that our geological history story began millions of years ago when the crust of the earth was struggling to form. Today, it continues as inquisitive rock collectors find the mineral surprises below us and we see the erratics dropped randomly in the forest, and take for granted the shape of our mountains.

How Did Our Mountains Come to Take Their Shape?

Did you know that when the White Mountains were originally formed 100 to 124 million years ago scientists calculated that they were at least a couple of thousand feet higher than they are today? Forces from within the earth pushed major "plates" of the earth's crust together resulting in the rise of the mountains that we know today as our White Mountains. Mount Washington is said to have been about 8,000 feet high. Additionally, volcanic activity created the Moat Mountains on the border between Bartlett and Conway as well as Bartlett's Mount Kearsarge. A little farther south, we find the remnants of a volcanic caldera or ring in the Ossipee Mountains.

We can thank a very cold period in our earth's history for the current shape of our mountains. Somewhere between 65 to 1.65 million years ago, the Laurentide ice sheet, a huge glacier that covered all of Canada plus the northern tier of the United States including all of New England. This glacier, over a mile thick, crept over the mountains exerting tremendous downward and lateral forces on the earth's crust. When it retreated about 12,000 years ago, it left a very different looking landscape, one similar to the one we know today. After the glacier retreated, it left one of many glacial lakes. A lake that stretched from Bartlett, NH to Hiram, ME for 2,000 years was named Lake Pigwacket. It finally drained when a natural dam holding it in Hiram burst. Glacial meltwater added further definition to the landscape as it flowed through the valleys and notches continuing to define their shape. That stream erosion is still going on today but in a far less extreme fashion.

continued on next page



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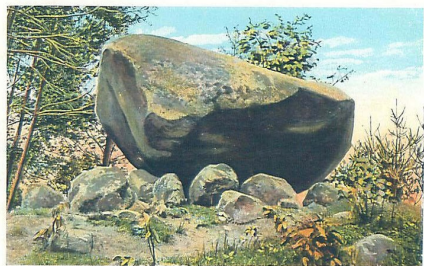


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What Did the Glaciers Leave Behind?

There are a couple of features that the glaciers left us to tell of their mighty power. First, when you try to drive a shovel into the ground around here, without a doubt you will hit rocks, gravel, and sand. As they moved southward, the glaciers ground large rocks into small rocks, and small rocks into sand and gravel. They left millions of tons of sand and gravel that layered across the land and, in some places, formed into large pockets of the material. The rivers and streams help distribute the sand and gravel. This is what gave us our sand and gravel pits as well as the general layer of “boney” ground under the top cover. Today, a major use for this material is as the base layers for our roads. The shape of Crawford Notch and our other mountain notches was influenced by the glaciers. The strong flow of water from the melting glaciers poured down the Gateway of the Notch at the western end of Hart’s Location and gave Crawford Notch its current “U” shape. That flow of water continues today and we now call it the Saco River.



Postcard image of Bartlett Boulder

Another curiosity left behind by the glaciers was what we know as “glacial erratics.” As you drive on Route 302 through Hart’s Location, there are sections of the road where, looking off into the forest, you see these very large boulders strewn about with no other rocks around them. These boulders, erratics, were ripped off the mountain sides, carried different distances and dropped to their present locations as the glacier retreated. Bartlett Boulder (currently on private property but photos are on our BHS website) is a classic example of a glacial erratic.

Bartlett Boulder is estimated to weigh ninety tons; by comparison, Madison Boulder, another enormous glacial erratic, is estimated to weigh 5,963 tons (other weight estimates exist). Erratics come in a variety of sizes, but all are enormous rocks sitting in the middle of the forest and kids love to try to climb on them. Scientists can trace the original location of these erratics by comparing the mineral characteristics of the erratics to rock formations to their north.

Finally, the glaciers left us with the profiles of the White Mountains that we see today. Obviously, we don’t have before and after historical photos but there is enough geological evidence to show that our White Mountains were changed by the forces of glaciation.

100 Years Ago ...

From the 1925 Bartlett Annual Report:


Frank Stillings was paid \$30 for “snowing bridges” (putting snow in the covered bridges so sleighs could slide through them)

W.J. Chandler, John Eastman, & G. W. Melanson were paid \$3 each for caring for the watering troughs (for horses to drink the water)

Expenses for the Bartlett Village fire department totaled \$85.32, inc. \$50 in firemen salaries



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And That Brings Us to Mineral Deposits

The White Mountains are most often associated with granite. A complex process of forces formed the granite in our area and, depending on where you look, you'll see different colors in the granite – grey, pink, and green, for example. The granite beneath most of Bartlett is called Conway Granite. But more exciting than the granite are the different crystals and gems found where, under the proper conditions, two different rock formations meet and through pressure and heat generated by the clashing rock masses, the atomic alignment of some rocks changes and the result is the growth of crystals and gem stones. For example, mining around the Moat Mountains, rock collectors have found quartz, feldspar and topaz crystals. A former resident of Bartlett (Intervale), Peter Samuelson, was a prolific rock collector known for creating “Peter’s Pocket,” a mine at Moat Mountain from which he collected hundreds of crystal samples (among many other places in the area where he mined minerals). Samuelson is credited with the discovery of a five-pound blue topaz, reportedly the largest in the United States, and of a one-of-a-kind mineral that that was named “Samuelsonite;” both are now under the care of the Smithsonian Institute. The area by Mount Pequaket is known for its smokey quartz crystals. At the far end of the former Livermore township there is a small pond from which tripolite was mined. Tripolite is better known as diatomaceous earth and was used for commercial purposes including the manufacture of paper. There are several other examples of where crystals and gems are found with a fair amount of digging and a good knowledge of where to look for them.



Typical Quartz Crystal

Summarizing Our Different Perspective on Local History

“History” and the study of history is the recording of the chronology of events from the past, be it the past from millions of years ago or the past from yesterday. A look into our geological past reveals many different things that have impacted how we live, work, and play in these White Mountains today. Just as we explore the history of railroading or logging, we thought that the history of the formation of our land is worth a study. We are hoping to establish a display in our museum that will chronicle this history from the perspective of the formation of our lands and the scientific, use of materials, rock collecting, and mountain adventures perspectives – a look into the geological history of Bartlett, Hart’s Location, and Livermore.

Spring Cleaning Your Closets, Attic, or Garage?

All too often, we hear that a box of documents, an old collection of items, or an artifact was thrown out and lost forever, judged as just “taking up space.” If you have items that tell a story of our local history, even if they only tell a part of the story, we’d be interested in seeing them and, if we can tie them to the history of Bartlett, Hart’s Location, and/or Livermore, we’d appreciate receiving them as a donation or even under a loan agreement.

If you have things that you’d like to add to our collections of historical artifacts, please contact Phil Franklin, at Phil@BartlettHistory.org, or drop by our museum, or call us at the museum at 603-374-5037 (please leave a message if we’re not there). Ideas include:

Old photographs of local people & places	Old local maps	Signs from local businesses, roadsides, or other buildings	Documents, letters, old deeds
Historical books	Family trees and family stories	Bartlett’s six school & related memorabilia	Hart’s Location Peg Mill
Kearsarge Peg Mill	Bartlett Land & Lumber Company	Goodrich Falls Electric Company	Livermore School
Livermore Mill & Life in the town of Livermore	Railroads inc. P&O, Maine Central, Logging Railroads	Info on Inn, Hotels, Guest Houses, Camps in Bartlett or Hart’s Location	<u>Or</u> Oral histories from people telling of the past

Revisiting the Willey Family Tragedy

In February, BHS was contacted by a member of the Clermont (FL) Historical Society. A pamphlet published in 1880 titled *"A Sketch of the Destruction of the Willey Family"* by Edward Melcher was found in their collection. As historical societies often do, they contacted us to see if we were interested in receiving this document. Of course, we said, "Yes."

The Willey family story has long been one of great interest as a part of our local history. For those unfamiliar with this story, on the night of August 28, 1826, a horrendous rainstorm hit Hart's Location/Crawford Notch. The storm sparked several landslides and flooding of the Saco River in the Notch. The Willey family was caught in one of those slides and, unfortunately, they all perished.

The author, Edward Melcher, is significant because he was one of the twelve men who made their way from Bartlett to search for the family on the day after the storm and landslide. He lived with his family in Bartlett and had a 100 acre farm on the western end of town. His first-hand account provides a graphic description of the recovery efforts that were undertaken.

Capturing some brief comments from his story, he says on the day after the storm, hiking through the Notch to reach the Willey house site was very difficult as the river was still swollen and filled with debris. When they reached the Willey family's home site, all they found was stones of all sizes, trees tangled and twisted, and gravel pulled from the mountainsides and Saco River. The search for the family was underway immediately. In the end, all the Willey's plus a worker they employed and a young man whom they raised were all killed. The irony is that when they heard the slide coming down the mountain, the Willey's apparently left their house looking for shelter possibly in a nearby



Illustration of the Willey House
by W. H. Bartlett

campsite they built for safety after a similar slide from a storm that occurred on June 26, 1826 near the Willey house. It seems that on their race to the camp, they met their unfortunate demise. When the rescuers arrived, they found the house completely untouched by the slide as a large boulder on the mountainside above their house split the approaching slide and sent the debris to either side of the homestead. Hindsight reveals that they would have lived through the slide if they stayed in their home.

Of the nine people killed, only six were found. The bodies of three of the children were never recovered. Melcher reported that the bodies of the family members were interred at the disaster site upon their discovery but later moved to a location in North Conway with one exception. There is a grave marker in Bartlett's Garland Ridge Cemetery for David Allen, their hired laborer.

Stories of the Willey family's demise have been written and published throughout the years following the storm and incident. Melcher's account is the only one that we have seen that describes, first-hand, what happened on that terrible night and in the days following. In his account, Melcher seeks to correct stories by others who claimed to be at the site of the Willey family's demise but were not there. A copy of this pamphlet is available on our BHS website.

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Others Impacted by the August 28, 1826 Storm and Flood

Edward Melcher continued his story about the impact of the August 28th storm with a story that we have never seen before. He reported that the family of Ebenezer Stillings lived “between Sawyer River and Stoney Brook” in Hart’s Location near the Saco River and near the Bartlett town line. Melcher tells the story as narrated by one of Mr. Stillings’ daughters (unnamed in the story). While mentioning that the storm ran throughout the day, there is a note that at about nine o’clock the intensity of the storm increased. Mr. Stillings was outside trying to bring the livestock to safety. Upon returning to the house, it was discovered that water was flowing into the basement. The family moved to the second floor where, “In a few minutes the house began to rock like a cradle ... this commotion lasted about two and one-half hours, when it suddenly ceased. We could do nothing but wait and wonder.”

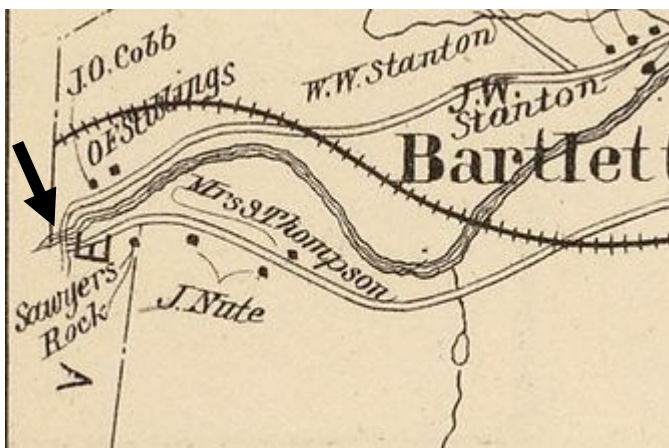
In the morning, they found about six inches of mud on the first floor of their house and evidence of much deeper water. The house was saved by a birch tree that had become wedged under the sill of the stone foundation, much of which washed away. Their barn was destroyed and, while some livestock survived, several animals were washed away. All their crops were washed away except for some wheat and oats that were pulled from the remnants of the barn. The story concludes that a man (named John Barker) arrived at the Stillings home the following morning. He reported that he had been to the Willey site earlier in the morning and it appeared that the Willey family had perished. Barker was the same man who met the eventual rescue, or rather recovery, crew in Bartlett at Judge (Obed) Hall’s tavern and informed them of the fate of the Willey’s. The twelve men who were gathered at Hall’s Tavern set out to Hart’s Location and the Willey family homestead.

Some Other Things Found in the Melcher Account

A curious comment is made in the last paragraph of Melcher’s Willey family story. He tells of a bridge over the Saco River at Sawyer’s Rock. In recent years, there has been an occasional debate of whether there was ever a bridge across the Saco River near Sawyer’s Rock at the Bartlett/Hart’s Location town line.

Melcher mentions that his three boys needed to cross the Saco River to get home from school on a bridge referred to as “Stanton Bridge, made of round logs, about one half mile from Raser (Razor) Brook, over which the settler’s road passed.” He goes on to say that because of the August 1826 flood on the river, the bridge was underwater, but his boys scrambled across and “just as they were all safely over, the bridge went off in the flood.” An 1860 Hart’s Location map shows that there was a school about one mile into Hart’s Location from the Bartlett town line (near where the Stillings house was located).

In the book, “History of Carroll County – 1632 – 1889,” we located a passage from 1817 stating that the town voted “to erect and keep a bridge over the Saco River.” A later passage tells us that on March 22nd, the town voted to raise funds for the building of that bridge. Then, a passage in the 1826 notes reads that “The toll-bridge is carried away by the heavy freshet that caused the Willey disaster, and Charles Hall contracts to rebuild it.” An 1892 map (portion of the map shown above) showing the boundary between the two towns shows a road crossing over the Saco River at Sawyer’s Rock. That crossing connected with what we know today as Cobb Farm Road. This is something that we’ll need to research further. If anyone has more information on this bridge, please contact Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.



1892 map section—Arrow points to the bridge location in question



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

www.BartlettHistory.Org

Facebook: Bartlett Historical-Society

New Museum Exhibits Being Planned

This summer we are planning to change some of the exhibits in the museum. Our target date for the unveiling of the new exhibits is July 4th as a part of our Open House on Independence Day. Our main focus will be on the broad topic of “Tourism.” Our local tourist industry started in the latter part of the 1800s as the railroads brought summer visitors up from Boston and other points south. In the 1900s, improved roads and personal vehicles helped expand tourism in the region. New hotels, inns, and guest houses were built to accommodate visitors. Bartlett and Hart’s Location became tourist destinations.

How Can You Help?

While we have some items related to local tourism, we are searching for more to tell an even better story. If you have items related to the Bartlett and Hart’s Location tourism in the 1800s, 1900s, and even 2000s, we’d be interested in talking with you to either receive these items as donations or on a loan basis. Here’s some of the things we’re searching for:

- * Hotel, Inn, Guest House Items: Photos of the establishment, guest registers, advertising brochures/fliers, memorabilia, guest receipts, dining menus, documents of the “Rules of the House,” train and transportation schedules, signs (of the establishment or directional), maps locating the different establishments, guest entertainment, etc.
- * Tourist Attractions, in particular, Story Land and Heritage NH but others are welcome: Advertising, triangular pennants and other memorabilia, early photos with characters, layout plans, signs, etc.
- * Hiking and Camping: Old AMC White Mountain Guides, trail maps, old hiking gear, other sporting gear, photos of hiking or camping adventures, trail signs
- * Stores and Restaurants: Advertisements, restaurant menus, local maps, photos, signs, etc.
- * In General: Old maps of the area covering Bartlett, Hart’s Location, and/or Livermore, local gift shop memorabilia, signs, photos, etc.
- * Oral Histories: The other things that we are interested in is stories – oral histories – may they be longer or short, we’d like to record them so if you have a story you’d like to relate, please let us know and we’ll arrange a time to meet so you can tell it in your own words.

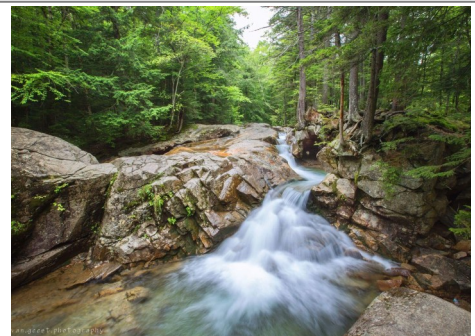
If you think you have something that can contribute to this exhibit, please let us know by either dropping an email to our BHS email box at BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com, sending us a note at PO Box 514, Bartlett, NH 03812, emailing Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org, or calling our museum at 603-374-5037.

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New foliage surrounds a stream of cold snow melt water