

Smithfield Maine Historical Society

2015 Newsletter



The Smithfield Maine Historical Society was founded in 2009. We are an active organization devoted to preserving the History of Smithfield.

Our Historical Society enters its 6th full year of existence in 2015. The GROVES HOUSE, our home, is located at 21 Lakeview Drive!

Monthly Meetings

The Smithfield Maine Historical Society held monthly meetings at the Groves House on the 3rd Saturday of the month March through October 2014. Each meeting began with a business discussion followed by a historical program. Programs included group discussions on life in Smithfield during the depression, WWII, cottages on East and North Ponds, and a photo presentation of the stone wall that surrounds the Groves cellar hole located on Mount Tom. We

also held an East Pond Plantation bus tour of houses, schools, cemeteries, and other features from the early 1800s

Our schedule for 2015 meetings at the Groves House is below. Please join us and learn more about the history of our town. Our March meeting will be held at Sweet Dreams as the Groves House will still be closed. Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on Saturdays on the following dates;

March 21 April 18 May 16 June 20 July 18 Aug 15 Sept 19 Oct 17



Open House for 2015

Please stop by the Groves House on one of our open house dates to say hello and for a tour of the Groves House. Open house is from 10 AM to 2PM (except where noted) on the following dates;

June 20 June 27 July 11 July 18 July 25: 8:30 AM-2 PM

Aug 1: 9 AM-3 PM Aug 8 Aug 15 Aug 22

Fundraising

We held a pancake breakfast and bake sale in July at the Baptist Church. In addition to the delicious pancakes, we served sausage, beans, coffee, and juice. We sold approximately 150 breakfasts. The breakfast was held in conjunction with a local 5K race and there were lots of hungry people who left with a wonderful meal inside. Join us next year for our annual breakfast on Saturday, July 25th.



We also submitted several grant applications and were fortunate to receive a **\$1000** grant from the **Skowhegan Savings Bank**. The money was used towards replacing the dilapidated front porch windows at the Groves House. Many thanks to the kind folks at Skowhegan Savings Bank!



Groves House Renovation

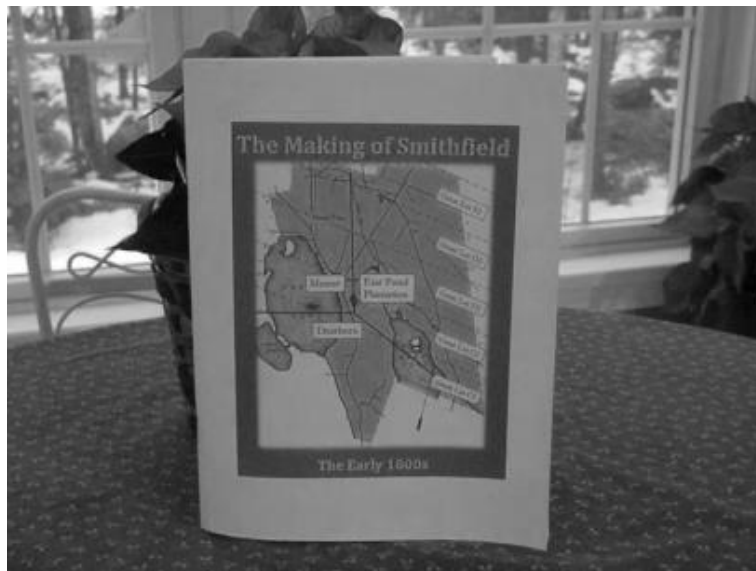
The front porch windows at the Groves House were old and much of the wood rotted; replacement was the only choice. Scott Christensen was hired to do the work and did a great job at a very fair price. In addition to the \$1000 donated by Skowhegan Savings Bank, a number of SMHS members donated funds to the cause. Scott has also widened the doorway between our meeting room and the kitchen to give us additional room for meetings. We are also working to add more display space in the rear storage area.



Additionally there are painting and organizing projects going on inside the house, much of it being done by SMHS members.

New Smithfield history book is now available.

The SMHS published a book on the history of Smithfield titled *The Making of Smithfield: The Early 1800s*, written by SMHS members Richard Witham and Mel Croft. The book focuses on the early 1800s and augments the 1990 history of Smithfield by Ferm and Campbell. Copies can be purchased from Richard Witham (634-4392), Mel Croft (362-5340), or at the town office for \$15.00. The book contains 140 pages and has numerous photographs, maps, and diagrams. The book tells the story of the settlement of Mount Tom in 1821, chronicles life in East Pond Plantation in the early 1800s as well as the Town of Dearborn and has a genealogy of 717 of the 789 people living in Smithfield when it was incorporated into a town in 1840.



Smithfield 175th Celebration

Several members of the SMHS are participating in the committee planning the Smithfield 175th Anniversary on July 31 through August 2. We'll kick off the celebration at 5 PM Friday evening with a supper of baked beans, franks, and brown bread at the Grange hall. Live music from local musicians will follow.

There will be exciting events at several locations on Saturday. At the Grange there will be an Arts and Crafts Fair beginning at 9 AM, including more live music and craft and home/garden

demonstrations. More live music will begin at 1 PM followed by “Poetry in the Grange-Carrying the Fire.”

Meanwhile, at the Smithfield Town Office there will be more of a family focus, especially for children. There will be a magician, face painting, bounce house, balloons, clowns, and much more. Food will be available for purchase.

On Sunday there will be a parade and dedication of the Town Office and Fire Department Complex. This is a must event for everyone living in Smithfield and all of our friends.

Look for more details later this summer.

SMHS 2015 Calendars

Calendars are still available and can be purchased for \$6.00 at the Town Office or from Richard Witham (634-4392).

2015 Plans

Our theme for 2015 is Smithfield through the Years: a celebration of 175 years. We are planning to highlight anniversary years of 1915, 1940, 1965, and 1990 (we’ll include 1890 also if we can find enough material). We are looking for someone to donate or lend a dress or hat from the 1960s or earlier.

Additionally we are looking to procure through donations or loans military uniforms from WWI, WWII, the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars. We only need one uniform from each era per service branch. Other military artifacts from these eras are also needed. Contact Richard Witham or Mel Croft for more information.

Join us on our Facebook page to keep up with SMHS happenings.

Donations

Financial donations are always greatly appreciated and can be made by calling Richard Witham (634-4392) or Mel Croft (362-5340). We are a non-profit, tax exempt organization under section 501© (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 and Title 13-B of the Maine Revised Statutes. (If you do not want to join us, but want to support our mission, all donations are tax deductible).