

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE OFFICERS
TOWN OF ORANGE,
NEW HAMPSHIRE



The morning stroll - Trish Weekes photo

*Cover photo:
Horses Grazing at
Mountain Brook Farm on River Road
Barbara Ells and daughters
Sedona and Coral*

*In remembrance and
gratitude for good neighbors,
we dedicated this town report to*



*Lorna Terhune
1932 - 2021*

CONTENTS

Officers of the Town of Orange	1
2021 Warrant	3
Town Budget Purposes of Appropriation.....	6
Tax Collector’s Financial Report	10
2020 Treasurer’s Report.....	12
2020 Treasurer’s Road Recovery Report (FEMA).....	13
Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds	14
Report of the Town Clerk	16
2020 Tax Rate Data.....	17
2020 Summary of Valuation	19
2020 Schedule of Town Property.....	20
Detailed Statement of Vouchers	22
Report of the Select Board	29
Report of the Planning Board	32
Report of the Road Agent	35
Historical Commission: A Story by Gary Hamel.....	41
Report of Conservation Commission.....	45
Health Officer Report.....	47
Orange Scholarship Report	48
Report of the State Police	49
Report of the Cemetery Trustees.....	50
Report of the Forest Fire Warden	51
Account of the 2020 Fire in Mount Cardigan State Forest...53	
Report of the Health Agencies	55
Canaan Public Library Report	58
Minutes of 2020 Town Meeting	60
Vital Statistics	71
Plagues, Pestilences, and Pandemics.....	70

Officers of the Town of Orange

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, Chair '22

Tamara Fairbank '21 Aaron Allen '23

MODERATOR

Daniel Hazelton '22

TOWN CLERK

Michelle Goffreda

TREASURER

Trish Weekes

ROAD AGENT

Scott Sanborn

TAX COLLECTOR

Sharon Proulx

DEEDING AGENT

Sharon Proulx

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Kathleen Stacy

SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Scott Sanborn, Chair

WELFARE DIRECTOR

Karen McFarlane

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Pauline Emerson '23 Sandi Pierson '22

CEMETERY AGENT

Barry Geddis

HEALTH OFFICER

Douglas Weekes

PLANNING BOARD

Scott Sanborn, Chair '22 Donald McFarlane, Vice Chair '23

Hilary Allen, Secretary '23 Tessa Michetti '21

Karen McFarlane '21 Bruce Ells '21

Dorothy Heinrichs, Select Board ex officio

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Beverly Ells, Chair Judith Connelly Richard Jaeger

Aaron Allen, Select Board ex officio

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Laurie Sanborn '22 Beth DiFrancesco '26 Betsy Coble '24

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Tamara Fairbank '23 Anita Watson '22 Gully Dunlap '21

FOREST FIRE WARDEN DEPUTY WARDENS

Brent Stevens Bill Bellion James McAllister

AUDITOR BUILDING INSPECTOR

Ruth Conwell Douglas Weekes

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

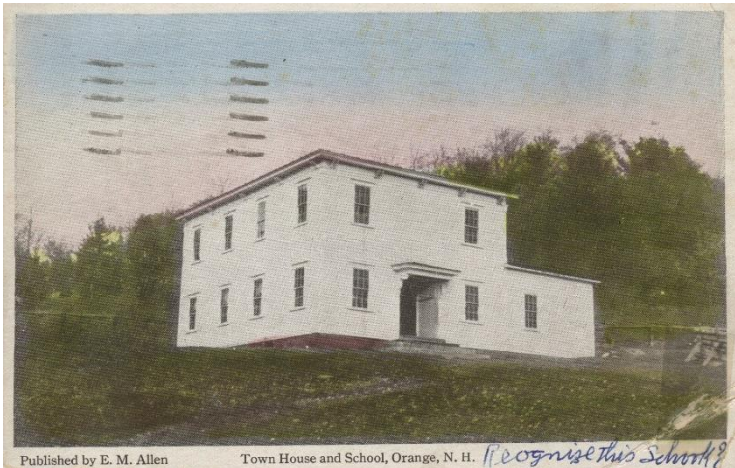
Brent Stevens Deputy: Douglas Weekes

BUDGET COMMITTEE

David Stacy, Chair '22 Robert Proulx, Clerk '23
Louis Shelzi '21 Tamara Fairbank, Select Board ex officio

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Aaron Allen, Chair David Stacy, Vice Chair
Douglas Weekes Dorothy Heinrichs Jay Heinrichs
Trish Weekes Sandi Pierson Tracy Hutchins Hilary Allen



Published by E. M. Allen

Town House and School, Orange, N. H.

Recognize this School?

State of New Hampshire
Town of Orange
Warrant for 2021 Annual Town Meeting

To the inhabitants of the Town of Orange in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED to meet at the Town House in said Orange on Tuesday, the 9th day of March, 2021 at eleven o'clock a.m. for the election of Town Officers as called for in Article 1. The polls will open at 11 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. for voting on Article 1.

YOU ARE ALSO HEREBY NOTIFIED that the business meeting will be held at the Mascoma High School auditorium in Canaan at seven o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, the 10th day of March, 2021 to act upon Articles 2 through 9 in this warrant.

ARTICLE 1: *(by official ballot)* To elect the following town officers for the following terms: 1 Selectperson 3-year term, 1 Town Clerk 1-year term, 1 Treasurer 1-year term, 1 Tax Collector 1-year term, 1 Deeding Agent 1-year term, 1 Road Agent 1-year term, 1 Budget Committee 3-year term, 1 Cemetery Trustee 3-year term, 1 Trustee of Trust Funds 3-year term, 2 Planning Board Members 3-year terms, and any other officers as required by law.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept the prepayment of taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a. Taxpayers shall be allowed to prepay taxes no more than two years in advance of the due date of the taxes. No interest shall accrue to the taxpayer on any prepayment, nor shall any interest be paid to the taxpayer on any prepayment which is later subject to rebate or refund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Moderator to appoint a committee of five Orange residents, two of whom may be officers or employees of the town (excluding members of the Select Board, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Town Clerk, and Select Board Secretary), to study the salaries of the Town officers and employees and report their findings and recommendations in the next annual Town Report, including a warrant article that they deem appropriate.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) to be paid into the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be paid into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be paid into the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of revaluation of real estate. Revaluations of all real estate are required by law every five years.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to be paid into the Town Road Improvement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of **\$241,132.00, not including appropriations by special warrant**

articles and other appropriations voted separately, for the ensuing year for the Town's general operations.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

ARTICLE 9: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers and to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HAND AND SEAL ON THE NINTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE.

Dorothy Heinrichs, Chair

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen

Selectmen,

Town of Orange, New Hampshire



Select Board members Aaron Allen, Tamara Fairbank, and Dorothy Heinrichs. It wasn't always convenient or enjoyable, but for the townspeople's safety the Board held fast to COVID-19 guidelines, including mandatory masks and social distancing.

*TOWN BUDGET PURPOSES OF
APPROPRIATION*

	Approp. <u>2020</u>	Expended <u>2020</u>	Approp. <u>2021</u>
<i><u>General Government</u></i>			
Officers' Salaries	\$30,000.00	\$29,852.16	\$32,000.00
Elections & Reg.	\$4,200.00	\$5,307.00	\$2,170.00
Financial Admin.	\$100.00	\$105.75	\$100.00
Property Reappraisal	\$4,000.00	\$2,800.75	\$3,000.00
Legal Expense	\$3,000.00	\$1,491.78	\$2,000.00
FICA Payments	\$2,700.00	\$1,466.86	\$2,800.00
Planning & Zoning	\$300.00	\$18.00	\$300.00
General Gov't. Bldgs.	\$7,000.00	\$8,640.23	\$8,000.00
Cemeteries	\$3,000.00	\$2,261.96	\$3,000.00
Insurance	\$1,742.00	\$2,349.67	\$1,800.00
Memberships	\$1,750.00	\$1,631.10	\$1,750.00
Officers' Expenses	\$7,500.00	\$9,171.27	\$7,500.00
<i><u>Public Safety</u></i>			
Canaan Ambulance	\$11,323.00	\$11,322.89	\$12,328.00
Canaan Fire Dept.	\$16,331.00	\$19,005.58	\$14,909.00
Building Inspection	\$1,250.00	\$227.15	\$300.00
Emergency Mgmt.	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<i><u>Highway & Streets</u></i>			
Highway	\$100,000.00	\$93,050.86	\$110,000.00
<i><u>Sanitation</u></i>			
Trash Collection	\$16,388.00	\$16,743.76	\$21,247.00
<i><u>Health</u></i>			
Health Agencies	\$4,500.00	\$3,528.03	\$3,400.00
<i><u>Welfare</u></i>			
Direct Assistance	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
<i><u>Culture & Recreation</u></i>			
Library	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Other Culture & Rec.	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<i><u>Conservation</u></i>			
Conservation Comm.	\$500.00	\$228.10	\$300.00
Timber Harvest Mon.	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00

DEBT SERVICE

Tax Anticipation Note	\$4,000.00	\$5,635.06	\$5,700.00
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Capital Outlay

Town House	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
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Budget Totals \$228,085.00 \$218,837.96 \$241,132.00

Capital Reserves

	<u>2020 Balance</u>	<u>2021 Approp.</u>
Revaluation	\$11,831.46	\$4,000.00
Town House	\$13,159.71	\$5,000.00
Cemetery	\$1,594.67	\$0.00
Highway Equipment	\$2,722.66	\$8,000.00
Doc. Preservation	\$1,074.60	\$0.00
Legal Expense	\$4,226.73	\$0.00
Road Improv. & Repair	\$68,950.11	\$1,000.00
Land & Conservation	\$8,834.33	\$0.00
250 th Anniversary	\$40.77	\$0.00

SOURCES OF REVENUE

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2021</u>
<u>Taxes</u>			
Land Use Change Tax	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$2,000.00
Yield Tax	\$1,000.00	\$4,697.37	\$3,000.00
<u>Interest & Penalties</u>			
Delinquent Taxes	\$7,000.00	\$6,420.88	\$6,000.00
Inventory Penalties	\$1,500.00	\$1,918.00	\$1,500.00
UCC	\$120.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Motor Vehicles	\$60,000.00	\$63,556.80	\$60,000.00
Building Permits	\$100.00	\$322.60	\$100.00
Other Lic. & Permits	\$200.00	\$369.75	\$300.00
<u>From State</u>			
Unanticipated Rev.	\$0.00	\$1,448.26	\$0.00
Rooms & Meals Tax	\$17,000.00	\$17,053.11	\$5,000.00
Highway Block Grant	\$28,000.00	\$31,963.80	\$28,000.00
State/Fed. Forest	\$3,000.00	\$3,626.54	\$3,000.00
FEMA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Miscellaneous Revenues

Voter Checklist	\$250.00	\$325.00	\$325.00
Interest on Investments	\$30.00	\$197.65	\$100.00
Sale of Town Property	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Other (Municipal Fees)	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00

Total Estimated \$119,450.00 \$132,899.76 \$120,305.00
Revenue and Credits

	2020	2021
Recommended Operating Budget	\$228,085.00	\$241,132.00
Special Warrant Articles	\$16,000.00	\$18,000.00
Total Approp. Recommended	\$244,085.00	\$259,132.00
Less Estimated Revenue	\$119,450.00	\$120,305.00
Est. Amt. to be Raised by Taxes	\$124,635.00	\$138,827.00

2021 BUDGET SUMMARY

Level funded 12 categories

Decreased 7 categories

- Elections -\$2,030.00
- Revaluation -\$1,000.00
- Legal Expense -\$1,000.00
- Fire Protection -\$1,422.00
- Building Inspection -\$950.00
- Health Agencies -\$1,100.00
- Conservation Comm. -\$200.00

Increased 8 categories:

- Officers' Salaries +\$2,000.00
- FICA +\$100.00
- Insurance +\$58.00
- Ambulance +\$1,005.00
- Solid Waste Disposal +4,859.00
- Highways +\$10,000.00
- Gen. Govt. Bldgs. +\$1,000.00
- Interest on TAN +\$1,700.00

Increased Capital Reserve Funds: +\$2,000.00

(Budget Summary continued)

<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Operating Budget</i>	<i>\$228,085.00</i>	<i>\$241,132.00</i>	<i>+\$13,047.00</i>
<i>Capital Reserve Funds</i>	<i>\$16,000.00</i>	<i>\$18,000.00</i>	<i>+\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Total Appropriations</i>	<i>\$244,085.00</i>	<i>\$259,132.00</i>	<i>+15,047.00</i> <i>6.2% increase</i>



Sugaring Time - Trish Weekes photo

TAX COLLECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020

DEBITS:

Uncollected Taxes Beg. of Year	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Property Taxes		\$54,812.10
Yield Taxes		
Land Use Change Taxes		\$20.00
Property Tax Credit Balance	(\$56.89)	
Taxes Committed This Fiscal Year		
Property Taxes	\$899,616.37	
Land Use Change Tax		
Yield Taxes	\$4,697.37	
Excavation Tax	\$88.72	
Overpayment Refunds		
Interest-Late Tax	\$101.35	\$2,021.80
TOTAL DEBITS	\$904,446.92	\$56,853.90

CREDITS

Remitted to Treasurer	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Property Taxes	\$856,461.49	\$39,852.06
Yield Taxes	\$4,697.37	
Interest	\$76.35	\$1,576.80
Penalties	\$25.00	\$445.00
Land Use Change Taxes		\$20.00
Converted to Liens (Principal only)		\$14,960.04
Abatements Made		
Property Taxes	\$3,654.91	
Excavation Tax	\$88.72	

Uncollected Taxes

- End of Year

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Property Taxes	\$40,259.71	
Land Use Change Taxes		
Property Tax Credit Bal.	(\$816.63)	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$904,446.92	\$56,853.90

SUMMARY OF

DEBITS:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Unredeemed Lien			
Balance beg. of FY		\$14,128.51	\$8,828.12
Liens Executed FY	\$16,032.88		
Interest & Costs			
Collected	\$63.61	\$1,382.76	\$2,851.36
TOTAL DEBITS	\$16,096.49	\$15,511.27	\$11,679.48

SUMMARY OF

CREDITS

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Redemptions	\$3,669.75	\$7,235.07	\$8,641.14
Interest & Costs			
Collected	\$63.61	\$1,382.76	\$2,851.36
Liens Deeded to			
Town	\$186.30	\$186.76	\$186.98
Unredeemed Liens			
End of FY	\$12,176.83	\$6,706.68	\$0.00
TOTAL LIEN			
CREDITS	\$16,096.49	\$15,511.27	\$11,679.48

*Sharon Lee Proulx,
Tax Collector
Town of Orange*

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2019 **\$228,853.44**

RECEIPTS

Bank	\$197.65
Select Board	\$374.85
Tax Collector	\$925,924.92
State of New Hampshire	\$122,916.77
Town Clerk	\$65,154.30
Trust Funds	\$40,700.00
Treasury	\$25.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,155,293.49

EXPENSES

Payment by order of Selectmen	\$1,526,088.27
Liability for FICA	(\$129.62)
Liability to State from Town Clerk	(\$1,239.80)
Difference between Treasury & Select Board	\$1,309.86
Transfers to Trust Funds	\$15,700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,541,728.71

PRINCIPLE BORROWED ON

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE	\$459,900.00
Tax Anticipation Note interest	\$5,635.06
FEMA loan amount borrowed	\$440,000.00
CASH ON HAND 12/31/2020	\$276,783.16

EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES **\$1,309.86**

4 th quarter FICA/Intuit expense paid in 2021	\$1,314.86
Valley News check written \$3.00 less	-\$3.00
Paycheck error	-\$1.24
Miscellaneous error	-\$.50

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Weekes, Treasurer
Tessa Michetti, Deputy Treasurer

*TREASURER'S ROAD RECOVERY FINANCIAL
REPORT TO DECEMBER 31, 2020*

To recover and repair roads damaged by the July 11, 2019, weather event, the town borrowed money in the form of a one-year note (FEMA reimbursement anticipation note or FRAN). The note was authorized for up to \$980,356.

What follows is an end-of-year summary of road recovery financial activity as well as other incurred expenses prior to the loan. Details of the expenditures this year are in the Selectmen's *Detailed Statement of 2020 Vouchers* under the category July 11 Flood Event—FEMA.

By order of Selectmen FEMA expenses

2019	\$104,666.18
2020	\$522,788.96
Total FEMA expenses	\$627,455.14

FEMA reimbursement

2019	\$0.00
2020	\$68,825.06

Disbursed from FRAN	\$440,000.00
2020 interest on FRAN	\$2,285.91
FRAN available	\$540,356.00
FRAN principal and interest due	6/12/2021

*Respectfully submitted,
Trish Weekes, Treasurer
Tessa Michetti, Deputy Treasurer*

2020 REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

COMMON TRUST FUNDS

CEMETERIES

	Dec. 31, 2019	2020 Int.	Dec. 31, 2020
Hannah M. French	\$1,128.31	\$5.07	\$1,133.38
Jennie M. French	1,462.49	9.17	1,471.66
Arthur Briggs	531.10	3.34	534.44
Clara Huse	490.37	3.19	493.56
Asa Hoyt	503.85	3.17	507.02
Henry Eastman	1,374.00	8.61	1,382.61
Abbie Fellows	1,546.79	9.71	1,556.50
Adoniram Ford	1,577.61	9.90	1,587.51
Charles Ford	1,641.89	10.29	1,652.18
Lyman Batchelder	501.73	3.16	504.89

(There were no withdrawals from the above cemetery trusts.)

ERNEST KILTON BARNARD MEMORIAL FUND

Dec. 31, 2019: \$12,737.04; Interest: \$79.82; Balance Dec. 31, 2020: \$12,816.86

CAPITAL RESERVES

- *Highway Equipment:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$26,561.53; deposit per vote at 2020 town meeting: \$8,000.00; interest: \$161.13; withdrawal: \$32,000.00; Dec. 31, 2019 balance: \$2,722.66
- *Town Road Improvement and Repair:* Dec. 31, 2019 balance: \$68,520.64; interest: \$429.47; Dec. 31, 2020 balance: \$68,950.11
- *Revaluation:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$16,756.47; deposit per vote at 2020 town meeting: \$4,000.00; withdrawal: \$9,000; interest: \$74.99; Dec. 31, 2020 balance: \$11,831.46
- *Town House:* Dec. 31, 2019 balance: \$9,102.56; deposit per vote at 2020 town meeting: \$4,000.00; interest: \$57.15; Dec. 31, 2019 balance: \$13,159.71
- *Town Document Preservation:* Dec. 31, 2019 balance:

- \$1,067.92; interest: \$6.68; Dec. 31, 2020 balance: \$1,074.60
- *Land & Conservation:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$8,779.32; interest: \$55.01; balance Dec. 31, 2020: \$8,834.33
- *Cemetery Monuments:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$1,584.73; interest: \$9.94; balance Dec. 31, 2020: \$1,594.67
- *Legal Expense:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$4,200.40; interest: \$26.33; balance Dec. 31, 2020: \$4,226.73
- *250th Orange Anniversary:* Dec. 31, 2019: \$40.51; interest: \$0.26; balance Dec. 31, 2020: \$40.77

<i>Cemeteries:</i>	<i>\$10,823.75</i>
<i>Kilton Fund:</i>	<i>\$12,816.86</i>
<i>Capital Reserves:</i>	<i>\$112,435.04</i>
<i>Grand Total:</i>	<i>\$136,075.65</i>

Two capital reserve withdrawals were authorized by the Select Board. The town acquired a replacement highway department truck at a cost of \$36,000, with \$32,000 coming out of the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) and \$3,000 from the municipal highway budget. Due to COVID-19 the town-wide revaluation by Avitar could not include the onsite “measure and list,” thus their contract and reval payment from the CRF was revised to a two-year process. It is anticipated that the onsite measure and list phase will be completed in 2021 at which time the Select Board will authorize the second payment.

The Road Improvement CRF was changed by the voters at 2020 town meeting to Road Improvement *and Repair* CRF, which widens the scope of its purpose. At the special town meeting on April 27, 2020, the voters designated the Select Board as agents to expend from this CRF.

We were greatly saddened that the Chairman of the Trustees of the Trust Funds unexpectedly passed away in 2020. Nathaniel Albert Emerson served the town in a number of capacities including the Planning Board and Historical Commission. His good nature and expertise in Trust Funds is greatly missed.

*Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of Trust Funds,
Pauline Emerson and Sandi Pierson*

*ORANGE TOWN CLERK REPORT
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020*

Automobile Registrations	\$63,498.80
Automobile Titles	\$58.00
Municipal Fees	\$950.00
Dog Licenses	\$197.50
UCC Fees	\$30.00
Vital Records	\$95.00
Voter List	\$350.00
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$65,154.30</i>

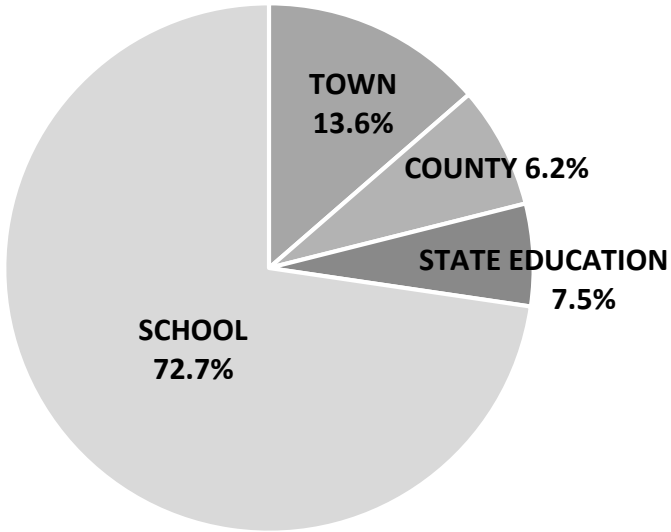
*Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Goffreda
Orange Town Clerk*

*You can register your vehicle online
at www.Orangenh.us*



Town Clerk Michelle Goffreda accepts a ballot from Jay Heinrichs during outdoor voting at the May 27, 2020 special town meeting. Thanks to all election officers, the three voting days in Orange last year were flawless.

Your 2020 Tax Bill



TAX RATES PER \$1000 OF VALUATION

	Town	Mascoma School District	State Education	County	Total Tax Rate
2020	\$3.38	\$18.03	\$1.85	\$1.55	\$24.81
2019	\$4.03	\$18.53	\$2.14	\$1.90	\$26.60
2018	\$3.80	\$18.05	\$2.16	\$1.86	\$25.87
2017	\$3.88	\$18.07	\$2.20	\$1.77	\$25.92
2016	\$3.71	\$17.16	\$2.15	\$1.73	\$24.75
2015	\$4.45	\$11.70	\$2.74	\$1.54	\$20.43
2014	\$3.07	\$15.02	\$2.54	\$2.00	\$22.63
2013	\$2.50	\$14.92	\$2.47	\$1.66	\$21.55
2012	\$4.10	\$11.59	\$2.46	\$1.62	\$19.77
2011	\$2.00	\$14.85	\$2.62	\$1.50	\$20.97
2010	\$2.21	\$13.33	\$2.49	\$1.49	\$19.52
2009	\$4.05	\$11.92	\$2.12	\$1.44	\$19.53

2020 PROPERTY TAXES DATA

Town Appropriations: \$1,431,085*

Less Revenue: (\$1,313,353)*

Add Overlay per RSA 76:6: \$2,840

Add War Service Credits: \$2,200

Total Municipal Tax Effort: \$122,772

*Includes appropriation at special town meeting of May 27 to pay for FEMA work and the voter-approved line of credit (revenue) that was used to pay for FEMA work during 2020.

Net Local School Apportionment: \$923,757

Less Education Grant: (\$202,888)

Less Education Tax (from below): (\$65,538)

Total School Tax Effort: \$655,331

Education Tax: \$65,538

County Tax: \$56,258

Total Taxes Assessed: \$899,899

Less War Service Credits: (\$2,200)

Total Property Tax Commitment: \$897,699

*Notary services are available at the
Select Board's office at no charge to
Orange residents and property owners*

*The town report can be viewed in
color at www.Orangenh.us
(Thank you, Jay Heinrichs!)*

2020 SUMMARY OF VALUATION

	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>
Current Use	8,713.72	\$557,314
Residential	936.34	\$12,519,300
Commercial	88.01	\$206,100
<i>Taxable total acreage</i>	<i>9,738.32</i>	<i>\$13,282,714</i>
Non-taxable*	5,580.03	\$3,912,000

*Town and State properties, including Mt. Cardigan State Forest

Residential buildings	\$20,780,900
Manufactured Housing	\$1,010,900
Commercial Buildings	\$409,600
<i>Total Taxable Buildings</i>	<i>\$22,201,400</i>
Non-taxable building (Town House)	\$205,000

Utilities: \$975,200

Total valuation before exemptions \$36,459,314

Less elderly exemptions \$115,000

Net Valuation: ***\$36,344,314***

Town, County, and Mascoma School District taxes are based on the above net valuation.

State Education Tax is based on valuation minus the utilities value of \$975,200. (\$35,369,114)

Current Use Acreage and Values:

Farmland: 158.22 acres - \$53,386

Forest Land: 7,258.51 acres - \$458,062

Forest Land w/ Doc. Stewardship: 1,192.89 acres - \$42,135

Unproductive Land: 42.4 acres - \$817

Wetland: 61.7 acres - \$1,340

Total: 8,713.72 C.U. acres valued at \$557,314

Other Current Use Statistics:

Receiving 20% recreation adjustment: 4,444.58 acres

Removed from current use in 2020: 0 acres

Total parcels in current use: 139

Total number of current use land owners: 98

2020 SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Properties (assessed values):

- Map 1- Lot 34, Route 4, 0.10 acre (possible site of 1804 municipal toll booth), value: \$2,200
- Map 1 - Lot 56, 200 Tuttle Hill Road (tax-deeded), value: \$89,800
- Map 3- Lot 3-3, Tug Mountain Road, 0.38 acre, Common Cemetery, value: \$27,800
- Map 3 - Lot 11, 8 Town House Road, 2.27 acres, land value: \$41,100, building (Town House): \$202,900
- Map 3- Lot 56, Cardigan Mountain Road, 11.25 acres, “Williams Lot,” value: \$51,000
- Map 3- Lot 100, Cardigan Mountain Road, 0.37 acre, French Cemetery, value: \$30,700
- Map 3- Lot 100-1, Cardigan Mountain Road, 0.75 acre, Church Cemetery, value: \$29,600
- Map 7- Lot 3, Firescrew Forest, 8.9 acres on the north flank of Firescrew Mountain, value: \$8,000

Highway Department:

- 2008 Ford 350 Truck: \$8,000
- 2015 GMC 3500D Truck: \$35,000
- Fisher XV2 Minute Mount Plow: \$4,500
- Fisher XV Minute Mount Plow: \$1,500
- Fisher SteelCaster Sander: \$5,500
- Other equipment: \$700

Other:

- Town house, general contents: \$46,000
- Historical collection: \$5,042
- Art collection: \$7,385
- Set of six display units: \$3,000
- Gary Hamel 23 historical panels: \$7,500
- Standby generator: \$3,500

(Schedule of town properties continued)

Properties:	\$442,000.00
Highway Department:	\$55,200.00
Other:	\$72,427.00
TOTAL:	\$569,627.00

Bit of history....

Hoyt Mountain

Jonathan Hoyt was born on October 1, 1731 and baptized on October 31 of that year. He married three times; his wives were Sarah Shepherd, Elizabeth Eastman Currier (widow of Moses Currier), and Phebe Marshall.

Jonathan was a shoemaker. After settling in Grafton, he would later move to the neighboring town of Orange where he cleared a large tract of wild land.

In 1806 he was hauling a heavy load of boards with an ox team when his feet slipped out from underneath him. The ox cart wheel crushed his head and killed him. It is said he had 21 children, but only the names of 19 are known. It is believed two of them died very young.

The large tract of land has two mines and is now part of Mount Cardigan State Forest thanks to the land gift of Gordon Jackson of Canterbury, NH.

Collector's Sale of Non-Resident Lands.			
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, Grafton, ss.			
Notice is hereby given that so much of the following real estate in the town of Orange, in said County belonging to persons not resident in said town, as will pay the following taxes assessed upon each tract respectively for the year 1915, with incidental charges, will be sold at auction at the Town House, in said Orange, on Tuesday, the 15th day of February next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, unless prevented by previous payment.			
Owner's Name and Description.	Acres	Valuation	Taxes
Cardigan Mica Mine Co., Hoyt ledge,	60	\$759	\$9 75
Dean Bros., Hood lots,	2 0	1600	20 80
Dean Bros., Wheeler farm,	200	800	19 40
Mining and mineral rights on the E. H. Sanborn farm		500	6 50
Dean Bros., Proctor & Ames lot No. 26,	280	950	12 35
Dean Bros., Pike lot,	50	150	1 95
Dean Bros., two lots north of Chas. A. Ford lot,	200	1500	19 10
Dean Bros., Ferrin farm,	100	750	9 75
Dean Bros., Gove farm,	100	400	5 20
J. F. Lumes, True farm,	123	600	7 80
Jesse R. Payne,	3	24	31
Orange, N. H., Dec 14, 1915.			
EVERETT E. EASTMAN, Collector.			

A 1915 land auction in Orange included 60 acres known as "Hoyt Ledge" owned by the Cardigan Mica Mine Company.

Reference: *Hoyt Family: A Genealogy History of John Hoyt of Salisbury, Benjamin Richardson, Boston, 1857*

DETAILED STATEMENT OF 2020 VOUCHERS

4130 SALARIES

Aaron Allen	\$2,000.00
Amy Tirpaeck	\$195.00
David Stacy	\$140.00
Dorothy Heinrichs	\$2,000.00
Kami Stone	\$1,706.00
Louis Shelzi	\$140.00
Michelle Goffreda	\$3,093.36
Pauline Emerson	\$215.00
Robert Proulx	\$140.00
Ruth Conwell	\$500.00
Sandi Pierson	\$13,181.80
Sharon Proulx	\$2,272.00
Tamara Fairbank	\$2,000.00
Tessa Michetti	\$274.00
Trish Weekes	\$1,800.00
Vicky McAlister	\$195.00

4140 ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Aaron Allen	\$400.00
Amy Tirpaeck	\$400.00
Anita Garland	\$300.00
Beth DiFrancesco	\$435.00
Betsy Coble	\$435.00
Chris Hausfeld	\$100.00
Daniel Hazelton	\$495.00
David Wilson	\$100.00
Dorothy Heinrichs	\$400.00
Douglas Weekes	\$200.00
Gary Hamel	\$400.00
Gulley Dunlap	\$100.00
Laurie Sanborn	\$435.00
Michelle Goffreda	\$200.00
State of New Hampshire	\$507.00
Tamara Fairbank	\$400.00

4150 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION (DEEDS)	
Grafton County Reg. of Deeds	\$105.75
4152 REVALUATION	
Avitar Associates of N.E.	\$2,800.75
4153 LEGAL	
Drummond Woodsum	\$1,491.78
4155 FICA	
FICA	\$1,466.86
4191 PLANNING AND ZONING	
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Reg. Comm.	\$18.00
4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	
AmeriGas	\$503.66
Angel Buckwold	\$80.00
Brent Stevens	\$44.58
Canaan EMS	\$55.99
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$180.16
Consolidated Communications	\$2,459.61
Endyne Laboratory Services	\$247.50
Hampshire Fire Protection Co. LLC	\$35.00
Inov8v Energy	\$2,479.70
JBC Septic and Rentals	\$400.00
Lyell Smith	\$223.60
NH Electric Co-op	\$736.41
Town of Hanover, NH	\$475.00
White Mountain Imaging	\$259.85
Young's Propane	\$459.17
4195 CEMETERIES	
Barry Geddis	\$2,170.35
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$15.00
D & B Outdoor Power Equipment	\$76.61
4196 INSURANCE	
Primex	\$158.82

4197 MEMBERSHIPS

NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials	\$20.00
NH Health Officers Association	\$45.00
NH Municipal Association	\$1,082.00
NH Public Works Mutual Aid Program	\$25.00
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Reg. Pl. Comm.	\$459.10

4199 OFFICER EXPENSES

Amy Tirpaeck	\$121.02
Canaan Hardware and Supply	\$54.86
Douglas Weekes	\$87.95
Gnomon Copy	\$431.15
Interware Development	\$986.00
Intuit Quickbooks	\$528.00
Laurie Sanborn	\$59.99
Mascoma Savings Bank	\$60.00
Michelle Goffreda	\$509.34
Plodzick and Sanderson PA	\$2,500.00
Robert Proulx	\$140.00
Sandi Pierson	\$206.89
Sharon Proulx	\$170.17
Staples	\$978.98
State of NH Vital Records	\$23.00
Systems Plus	\$1,067.00
Trish Weekes	\$467.68
United States Postal Service	\$763.94
Valley News	\$15.30

4215 AMBULANCE

Town of Canaan, NH	\$11,322.89
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4220 FIRE

Town of Canaan, NH	\$16,331.00
<i>Cardigan wildfire invoices:</i>	
Town of Canaan, NH	\$662.80
Town of Hebron, NH	\$1,516.57
Town of Rumney, NH	\$495.21

4240 BUILDING INSPECTION

Douglas Weekes	\$227.15
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4290 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

(No expenditures)

4312 HIGHWAY

Blaktop	\$248.52
Dyer's Welding	\$8,459.22
Green Oak Realty Development	\$7,980.00
Joe's Equipment & Services	\$105.15
Newport Chevrolet	\$132.36
Pike Industries	\$421.62
Richard Remacle Construction	\$66,981.50
Scott Sanborn	\$5,201.11
Scott's Yard Care of New London LLC	\$3,000.00
Sugar Face & Co. LLC	\$521.38

4823 SOLID WASTE

Town of Canaan, NH	\$16,387.76
Hammond Grinding and Recycling Inc.	\$356.00

4415 HEALTH

Douglas Weekes	\$714.03
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$450.00
Public Health Council	\$250.00
Tri-County CAP	\$114.00
Upper Valley Humane Society	\$300.00
Visiting Nurse Association of NH & VT	\$1,300.00
West Central Behavioral Health	\$400.00

4441 DIRECT ASSISTANCE (WELFARE)

(No expenditures)

4550 LIBRARY

Canaan Town Library	\$4,000.00
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4589 CULTURE/RECREATION

(No expenditures)

4611 TIMBER MONITOR

(No expenditures)

OTHER PAYMENTS

Flood Event of July 11 (FEMA Disaster)	\$522,788.96
Annual County Payment to Grafton County	\$56,258.00
School payments to Mascoma School Dist.	\$679,052.79
Rebate on taxes	\$816.62
200 Tuttle Hill Road	\$11,769.00

*Rock formations in the woods
below Skyland Ridge*



Photos by Debbie Clough

REPORTS



2020 REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

Thanks to all Orange residents who worked together to get us through such a difficult year.

ELECTIONS

Orange set a record in 2020 with six elections, beginning with the February presidential primary. In March, the ballot vote for town officers was followed next day by Town Meeting. In May, we held our first ever drive-thru Town Meeting to vote on two warrant articles. Then came the September primary and the November presidential election.

We are lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers to conduct our elections. All were overseen by our superb Town Moderator Dan Hazelton, ably assisted by former Town Clerk Amy Tirpaeck, along with new Town Clerk Michelle Goffreda; Supervisors of the Checklist Laurie Sanborn, Betsy Coble, and Beth DiFrancesco; and ballot clerks Anita Watson and Gary Hamel. Others assisting included Dave Wilson and Gulley Dunlap and the Selectboard. Before voting began Brent Stevens and Skip Smith picked up and set up of all the PPE equipment. Doug Weekes and Chris Hausfield helped with logistics during the busy November election, when we met the dual challenges of record voter turnout and the requirements to keep everyone safe from the pandemic. Our heartfelt thanks to all voters and all volunteers.

BROADBAND

With many residents working from home and children learning remotely, the need for faster, reliable broadband service is abundantly clear. It's not a luxury; it's becoming as much a necessity as electricity.

The Board is grateful to residents who have formed an ad hoc committee to explore options for increasing service to all of Orange. Thanks to Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, Donald McFarlane, Colin Higbie, Jason Azze, Tracy Hutchins, and Michael Skuhersky.

The good news is, it appears that the New Hampshire Electric Co-op plans to bring true high-speed internet to the Town—including residents who aren't currently NHEC customers. We have hope that the service will come within the next couple of years. The Orange Town website, orangenh.us, will post any news that comes our way. And you can check the NHEC site itself, nhec.com/broadband, for the latest.

PANDEMIC

MASKS must be worn in the Town House. If you arrive without one, please take one from the box just inside the front door and put it on before entering. If you should become ill with Covid-19 and must self-isolate, please contact Town Health Officer Doug Weekes. He can help you get supplies delivered.

ROADS

Road Agent Scott Sanborn's full report can be found on Page 35. In addition to the routine work of annual maintenance and snow removal, Scott has overseen the repair work to many of the Town's roads necessitated by the July 11, 2019 flash flood. That hasn't been easy. We ran into several governmental delays. FEMA required us to document the pre-flood appearance of damaged sites. In addition, the state's Department of Environmental Services demanded further documentation about the pre-flood appearance of Orange Brook before work could begin to return it to its former streambed. This required a huge amount of expertise and time-consuming work. We are lucky to have a road agent who was able to respond capably. Thank you, Scott.

SANDI PIERSON

Our wonderful Board Secretary does more than take the minutes; she keeps the Board on track and maintains Orange's records in good order. Over the last several years, she has worked to identify a number of the "owner unknown" properties in Orange. Assisted by Scott Sanborn, our Planning Board chair and a professional surveyor, Sandi has identified the properties and worked with the Town's attorney to take all necessary steps to put the properties up for sale. Proceeds from the sale of

properties go into the general fund, benefiting all Orange taxpayers. The Board would struggle without Sandi's deep knowledge of the town, its history, and its people.

BEAUTIFICATION

Several unoccupied properties in Town had fallen into disrepair in recent years. With help from Doug Weekes, the Town's building inspector and health officer, a number of issues have been addressed.

200 Tuttle Hill Road, taken for taxes, has been cleared of an old trailer, cars, trash, and scrap metal. The property was listed for sale late in the year. Proceeds will cover all the Town's cleanup costs, plus back taxes; the remainder will go to the former property owner.

WEBSITE

orangenh.us

Visit the website to check on meeting dates, download forms, post photos, register your dog or your car, and learn about Orange's history. Sign up on the site to get emails of Orange news—or email webmaster Jay Heinrichs at jay@jayheinrichs.com and ask him to sign you up.

Tip: New Hampshire lets you register your car the month before your registration expires, allowing you more time to have your vehicle inspected. Go to orangenh.us/forms and click on "Vehicle Registration."

*Sincerely,
Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, Chair
Tamara Fairbank
Aaron Allen*

2020 REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Probably the most notable thing about 2020 for the Orange Planning Board was the highest turnover in membership we have seen in quite some time. Long serving members Judith Lindahl and Sal Guadagnino chose not to run for re-election this past March, and we wish them the best in their “retirement” as we welcome Donald McFarlane and Bruce Ells who were elected to new three-year terms. Very early in the year, the sad passing of Albert Emerson, also a long-time member, left us with another vacancy. Two community members expressed interest in being appointed to fill the opening: former member Tessa Michetti (who has also served the town in other capacities) and a relatively new resident of Orange, Michael Skuhersky. After review and discussion with the candidates, Tessa was selected on the basis of her familiarity with the Board and the Town of Orange, but with many thanks to Michael for his willingness to serve.

Scott Sanborn was re-elected as Chair, Donald McFarlane elected as Vice-Chair, and Hilary Allen as Secretary. Dorothy Heinrichs continues as the Selectboard ex-officio member. Since March, as a result of the COVID pandemic, and consistent with the applicable orders of the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, all of our meetings have been conducted remotely via the Zoom platform. Log on information is available on the community website www.orangenh.us.

We had no land use applications submitted to us this year. The focus of our meetings throughout the year has been review and revision of the Planning Board’s Rules of Procedure. This document governs membership, meeting procedures, public hearings, record keeping and the like. We drew upon state models, other small towns’ documents and personal experience to make a number of revisions that we feel will standardize our procedures, and keep us in compliance with applicable rules and recommended practices. The final revisions were approved after readings in two consecutive duly noticed regular meetings as required.

During the coming year, we plan to similarly review and revise (as applicable) application forms, checklists and fee schedules. Also on the agenda is a review of driveway standards and permitting, including discussions on whether we should add a provision for approval of temporary logging access, something that is presently not subject to any oversight.

Looking a bit further ahead, we have plans to discuss the development of regulations for larger (commercial) solar arrays, and whether “tiny houses” should be specifically addressed in any fashion within our regulations. The latter subject is presently under discussion at the state level, and we will most likely wait until such time as there is guidance resulting from that.

The Chairman wishes to thank the members of the Planning Board for their commitment and thoughtful considerations to the planning issues that impact the Town of Orange. Thanks also, to our Board of Selectmen for their dedication to the town, and the town’s attorneys at the offices of Drummond Woodsum for being ever available to provide insight and legal wisdom. We also thank the members of the public who have provided input at our meetings and public hearings.

The Planning Board holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. As noted above, meetings will be held remotely via “Zoom” until further notice, the log-on information for which can be found at www.orangenh.us. Those wishing to be heard formally by the board, whether to discuss a subdivision or boundary adjustment, or any topic of general interest related to planning and zoning may ask to be placed on the agenda by contacting Secretary Hillary Allen at 603-381-4105, or Chair Scott Sanborn at 603-667-8237. The public is always encouraged to attend our meetings, and the Board is pleased to hear questions or comments whether on the agenda or not. It is recommended to check ahead, as meetings may be cancelled if there is no business requiring the board’s attention. As the Chairman, I know I can speak on behalf the entire Board

when I say that we look forward to continuing to serve the Town of Orange in the year 2021.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scott Sanborn, Chair*



Doug and Trish Weekes' hiking partner Gracie enjoys the sights and sounds of an Orange Brook waterfall. Trish Weekes photo

2020 REPORT OF THE ROAD AGENT

Thank you once again for the privilege of allowing me to serve the Town of Orange as your Road Agent.

The vast majority of the highway department's efforts in 2020 were devoted to making permanent repairs to the damages sustained during the floods of July 2019. Contracts for the repairs were put out to bid and awarded to local contractors in the spring as follows:

New Colony Road and Number Seven Brook embankment repairs: Razor Hill Construction
Tug Mountain Road and Orange Brook embankment repairs: Conkey Enterprises, LLC
Number Seven Brook and Orange Brook channel restoration: Wanner Earthmoving, LLC
All other repair projects (misc. roads): Remacle Construction.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of these contractors and their crews for their hard work and dedication to these projects. Thanks also to Pioneer Forestry Services who assisted with some tree work on Williams Road, and to the folks at Green Oak Realty's Grafton pit who kept the materials flowing!

Work was conducted throughout the summer and fall. At this time, a little over half of the repairs have been completed, and work will recommence as soon as conditions allow in the spring. For the most part, the focus to date has been on rebuilding the stretches of roads that were completely washed out, and the stream embankment and channel work which were most critical to avoid the threat of more damage in the event of heavy rains.

All of the embankment and channel restoration projects were completed this year. Tug Mountain Road is about 85% to 90% completed, with only the final shaping and grading of ditches and shoulders remaining. New Colony Road is about 60% complete: the washed-out portions have been rebuilt, with a few culverts left to replace and/or reset, and restoration of road

edges, shoulders and ditches remaining along the portions of the road which sustained lesser damages. Of the remaining projects, Williams Road is complete except for a small amount of final ditch and shoulder grading. Tuttle Hill Road ditch and shoulder restoration is well under way north of Cross Road, but has not been started south of Cross Road. Repairs also remain to be done on Eastman Road, Town House Road and Cross Road has one culvert yet to be replaced. Damaged asphalt will be repaved once all of the necessary prep-work has been completed.

The completed work has been done to high quality standards, and so far, looks great. The dry conditions throughout the summer helped a lot in allowing the work to be complete efficiently. The streambed work was well tested on Christmas Day by heavy rains combined with snowmelt and passed with flying colors!

We appreciate that there has been significant inconvenience to our residents living on the affected roads, and we truly appreciate your cooperation and patience throughout the course of the construction work. The remaining work will not be without disruption, but it will be much less so that the full-road repairs of the past summer and fall.

All of this work will qualify for FEMA aid, which will cover 75% of the total costs. The town's portion of costs after reimbursements will be financed under the low interest agreement with Mascoma Savings Bank that was approved by voters last spring. We estimated a little either side of \$1,000,000 in total repair costs, and that appears to be on target with a little over half of that spent to date and more than half the work completed.

The flood repairs aside, there was little of note to deal with (thankfully) during the summer months. The Christmas rains mentioned above resulted in a few washouts but nothing that rendered the roads completely impassable. The 2020 portion of the '19-'20 winter did not give us a lot of snow overall, but we were out plowing and sanding frequently with numerous small

snow and ice events. Mud season was no worse than normal. As usual, we had our requisite late spring snowfall with 4-5” at the end of April. Going into the '20-'21 season, despite the one big dumping of a couple feet in mid-December, we did not have much plowing to do overall during November-December.

Although road paving has been a hot topic of discussion the past couple of years, we are putting that on hold until we have recovered somewhat from expenditures needed for the flood repairs.

Finally, thanks to lucking into a good deal on a private sale in August, we were able to replace the town truck utilizing the capital reserve fund dedicated to that purpose. We purchased a 2015 GMC 3500HD dump truck in excellent condition with low miles at a very fair price. We outfitted this with our existing plow and a new sander, and it has been doing a great job for us so far this winter. The old truck was going to need another round of repairs and was simply not reliable enough anymore to count on for the plowing and sanding. It will be put out to bid early this spring.



Bring it on, Winter

As always, many thanks are due to Richard Remacle and his employees for their top-quality work and responsiveness to the town's needs. It continues to be my utmost pleasure to work with him and his crew. Thanks also to the Board of Selectmen for their accessibility, confidence and cooperation, to Sandi Pierson for keeping us all in touch with each other and on track. Much gratitude to the residents of Orange for their support, and particularly for those times when I never even hear about trees blocking the road because one or more of you have simply cranked up your own chain saw to take care of it. Finally, but most certainly not the in the least, thanks to my wife Laurie for putting up with the sometimes crazy hours and the occasional need to bend schedules to the whim of the weather. To anyone I may have overlooked I extend my apologies and gratitude.

I can be reached by phone at 603-667-8237 or by email at scsanborn@myfairpoint.net at any time with questions, concerns or to report a problem. As most of you probably know, I juggle my duties to the town with my day job so I can't always promise an immediate response except in the case of serious emergencies, but the concerns of the townspeople are important to me and I will continue to do my best to keep our roads safe and well maintained. The community website maintained by Jay Heinrichs, www.orangenh.us also includes a discussion page on roads where residents are invited to share their thoughts.

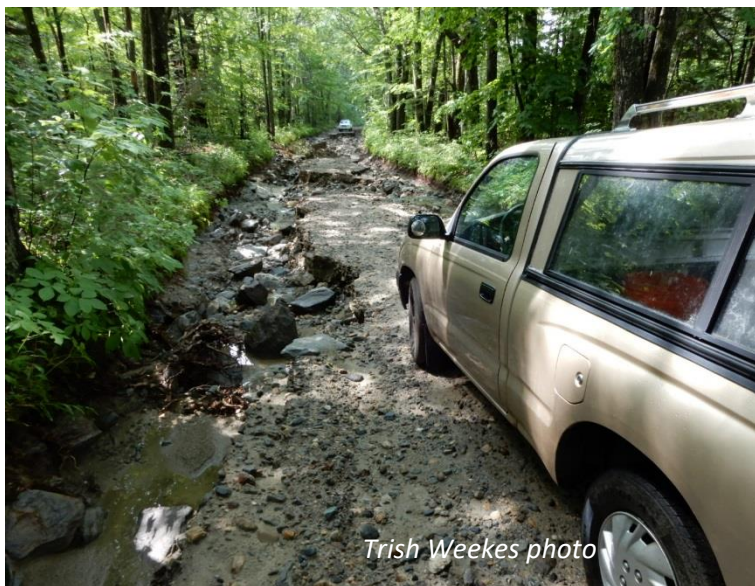
I look forward to hopefully continuing to serve our community in 2021.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Sanborn, Road Agent*

*Williams Road reconstruction
July 2019 flood – Contractor: Richard Remacle*



*Tug Mountain Road reconstruction
July 2019 flood – Contractor: Art Conkey*



ORANGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

A Roadtrip Planned, But Not Taken A story by Gary Hamel



For March 16, 2020, I had planned a short adventure that would retrace some Orange history with an added personal twist as well. Two hundred and one years to the day, Benjamin Wood and his young family moved from Orange to East Alstead, N.H. The detailed story of their journey was handed down in the Wood family through the oral history tradition before being written down by ancestor Robert Wood in 1937. His papers reside in the NH Historical Society in Concord. I had spoken with numerous local historians to learn which roads would have existed in 1819. I wanted to travel, as closely as possible, the exact route of the Wood family. A journey that took them 4 days in a horse-drawn wagon loaded with all their belongings, might, I thought, take me roughly an hour and 45 minutes, today, in my silver Subaru. In East Alstead, I hoped to find the family graves in the South Cemetery, the family homestead “Valley Hill”, and perhaps someone who might talk with me about photographer Gilbert Wood. I would carry with me a treasured small photo-

portrait believed to have been taken by Gilbert. Then COVID-19 came to town. All plans were off.

Around the year 1800, Benjamin Wood Jr. (1777-1841), three of his siblings; Buckminster (1776-1840), Sally (1779-1861), and Lucy (1781-?) and a cousin Thomas (1778-1843) moved to Orange. Benjamin had suffered a leg injury while serving in the NH Militia that curtailed a career in farming. He had secured a position running the gristmill in Orange, built in 1773, above Orange Basin.

On April 2, 1801 Benjamin married Abigail Waldo (1774-1842), daughter of town father Nathan Waldo. The couple had six children, all born in Orange. Benjamin served as Town Clerk in 1803, 1810 – 1818, Selectman in 1805 and 1810. On January 4, 1811, Benjamin was approved to teach at Schoolhouse Number 1 in Orange, and Benjamin and Abigail purchased a house and 50 acres of land from his brother-in-law Ansel Miller for \$114.00 (now Donna Makarewicz's home).

The Orange gristmill was destroyed by the “Great September Gale of 1815”, thought to be a category 4 hurricane with winds up to 135 miles per hour. It caused major damage in New England on September 22 through the 24th, killing more than 38 people. Suddenly, Benjamin found himself unemployed.

Benjamin's father in East Alstead tried for three years to find a gristmill position that would include housing for his son and family. “I never was so disappointed in any one thing I undertook before”, Benjamin Sr. wrote to his son. Abigail's mother died in Orange in February of 1819. In March the decision was made to move to East Alstead, whether there was employment waiting for them or not.

From Robert Wood's papers: “So they set out, Tuesday, March 16, 1819: The two parents, 16-year-old Laura, Payne who was 11, Edwin who passed his 6th milestone during the journey and the nearly one-year-old baby Franklin. Waldo, 12 and Horace, 8 had gone on to their grandfather Wood's home some time before.

Five days and four nights they were on the way. Their route took them from Orange, west to Lebanon, from there south over Grantham Mtn. to Newport, thence to Lempster and then to Alstead. With them they had their cow and their horse-drawn

load of provisions and household goods. Only those who had to, could ride. Snow and high winds overtook them before they had gone far, and some of the children fell ill, but friends were kind; Mr. Porter, who lived not far from Orange and John Payne, (Elisha's son and Abigail's cousin who lived in East Lebanon), were all kind and helpful. They gave them shelter and lodging, loaned them horse and sleigh part of the way so more of them could ride, broke the road with a team so they could get through, and would not allow them to eat their own provisions. Through it all they came and reached the old home and their two other children on Saturday, March 20 about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. By evening they had their bedsteads up in the house".

Using the names we know today, this was the planned journey:

Cardigan Mtn. Road to Bill Regan Rd., High Street/Canaan Street (the former Grafton Turnpike built in 1804) to Follansbee Road and Grist Mill Hill Road, turning right on South Road on to Route 4, through Enfield to East Lebanon (Elisha Payne's home was across from the Mascoma Village Store), Sunset Rock Road to Riverside Drive and Bank Street Extension into the center of Lebanon, Route 120 through Meriden and into East Cornish. The Wood family would have taken a left turn onto the Croydon Turnpike (which does not exist today) over Grantham Mtn. (now the private Corbin Park) and into North Newport. My road trip would take a left in East Plainfield on Methodist Hill Road to Interstate 89 and an exit onto Route 10, then on to North Newport, south on Route 10 and a right on Route 123 to East Alstead.

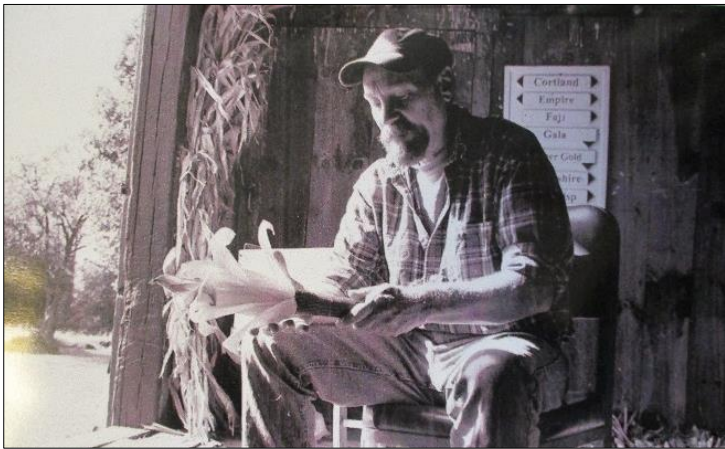
In East Alstead, Benjamin became a cooper – making barrels, tubs and pails. Settled into their new lives, Benjamin and Abigail had one more child, a son they named Gilbert, born in 1822. Gilbert grew to be a well-known calligrapher, skilled in the fancy scroll work favored in documents of the day, and as a handwriting teacher and as an early pioneer in a new technology known as daguerreotype photography,

This was the first practical photographic invention perfected by Louis Jacques Mande' Daguerre in 1839. A daguerreotype was a one of a kind (no negative) photograph created inside the camera on a polished plate coated with chemically pure silver.

I take a moment to contemplate the weight of Robert Wood's statement that Gilbert Wood was likely the first photographer in the State of New Hampshire, and that in my hand, inside a 3 by 3 ½ inch hinged and latched leather case, is a photo believed to have been taken by Gilbert, in 1848, two years before he died at the age of 28. A slip of paper, inside the case, tells that the sitter is Mary B. Carr, when she was 18.

Hopefully, someone in East Alstead will know of Gilbert's work. If the historical society there has any of his photographs, perhaps the leather cases will match. Maybe I will get to know for certain if this is a Gilbert Wood daguerreotype.

And what of the young woman? Mary Carr (1830-1908) was of Irish, English and Penacook Abenaki heritage, born in East Washington, NH, a neighboring town to East Alstead. The photographer and the sitter would likely have known each other since childhood because of three marriages that brought the Wood/Huntley/Carr families together. My interest in authenticating this photograph is that Mary Carr was my Great Great Grandmother.



*Orange Historian Gary Hamel
Photo by Jon Gilbert Fox*

2020 REPORT OF THE ORANGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Like other nonessential community gatherings over the past year, meetings and programs by the Conservation Commission also fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. Absence makes the heart grow fonder and, if anything, it made us realize just how much we value, appreciate, and miss the community events of the year—the Harvest Festival, town meeting pot luck supper, Christmas party, and programs hosted by the Historical and Conservation commissions.

We're fortunate that the Conservation Commission updated and published the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and was able to present it to the community before the pandemic. A good bulk of this publication is devoted to places to hike and explore in Orange, many that are little-known to the general public. While the crowds head to the West Ridge Trail to climb Cardigan, during this time of social distancing you can opt instead to find a



Winter is a perfect time to snowshoe frozen wetlands. These wetlands are between Hoyt Mountain and Burnt Hill. You can view a schematic of all the watersheds in the Natural Resources Inventory.

quiet, secluded place to enjoy, such as a Class 6 road, a wetlands snowshoe, or a mine hike. The NRI is available for loan at the Select Board's office and can be viewed at www.Orangenh.us (go to the *recreation* tab). Printed, spiral-bound copies can be ordered directly from Gnomon Copy in Lebanon for about \$35.00. They have the file in their system.

We are in high hopes that later this year we will be able to offer some community activities and outreach programs. If you have any ideas, let us know! If you think you might like to join the Conservation Commission, get in touch with any of the members for more information.

*Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Allen, Chair; David Stacy, Vice Chair; Hilary Allen,
Dorothy Heinrichs, Jay Heinrichs, Tracy Hutchins, Sandi
Pierson, Douglas Weekes, Trish Weekes*



Off the beaten track: The woods near the Pinnacle on Tug Mountain. Hiking in a "Leave No Trace" manner will help assure that that privately-owned woodlands such as these will be enjoyed by those who follow.

2020 REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

It was a busier than expected year for the duties of health officer due to the pandemic and associated considerations. During 2020, I dutifully scrolled through the almost 1,000 emails from various government health and safety sources to determine their significance and relevancy to our town's needs. Helping during elections was also more challenging due to health and safety concerns.

There were several incidents involving trash removal and similar remediations in which I was involved. Significant work was put into cleaning up and overseeing some demolition on a property acquired by the town in preparing it for sale. The year was also a learning experience as I went through the procedure of legally disposing of two abandoned vehicles from town-owned property.

In December of 2020, the town received the gift of an industrial endoscope from Jay and Dorothy Heinrichs, which is a useful tool in both safety and building inspections. Thank you Jay and Dorothy!

One hopes the end of year 2021 will see the last of COVID-19 dangers and the return to normal living. I thank the town for entrusting me with the responsibilities that my role as health officer entail.

*Sincerely,
Doug Weekes
Town of Orange Health Officer*



Regardless of the weather, for the safety of the officers and townspeople, Doug was always present to help manage the logistics of elections during this time of COVID-19.

2020 REPORT OF THE ORANGE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

This is the 28th year of awarding scholarships, to students living in Orange, for furthering their education after high school. Students graduating in 2021 should have received their applications which were mailed in January, 2021. The application must be completed and returned to the Scholarship Committee by May 1, 2021. High school students living in our town and graduating from schools other than Mascoma Valley Regional High School should contact the committee.

The scholarship recipients for 2020 were: Jaida Michetti and Mason Tucker. Jaida is attending the University of New Hampshire and majoring in physical therapy. Mason is at Paul Smith's College majoring in natural reserve conservation management. He wants to become a NH State Game Warden.

We invite anyone to help with our cause, which is promoting and supporting continuing education for our high school students. Please contact anyone on the Scholarship Committee if you would like to help in any way.



Congratulations Mason Tucker and Jaida Michetti

*Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Emerson, Beth DiFrancesco, Anita Garland, Marilyn
Johnson, Rosemary Haness, Nancy Pike, Gloria Stevens,
Pat White*

2020 REPORT OF THE STATE POLICE

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a report to residents of Orange regarding the calls for service that the State Police have responded to in your community during the last year. This will hopefully provide you with a good baseline and understanding of the present law enforcement needs that currently exist within the community, as well as serving as a guide to determine what level of law enforcement resources the community desires based upon the current trends and expectations of the residents as they look forward to the future.

Currently the State Police respond to calls as requested as part of our regular patrol duties, as well as providing troopers to conduct law enforcement patrols specifically dedicated to your community as requested by the town.

During 2020 the State Police responded to and investigated the following calls for service in the town of Orange:

Ambulance/Fire Assist 3	Domestic 1
Motorist Assist 1	Civil Issue 4
Suspicious Vehicle 4	Assault 1
Motor Vehicle Accident 7	Animal Complaints 1
Road Obstruction 5	Department Assist 1
Burglar Alarm 9	Found Property 1
Theft 6	Noise Complaint 2
9-1-1 Hang-up 2	Criminal Mischief 4
Sex Offender Registration 3	Suspicious Person 3
Burglary 1	Suicidal Subject 1
Welfare Check 5	Unattended Death 1
Subpoena Service 2	

It has been our pleasure to serve the residents of Orange during the past year and we look forward to assisting you with your law enforcement requests in 2021.

Respectfully,
Lieutenant Gary A. Prince Commander, Troop F

<i>Call log</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
	82	83	66	58	75	57	57	68	68

2020 REPORT OF THE ORANGE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

After a very active 2019 and a lot to report, 2020 was quiet and uneventful in the Town Cemeteries. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the few burials that might have occurred have been delayed.

In May, flags were again placed on our Veterans' graves. And as in past years, we also placed a flag on Elijah Payne's grave, located in the East Lebanon cemetery near the Lebanon-Enfield town line on Rte. 4.

We were not able to accomplish some of the repair projects we had planned for 2020. The trustees will move forward with these this coming year.

*Respectfully Submitted;
Anita Garland, Tamara Fairbank, Gullely Dunlap
Orange Cemetery Trustees*

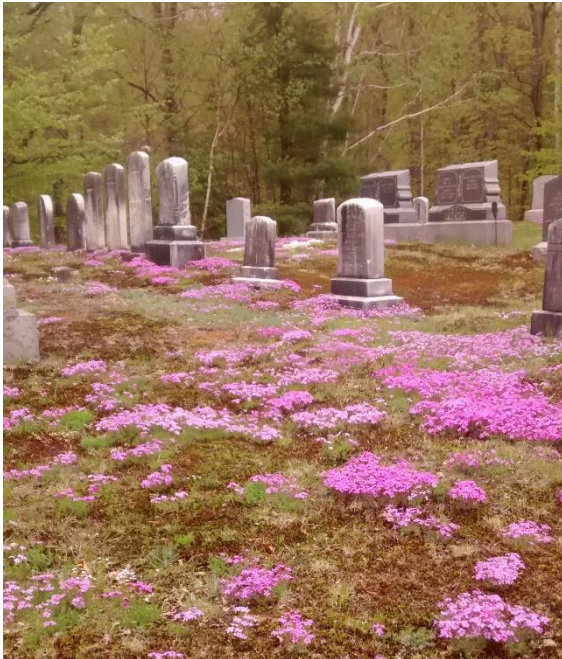


Photo by Tamara Fairbank

2020 REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

This year we experienced challenging wildfire conditions which led to deep burning fires in remote locations that were difficult to extinguish. Your local fire departments and the Division of Forests & Lands worked throughout the year to protect homes and the forests. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on high fire danger days. The towers' fire detection efforts are supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger is especially high.

Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Every year New Hampshire sees fires which threaten or destroy structures, a constant reminder that wildfires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildfire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

Between COVID-19 and the drought conditions, 2020 was a unique year. The drought conditions led to the need to have a Proclamation from the Governor, which banned much of the outdoor burning statewide. This, along with the vigilance of the public, helped to reduce the number of serious fires across New Hampshire. However, the fires which we did have burned deep and proved difficult to extinguish due to the lack of water. While the drought conditions have improved, we expect many areas of the state to still be experiencing abnormally dry and drought conditions this spring. For this reason, we ask everyone to remember Smokey's message about personal responsibility and follow his ABC's: Always **Be Careful** with fire. If you start

a fire, put it out when you are done. **“Remember, Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”**

As we prepare for the 2021 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning, unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting www.NHfirepermit.com. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). You are encouraged to contact the local fire department for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire’s forest resources. For more information, please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nh.gov/nhdf/.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Fires</i>	<i>Acres burned</i>
2020	13	89
2019	15	23.5
2018	53	46
2017	64	107
2016	351	1,090
2015	124	635
2014	112	72
2013	182	144
2012	318	206

*Causes of fires reported
(not including White Mountain National Forest)*

Arson: 4

Debris burning: 22

Campfires: 21

Children: 4

Smoking: 3

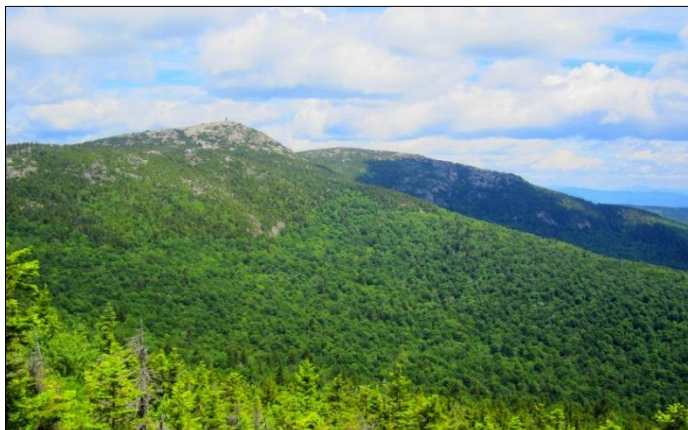
Railroad: 1

Equipment: 4

Lightning: 10

Misc.: 44

THE FIRE IN MOUNT CARDIGAN STATE FOREST – AUGUST 18, 2020



At the height of land on the Class 6 New Colony Road, well into Mount Cardigan State Forest, the Mowglis Trail coming up from Groton cuts east into the dense woods. About a quarter of a mile from this junction, there is a small, open perch of land on the Mowglis Trail that sports a beautiful outlook down into the great bowl of land between Firescrew and Cardigan mountains. Below the overhanging perch are stealth trails going down into Cilley's Cave.

Last summer most of New Hampshire was experiencing extreme drought conditions. The State of NH banned all campfires in state and national forests. On the morning of Tuesday, August 18, 2020, hikers encountered a smoldering brushfire at the Mowglis Trail outlook. They immediately called 9-1-1 and the Canaan Fire Department was dispatched, as well as departments in surrounding towns. It was an amazing stroke of luck that hikers happened by when the fire was covering only a 10 foot x 20 foot section of forest duff.

Driving any type of vehicle up the Class 6 section of New Colony Road has always been precarious. Mother Nature is in charge up there, and the July 2019 flood was no exception. With the road impassable, the fire trucks staged at the end of the Class 5 road and firefighters, carrying equipment, including handheld

water pumps, hurried on foot to the fire locale—a long, uphill walk.

The second stroke of luck, if not providence, was that Bobby Senter was in the immediate area with his heavy equipment working on the town road. His dozer crawled up the Class 6 road and tackled nature's wreckage to the point that fire apparatus could proceed to the height of land. By now, the firefighters with hand tools had dug a control line. Five hours later, they deemed the fire extinguished, including a number of spot fires that had been festering as deep as a foot and half under the forest duff. Following the response and extinguishment, fire personnel later checked the area and found the fire had marginally rekindled, at which time they snuffed it out for good.

The NH Forest Rangers feel the fire was possibly caused by a campfire which had been created a day or so prior and left to smolder. Given the harsh drought conditions at the time, had it not been for the incredible good fortune of hikers having spotted the fire when it was small and Bobby Senter being at hand to provide access to the scene, this fire could have been a lot worse.

Many thanks go to those hikers and Bobby Senter as well as the Canaan, Hebron, and Rumney fire departments for responding to the scene. Also on the ready, if needed, were the Lyme, Enfield, Grafton, Hanover, and Lebanon fire departments.

--Sandi Pierson



*The fire-scorched earth and tree at the
Mowglis Trail outlook.
Photo by Dorothy Heinrichs*

*2020 REPORTS OF THE HEALTH AGENCIES
SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN OF ORANGE*

***VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF
VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE***

Visiting Nurse & Hospice clients are of all ages, from all backgrounds, and at all stages in life. The one commonality is a desire to be cared for at home in case of illness and injury. By keeping residents out of emergency rooms and hospitals and reducing the need for relocation to nursing homes, our care offers significant savings in the town's emergency services and other medical expenses.

In Orange, we made 241 homecare visits to 12 residents last year. Services included 93 home visits to 6 residents with short-term medical or physical needs, and 142 home visits to 4 residents who were in the final stages of their lives. This included approximately \$7,884.00 in unreimbursed care to Orange residents.

GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens. The Council's programs enable elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

During FY 2020, 17 older residents of Orange were served by one or more of the Council's programs offered through the Mascoma Area Senior Center, and 1 Orange resident was assisted by ServiceLink. Orange citizens volunteered to put their talents and skills to work for a better community

through 174 hours of volunteer service. The cost to provide Council services for Orange residents in 2020 was \$3,181.90.

***PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL
OF THE UPPER VALLEY***

As one of the State of New Hampshire's thirteen regional health networks, Public Health Council of the Upper Valley has quickly become the largest and broadest coalitions of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. The PHC is a dynamic organization with the flexibility to forge solutions that respond to the needs of its grass root members with backing from governmental, philanthropic, and health care institutions. Through regular meetings and ongoing initiatives, the PHC empowers organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier and better places.

WEST CENTRAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

West Central Behavioral Health is the NH designated community mental health center for Orange, as well as Sullivan and Southern Grafton counties. Our mission is "to reduce the burden of mental illness and to improve the quality of life in our community. We commit ourselves to provide services that are safe, effective, client-centered, timely and efficient."

Our clients suffer from a wide range of disorders and illnesses including psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and all forms of addiction. We also see patients with anxiety, depression, and other impairing but highly treatable conditions. We work with all ages in outpatient clinics, homes, nursing homes, jails, schools and a residential supported living program, and offer a broad variety of counseling, psychiatric services, case management and emergency consultations.

Throughout the region, we assisted close to 2,500 individuals last year and provided over \$500,000.00 in charitable care.

TRI-COUNTY CAP

Tri-County CAP is a trusted private non-profit that has been serving the 3 most northern counties of New Hampshire for over 50 years. The Grafton County Community Contact Office of the Tri-County Community Action Program provides many essential services to low-income and elderly citizens of Orange and the surrounding New Hampshire towns:

- Weatherization
- (L.I.H.E.A.P.) Fuel Assistance
- New Hampshire Electric Discount Assistance
- Referrals and coordination with other agencies when citizens are in need
- Educational programs and speakers bureau on homelessness and poverty

Last year, Tri-County CAP provided over \$5,000.00 in direct services to Orange households through its fuel assistance and electric assistance programs.

(Health agency compilation courtesy of Bob Proulx)

CANAAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2020 REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF ORANGE

The Canaan Town Library closed its doors to the public on March 17, 2020. Because of concerns for the safety of staff and patrons, the library remained closed until May 18, when we began offering Library Take Out. This no-contact alternative to having patrons in the library allowed us to continue offering materials to patrons in a safe way. On August 18, we began offering Library Appointments. These 30-minute one household visits to the library further expanded our ability to offer services to our community. The library also continued to offer our downloadable services, an abbreviated version of all of our program migrated to a virtual platform, and we increased the frequency of our newsletter to keep patrons aware of what current educational and covid-19 specific offerings were available throughout the Upper Valley and nationally. The library also added a streaming video services to our offerings.

This year, we collaborated with the Enfield Library to bring a program for the families of the Mascoma Region during our Summer Reading Program. Magic by George helped us celebrate “The Magic of Your Imagination” with an online magic show. Our young patrons were also excited to take part in our craft kit pick up program and our Reading Bingo!

Some of the other programs offered this year included: Board Game Nights, Basement Bookies Book Discussion Group, Summer Reading Programs for adults, Lego Club, Bookends: a Book Group for Kids Grades 4-6, and new this year, Who Picked This Book? A Book Group for kids in grades 7 & 8.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for continuing to support access to genealogy databases, museum passes, and programming for all ages. This year the Friends of the Library partnered with the library to gift a book to each child in the Canaan Elementary School as part of their Step-Up Day festivities. We thank the Friends for helping us encourage families to create a love a reading.

Thanks are given to our volunteers: Cheryl Stone, Alayna Miller, Jason Dacier, Ellie Dacier, Max Dacier, and Roy Byington who were able to volunteer with us before we shut our doors, and with remote projects. Thanks also to Linda Pendleton and Carrie Mulligan for sewing and donating masks for the library staff and to hand out to patrons.

Thanks to the Library Trustees during this unprecedented time. Knowing that they were available for assistance and moral support enabled us to take the time we needed to set our new systems in place.

I cannot thank the library staff enough this year. Lori Dacier, Jenna McAlister, Nancy Pike, and Pam Wotton helped to create and implement what amounts to a brand-new way to offer library services to our community. From the ground up, we created our Library Take Out and Appointments Programs and their input, cooperation, and patience was invaluable.

And finally, thanks to our community for your understanding and continued support.

Library hours are: Monday 3pm-8pm, Tuesday 1pm-8pm , Wednesday 1pm-8pm, Thursday 1pm-5pm, Friday 9am-12pm, Saturday 9am-3pm

COLLECTION

Adult Books	17366	Juvenile Books	9531
Total Books	26897	Adult Videos	988
Juvenile Videos	294	Total Videos	1282
Adult Audios	697	Juvenile Audios	139
Total Audios	836	Magazines	412
Music CDs	436	Artifacts	187
Museum Passes	8		

Find the Library Online at:

www.facebook.com/CanaanTownLibraryNH

www.librarything.com/home/Canaanlibrary

www.canaanlibrary.org

*Respectfully submitted,
Amy Thurber, Canaan Librarian*

TOWN OF ORANGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2020

Officers present: Moderator Danny Hazelton; Select Board members Dorothy Heinrichs, Tamara Fairbank, and Aaron Allen; Treasurer Trish Weekes; Tax Collector Sharon Proulx; Budget Committee members Louis Shelzi, Dave Stacy, and Robert Proulx; Supervisors of the Checklist Betsy Coble, Beth DiFrancesco, and Laurie Sanborn; Road Agent Scott Sanborn; Town Clerk Amy Tirpaeck; Clerk pro tem Sandi Pierson.

Moderator Danny Hazelton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed the townspeople, and went over the rules of the meeting. David Stacy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Hazelton stated that voters need to check in with the Supervisors of the Checklist in the event of paper ballot voting.

Gary Hamel stated that it was the 100th anniversary of the womens' right to vote. He talked about Orange resident Luella M. Huse and her role in the suffragette movement, particularly the speech she gave at the Women's Christian Temperance Union Institute in Sutton, West Virginia on May 2, 1916. Gary introduced the great-great grandniece of Ms. Hewes, Ms. Valerie (Peaslee) Van Meire. Mary Ellen Shelzi read excerpts from Luella Huse's 1916 speech.

Moderator Hazelton called for a moment of silence to remember Nathaniel "Albert" Emerson who recently and unexpectedly passed away. Moderator Hazelton noted that Albert was a good neighbor and a friend to Orange.

ARTICLE 1 (Election of officers held the day prior): Moderator Hazelton read the results of voting: Moderator for two years: Daniel Hazelton; Select Board: Aaron Allen; Town Clerk: Michelle Goffreda; Treasurer: Trish Weekes; Tax Collector: Sharon Proulx; Deeding Agent: Sharon Proulx; Road Agent: Scott Sanborn; Budget Committee member for three years: Bob

Proulx; Budget Committee for one year: Louis Shelzi; Cemetery Trustee for three years: Tamara Fairbank; Cemetery Trustee for one year: Gully Dunlap; Trustee of Trust Funds for three years: Pauline Emerson; two Planning Board members for three years: Donald McFarland and Hilary Allen; Planning Board member for one year: Bruce Ells (write-in); Supervisor of the Checklist for six years: Beth DiFrancesco. (Terms are for one year unless otherwise noted.)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept the prepayment of taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a. Taxpayers shall be allowed to prepay taxes no more than two years in advance of the due date of the taxes. No interest shall accrue to the taxpayer on any prepayment, nor shall any interest be paid to the taxpayer on any prepayment which is later subject to rebate or refund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Moved by Dorothy Heinrichs; seconded by Scott Sanborn. No discussion.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, the All Veterans' Tax Credit. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$200, which is the same amount as the optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Orange under RSA 72:28.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Moved by Bruce Ells; seconded by Karen McFarlane.

Discussion:

- Dorothy Heinrichs: The town is giving \$200 tax credits under RSA 72:28, which presently totals \$1,800. Six applicants that were denied would be eligible under the

expansion, which would be an additional \$1,200 in credits. This will be higher if more veterans apply.

- Judith Lindahl: She supports the armed forces and all veterans but a distinction should be made of those that served in combat and those that did not. She recommends voting no on the article.
- Kathy Stacy: The new RSA reflects the definition of a veteran by Congress. She read RSA 72:28-b in its entirety. She works with veterans, she knows firsthand their struggles. They don't always get appreciation. She supports passing the article.
- Sharon Proulx: She knows of one veteran who had his heart broken when he was denied the credit. She supports passing the article.
- Alex Smith: Has a high respect for all veterans, and all of them carried the responsibility of possibly going into combat. He supports the article.
- Robert Shea: Is a veteran who for 30 years has dealt with having a number of his friends killed in combat. All veterans have served their country, many struggle regardless of the RSAs that determines the merit of a tax credit. He supports the article.
- Nathaniel Dunlap-Smith: Just because a veteran does not shoot, doesn't mean he has not handled hazardous situations.

Sharon Proulx motioned to move the article; seconded by Beth DiFrancesco. Three voters asked for a paper ballot vote. *Article passed by paper ballot: yes: 31, no: 6.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:62, for persons owning real property, a property tax exemption for solar energy systems as defined by RSA 72:61; such exemption to equal 100% of assessed value of the solar system up to the maximum of \$25,000.00.
Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Moved by Scott Sanborn; seconded by Scott Lurgio.
Discussion:

- Judith Lindahl: Avitar [the town's assessing firm] is assessing solar panels for first time. Avitar has set the assessment at \$600 per panel with a depreciation schedule. Since they have not been taxed in prior years, the town is not losing revenue by exempting them for taxation. Solar is the right direction to take for electricity, especially given the federal tax incentives. She supports capping the exemption at \$25,000, noting the financial burdens the town is facing with flood repairs and eventual repaving. Larger arrays may mean the application of herbicides in watersheds. She showed a portrayal of Albert Vanasse's solar system and spoke on the economics of having a home array. She said it would be a disincentive to taxpayers like Albert to now be taxed on the panels. This is a residential-zoned town; a solar ordinance from the Planning Board has not yet been drafted.
- Alex Smith: Point of order. We are discussing the article, not Planning Board business. (The Moderator concurred.) The RSA defines consumer-generated electricity and does not cover large systems. No one is contemplating building large solar systems; the area electrical infrastructure is not capable of handling it. He supports removing the exemption cap, citing that the cost of a solar array that would be sufficient to provide total power to his home would be \$150,000-plus. We have a proud tradition in the "live free or die" state within the statutes of the town. Solar exemptions have been adopted by 135 town in New Hampshire; 42 of them have no exemption limit.
- Bruce Ells: A \$25,000 assessment exemption cap is a good place to start.
- Chris Hausfeld: Some residents may not be able to have a solar option due to their property. Helping the environment with a solar exemption is a narrow lane. There are many ways to beneficially affect the environment.
- Sharon Proulx: A solar power systems increases the value of the home. Will it be sold without that value? The Budget Committee strives to keep our budget down. Exempting solar panels "falls on the backs" of the other taxpayers. She recommends voting no on the article.

- Donald McFarlane: Property taxation is not the issue. Using “green” energy is. It’s a benefit to the town and reduces our dependency on others.

Donald McFarlane submitted the following amendment to Article 4, seconded by Alex Smith:

“To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:62, for persons owning real property, a property tax exemption for solar energy systems as defined by RSA 72:61; such exemption to equal 100% of assessed value of the solar system.”

Discussion on the amendment:

- Scott Sanborn: The construction of a solar system should not be considered in the assessing cost. Leave the cap at \$25,000.
- Robert Shea: Works with solar energy and supports it. There is new technology being developed for energy storage.
- Karen McFarlane: Tax incentives of all kinds, including on property, encourage people to look toward the future. Everyone benefits from clean air. Orange zoning will prevent large “company” solar.
- Albert Vanasse: I built by own system to save money and to have clean energy. Our area power source can be weak; I am helping the current. It is not as expensive to build as you may believe.
- Doug Weekes: The discussion on the article is not if solar power is good or bad, the issue is its effect on taxes.

Motion to move the question by Isabella Vanasse; seconded by Bruce Ells. Motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator Hazelton asked for the vote to accept the amendment for consideration. He explained that the vote was not on the amendment itself, it was to accept it to be considered for a vote. The vote to consider failed by hand count: yes: 9, no: 25. Moderator Hazelton returned to the original article.

Further discussion:

- Judith Lindahl: Orange has an 8% poverty level—vote yes on the article with the \$25,000 cap. The Select Board is the actual assessor for the town, they have the power to assess them differently from Avitar.
- Chris Hausfeld: If you don't agree with Avitar's solar panel assessment, can that be addressed on a case by case basis?
- Judith Lindahl: The resolution of assessment disparities are resolved by comparisons. If everyone is taxed at \$600 a panel, then that is the set value.

Scott Sanborn motioned to move the article; seconded by Sharon Proulx. *Article failed by hand count: yes: 15, no: 17.* [See Article 11 for reconsideration]

ARTICLE 5: To see if the town will vote pursuant to RSA 35:16 to change the purpose and name of the existing Town Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 8 at the 2006 town meeting for the purpose of maintaining town roads, to become the Flood Event of July 11, 2019 Road Repairs Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairing and improving roads damaged by the flood event of July 11, 2019, and to name the Selectmen as the agents to expend. This article requires a 2/3 vote.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Moved by Dorothy Heinrichs; seconded by Louis Shelzi.

Scott Sanborn submitted the following amendment to Article 5; seconded by Dorothy Heinrichs:

“To see if the town will vote pursuant to RSA 35:16 to change the purpose and name of the existing Town Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 8 at the 2006 town meeting for the purpose of maintaining town roads, to become the Road Improvement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of improving roads and making repairs to damages caused by catastrophic weather events.”

Discussion:

- Scott Sanborn: Feels the language of the original article is too narrow. His amendment would have the capital reserve available for future unseen weather events should they occur.
- Chris Hausfeld: Changing the purpose of the article would mean there is no longer a capital reserve for general road improvement.
- Donald McFarlane: Repurposing the capital reserve will mean less interest to pay on a loan toward flood repairs. A new capital reserve could be open at a later date for general road improvement.
- Bruce Ells: What is current balance of the reserve?
(Answer: \$68,520)

Motion to move the amendment for consideration by Louis Shelzi; seconded by Bob Proulx. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

Moderator Hazelton call for a vote on the amendment:
Amendment passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the town will spend \$1,187,000 on road repairs and receive \$890,250 from the federal government if the town is willing, able, and authorized to accept such funds and to pay the balance (up to \$296,750), which Mascoma Bank (through its community banking program), will loan to the town at 2 percent interest with a payback time of up to 7 years.
Recommended by the Select Board 3-0
Recommend by the Budget Committee 3-0

Background to Article 6:

Whereas the Town suffered significant damages to its roadways and roadway infrastructure during the flash flood of July 2019 and;

Whereas a Federal Disaster Declaration resulted in the Town's ability to receive disaster money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and;

Whereas the cash available from FEMA is presently estimated to be \$890,250 and;

Whereas The Town's ability to receive monies from FEMA is contingent on paying for 25% of the total cost of restoring, repairing, and improving the roads (\$1,187,000);

The town presents this Warrant Article that acknowledges the following:

To facilitate the town's ability to pay FEMA-approved repairs prior to receipt of FEMA funds for such, the town shall open a bank account with a revolving line of credit (for convenience being called a FEMA reimbursement anticipation note or FRAN). Beginning June 1, 2020, the loan of \$900,000 for 1 year, will be used on a revolving basis; funds will be drawn to cover expenditures made to repair and improve roads and then replenished as FEMA funds are received. Interest on that loan is expected to be less than \$2,000, payable from town funds. That loan will have a balance (unknown at this time) at its maturity, on June 1, 2021. The Select Board at that time will need to borrow at 2 percent interest the remainder of that FRAN, up to \$296,750. This is a special interest rate for disaster-related repair financing. The loan will be repaid over a period of up to 7 years. Funds to repay the loan will be generated from an increase to the tax rate to be determined at town meeting in 2021.

Discussion: Moderator Hazelton stated that this article needs to be passed over because it was subsequently disqualified by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). Dorothy Heinrichs said that RSA statutes decree that a special public hearing is required before the town votes on a long term loan, and even though the budget hearing where the article was discussed and recommended had been legally posted, the DRA said they needed to have a separate hearing. *The townspeople voted in favor of holding a special town meeting in the near future to deliberate and vote on the article.*

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) to be paid into the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Moved by Scott Sanborn; seconded by Judith Lindahl. No discussion.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be paid into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Moved by Bruce Ells; seconded by Karen McFarlane. No discussion.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be paid into the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of revaluation of real estate. Revaluations of all real estate are required by law every five years.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Moved by Louis Shelzi; seconded by Judith Lindahl. No discussion.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of \$228,085.00, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, for the ensuing year for the Town's general operations.

Recommended by the Select Board (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0)

Moved by Karen McFarlane; seconded by Bruce Ells. No discussion.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers and to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Moved by Donald McFarlane; seconded by Bruce Ells.

Alex Smith brought up Article 4 for reconsideration and submitted the following amendment

“To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:62, for persons owning real property, a property tax exemption for solar energy systems as defined by RSA 72:61; such exemption to equal 100% of assessed value of the solar system up to the maximum of \$50,000.00.”

Discussion:

- Sharon Proulx stated that using the 2019 tax rate, it would mean \$1,330 of taxes would be exempt [for the amount of solar panels now in town].

Motion for the amendment to Article 4 for reconsideration by Donald McFarlane; seconded by Bruce Ells. *Motion failed by voice vote.*

Motion by Beth DiFrancesco to restrict reconsideration of Article 4; seconded by Laurie Sanborn. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

* * * * *

Gary Hamel presented a collage artwork by Rosemary Hanes that she gifted to the town. The art used the town-wide photo taken at the Stacy barbeque by Alasdair Dunlap-Smith. In the back of the art piece is a copy of the original photo identifying all the people in the photo.

Dorothy Heinrichs asked for a round of applause for members of the Historical Commission for the great projects and programs they did during 2019 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the town’s charter. She encouraged all residents to participate in the

town's endeavors. She commended Bob Ells and Bob Proulx for each of their 40-plus years of service to the town in their many capacities.

Anita Garland thanked Sandi Pierson for the good work on the annual town report.

Danny Hazelton thanked Kathy and David Stacy for hosting the town-wide barbeque.

There being no other business, Moderator Hazelton adjourned town meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Pierson
Clerk pro tem



VITAL STATISTICS 2020

Births:

Ava Marie Dana, born June 4, 2020 at Lebanon, NH

Parents: Richard Dana III and Brittney Bailey

James Albert Vanasse, born on June 9, 2020 at Lebanon, NH

Parents: Albert Vanasse and Isabella Vanasse

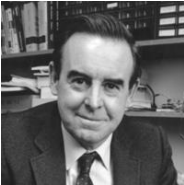
Marriages:

Christopher G. Drouin of Orange, NH and Jenna N. Celley of Orange, NH. Married in Orange, NH on October 10, 2020

Deaths:



Nathaniel Albert Emerson III died on February 11, 2020 at Orange, NH. Born on September 20, 1954 to Elsie Drury and Nathaniel Emerson Jr. Served in Orange on the Planning Board, Trustees of the Trust Funds, and Historical Commission. Member of the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society.



Dr. William David Stratton died on April 19, 2020 at Orange, NH. Born on April 16, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY to Jean Mackie and William Stratton. Taught at Dartmouth College for 31 years. Planted an apple orchard on Tuttle Hill.



Edward Gill Mayotte died on September 14, 2020 at Orange, NH. Born on August 30, 1939 in White River Junction, VT to Evelyn Gill and Wilfred Mayotte. Served in the U.S. Army. Member of the American Legion and Hartford Hurricane Snowmobile Riders.



David Franklin Adams died on November 20, 2020 at Orange, NH. Born on September 10, 1956 in Lebanon, NH to Eleanor Wilson and Benjamin Adams. Member of the Boy Scouts of America.

After Chores....

Plagues, Pestilences, and Pandemics

I first encountered a reference to plagues affecting this area when researching the early history of the Smith River Valley in neighboring Grafton where the first settlers of that town lived. Isaac Dean, son of one of the first settlers, moved to Grafton from Taunton, Mass. and had ten children, listed as “five from Taunton and the others in Grafton.” Two children, Josiah and Watson, died with the cause of death recorded as, “...*a pestilence, then called spotted fever, which raged in Grafton and vicinity in 1819, especially in April of that year.*”

My next encounter to the plagues of the past was upon locating and photographing a small burial ground in Orange in the woods near Groton. This tiny cemetery consists of two fairly well-preserved gravestones of Lucy Wells (d.1864) and her daughter Seranser (d.1862). I wrote a story about the cemetery for the 2018 town report and it was later picked up by the NH Old Graveyard Association and published in their newsletter. A reader notified me that 48-year old Lucy Wells had died of diphtheria. Two years earlier, typhoid fever had taken her five-year-old daughter.

Also called “The Great Throat Distemper,” diphtheria was a horrible plague that produced toxins in the mouth, nose, and throat that caused a membrane to build up in the throat which led to death by choking. About 30 people in Orange died of

diphtheria during that time, with the outbreak coming mainly from Schoolhouse #7. The teacher, Clara Lowell, age 19, died at Concord Hospital; the only victim to go to a medical facility. School records of that



Lucy and Seranser Wells' burial ground

time read, "...school kept a fortnight, then had a vacation for ten weeks on account of sickness." We know that at least ten students from Schoolhouse #7 survived the diphtheria outbreak because they are listed in later school records.

Typhoid fever is a communicable disease causing high fever, delirium, intestinal inflammation and both constipation and diarrhea. Five deaths in Orange were contributed to typhoid fever between 1860 and 1865. Seranser Wells was the youngest at age five. The others were between the ages of 19 and 23.

Like many, I have spent many days walking the quiet and peaceful woods of Mount Cardigan State Forest. Until I read *The History of Orange, New Hampshire* by Alice Hamel and Joanne Moulton, little did I know that somewhere in this forest is a sacred burial ground containing many victims of smallpox, a pestilence that swept through the area during the 1780s. The following are excerpts from Hamel and Moulton's book:

"Sometime during the 1780s, the dreadful disease of smallpox broke out in New Hampshire and people were terrified. At this same instance, some students and professors at Dartmouth College developed this disease. Because Colonel Elisha Payne was a trustee of Dartmouth from 1784-1801 and its treasurer in 1779 and 1780, authorities concluded that his land in Orange would be an ideal and remote spot to send into isolation smallpox victims. One reference relates that Col. Payne's own home was used, but another source states that farther back on the mountain a cellar hole was dug, wells were sunk, and a house 36 x 30 feet, two stories high was built together with convenient outbuildings. From all over the state these wretched victims came to the Pest House, as it became known, and were tended by Dr. Tiffany from Connecticut and a young assistant, Mr. Storrs.

"These patients were detained for six weeks and not permitted any intermingling with the outside world. Those who died were quietly buried a short distance from the house in unmarked graves. As the house was gradually cleared of its victims, it was deserted and eventually winds, storms, and time did their work in reducing the building to dust once more."

To this day, it remains a mystery where in the state forest the smallpox burial ground is located or where the Pest House once stood.

During the time the Pest House was operating, the Orange Selectmen required the smallpox inoculation of all residents. In 1790, when it was determined that the threat had subsided, the town voted in favor on a warrant article that read, “...*the inoculation for the smallpox under the direction of Dr. Gideon Tiffany shall not be continued any longer.*”

When we think of past pestilences, what may first that comes to mind is what is called the Spanish Flu, an H1N1 influenza pandemic. Even though it is estimated that there were 675,000 deaths from this in the U.S., Orange pretty much eluded it. The population of Orange at that time was about 44 and the scattered farms and farm work and travel modes caused social distancing to be the norm. In northern New England, the Spanish Flu most affected the canneries and larger logging camps where large numbers of people were in close proximity.

I write this story not as entertaining reading—the accounts are heartbreaking. In the news I keep hearing the phrase regarding the present pandemic, “In this unprecedented time...” It is not. Communities have struggled with pestilences throughout history. What these stories of the past have revealed is just how fortunate we are during this time of COVID-19 to have advanced scientific understanding, state of the art medical facilities and treatment procedures, and measures that the average person can take to keep as safe as possible.

—*Sandi Pierson*

References:

John Dean Ancestry, Chard of Parish, Somerset County, England. George Dean, Esq. 1902

Bricks, Books, and Barnyards, the History of Slab City Schoolhouse in Grafton, NH. Sandi Pierson 2009, 2019

The History of Orange, New Hampshire, Alice Hamel and Joanne Moulton, 1969

Orange Historical Commission research documents and Historian Gary Hamel