



U N I T Y

Historical Society

2010 Meetings

April 27

May 25
Kate Miles



June 22*

July 27

August 24*

September 28

October 26



Meetings begin at 7:00pm
Refreshments are served
following the Program

* 5 week month

Records of Selectmen's doings Town of Unity
Commencing Nov 6, 1845

To John Scribner Constable of the town of Unity Greetings --

In the name of the State of Maine, You are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said town of Unity qualified to vote in town affairs to assemble at he townhouse in said Town of Unity on Saturday the fifteenth day of November inst [instant] at one of the clock in the afternoon to act on the following articles, to wit

Article 1st : To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting

Article 2 : To see what measures the town will take in regard to the bridge near Moses Boynton's that has been thrown down by the recent rain and act thereon as they may think proper.

Article 3 : To see of the town will take measures to repair the burying ground fences in said where it may be necessary and act thereon as they may think proper.

Given under our hands at Unity November the 6th day
AD 1845.

Eli Vickery
Alonso Small
George Woods
Selectmen of Unity



~ from the old Town Records ~ 1845-1876
Provided by Jackie Bradeen

Mission: The Unity Historical Society is dedicated to the collection and preservation of historical materials related to the Town of Unity, Maine. The Society makes this information available to individuals and/or organizations interested in historical and genealogical research.

April 2010 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: President **Pat Clark** called the first meeting of 2010 to order at 7:00pm, and welcomed guests and members.

MINUTES: The minutes from the October 2009 were read and accepted as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Anni Roming** provided the Treasurer's report, which was accepted with no questions..

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **Jackie Bradeen** asked for time at the May meeting to discuss the calendar. She also reported that during the winter break she and **Beverly Winship** had received inquiries about the following families: Easton, McManus, Chase, Starkey, and Farwell's. Jackie has been working on indexing the town records salvaged last year. She has gotten through "F" and so far logged 16,000 names.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Calendars - **Kevin Spigel** reported that calendars sold best at Mac's Hardware and are currently available at the Town office. He will provide total sales information at the next meeting. Some were sold at Town Meeting and the price has been reduced to \$5.
- Signs - **Anni Roming** reported that work progresses on the replacement UHS signs.
- Roof - Anni recapped the project and noted the donated time from **Jody Irish** and **Waldo County Oil**, the donated dumpster from **Sullivan's Waste** and the matching grant offer from **Halldale Builders** (dollar for dollar up to \$1000)
- Nominating Committee: **Dot Quimby** and **Arlene Schaefer** offered the slate of officers for 2010 and opened the floor to additional nominations. After discussion, a motion by **Bob Fordyce** to close nominations, seconded by **Dot**, was approved. The slate was approved as offered and will remain as is for 2010.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bricks - Anni and Jody will move the bricks currently on the side of the building sometime in the future.
- 2011 Calendar will be discussed in May
- Pat reported that display tables were going to be available free of charge at the opening day of the farmer's market (May 1) for local organizations to use. In addition, there will be other opportunities during the coming months for free tables and she will find out the dates.
- It was agreed to open the building on Saturday mornings from mid-June through August. Some weeks no one visits, but other weeks are quite busy.
- Refreshments: **Gloria Gervais** signed up to provide refreshments in May and **Bob Fordyce** for September. June, July and August are still available.



Our guest in April was Ervin Hochstetler a member of the Amish community in Unity. He is very interested in history and as a teenager, felt connected to those had gone before. Ervin provided the group with an overview of his faith. The history of the Amish church began with a schism in Switzerland within a group of Swiss and Alsatian Anabaptists in 1693 led by Jakob Ammann. Groups of Amish moved out of Germany, Holland and Switzerland into Russia and then America where they could be free from religious persecution. While things changed in those countries after they left, there are no Amish left in Europe. Some with the same beliefs are still in Russia but don't call themselves Amish or Amish Mennonite. In general, if something isn't agreed upon as 'good' it isn't owned. Television, for example. The community discusses and shares and comes to consensus in most matters and decisions. The feeling is that brotherhood and community are keys to simple living and safety.



In the last 100 years or so, the Amish congregated in large communities. But sometimes big is just too big and they wanted to share their faith with others and spread the message. Originally in Woodstock, New Brunswick, some of the families moved to Smyrna and Oakfield. Then, seeking a warmer climate, several families made the decision to move to Maine and Unity specifically. While they don't own automobiles, they do accept rides and rely on trucks and such for moving groups and supplies. Ervin's brother-in-law, Caleb, owns the large barn which will be used as a store for hardware, some food and metal roofing and gutters. And they are still making donuts and selling produce!

There is a division of labor between the men and women, each role being important to keep the family nourished and nurtured. Marriage is an important part of their way of life and, once established, permanent. That isn't to say that they don't have some of the same problems that other couples and families have over the years, but they believe that a broken marriage makes God grieve. This provides an insight into how important the Bible and their faith are to them. Ervin and his wife have four boys and eight girls. The children attend school daily from and have the same mandated number of days in school and vacation time and public school. Holidays are celebrated according to the beliefs and wishes of each family, although birthdays are celebrated in most families.

Unity's Amish population is currently around 80 people living in 10 families. They appreciate their neighbors' being sensitive to the horses and helpful to the people. Our thanks to Ervin for coming with his family to our first UHS meeting in 2010.

Thanks to **Madeline Stevenson** and **Anni Roming** for providing refreshments.

WORD OF THE MONTH

CLOWDER

LAST MONTH: VERNAL

Of or pertaining to spring; characteristic of youth



How much shoreline does Unity Pond / Lake Winnecook have?

LAST MONTH: What areas in Unity encompass 700 acres and 300 acres, respectively?

A: Fowler Bog and Kanokolus Bog

(Source: Sebasticook Regional Land Trust)



Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the
Fourth Tuesday each month
from April through October

**NEXT MEETING:
MAY 25, 2010**

Building open by appointment
~ please call 207-948-5610

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues: \$10/person
(April 1 ~ March 31)
Life Membership: \$100/person

P O Box 4

Unity, ME 04988

www.unityhistoricalsociety.org

Or link from: www.UnityMaine.org



Unity Historical Society
P O Box 4
Unity ME 04988

**2010 Dues
are Due**



Honor Those Who Serve



2010 Officers

President	Pat Clark
Vice President	Jackie Bradeen
Treasurer	Anni Roming
Secretary	Lori Roming

COMMITTEES

Development
Finance
Clothing
Programs/Refreshments

Book Store

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Vickery History	\$15.00	\$20.00
Tabor History	\$15.00	\$20.00
Set	\$25.00	\$35.00

*Ordinary, Yet Extraordinary: Six Decades in
the Life of Unity, ME* (Freeman/Simeone) ~ \$20.00