## 123<sup>rd</sup> Gilmanton Old Home Day

Saturday, August 21, 2021
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Smith Meetinghouse
Meeting House Road, Gilmanton N.H.



"A highlight of mid-August was Old Home Day at Smith Meeting House. The Bean Hole dinner was so good, and it was right merry to listen to the band as we sat on the lawn in the shade of old maple trees."

Proceeds benefit Smith Meetinghouse Restoration/Preservation Fund

## 123rd Gilmanton Old Home Day

Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Schedule of Events

#### ALL DAY

Food, Vendor and Community Booths, Children's Games

10 a.m. - Gates Open (National Anthem sung by Hale Kütük; and flag raising by the American Legion)

10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. - Silent Auction

10:05 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Band Performances (break at 12:30 p.m. for car parade)

10:30 a.m. AND 1 p.m. - Puppet Show

11:30 a.m. - Bean Hole Bean Dinner (first sitting) at the Carriage Shed

12:30 p.m. - Antique Auto Parade

1 p.m. - Bean Hole Bean dinner (final sitting) at Carriage Shed

2 p.m. - Tug-O-War between meetinghouse and the schoolhouse.

#### Bean Hole Bean Dinner

Enjoy our pea, kidney and vegetarian options!

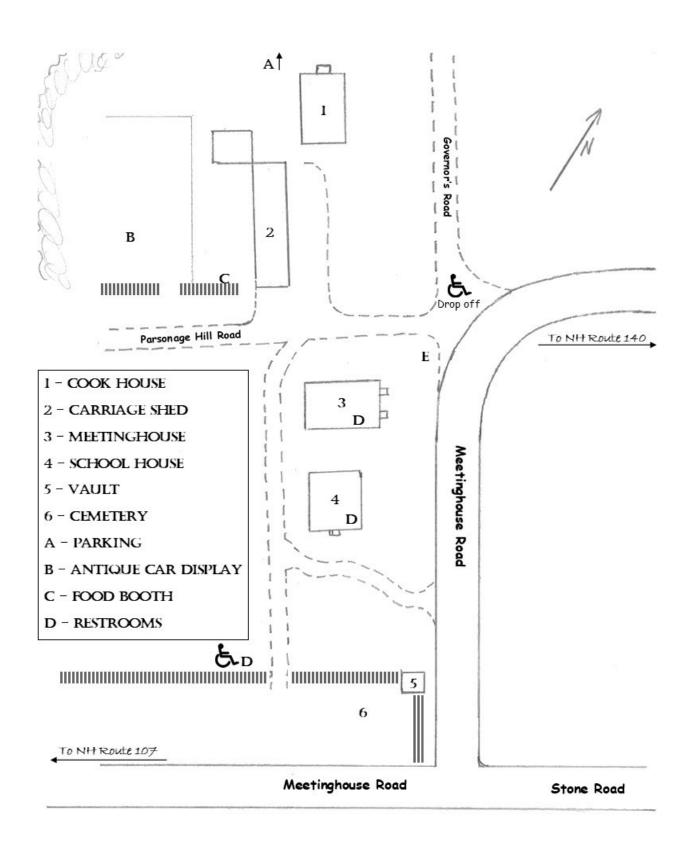
All options served with coleslaw, ham, brown bread and pie!

Includes coffee or lemonade. The cost is \$12 for adults;

\$6 for children; free for age 5 and younger.

We are pleased to report credit cards will be accepted at committee-run booths.

The Gilmanton Old Home Day Committee wishes to thank all its supporters and anonymous friends who helped with the program, which in turn, helps with the Smith Meetinghouse Restoration/Preservation Projects.



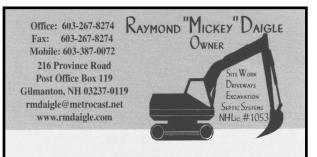
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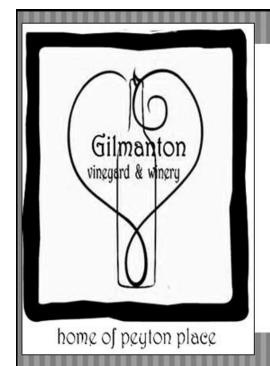


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## Contact Us

Interested in placing an advertisement in next years booklet, volunteering your time, renting a vendor space next year, or just have a question?

- Sarah Baldwin-Welcome, president, provpalt@metrocast.net
- Judy Wilson, vendor chair, wjkew5300@gmail.com
- Cameron Hamel, advertising, silent auction and booklet information, GilmantonOldHomeDay@gmail.com

## **Gilmanton Youth**



www.GYONH.com info@gyonh.com

The GYO mission is operated for the express purpose of organizing and administering high quality sports programs for the school aged children of the Town of Gilmanton, as well as the continued operation, maintenance, and development of GYO Park. Through these programs we hope to promote sportsmanship, develop good character and citizenship in our youth, and develop the athletic ability of our youth. The continued development of GYO Park is to provide a localized destination for GYO's youth sports programming and greenspace within the Town of Gilmanton for other community activities and events.

2021 Summer & Fall

#### CHURCH SERVICES

at Smith Meetinghouse

**July 18** at 4 p.m.

**August 15** at 4 p.m. (Old Home Day Service)

September 19 at 4 p.m.

**October 17** at 4 p.m. (Harvest Potluck Supper)

November 21 at 2 p.m.

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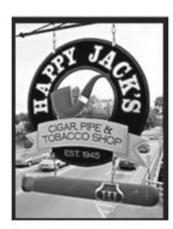
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## The Gilmanton Old Home Day Association would like to dedicate this 2021 booklet to

You.

Thank you for standing (6+ feet) by us!

Our 2020 booklet was handed out across New Hampshire to share advertiser and event information; our preorder baked beans were received with gratitude as we handed them through vehicle windows with masked smiles; and our silent auction on Facebook was a delight as we watched friends outbid each other!

Due to the COVID maze, we each know someone who became isolated, depressed, lonely, or anxious; who lost a loved one, a job, or their home; who became a teacher and a SeeSaw or Google Classroom wizard! Each dead end of the COVID maze led us to turn around, re-evaluate what was important, and try again.

The country banded together to find a cure; cities and towns closed businesses; businesses started operating from homes; neighbors started shopping for neighbors; homeless animals were adopted into homes; and current pets were overjoyed with endless belly rubs and seat-sharing!

Each one of us has lost a family member, friend, co-worker, or acquaintance. We have heard the stories of suffering and loss; many of us have lived it.

We appreciate the front-line workers and our community. Thank you for joining in our celebration of friends, traditions, and good food.

### HISTORY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE OLD HOME DAY

The following was taken from a submission by Walton F. Stockwell:

Old Home Week was created by New Hampshire Governor Frank West Rollins. In 1897 he wrote, "I wish that in the ear of every son and daughter of New Hampshire, in the summer days, might be heard whispered the persuasive words: Come back, come back. Do you not hear the call? What has become of the old home where you were born? Do you not remember it—the old farm back among the hills, with its rambling buildings, its well sweep casting its long shadows, the row of stiff poplar trees, the lilac and the willows?"

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century New Hampshire's farming towns had been losing population. New England's talent and money were being drained away to build up the rest of the country. The state government was in debt, as were three quarters of the towns.

Rollins called upon the old New Hampshire Board of Agriculture to coordinate something then known as Old Home Week. He had specific goals in mind: he wanted native born to return and buy the many abandoned farms in the state for summer homes. He wanted them to donate money to spruce up the village common, to support the library and the meeting house. And he wanted the towns themselves to awaken from what he saw as a moral slumber. He wrote "There have been, of course, reunions since the beginning of time, but my plan differed from the ordinary reunion in that it was to occupy a week in each year so that each one could make his plans to be back, and was to be recognized by the state as a permanent festival".

He rallied others to his idea, founded an Old Home Week Association, and as Governor of New Hampshire presided over the state's first homecoming in 1899. The state issued its invitation across the nation to its sons and daugh-

ters toiling in the cities, in the fields of the Midwest, and the mining camps of Montana.

By 1907 the idea of Old Home Week had expanded from New Hampshire to all of the New England states, New York, Ohio, Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and onto Nova Scotia, Ontario and even to Australia. Many towns in New Hampshire continue the tradition of holding "Old Home Days".



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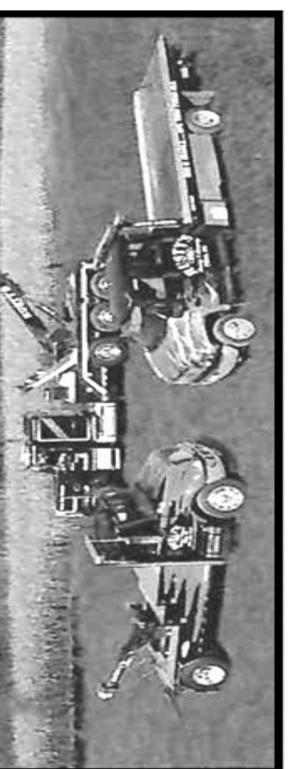
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  - Subs
- Eat in or Take Out
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## Congratulations on your 123rd Old Home Day celebration!





Odd Fellows is a 201 year old nonprofit charitable fraternity for men and women of good will seeking to improve their community.

It is a world-wide organization striving to make the world a better place in which to live.

Its objective is to inspire and elevate the character of its members.

For further information write to:

Chocorua Lodge #51 63 Court Street Laconia, NH 03246

# Congratulations on your 123rd celebration of Old Home Day!



Masonic Lodges have always been a local hub of profound activity and well-meaning initiative. The history of Masonic Orders for Men and Women have always included Guild members, diverse craftspeople, most religious thought, philosophers, merchants, and others gathering to make plans for local philanthropy, advancing the Freemason story, and occasionally celebrating anniversaries.



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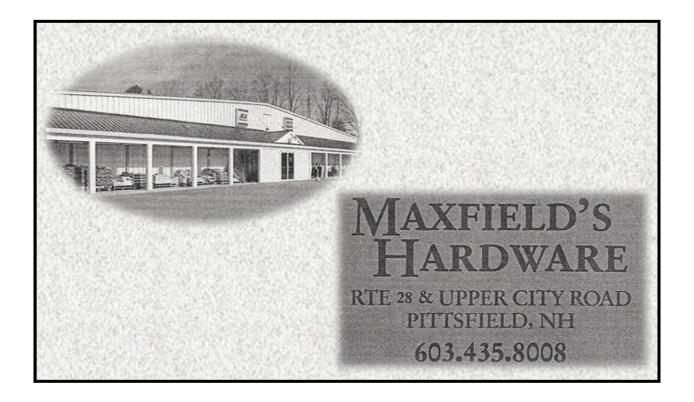
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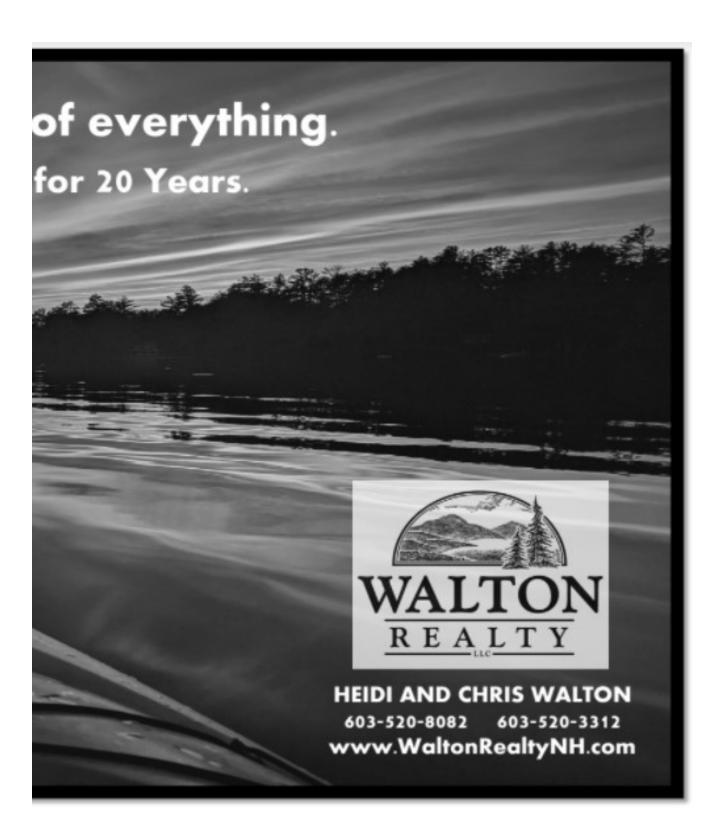


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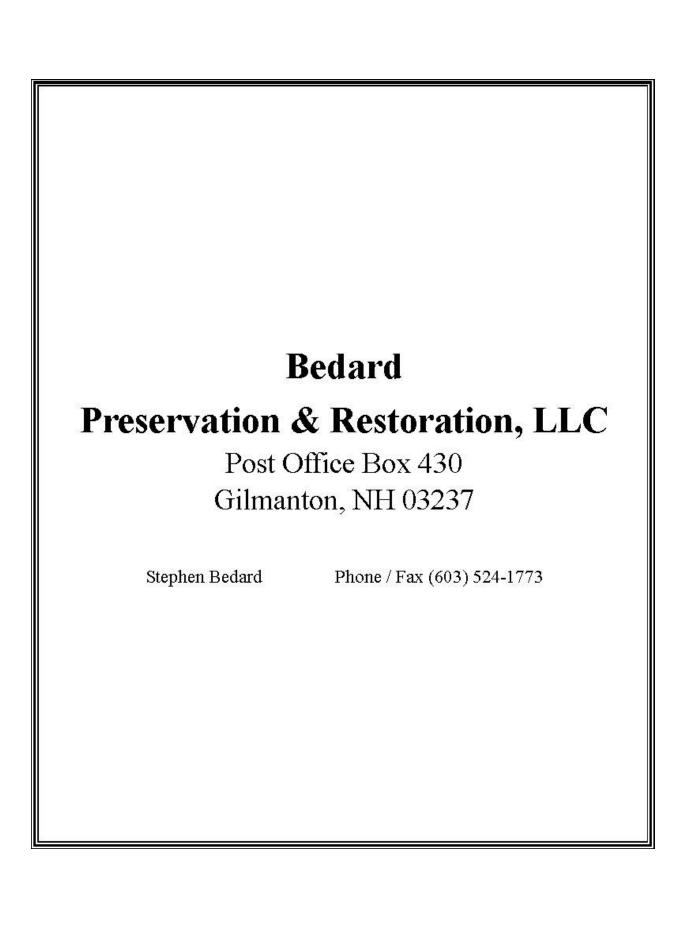




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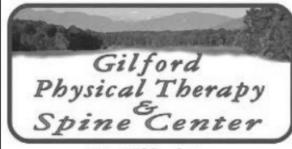


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### **History of Our Bean Hole**

by Maurice Wells and Johnny Bryant

The bean hole pits were started in 1960 when Shirley Marden of Chichester showed Harold and Johnny Bryant, father and son, how to build pits. The first two pits were dug by hand with field stones laid to the sides. Johnny, who dug these first two pits, had help by his father, Harold Bryant. He also had helped by Charles Kelley (George Kelley's father), Earle Brown and George B. Roberts Sr.

Before each person had their own pit, the ladies would bring their own homemade beans. People started to get touchy, wanting only a certain person's beans and thus feelings started to get hurt.

After the success of the two-hand dug pits, Johnny Bryant and Bobby Daigneau made two additional pits, lining both with field stone to match the original two. These new pits were donated by George and Margaret Roberts.



### **Our Bean Hole Story**

Fires are started in the early afternoon using dry maple along with ash. Oak, cherry and birch are not used as they give off an odor which infuses the beans. The wood burns slowly and hot coals are produced so they are ready by five o'clock.

Continuing with tradition, the Thursday before Old Home Day, volunteers gather to sort the kidney and pea beans, picking out the bad dried beans and tossing out any small stones. The cooking process begins Friday using the secret recipe which still causes great excitement throughout the cook house! Around five o'clock on Friday the crowds continue to gather. Menfolk place the kettles near the pits while other men pour the simmered beans into the kettles. The secret ingredients are added before snapping the lids in place. The strongest men (usually 5 or 6) use a hornbeam pole to lower the kettle onto the glowing coals.

Hornbeam poles were used for years, and are, according to Noah Webster, "any genus of trees of the birch family having smooth grey bark and hard white wood."

Large metal covers are placed over the pits topped with shovels of sand or clay-type soil to keep the heat around the kettles. Around 11 o'clock Saturday morning, the process is reversed to remove the kettles from the hole and partake in a bean dinner.

Interesting fact: Shirley Marden's kettles were borrowed until the we could afford our own which are still used today.

#### More?

There's another part to the bean hole dinner! The extra food that goes along with the beans! While the beans simmer on Friday, the cook house crew makes the coleslaw, prepares the brown bread and utensils, puts ham on platters and makes the punch. Topping off dinner is always famous homemade pies prepared by community members. The volunteer wait staff are on hand to make sure everyone has a hearty dinner!



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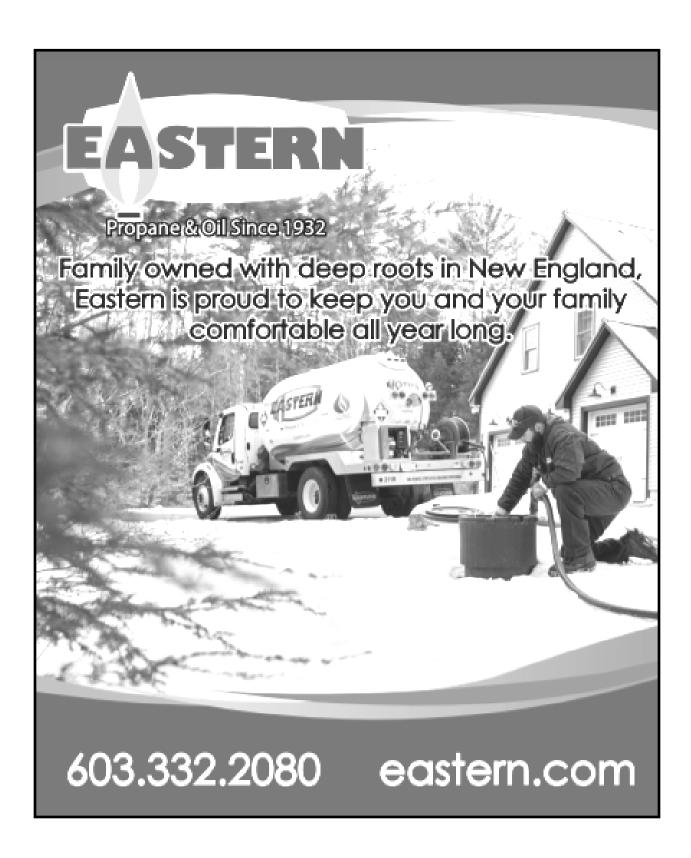
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## We Need You!

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# Gilmanton Historical Society & Museum

"a museum for and about Gilmanton"

### What's New for 2021?

2021 Old Home Day will be held on August 21. We will use the historic Meetinghouse School to exhibit various artifacts from our town's history.

A Farm Museum in Gilmanton! We are excited to announce that the Gilmanton Conservation Commission is partnering with us in the development of a farm museum. The Twigg Barn on Meetinghouse Road will be home to our growing agricultural collection. More details to follow.

A Website for the Society is under development and will be released early Summer of 2021.

Open Saturday's 10 am-12 pm at Old Town Hall

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For more info please visit us on Facebook:
Gilmanton NH Historical Society

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# Happy 123rd Old Home Day!

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