124th Gilmanton Old Home Day

Saturday, August 20, 2022
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

124th Gilmanton Old Home Day

Saturday, August 20, 2022 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!

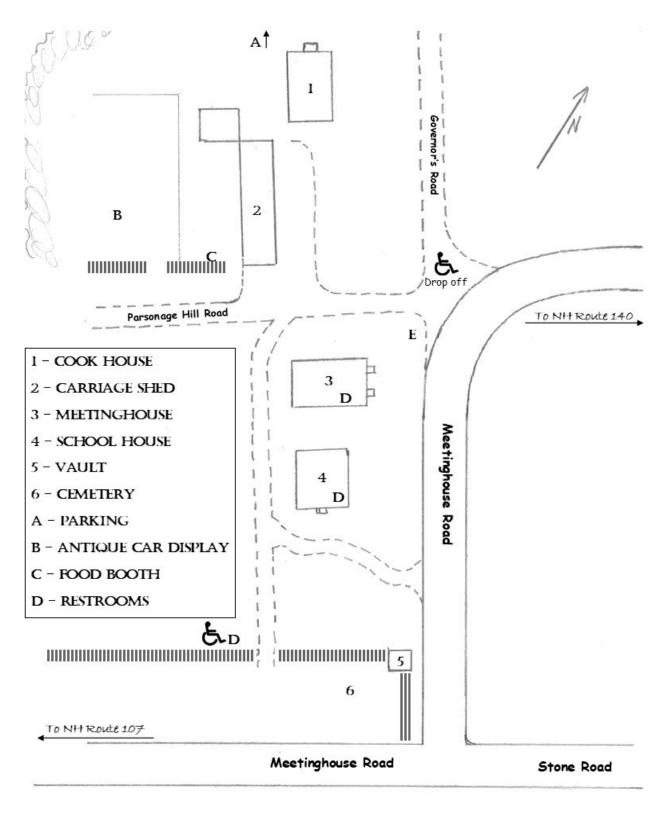
All options served with coleslaw, ham, brown bread and pie!

Includes coffee or lemonade. The cost is \$14 for adults;

\$7 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.

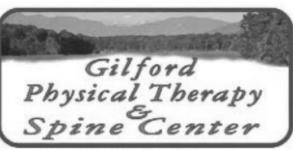


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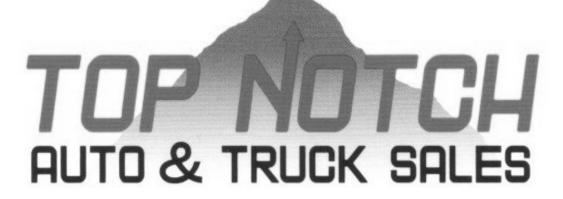
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The Gilmanton Old Home Day Association would like to dedicate this 2022 booklet to

Jeanine "Jane" "Coach" Louise Moorehead

Of the many volunteer positions Jane held, we remember her as part of the cookhouse that help prepare and serve the traditional Old Home Day bean dinner.

Born in Vermont in 1933, she lived in Laconia before moving to Gilmanton in 1945. She married Carl Moorehead, the love of her life, in 1952 and together they built a home and raised their children as pillars of the Gilmanton community.

Jane held many jobs including lunch cook and girls basketball coach at Gilmanton Elementary School, at the post office, and as ballot clerk and supervisor of the checklist.

During her volunteer career she assisted the Gilmanton Historical Society, was involved with the July Fourth events, fire department dinners, PTA affairs, and countless Gilmanton Old Home Day's.

Jane was on the grounds of Smith Meetinghouse, participating in every day of old home day's preparation which started Thursday by sorting and picking through hundreds of pounds of dry beans; Friday (prep work); and Saturday for the bean dinner service and bean sales. Longtime bean dinner coordinator Ginny Hiltz says, "She did this for DECADES! When I think of Jane, I remember how dedicated she was to old home day. She thought of it as a love to her community." Ginny says, "She was my right hand in the cookhouse as I could always depend on her to keep the tasks going smoothly. I know she is missed but I am sure she is proudly wearing the "Bean Hole Bean" shirt in Heaven!"

This dedication celebrates Jane and her lifetime of continued dedication to Gilmanton Old Home Day.

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 19th 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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August 23rd- Tour of Pine Grove Cemetery- Tues. 6:00pm *Rain 8/24 730 Stage Rd
Sept. 27th- Discovering NE Stone Walls —Tues. 7:30pm Old Town Hall GIW

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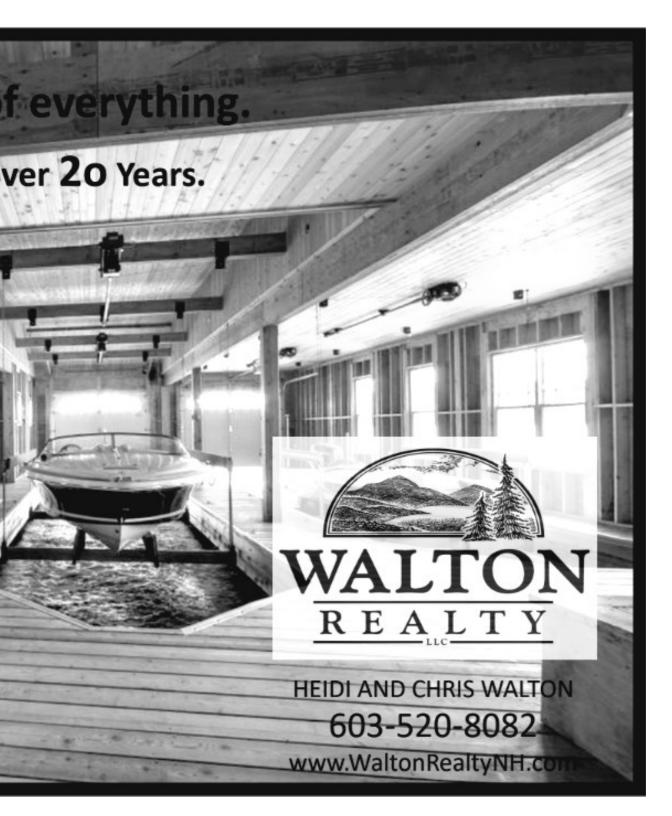


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The Brethren of Mount Lebanon Lodge #32 Presiding Worshipful Master Patrick Brian Tierney 63 Court Street, Laconia NH 03246

Congratulations on your 124th Old Home Day celebration!





Odd Fellows is a 202-year-old nonprofit charitable fraternity for men and women of goodwill seeking to improve their community.

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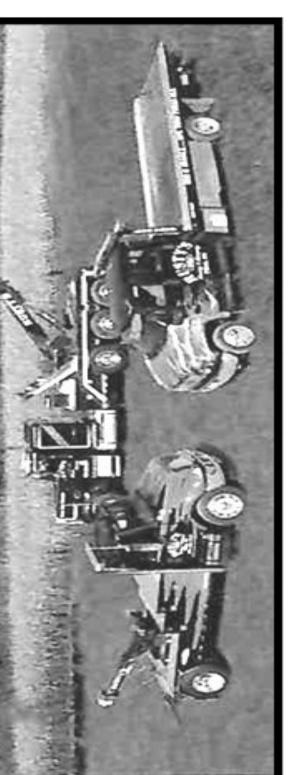
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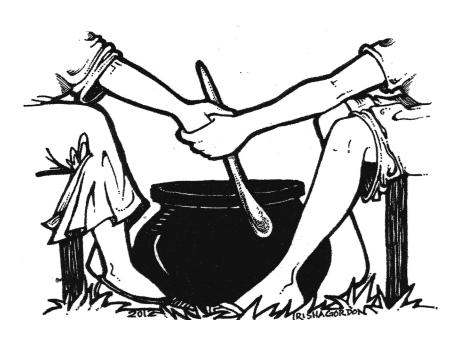
History of Our Bean Hole

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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GYO



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We need you! <u>Volunteers</u> are what keep recreational sports available to Gilmanton children. Please help out!



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2022 Summer & Fall

CHURCH SERVICES

at Smith Meetinghouse

July 17 at 4 p.m.

August 14 at 4 p.m. (Old Home Day Service)

September 18 at 4 p.m.

October 18 at 4 p.m. (Harvest Potluck Supper)

November 20 at 2 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 243 of Gilford will present

Cruise to the Blues

a car show and live concert

Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 4H Belknap County Fairgrounds in Belmont.

Gates open at 8:30 a.m. for vehicles.

The cost is \$10 to show your car; and \$5 to attend.

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For further information, please find the GLT on the Town website at Gilmantonnh.org, Organizations, or at gilmantonlandtrust.org.

124th Gilmanton Old Home Day

VOLUNTEERS are always needed to assist with grounds and art show preparation, bean sorting, cooking, food preparation, clean up, parking, and much more!

We are a small committee planning for a big day.

We need new members, volunteers,

and assistance with planning.

Please consider joining our committee to help us preserve the tradition.



For more information, contact
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