



Post Office Box 4077
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September 3, 2013

September Meeting - Note the change in day of the week

The September meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, September 10th** at the Barn/Museum on the Hopkinton Fairgrounds. The meeting will start at 6:30 with a brief business meeting. There will be a wrap up of the Hillsborough Living History Event and the Hopkinton Fair. We will be covering the vehicles and getting things ready for the winter . We will also be planning for the Warner Fall Foliage Festival . We hope to see many of you there.

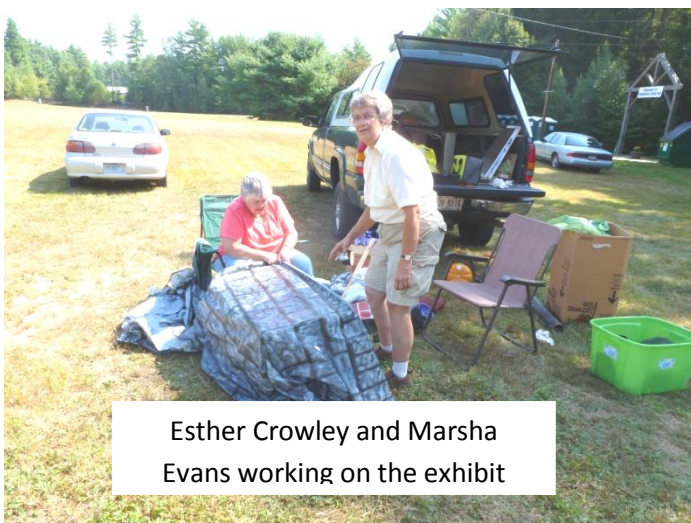
Hillsborough Living History Event

We took the brown(Dartmouth) coach to Hillsborough for two days, August 17 & 18 and set up the pop up with a selection of gift shop items and the raffles. Peter James did the presentation "Abbot & Downing and the Concord Coach" each day. We had a good turnout of our members to man the display and there was a lot of interest shown by the attendees.



A Frontiersman With the Dartmouth Coach in Hillsborough

The Hopkinton Fair



Esther Crowley and Marsha Evans working on the exhibit

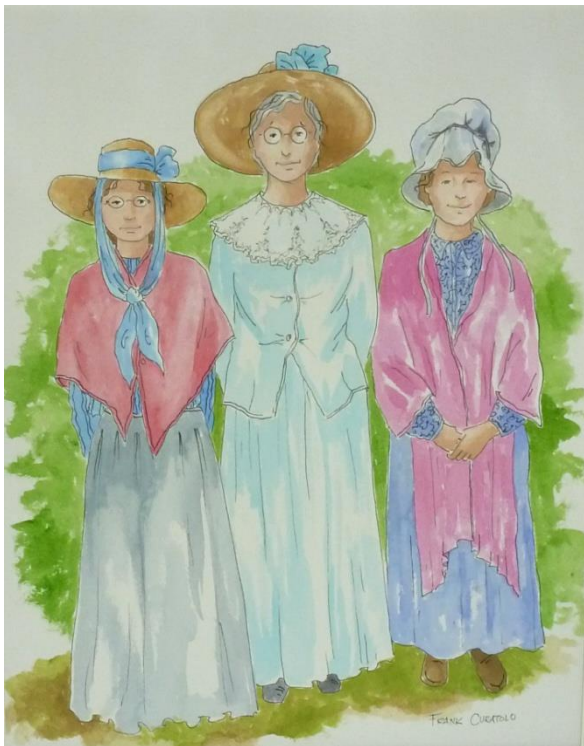
At the August meeting many members volunteered to help with both the set up and manning the barn/museum during the fair. We started on the Saturday before the fair opened by giving the barn and vehicles a good cleaning and began setting up the gift shop. There were ideas for the exhibits outside the building and the one in the Grange building. Marsha Evans said she would lead the effort outside the building and Sheila Knight would do the Grange



The finished barn exhibit

building. Esther Crowley, just back from a summer traveling in the west, pitched in to help Marsha put together the flowers and the mannikin. We did get awards for both exhibits!! We wish to thank Rocky's Hardware in Concord and Pleasant View Gardens for the many beautiful flowers that were used in the exhibit in front of the barn.

On opening day of the fair, we had a pleasant surprise. Mr Frank Curatolo from Chichester appeared at the door



L-R:L Cynthia Maimone, Verna James, Nancee Donovan



The Grange Building Exhibit

and presented us with a painting that he had done over the winter from a photograph he had taken at last year's fair of Cynthia Maimone, Verna James, and Nancee Donovan. The painting is pen and ink with watercolor. The ladies look great in their period costumes. The painting was promptly put on display in the gift shop!!



Artist Frank Curatolo with Bruce and Nancee Donovan and Verna James, Nancee is holding the painting. Coach XIV is the background. We thank Mr. Curatolo for the generous donation and we will get a lot of enjoyment from it.

The new Dartmouth coach has been the highlight of our displays this year and we have been displaying it along with the yellow coach XIV. They show two different versions of the coach as they were being built about 1850. Both are by Lewis Downing and Sons, done in the period where there were the two companies after the split in 1847. The Dartmouth coach is a "Hotel" style with the hinged glass windows and the added rear outside seat giving a capacity of sixteen passengers.



Weather at the fair could have been better with many rain showers and cloudy days. Much of the time the coaches and the little thoroughbrace Lewis Downing wagon were displayed in the center aisle of the barn and not out in front. This did make think a little cozy, but there was room for the crowds that came in when it rained. The rain gave them time to look over the exhibits and coaches in greater detail and ask a lot of questions, so there was a positive side to it all. The financials from the fair were very good considering the weather and were almost as good as last year.

We tried something a little different this year. Peter James set up shop in the Maria Putnam exhibit with an industrial sewing machine and made leather bracelets to give to the children (and a few adults, too). Watching him as he sewed the bracelets, gave people an opportunity to stop and talk about the coaches and Abbot & Downing. It was a good way to get a chance to tell the story and to also go into detail about Maria Putnam and her role at Abbot & Downing. Needless to say, Peter looked more like Santa Claus than Maria!!!



The coaches displayed in the barn

Next year we hope to have the wood lathe in the woodworking shop in operation and we can demonstrate its use. It is treadle operated and will be an attention getter for sure. We can make wooden tops to give to the kids. Wooden tops were popular in the stage coach era.

Upcoming Events

The Audi Gala is the evening of September 15th at Concord City Auditorium. We plan to take the Dartmouth Coach and a few items from the gift shop. The Warner Fall Foliage Festival is October 12 & 13 and weather permitting, we will set up the Dartmouth Coach in Jim Mitchell Park on Main Street. We get a great reception at this event and the year we did not take a coach they were very disappointed. The new coach should be a bit hit.

Finally, thank you to all who helped in any way with our summer events. Without your participation it would not be possible. **We are getting the message out!!**