
Upstream

Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society

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Spring 2010



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Museum Opens for the Season

The Museum on Church Street in Lincoln opens for the season on Wednesday, June 30. Hours of operation are Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., as well as by appointment. The Museum will close after Saturday, October 9.

Then & Now

Woodward's Resort and the Whale's Tale Water Park are now located on the former site of the Hotel Franconia.

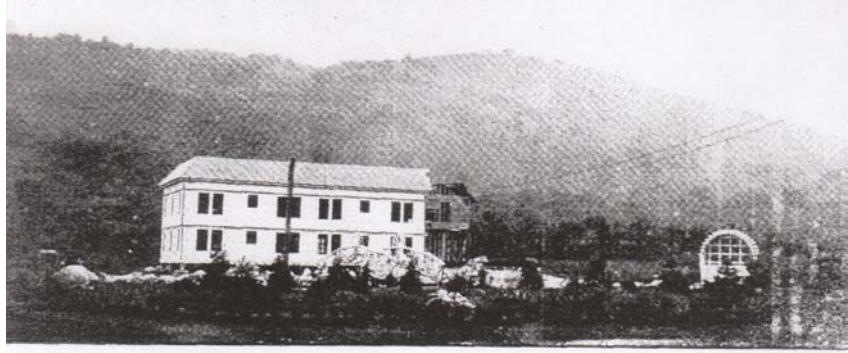


The Indian Head can be seen in the background of both of these pictures.

For more pictures of this site through the years, see pages 2 through 6.

Hotel Franconia

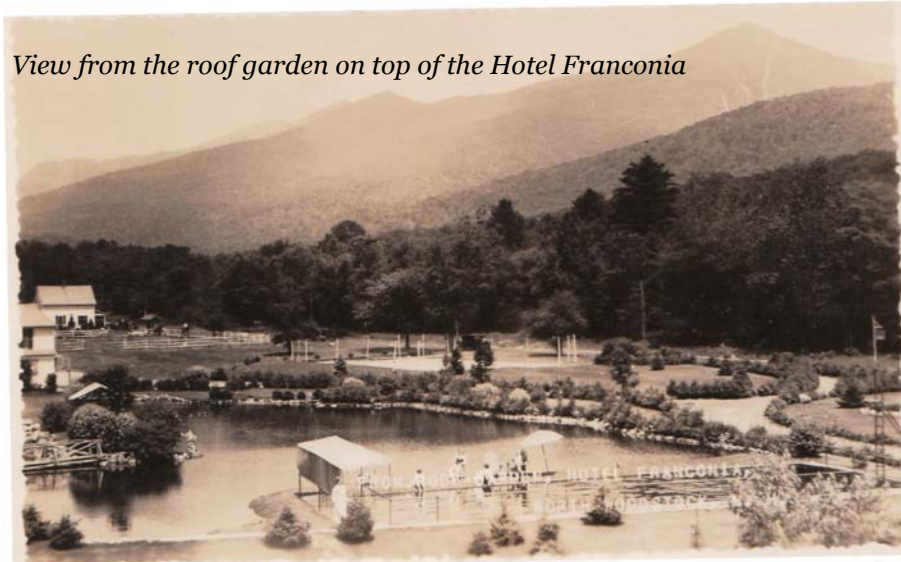
From the Pycolog, June-July 1929:



“The above picture will serve to give us a rough idea of how the proposed forty-eight room Hotel Franconia which Mr. Goddard is building on the old Braeburn Inn site is coming along.

The picture shows only the South Wing and the unfinished end of the West Wing. The main building will have three stories with a roof garden from which one will be able to get a marvelous view of the mountains. The hotel is being built with the idea of providing a maximum of beauty and comfort for the guests. All partitions are being made as nearly sound proof as modern insulating material can make them. Each room will be equipped with five electric light fixtures, a telephone, running water, and all but fifteen of the rooms will have a connecting bath. There will be at least two windows in each room, and the dining room will be so equipped with long high windows as to afford an exceptionally beautiful view of the mountains from any part of the room.

Our picture certainly does not do justice to the hotel building, but it gives us an even poorer idea of the beauty of the grounds. Beneath the rustic bridge which shows in our photograph there is a rock fountain surrounded by green lawns decorated with flower beds, shrubbery, and more than five thousand small spruce trees. Nearer the hotel Mr. Goddard is making a sunken garden which will be provided with parasols and seats, and decorated with flowers and shrubs.



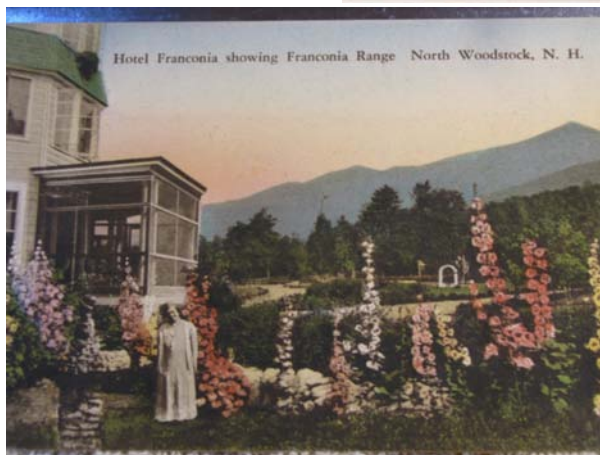
View from the roof garden on top of the Hotel Franconia

The Hotel Franconia gives promise of being the most attractive hotel in the mountains. We people of Lincoln are proud of it, and hope that our friends in other towns will have occasion to enjoy its hospitality.”

Here are more pictures of the buildings and grounds of the Hotel Franconia.

Can you help us learn more?

In the first paragraph from the Psychology article on page 2 the Braeburn Inn is mentioned. We were unable to find any pic-



tures of it to include here. Let us know if you have any pictures of the Braeburn Inn.

Also, we think the Hotel Franconia burned in the **very early 1950's, but do not** know the date. Do you know when this happened? Do you have pictures of that fire?

If you have more information, please contact Dan Bourassa or Barbara Avery.

After the Hotel Franconia burned, on the north-erly end of the property Laurence and Marge Wood-ward built and operated Woodward's Motel. These photos were taken in the 1950's.



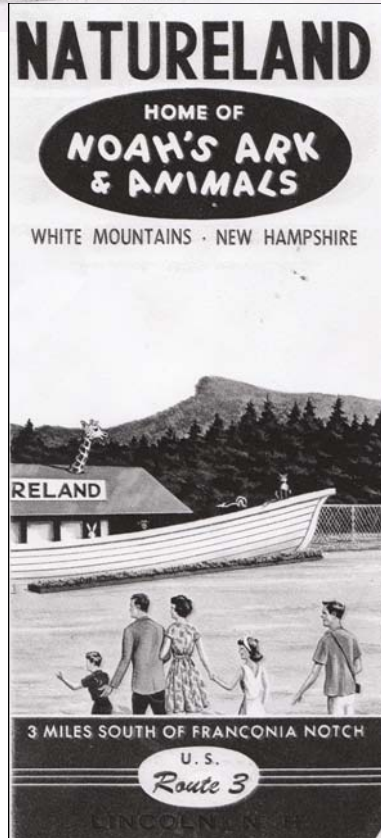
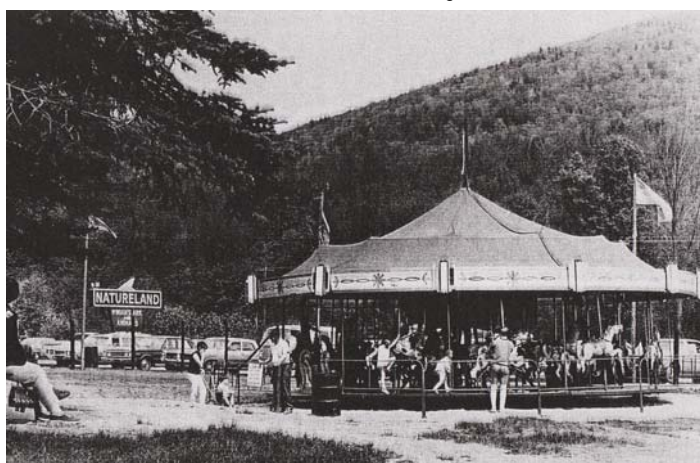
Jeff and Steve Woodward, sons of the original motel owners, now run Woodward's Resort, enjoyed by many in all seasons of the year.



On the southern end of the Hotel Franconia property, Natureland was initially built by Walter Jock from Wells River, Vermont.



Natureland started as a wild animal park and evolved into Noah's Ark & Animals, including a few amusement park rides. Stan and Francine Hilliard expanded and improved Natureland over many years.



In more recent history, the popular Whales Tale Water Park has replaced Natureland.



Pictures from Then and Now

The pictures, organized by Dan Bourassa, are from the collections of Jeff and Steve Woodward, the Hilliard Family, and the Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society. We thank all those who contributed their time and effort in providing us with this glimpse into our past.

Do you have a business that you would like us to highlight in a “Then and Now” segment? Or is there a spot in the Lincoln / Woodstock area that you would like to learn more about? Most important, do you have pictures we can use?

Contact Dan Bourassa, at 745-8754, if you have pictures you would like to share, or if **there is an area of town that you would like to know more about. Let’s get together to find out more about our area and share our information with each other.**

-Dan Bourassa

Interested in serving as a docent?

UPHS can always use more docents. If you are interested in sitting at the museum during open hours in the summer, please contact Donna Thompson at 745-8821. People are needed on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. You can sign up for as many or as few times as you want.

Thoughts and Observations

I had intended to write an article on Schools in Lincoln and Woodstock before 1900, but I got sidetracked. In reading about early Lincoln history, I came upon several references to Joneses, including Isaac Jones who is my 3rd great grandfather, born in Lincoln in 1808. Since I never could find where he was buried, I called Helena O'Rourke to see if she could help me.

Helena and I had a lovely conversation about Lincoln cemeteries. Unfortunately, she told me, the Riverside Cemetery did not exist until 1917, and there were no Jones's in the Hanson Farm Cemetery. She went on to tell me that for some time she has been trying to find out where Jessie Guernsey is buried. There are Guernseys buried in the Hanson Farm Cemetery, but not her. Jessie, she reminded me, was the woman who discovered the Flume in 1808 at the age of 93.

I was now intrigued. I started to read all I could find about Jessie Guernsey and the Flume. From books written in the 1920's onward I discovered quite a tale indeed.

In the pamphlet, *The Flume and All about It*, by Rev. Guy Roberts, written in 1924, I found an early account which has since influenced many other writers to this day:

"In June of 1807, there came into this section as pioneer settlers, a Mr. and Mrs. David Guernsey and family, who migrated from Plymouth, bringing all their worldly possessions along with them on the backs of 6 horses over what was then but a trail thru the forest, settling at the present Indian Head store location. "Aunt Jess," - as Mrs. Guernsey was familiarly called, - was at this

time 93 years old, being remarkably well and vigorous. She died at the age of 108 having never even lost a tooth. Her nativity was Irish, with Dublin as its place. At the time of the above migration "Aunt Jess" was afflicted with senile dementia, her mind running on fishing, and fish she would whenever possible. It was while wandering about one day in June 1808 while out fishing, that she discovered The Flume, and was not too mentally unbalanced to realize its importance which she at once reported to her husband, with the outside world slowly but finally coming to learn about it, visiting it as roads developed. Thus gradually The Flume came to be known and rapidly grew in popularity, eventually greatly increasing the tourists travel thru this scenic wonderland."

Similar accounts can be found in *The Book of the White Mountains* by John Anderson and Stearns Morse, 1930, *Behold the White Mountains* by Eleanor Early, 1935 and in *The Great White Hills of New Hampshire* by Ernest Poole, 1946. In *New Hampshire Folk Tales*, edited by Eva A. Speare in 1945, a similar tale is told about an 'Aunt Margaret Guernsey.'

If I go back further in time, the story becomes much simpler. In *Chronicles of the White Mountains* by Frederick W. Kilbourne, 1916:

"Regarding the discovery of the other great natural curiosity of the Franconia Notch, the Flume, there is little to tell. Indeed, beyond the bare statement that it was made at about the same time as that of the Profile, and by Mrs. Jessie Guernsey, wife of the pioneer settler of this locality, while fishing along the brook, information appears to be lacking."

The earliest reference to the discovery of the Flume that I could find was in *Gazet-*

teer of Grafton County, N. H. 1709-1886, compiled and published by Hamilton Child, 1886:

“The wife of Jesse Guernsey, of Sugar Hill, now dead, is said to be the first person who ever saw the Flume, now so noted a resort, in the town of Lincoln.”

Well, is she Jessie, or the wife of Jesse, or the wife of Dave? Was she really ninety-three when she went fishing? Did she really live to be one hundred and eight? Did she ever live in Lincoln? And where is she buried?

Deciding it was time for an online search, I typed in **“Jesse Guernsey Flume,”** which immediately led me to ***The Garnsey-Guernsey Genealogy: an account of thirteen generations of descendants from Henry Garnsey of Dorchester, Mass and Joseph Guernsie-Garnsey of Stamford, Conn.*** Compiled by Eva Garnsey Card and Howard Abram Guernsey. (Garnsey seems to change to Guernsey in the mid 1800’s.)

Going immediately to the only Jesse (or Jessie) Garnsey in this genealogy, I find the following note:

“In some histories of New Hampshire, “Aunt Jess Guernsey” is given credit for discovery of “The Flume” while on a fishing jaunt. Altho the age which is assigned her is much older than she actually was, it is likely that “Aunt Jess” was Olive, wife of Jesse Garnsey.”

Now, with a genealogy at hand and census records, I could find out more about who lived where and when.

David Garnsey and Jesse Garnsey were born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts in 1764

and 1766 respectively, sons of John and Lydia (Healey) Garnsey. Around 1773 John and Lydia moved with their fourteen children to Richmond, New Hampshire.

David Garnsey married Esther Fassett 23 May 1784. Before 1800 they moved north and the last two of their ten children were born in Franconia. They continued to live in the Franconia / Sugar Hill area and David was known for the formidable block house he built early on from which to ward off Indian raids.

Jesse Garnsey and Olive West were married in Richmond, New Hampshire 25 May 1794. She was born in Massachusetts in 1775, but I have been unable to find out anything about her parents. Jesse and Olive had one child, John, born in Richmond in 1795. They then moved to Winchester, New Hampshire where two more children were born, Abner in 1796, and Eunice in 1798, before moving to Lisbon (the part of Lisbon that is now Sugar Hill) where their last two children were born, Mary in 1811 and Ebenezer in 1814.

In the 1830’s Jesse and Olive, and their son John and his wife, Jane Wallace, relocated to Lincoln. According to the ***Lincoln Bicentennial Book***, Jesse and John were given a license to keep a tavern in 1837 at their residence which was located less than a mile south of the Flume on the west side of the road. **In Kilbourne’s book published in 1916 he mentions that Guernsey’s still occupied this farm.**

By 1850 Jesse and Olive, now 84 and 75, had moved back to Sugar Hill to live with their nephew, Asahel Guernsey and his family. Jesse died a few years later and Olive

returned to the farm in Lincoln to spend her remaining years living with John and his family. On the 1860 map of Grafton County, the location of the farm is noted and marked '**J. Guernsey**'.

John and Jane (Wallace) Guernsey had eight children. Daughter Phebe married Stephen Hanson, son of Jeremy Hanson, an early resident of Lincoln. John and Jane Guernsey are buried in Hanson Cemetery along with daughter Phebe, son-in-law Stephen and several other Hansons.

John and Jane's son Levi continued to live on at the Guernsey Farm in Lincoln, and the 1892 map reflects this with 'L. Guernsey' marking the spot. Levi married Aurilla Dyer and had four children, Inez, Elsie, Ernest and Leander, who all grew up in Lincoln.

Levi and Aurilla's daughter Elsie married Will Phillips and, according to the *Lincoln Bicentennial*, built the Mt. Liberty House "on land taken from the Levi Guernsey's farm. They ran it for two or three years, but not being very successful, sold it in the fall of 1894 to Charles Hunt."

Levi's son Ernest married Grace Nellie Merville and their first child, Katie Ernestine Guernsey, who lived little more than a year, is also buried in Hanson Cemetery. Her grave stone is a lovely, small stone near the gate. Ernest and Grace had two more children, Flossina (?) born in 1911 and George born in 1916, who both grew up in Lincoln.

So what do we know now? Perhaps the first white person to discover the Flume was Olive

West Guernsey, wife of Jesse, who was thirty-three years old in 1808 when the discovery was made. At this time she had three children but would go on to have two more. Through her first born, John, four more generations of Guernsey's would be born and brought up in Lincoln. In the census of 1860 she is living with her son John and she is eighty-five years old. John died in 1868 and **in the 1870 census John's wife Jane is living with her son Levi.** Jane died in 1881. There is no record of Olive West Guernsey after 1860, and, sadly, I still do not know where she is buried.

If you know any more about the Garnseys / Guernsey's, or the discovery of the Flume, I would love to hear from you. If you know where Olive and Jesse Guernsey are buried, please let me know. Contact me at bdavery@roadrunner.com or 745-8845. Also, contact me if you have any ideas for **future columns in this newsletter. Let's get together to explore our past.**

-Barbara Avery

- Harry Hibbard's long poem ***Franconia Mountain Notch***, first published in 1839, contains the following stanza on the Flume:

*"And, farther down, from Garnsey's lone abode,
By a rude footpath climb the mountain-side,
Leaving below the traveler's winding road,
To where the cleft hill yawns abrupt and wide,
As though some earthquake did its mass divide,
In olden time; there view the rocky Flume,
Tremendous chasm! Rising side by side,
The rocks abrupt wall in the long high room,
Echoing the wild stream's roar, and dark with
vapory gloom."*

The Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society presently has a fascinating publication for sale.



Now Available!:

- *The Pycolog*, the most complete record of life in the Lincoln-Woodstock area during the early and mid-20th century.
- *The Pycolog* was published monthly by The Parker Young Company, and later by The Marcalus Paper Company from 1919-29 and 1941-48.
- We offer a nearly complete run of this publication on a set of three DVDs. Together, there are over 1,500 pages of history on these discs, and hundreds of photographs. Included, along with the activities in the Mills and the lumbering operations, are details on nearly every aspect of life in the towns: Marriages, Births and Deaths; Church and Social Activities; Fires and Floods; Extensive Coverage of Lincoln and the residents during WW II; School Events, Graduations, Teachers, etc; Coverage of all local Sporting Teams and Events; Winter Activities; Stories about the Region's Tourist Attractions; and much, much more. There is no comparable record, and, to the best of our knowledge, no other complete set exists. This set has been prepared using high resolution scans in Adobe Acrobat. The discs are fully searchable and any page or photograph can be greatly enlarged. (Information on using the free Adobe Reader software is included.)
- The price of the set is \$99.50 post-paid.

To order send a check or money order to:
Upper Pemi Historical Society
P.O. Box 863
Lincoln, NH 03251

Programs not to miss:

This season UPHS presents three programs to be held at the Museum and the Moosilauke Public Library presents two programs to be held at the Woodstock Town Office Building. All these programs are funded through the New Hampshire Humanities Council TO GO Grants, and are free and open to all.

Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum - **Fixing a Shadow: The Origins of Photography.** Invented in the 1830s, photography was an unprecedented technological and artistic breakthrough. Developed independently by Louis Daguerre and William Henry Fox Talbot, photography revolutionized how images were made and used. This talk introduces the beginnings of photography and explores the characteristics of the first photographs, highlighting early subjects, interpretations, and critical reactions. **Martin Fox will present this program.**

Thursday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum - **Caesar: The Man from Venus.** Meet Caesar as he grows up in a Rome that is recovering from one civil war and headed for another. Meet the powerful women in his life who help him achieve his destiny: his mother Aurelia, his aunt Julia, his wives and his great love Servilia. This is the man who claims descent from the Goddess Venus herself. We watch his rise to power in Rome, his great adventures, his time in Gaul and finally, after he crosses the Rubicon, his war with Pompey that will leave him the most powerful man in the world. We see him as Venus joined with Cleopatra Isis. Here is your opportunity to ask the great man the questions of his time and how they

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

relate to ours. **Sebastian Lockwood will be performing as Caesar.**

Monday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Office Building—**Sennett, Chaplin, Keaton and the Art of Silent Film Comedy.** Film was birthed in silence during the first three decades of the 20th century. The social and cultural history of the United States is reflected in the celluloid strips that capture it, especially as the art was developed by these three filmmakers. **Patrick D. Anderson will be presenting this program.**

Monday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Office Building . **Meet Eleanor Roosevelt: Advocate for Universal Human Rights.** Eleanor Roosevelt was a leader and a revolutionary, a champion to the powerless. This presentation concentrates on her years as chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; participation in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; difficulties in reaching con-

sensus among delegates with conflicting political agendas; adoption of the Declaration—the first international statement of its kind in history. **Elena H. Dodd will be performing as Eleanor Roosevelt.**

Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum. **Your Hit Parade--25 Years Presenting America's Top Popular Songs.** The radio and television program "Your Hit Parade" chronicled American popular music from 1935 to 1959. Presenter **Calvin Knickerbocker** will outline the quarter century during which the show served as a "tastemaker," featuring songs inspired by the Great Depression and on to the advent of rock and roll. We'll explore the show's relationship with sponsor American Tobacco and Lucky Strike cigarettes and hear about the artists the show helped launch and promote, from Frank Sinatra to Pat Boone. Knickerbocker will treat you to excerpts from original recordings of the songs that "Your Hit Parade" showcased on its weekly Saturday night show, from one-hit wonders to classic numbers still familiar today.

I would like to become a member of the UPHS:

Annual Memberships

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$ 35.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business and Professional	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Life Membership	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation	\$_____


Our membership dues are not enough to cover the everyday expenses and maintenance of our building as well as the costs of programming . Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Please make checks out to UPHS, and mail to: Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society, PO Box 863, Lincoln, NH 03251.

Thank you

Supporters

These companies are supporting the U.P.H.S. We sincerely need and appreciate their help. Many thanks! Please contact us if you would like to have your business appear here.





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