



# Dana Meeting House News

Volume VI Issue I A semi-annual newsletter published by the Dana Meeting House Association Spring 2026

## Come Celebrate Old Fashioned Fun This Summer



With the arrival of warmer days, we are excited to invite you to some great old fashioned Summer events. The season will commence with the Annual **Memorial Day Service and Bell Ringing** on Monday May 25 at 10 am. **Rev. John Bascom** will deliver the service followed by the naming of New Hampton Veterans and the ringing of the bell. This is a lovely way to welcome summer, and honor Veterans and community.



**Timeless Textiles Quilt Day**, our signature event, will be held on **Saturday July 11 from 10-3**. The featured quilter this year is **Ginny Canning**, former president of the Belknap Mill Quilters. Ginny began quilting over 50 years ago when she made her first quilt using 12 inch squares of gingham. Over time she taught herself how to hand quilt and to

date has made over 500 quilts. Ginny will speak about her years of working with fabrics and quilting. She said, “ my favorite verse is: ‘One who sleeps under a quilt is covered with love.’ ”

DMHA is grateful to **Eileen Lovett** for curating the sixth year of this spectacular event. When asked why she is so supportive of this event, she said “*When you step into the Dana Hill Meeting House, you step back in time. The historic quilts connect us to a time when things were slower and more simple. Through hard work and exquisite craftsmanship, amazing quilts were created. We learn about the past and how textiles have evolved. From historic and traditional to improvisational and modern. Come see how you too will be inspired.*”

Another exciting aspect of this year’s exhibit is the showing of the past six years of featured quilters as well as displays of antique quilts from local historical societies. Participating returning quilters are: **Karen Griska, Holly Pope, Sue Goodwin, Michelle Plourde, and NH Quilts of Valor.**

In addition to the displays there will also be talks, demonstrations and an Art Corner. **Elizabeth Humphrey** will demonstrate techniques of working with wool and give attendees a chance to try spinning. Under the tent, will also be an Art Corner where visitors can create colorful squares for a paper

quilt that will be pieced together and hung.

**On Sunday August 2 from 4-6, Jeff Warner** will give a presentation, **Music in My Pockets**. He is among the nation’s foremost



performer/ interpreters of traditional music and will present songs from the lumber camps, fishing villages and mountain tops of America from the 19th century.

The event is co-sponsored by NH Humanities to Go program. Suggested donation \$5.

**The Baker Valley Band and Ice Cream Social is Saturday July 25th at 5 pm.** This family event celebrates music, dancing, connection and ice cream. Bring your friends and family, a blanket or chair and enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing on the lawn. Ice cream is graciously donated by The Common Man.

**For a full list of Summer Activities see the Calendar on Page 3**



Leon, Evelyn, Izzy Torsey with Board member Blair Folts invite visitors to make a paper quilt at Timeless Textiles Day!



**Dana Meeting House Association**

Dana Meeting House Association is a 501c3 formed in 2019 to protect, preserve and promote the historic Dana Meeting House in New Hampton, New Hampshire. Construction of this building began in 1800 and was first used in 1802 by the Freewill Baptist movement. It is a fine example of 19th century architecture and the only one of its kind in New Hampshire. It was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

**2026 BOARD of DIRECTORS SLATE**

President: Thomas Smith  
 Vice Pres: William Huckins  
 Secretary: Jonann Torsey  
 Treasurer: Gregory Flowers

Executive Board:  
 Blair Folts  
 OPEN  
 OPEN

We are looking for Board Members. If you have interest or have served on a non-profit Board and would like to be involved, please contact us. **It's fun!**

**New Hampton School Students Help with Spring Clean Up.**



**Featured here:**  
 Board member Jonann Torsey with students, Brandyn Clarke, Jasper Jiang, Lanah Quong, Greer Di Fari and advisor Jay Bozzi.

**The Dana Meeting House  
 By Thomas Smith**

this meeting house clothed in country white standing strong in the evening light - a monument of this hometown, of yesteryears that have crumbled down

into our distant memories - long lost names and histories, long lost friends and words they spoke; that's what this meeting house evokes

when you step inside her door, when you step upon her floor shaped by multitudes of feet, of ancestors who chose to meet

to share their faith, to mend their hearts, to gather close and do their part to do for others as they should do; for neighbors and their kin they grew

stone wall paths and roads on hills, cattle farms and river mills, fields of grain and robust corn; atop this hill tough folk were born

into green New Hampton town, some grew homes, some grew renown; carpenters, farmers, preachers stayed but lawyers, judges, statesmen splayed

their fervent wings to other lands; do not forget the calloused hands of soldiers, settlers, who built the frames of houses, churches, recall their names,

recall their actions, great and small, as pioneers they saw it all revivals, battles, newness, death, these pilgrims worked with every breath;

think on Simeon Dana, the pastor, who preached within these walls of plaster, who rode this hillside - physician and friend - body and soul this stalwart did mend;

it is said all his life he went about doing good - his candle, always burning, for his neighborhood; consider the old story of one having bee that gathered in the spirit of unity -

one Sunday service Doctor Dana declared that his congregation should help an impaired neighbor who fell ill and could not bring in hay, he implored all to help, and all went on their way

with skies overcast and threatening harm, the whole congregation bucked the hay in the barn, the last bale was set, then the rain thundered down, the man's harvest was saved by New Hampton town;

the men, women, children returned to this place Sunday evening, their hearts full of song, stunning grace; this story of several has survived many seasons and this theme of fellowship is the main reason

why it is essential to preserve this old church now encompassed by pine and maple and birch; this meeting house - a tribute to our yesteryears, to staunch neighborhoods, to strength over tears,

to memories lost and memories gained, of mankind that fought to survive, those who strained to build up hale buildings and farmlands and neighbors; this meeting house illustrates love, faith, and labors.

*Thomas Smith, is DMHA Board President.*

**2026 Annual Meeting to highlight local farms — then and now**

Please join us for the 6th Annual Meeting on Saturday June 27th from 4-6 pm. We will meet at the Dana Meeting House and commence with our business meeting and voting of the Board of Directors promptly at 4. Following the short business meeting, there will be a presentation by Jonann Torsey beginning at 4:30 that will showcase the farms and farming history on Dana Hill Road in New Hampton. Jonann gave this talk to the New Hampton Historical Society in 2025 and it was so highly praised we invited her to speak at this event.

Come learn about what farms are still owned and managed by local families, which ones have changed hands. Through her photos, the journey down memory lane will begin at the Townhouse and travel the length of Dana Hill Road.

The **Huckins Farm** is a purveyor of raw milk, cream, yogurt, kefir, and fresh and aged cheese. Originally named **Sunnyside Farm**, "Huckins Farm" has been a working farm since 1784 and has been owned and operated by the Huckins family since 1906. **Matty Huckins** currently manages the farm with the help of family and friends. **Captt. Peter Hanaford**, raised in southern NH, and a soldier in the Revolutionary War resided at Sunnyside Farm. The original plans for the Dana Meeting House were formulated during Freewill Baptist gatherings at his home.



Descendants of Capt. Hanaford resided at the **Seven Maples Farm** until it was sold to David T Smith, and upon his death in the early 1890's, sold to his nephew Albert B Smith. Seven Maples Farm is currently the home of **Rick and Heidi Sidwell**. Heidi is a prolific quilter and shows her beautiful quilts at the annual Timeless Textiles day.

These are just a few examples of farms that will be highlighted with lots more history! **Strawberry shortcake will be served following the presentation.**

Join us for an afternoon of Berries, Banter, and Dana Hill Farms.

**Free and open to the public.**

# Summer Calender of Events 2026

**May 25 Monday 10 am. Memorial Day Service will be led by Rev. John Bascom of Bristol Baptist Church - and former New Hampton resident. Bell Ringing and a reading of the New Hampton Veterans**

**June 27 Saturday 4:00-6:00 pm. 6th Annual Meeting and presentation Berries, Barns, Farms and Banter by Jonann Torsey. 4:00-4:30 business meeting followed by presentation, 4:30-5:30. Refreshments 5:30-6.**

**July 11 Saturday 10-3pm. Timeless Textiles Quilt Show.** Enjoy a day of textile displays, demonstrations and talks. Come view fabulous antique and modern quilts; listen to featured quilter Ginny Canning speak about her work, visit displays, demonstrations and talks, and vote on your favorite quilt.

**July 25 Saturday 5 pm. Ice Cream Social, Music and Dancing on the lawn to Baker Valley Band.**

**August 2, Sunday 4 pm. Jeff Warner “Music in my Pockets”** Singing games, accessible "pocket instruments" like spoons and dancing puppets, tall tales, funny songs, old songs and songs kids teach each other in the playground-all "traditional" in that they have been passed down the generations by word of mouth-will be seen, heard and learned. We will revisit 1850 or 1910 in a New England town, with families gathered around the kitchen hearth, participating in timeless, hearty entertainment: a glimpse into how America amused itself before electricity. This program is recommended for adults and children above 6 and is sponsored by NH Humanities to Go. **Suggested donation \$5.**

**August 9 Sunday 10 am. Old Home Day Service.** Presenter to be announced on the website.

**June-August Saturdays, the New Hampton Historical Society Museum, 30 Dana Hill Road, will be open and feature displays. PLEASE Stop by! DMHA is proud to partner with the Historical Society and promote our shared historic preservation and education. .**

**December 12, 2026 Saturday 4-6 pm. Sixth Annual Lighting of Tree with live candles, Carol Sing and Ashland Reenactors.**

**Timeless Textiles Quilt Show July 11 will include demonstrations, talks and displays curated in historic “sheep pens.” Local venders will have products for sale. If you would like to participate in this event please contact us at 603 733-7050.**

Eileen Lovett will curate the 6th Annual Timeless Textiles Day. Not only does she bring expertise as an extraordinary quilter, but she also brings knowledge of historic quilts and a connection to other New Hampshire and New England Quilt Guilds. DMHA extends a huge “Thank You” for her help in making this such a gorgeous and annual event! THANK YOU!



Margaret Hoyle, also known as “the sock lady,” will be back with her antique sock making machine. She will give demonstrations and also sell her socks.

Elizabeth Humphrey will give demonstrations on spinning and talk about the dyeing process.



Margie Huckins Litwin will create one of her amazing “sheep pen” Installations.

This year she will display her grandmother Ethel Huckins’s sewing memorabilia.



**All Events are free and open to the public.**



# Dana Meeting House Association

Dana Meeting House Association  
PO Box 46  
288 Dana Hill Road  
New Hampton, NH 03256

**Annual Meeting  
Berries, Banter and Farms**

**Saturday  
June 27, 2026  
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Follow Dana Meeting House Association on [www.danameetinghouse.org](http://www.danameetinghouse.org) and like us on Facebook!

## ***PLEASE! Consider a Gift today. Thank you!***

*Please make checks payable to Dana Meeting House Association PO Box 46 New Hampton, NH 03256*

*Flicker \_\_\$25 Candle \_\_\$50 Bench \_\_\$100 Bell Ringer \_\_\$500 Other: \_\_\_\_\_*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**2026 GOALS**  
**Exterior Restoration II**  
**Recruit Board Members**

Would you like to make your donation in honor or memory of someone? \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being a Volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

(best contact info) \_\_\_\_\_

DMHA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization funded by grants and donations.

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

DMHA's Federal Tax Identification Number is: 83-4079210