

Hooksett Historical Society

HHS

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With the recent flooding near K-Mart and on By Pass 28 , this issue's cover photo is from the Flood of 1936. The picture shows the Rail Road Bridge on the left and the Congregational Church on the right. If you think the 2010 flooding was bad, imagine this occurring today. The flood occurred during the month of March. From records, Main Street as in the photo, was 18 feet under water. The Society has a large amount of flood pictures and is always looking for additional photos to add to our collection.

April Meeting

On April 22, 2010 the society will host **New Hampshire : A State of Mind.** This program is a humorous look at NH from the time of King George III to the present. Highlights: Colonial Days, the NH Political Traditions and Culture.

The Speaker will be Carl Lindblade from the UNH Department of

Hospitality , which is made possible by the University of New Hampshire Speakers Bureau . The meeting begins at 6:30 at the Hooksett Public Library.

For more information of Mr Lindblade visit Hooksetthistory.wordpress.com. A short business meeting will as occur and refreshments will be served.

Heritage Day

Hooksett will celebrate Heritage Day on May 22, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events will include a unveiling of a New Jones Tavern sign, walking tours, open house at Old Town Hall with various lectures, video presentations and a ceremony for the State historic Registry. A yard sale and other events are planned.

*Historical
Marker Spotlight*



**Portsmouth and
Concord Railroad**

Construction of the P&C Railroad to connect NH's only seaport with its capital and points west began in 1847. The road entered Hooksett at Rowe's Corner, passed through this area to Suncook and finally reached Concord in 1852.

Always financially troubled, P&C failed in 1855 was reorganized and sold to the new Concord & Portsmouth Railroad. In 1858 it was leased to and operated by the Concord Railroad. Fierce competition led to the loss of its direct route to Portsmouth in 1861, and the rails between Suncook and Candia were torn up shortly after.

In 1944 Boston and Maine purchased all remaining assets of the Concord & Portsmouth. Erected in 2007 by the Manchester Sand, Gravel, & Cement Co, Inc. the sign is located on Hooksett Rd. close to the Allentown line.

Merrimount Ski Area

Hooksett, NH

Mid 1940's - c1956
Courtesy of George Robie and NELSAP

The area consisted of a slope and three trails. The rope tow, a hand made operation run off a car chassis on a platform at the top of the hill, and one of the trails (the most difficult of the three) were on the east side of the area. Two trails were located on the west side. Robie can remember the name of only one of the trails: Sally's Folly, and it meandered quite a way through the woods, actually more like a cross country trail. It ended right behind the lodge. We were far from high tech. The slope and trails were groomed by skis, snowshoes, a bedspring, and sometimes a toboggan. Mattresses were wrapped around some of the trees on the trails as an added safety feature. The area was popular with families because the cabins had kitchens and dinettes, so a family could bring their own food for the weekend and just walk across the parking lot to ski. Sally Robie ran the snack shop and occasionally I helped out in there.



For more information and photo's visit
<http://www.nelsap.org/nh/merrimount.html>

Meeting review

At the March meeting a very interesting video on the Merrimack River was shown. The Hooksett portion contained some great footage of the Hooksett falls from various angles and discussed the significance of the three bridges for their location so close to each other. The Manchester section highlighted the Amoskeag Mills and the usage of Hooksett bricks. Many old photographs of the mills and their construction were included in the video. In the **name the artifact** portion, the members were challenged to identify a item that was used to remove pie from ovens. The Merrimount ski area was also discussed (see separate article).



Two views of the Village Train Trestle