Spring Programs
By Carol Austin, June Derjue

Monday, April 6, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship Hall
Writing from Home: The View from Mary’s Farm presented by Edie Clark, author and a Contributing Editor for Yankee magazine. She will show us how the small and large satisfactions of living close to nature can inform a life with grace, meaning, and beauty as she talks about the view from her home in Chesham, N.H. and reads from her essay collection. There might be echoes of other writers who took nature as their subject – Frost, Thoreau, Dickinson, and Berry. All are welcome.

Monday, May 4, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship Hall
The Role of Land Conservation in Preserving Natural and Cultural Resources presented by Peter Throop, Project Director for the Monadnock Conservancy’s Community Conservation Partnership. The Community Conservation Partnership seeks to help towns in the Monadnock Region build local capacity to identify and conserve important natural resources and special places that contribute to community character and quality of life.

This presentation will summarize how Westmoreland residents answered the question: “What makes Westmoreland special?” and will review the cultural and natural resource that town members considered as they developed a draft set of conservation priorities for the town. The presentation will also include a brief overview of Land Conservation, how it works, and how it can benefit a community. All are welcome.

Monday, June 1, 2009 – 7:00 P.M. – Corner School House
What are Those Old Books Worth? Presented by Henry and Jan Hurley, owners of Hurley Books in Westmoreland, N.H. The Hurleys will research and assess the book collection now located in the Corner School House and will present their findings to the Society. Members and friends are invited to bring copies of their old books to be researched and assessed by the Hurleys. All are welcome.
Volunteers Needed!!

Corner School
Pam and Russ Martens and Patti Seymour planted nearly 400 daffodil bulbs around the Corner School House in the Fall. The bulbs were donated by the Westmoreland Conservation Commission. The Commission received them from the state of New Hampshire as a gesture of appreciation for the Town Cleanup Day it sponsors each spring when volunteers pick up litter along the roadsides in town. This year the Historical Society plans to create a beautiful perennial border garden with flowers, herbs and a few vegetable plants with documented use in the Eighteenth Century. A memorial plaque honoring Westmoreland’s veterans along with a bench to enjoy the tranquil setting will be added to the School House grounds. The new garden will provide:

- Educational tours for school groups, seniors, other historical societies, and the general public;
- A visual aid to encourage similar gardens in Westmoreland;
- A helpful addition to the environment attracting beneficial insects, butterflies and bees; and
- An heirloom collection that would excite the town and boost interest and membership in the Historical Society.

If you would like to help with the garden installation, please contact Pam Martens (399-4860).

History Tour Project
A suggestion was made at one of the Historical Society meetings that it would be nice to have a self-guided tour of the historic sites of Westmoreland for individuals and families. This could be a set of tours based on themes such as the settlement of the town, education and recreation, and business and agriculture with an accompanying map and information.

Paula Page has volunteered to head the project. Jan Carpenter helped her find a great resource to use as a starting point, a slide presentation on the history of Westmoreland done in 1989. The slides have all been scanned and are easily accessible for incorporation into the program.

What is needed now is for anyone interested in the project and willing to help to contact Paula. If you have any interest in helping to research, write and produce a History Tour of Westmoreland please call her at 399-7085. With the coming good weather it is a perfect time to start by getting out and exploring the sites that have made our town what it is today so that it can be shared with everyone!
"HOMES OF WESTMORELAND" Book Publication

The much sought-after "Homes of Westmoreland" book is progressing…slowly. We have the finished index which runs to 85 pages and some sections have had the pictures inserted. Unfortunately there have been many set-backs and delays. We hope to be on the right track now, have hours of proof reading ahead and are well aware of the late spring publishing date we had previously promised. We greatly appreciate the many Donor/Patrons for your continued patience. We believe it will be worth the wait!

The book will contain pictures and written narrative of the history of each house in the town of Westmoreland, including the original builder and inhabitants dating as far back as the late 1700's to the present. The book is the result of years of work and research first begun by the Aldrich sisters, who have both since passed away. Marjorie (Aldrich) Hudson and Anita Aldrich spent years researching deeds, walking down abandoned forest roads, locating surveyor's marks and stone walls and painstakingly transcribing the information from handwritten notes. The effort was continued by Muriel E. Robbins who brought the concept to the Westmoreland Historical Society and Bill Howland "picked up the ball" and spent the next eight years updating and compiling the information and converting it to digital (computer) format. If you have ever wondered how and why and who built your Westmoreland home, you are really in luck. The book will be valued by genealogists and historians alike. Reserve your advance copy today. There will be a limited quantity of "numbered editions" signed by the members of the Westmoreland Historical Society. If you would like your name printed in the front of the book as a "Patron/Donor" and become a part of Westmoreland’s history please contact the Westmoreland Historical Society, P. O. Box 105, Westmoreland, NH, 03467 or call Jan Carpenter at 603-399-7075.

Certificate of Appreciation Presentation

On February 26th this year, Jan Carpenter presented a Certificate of Appreciation to George Malloy (shown at left) for his efforts last fall in cleaning up the Chaffee Cemetery on Hurricane Road. With a few friends, he mowed and trimmed the vegetation, built a better and easier access, and erected sign and fence sections. Pam Martens printed and framed the Certificate for the Historical Society to present to Mr. Carpenter, and we greatly appreciate everyone’s efforts on this project. The Society encourages neighbors of cemeteries to take more interest in the preservation and upkeep of these historic properties. When damage or neglect is noticed, kindly let the Cemetery Commissioners or the Historical Society know about it.

Roundtable Meeting in June at the Town Hall

The Historical Societies of Cheshire County Roundtable/Forum will meet in Westmoreland on June 18th at the Town Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will begin with coffee and pastry then have a roundtable to discuss activities, future plans, and mutual problems for Historical Societies. Further plans for the joint exhibit/project with the Historical Society of Cheshire County relating to school houses in the county will be a major topic. Participants are encouraged to bring lunch or go next door to the Village Store. After noon there will be a carpooled visit to the Corner School House.

Check out our website for more information and past newsletters!!
www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org
Looking for Direct Descendents of Frank W. and Martha A. (Taylor) Aldrich
Our Historical Society has been asked to locate descendents who might be interested in having a group of diaries (9) and copies of six letters from the 1840s (Starkey/Dunbar), some even written from Westmoreland. Jan Carpenter is beginning to transcribe them as the writing is faint and rather difficult to read but still very interesting. The present owner of these documents feels they should be returned to the family. We believe this is the Niles Aldrich line. If interested please call Jan Carpenter at 399-7075 for further information.

Membership Challenge
Our membership challenge was a great success! Even though we didn’t win the $25,000 reward from The Robert & Karin Finlay Foundation to increase our membership, we did substantially increase our membership from 30 to 124. We also increased our "Life Members" from about 3 or 4 to 26! Welcome to all of our new members.

Bequests
Maintaining the Corner School House is our primary mission. We do many things to raise money for that purpose, including publishing our annual calendar. Another great way to raise money to maintain our historic treasure is to include the Westmoreland Historical Society in your will. Now that we have obtained our not-for-profit 501(c)(3) designation it would be a most welcome and beneficial gift if the Historical Society was kept in mind at those difficult times. Your donation will go to a very worthy cause and preserve a piece of history in Westmoreland for future generations to enjoy.

Goods for Sale
Heat Reclaimer for 8” woodstove chimney pipe $35
Small antique platform rocker $65
Coleman lantern $10
Jonsered chain saw, 14” blade $50
1869 Atlas Windham County, VT town maps $15 each. For all items please call 399-7075.

Services
Joan’s Personal Chef Service includes planning, grocery shopping and meal preparation. Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly service available. Call for details 603-499-1667 or www.chefjoan.com

If you would like to list Goods for Sale in our Fall Newsletter, please provide your ad of up to 25 words, telephone number, and a check for $5.00 payable to the Westmoreland Historical Society and mail to:
Westmoreland Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, NH 03467
Horace Wells (January 21, 1815 – January 24, 1848) was an American dentist who pioneered the use of anesthesia in dentistry, specifically nitrous oxide (or laughing gas). Below is the childhood home of Horace Wells in Westmoreland. Do you know where?
Membership & Donation Form

Westmoreland Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, New Hampshire 03467

Name________________________________________________________

Address:_____________________________________________________

Town/City:___________________________ State:_________________ Zip:__________

Phone:_____________________________ E-mail_____________________________

Individual - $5.00     Family - $10.00     Business - $25.00     Lifetime - $50.00

DONOR/PATRON toward the publication of “Homes of Westmoreland” - $100.00

Please accept my Tax Exempt (501c(3)) donation of: __________________________

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