

# DALTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

DALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[www.daltonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.daltonhistoricalsociety.org)



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### October Surprise



With some colorful foliage still on the trees, an unexpected heavy, wet snow coated the Great North Woods in mid October. Lots of broken limbs and downed trees resulted.

Below, a cluster of maple trees toppled onto Faraway Road under the weight of snow, pulling down the power lines as they fell.



### Jacob Barrows - Soldier, Potter

Because the American Revolutionary War began and ended (1775—1783) before the Town of Dalton was officially incorporated and settled, there were no soldiers in this war attributed to Dalton. However, at least one - Jacob Barrows - moved into town in 1806, becoming one of our earlier settlers. Born in 1757 in Mansfield, CT, he enlisted in the militia upon the alarm at Lexington, MA, in 1775, was discharged and reenlisted twice more, finally being discharged in 1780. He lived for a while in Hanover, NH where he worked as a potter, prior to 1795. He and his first wife Lydia Fenton had eight children between 1782 and 1794, most of them being born in Thetford, VT.

Barrows established his home in Dalton along the County Road (Route 135), next to the intersection of Blakslee Road. It is possible the house that exists there today could have been built by him. Mr. Barrows continued his pottery business in Dalton. He may have found the clay near the Connecticut River, where part of his property was located. An old Lancaster account book stated that Jacob made a type of brown pottery that was commonly used in early times.

In 2012, the Historical Society was given some artifacts by the owner of the Barrows property. She had found, among other items, some shards of pottery in the ground near the home. We would like to believe they were produced by Jacob Barrows in the early 1800's. See below.



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Lydia Barrows died in 1813, and Jacob married Emily Waterman in 1814. Jacob Barrows was a Methodist, by faith, holding Methodist meetings in his home as early as 1803. However, he had no issue conveying a piece of his land to the members of the Congregational Church, directly across the road from his home. The Congregational Church building was erected in 1830.

Jacob and Emily had four more children. Some of Jacob's children followed the Mormon church movement out west, and resided in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jacob Barrows died in 1843 in Granby, Vermont.



This covered jug, at left, resides in a museum in Essex, MA called Cogswell's Grant. This was made by Jacob Barrows. The pottery type was redware, and had a lead glaze. We found online that someone from Lancaster, NH provided this piece to the museum, but we haven't been able to find this information again.

Below, the house on the former Jacob Barrows property, owned in 1899 by E. P. Cushman. This house is still standing (although changes have been made). It is possible that Jacob Barrows or one of his sons built it.



Back At The Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Cushman pause in the middle of a busy day in 1899 in front of their home in Dalton.

Courtesy of New Hampshire Historical Society

## Thanksgiving Day, 1943



Members of Tom & Lizzie Smith's family, travelling by horse-drawn sled on Union Road. From Beryl (Smith) Boyles auto-biography: "We got so much snow a car couldn't get through so Pa's hired man went down to the Main Road (Route 135) and picked up the Aldrich's and all the family along the road."

## Thanksgiving, 1897

The following letter was written by 12-year-old Susie Smith, one of eleven children of Charles and Celinda Smith of Dalton. The letter was written November 24, 1897, and the envelope was postmarked "Cushman, N.H." Spelling and punctuation has been preserved. Notes in parenthesis are added by the Historical Society. Sadly, Susie died just two years later of typhoid fever, at 14 years old.

Dear Aunt:

It is all most Thanksgiving day tomorrow is Thanksgiving Oscar (Susie's brother is the oldest sibling at age 28) is coming up tomorrow We are going to have chicken pie and rice pudden with rasins in it. We are going to have some beans. Mince Pie, Apple Pie. I have got two new dresses. Papa (Charles Smith) says he would like to come down to your house to Thanksgiving, Phebe (Susie's sister, age 22) says she wish she had a boil dish for dinner. Tom (Susie's brother, age about 19) has gone to get a job. Phebe and I are knitting. My school has been done two weeks.

Whichumb (Whitcomb) folks are sick with the canker-rashe.

Netter Somers (Nettie, age 21, was a younger sister of Susie's sister-in-law, Clara Smith, wife of Sam) is very sick they say she has got a abses in her side.

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Christmas is very near. Sybil and Clem is keeping house in the woods. Clem is cutting wood. (Susie's sister Sybil Smith and Clem Mooney were married January 18, 1896, when Sybil was just 15 years old, a month from turning 16. Their first child, Charles, was born in 1897.)

Remember me

From

Susie Smith

**Multiple losses.** Before the family moved to Dalton, Charles and Celinda Smith lived in Littleton, NH where an infant daughter named Millie was born and died in the same year of 1876. Alice Smith died at age 11 in Littleton in 1884. The Smiths moved to Dalton around 1888. By 1897, their mother Celinda had died at age 45, leaving Charles a widower with children. Two years later, 12-year-old Ella died September 16, 1899 from typhoid fever. Susie Smith soon followed her sister in death, also from typhoid on September 28, 1899.

## 2020 Thanksgiving During Pandemic

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic of 2020 has turned the world upside-down. The United States saw it's first cases in the northwestern part of the country in January. By November 20th, deaths from the virus has exceeded 250,000 in this country alone. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, most non-essential businesses have been closed at some point; schools have been closed with remote learning taking place, or limited in-person education; face-masks have been either suggested or mandated when out in public places, and many "stay-at-home" orders have been proclaimed by the governors of our states. Life has truly changed for the time being.

With the concern that the virus is now spreading more easily within communities and even between households, many people cancelled or limited their Thanksgiving plans. Some stayed at home with just their household members to share the day. It seems likely that the Christmas holiday will be similarly impacted.

The positive news is that there are at least two vaccines in the U.S. which have seen positive test results, and the Governor of New Hampshire recently stated the first vaccines should be made available to health care workers and the most vulnerable in mid-December, with hopes that the general public can make use of them in the spring.

## The Pandemic of 1918 (or the Spanish Flu)

It has been just over 100 years since the Pandemic of 1918 (the Spanish Flu) overtook the world. That illness took the lives of 675,000 Americans, including about 2500 New Hampshire residents.

We have not determined if anyone from Dalton died as a result of the Spanish Flu. According to vital records in the town reports from 1918 and 1919, and grave-stone dates from Dalton cemeteries, there were about thirteen deaths in town. Only one, a two-month old child, was shown to have died of "influenza", which could have been a more common flu. Other causes were from heart disease, cancer, tuberculosis and pneumonia. There were a few who had no cause listed.

In Dalton's past, as in other locations, other outbreaks of disease have caused loss of life, such as a diphtheria, which caused the deaths of four in a 3-week period in 1895. At least two of them were young children.

Vaccines and education have eradicated many once-common diseases that caused fear in communities.



**PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19 guidelines**, the Dalton Historical Society has not been meeting in person. Please contact us via email or phone for comments and questions. Thank you, and stay safe!

### ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society's officers are as follows:

President: Terri Parks; Vice President: Gary Boyle; Treasurer: Robert Landry; Corresponding Secretary: Terri Parks; Recording Secretary: Doris Mitton

Historical Society **meetings are held the second Saturday of each quarter (Jan., April, July, Oct.) at 12:00 noon at the old Dalton Town Hall**, 741 Dalton Road, Dalton, New Hampshire. Our meeting/display room is in the downstairs rear portion of the building, and can be accessed either from the main floor, using the stairs, or directly through the rear doors, which are wheelchair accessible. Hours are by luck or appointment.

### CONTACT US AT:

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