

CROYDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022

I'm going to speak of this year in a most positive intention. This "new normal" is quite frustrating at times. Three years now on the pandemic watchfulness, still has a hold on the past routines in our lives. Schools dealing with when to wear masks, kids out sick, and now bouts of escalated RSV sickness, trying to have success at virtual learning situations on and off. There are last-

ing side effects for those who had become ill; not able to taste or smell, which are the symptoms of how one suspects having Covid in the first place. Like not smelling that anticipated cup of coffee in the morning, and thinking, 'that's funny, how come?'

The annual **yard sale** in June wasn't disappointing as always. Lots of goods purchased by your generous donation. The weather cooperated aiding us in the success of our major fundraiser to cover overhead expenses.



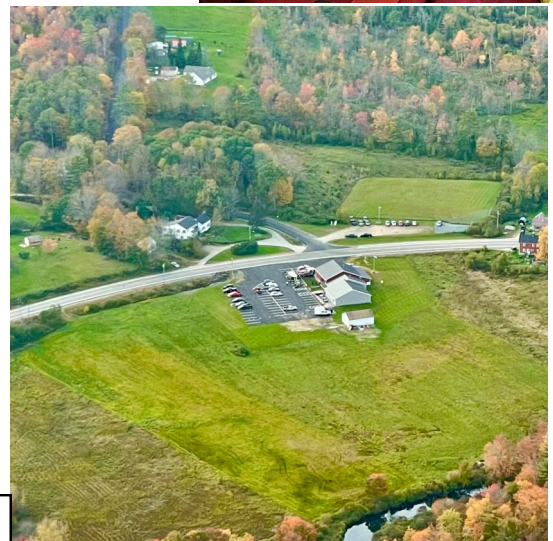
At our **Veterans Day dinner**, held again in modified format, 'to go' meals with curbside pick-up serving many of our town veterans with a complete meal and dessert. Our helpers worked as hard as ever, this format perhaps also one that may not change in the future. Waverly Carruci, Kathi LaCroix, Kelly Bagni, Sue Gromis, Barb Kresse, MaryAnn Dion and I worked this year's event. We hope to be able to continue offering this tribute to our veterans.



Harry Newcomb, at 91 is still our oldest veteran. Many of us in town remember him as our bus driver, but he served as selectman, fire chief and not long ago retiring as fire warden.



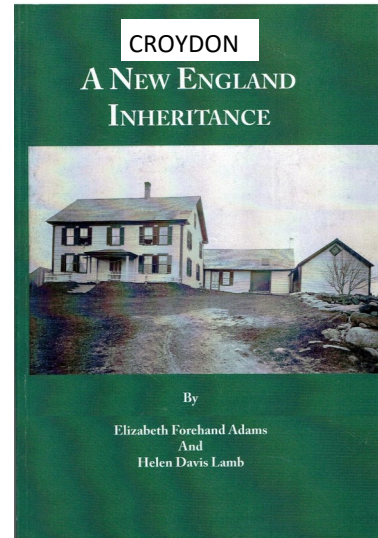
Bea Smith is still the oldest Croydon resident, at 103, she served in many Croydon organizations, and as a checklist supervisor as well. She holds the Croydon cane in recognition of this distinguished honor.



Croydon Fire Station and Sawyer Memorial Field Aerial Shot

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The New England Inheritance book is available which is about the Oliver Forehand family living in Croydon through the years of 1870—1918. This book is an excellent read about daily routine life on the farm then. Lloyd Forehand highlights include his Civil War enlistment at age 16, combat years, and assigned special guard duty at President Lincoln's White House. Present at Ford Theatre when the assassination occurred and he accompanied the train with Lincoln's body to Springfield, IL. A fascinating book based on family diaries and verbal accounts written down as true life history. Well worth your time. **Books are for sale at \$10**



CROYDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE TWO VILLAGES UNDER THE MOUNTAIN: FOUR CORNERS AND EAST VILLAGE



MARY LOU MCGUIRE

We published a new history book this year, Croydon New Hampshire, Two Villages Under the Mountain: Four Corners and East Village. The collaboration of Barb Kresse our Archivist, with MaryLou McGuire collecting data and formatting, this books starts with our earliest known history, the charter, earliest settlers and where they settled creating our various 'town centers'. One featured item in this is the Croydon House.(Inn and tavern). This is the center chimney colonial building to the left of our museum. Built in 1840, it was operated as a tavern by many through the years. David A. Sargent purchased this property in

1870. In 1871 he opened the Croydon House operating year round until his death in 1911. It accommodated 30 guests.

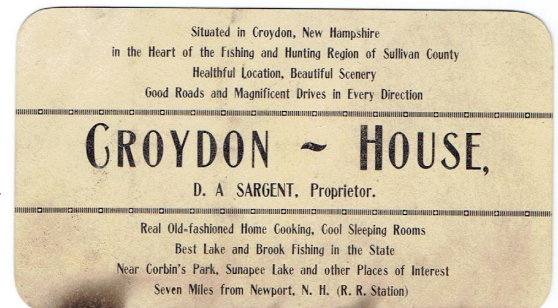
Bob Ransom purchased it in 1983 from Ken and Diane Lurvey.

Robert E. Ransom was born in Claremont, New Hampshire. He had a passion for writing. Teaching English had taken him to a fishing village in West Africa, a mile-high military hospital in the Middle East, the side of a smoky volcano in Indonesia, and Cairo, where "Darwin Code" takes place, a kindle book he wrote. As a Teaching Assistant at Dartmouth, he led discussions and marked papers. Back in the US in 2019,

he renovated the house he'd purchased years before. Bob passed away in March, too short a retirement and a loss to us as a good neighbor.



Croydon House, Inn and Tavern of past as seen today. We hope to gain another good neighbor upon its sale.

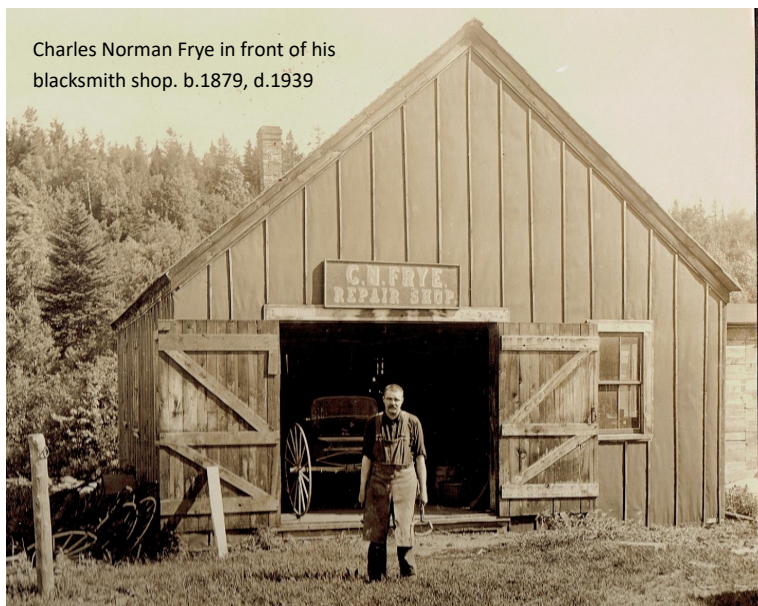


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A very nice one horse open sleigh was donated by Rob Blais and Dan, and will sit prominent in the barn museum. You'll notice in the photo other items acquired over the years to add to our quite complete collection of the agrarian artifacts of life here as lived by our ancestors.



Norman B. and Hannie L. Frye owned and operated a "Cheap Cash Store" and Post Office in East Village opposite the "Alonzo Allen house". After he died, she ran the "Cash Grocer" store and also a library in an upstairs room. (1902-1905) Son Charles Norman ran a Blacksmith and Repair Shop located by the Sugar River across from the East Village brick school. Daughter Mary married Herbert Barton from two doors away and he operated a sawmill in EV for 5 years and held a number of town offices. Youngest son, "Gus" states in the Argus Champion 2/27/74 that "my father was a Postmaster and I used to help him deliver the mail, and we could count on earning seven cents on paper day, one cent for each of the seven customers. If there was a lot of mail my sister would help me". (between 1899 and 1902) Gus lived in the family home most of his life. The house was sold to Gerald and Rita Gross in 1972 for \$3,000.



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We have a pretty good selection of matted prints of the store, school and flat church, originals done by Barbara Huff of Newport. We are offering these for sale at \$40.



We also have some copies of old prints, as the Croydon Flat picture examples below, and some East Village. Some 8x10 framed/unframed, and 11x17 unframed. Priced \$5 & \$10.



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Memory walkway bricks...Orders are still being taken, you can get cards to place orders at the town office, Coniston store, at the museum or download from our website, croydonhistoricalsociety.org. We plan to continue the length as far as possible as years go on. **So, it's not too late to order as we continue to sell bricks.** Bricks ordered are sitting in the barn to be laid, I'm in hope, spring comes early and help shows up, and this wonderful tribute to loved ones will be forever a destination of families, and a reason to come to the museum as well. You can also order memory bricks from us to use at your own home, as I have one of my parents that lived in Croydon Flat for 90 years. It makes me reminisce when I look at it.



Walkway Bricks.

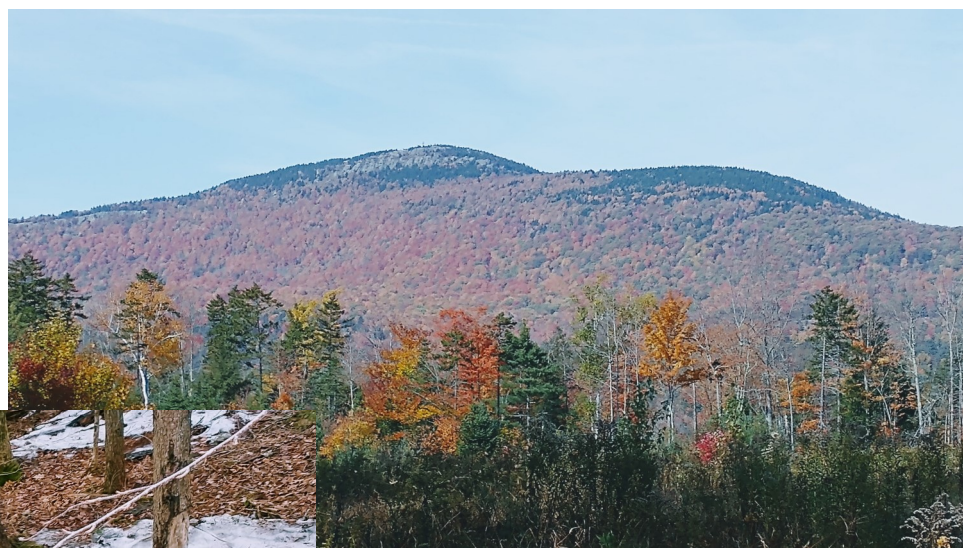
I close this year's letter again with an appeal for more volunteers. We are especially looking for volunteers at the museum to help with data entry. Simple but time consuming. We also would like to have any old photos of your home, events, your ancestors in Croydon that you might be willing to share and have us copy. We'd also love to do interviews with you about growing up here, past and present. Come visit us at the museum, Wednesday afternoons 12-2, call Barb or send an email through our website, croydonhistoricalsociety.org. for an appointment.

I hope you find our report interesting in these challenging times.

Regards,

Jane Dearden, CHS, Pres.

Frozen brook and river ice 'lace' was prevalent in this winter's crazy weather conditions.



Our beautiful mountain didn't fail to give us spectacular fall colors this year!