



Norway Museum & Historical Society

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December 2020

From the Board of Trustees

Dear NMHS Friends,

First of all a very appreciative **THANK YOU for your strong membership support.** We are just starting to collect statistics and we are pleased to report that 80 households of 121 individuals responded to our invitation to become members this past June. To all of you we extend a hearty invitation to our **annual meeting on Tuesday evening January 26th.** We expect to host this meeting on zoom, and we will alert you to plans for that a couple of weeks in advance of the date. We will also be sending our annual appeal letter following this newsletter, so please watch for that in your mailboxes as well.

During this pandemic we have developed new opportunities for collaboration on programs with the Norway Memorial Library. One of these is coming online soon. Tuesday, **December 15th, 6:00-7:00 pm**, there will be a presentation of **"Immigration in the 21st Century: How Immigration is Changing the American and the Global Political Landscape."** Rob Glover of the University of Maine is the featured speaker. To connect, contact the library at 743-5309 or email norcat@norway.lib.me.us. This program is made available to libraries through the Maine Humanities Council in partnership with the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation.

We appreciate your interest in Norway and its rich heritage. Enjoy the newsletter.

Ann Siekman for the Board of Trustees



Halloween Cemetery Tour: On a very chilly Day One of the two day tour, the re-enactors gathered for a photo. They are, l- r, Ben Tucker, Pat Shearman, Peter Hammond, Joanne McDonald, Phil Cosman, Joan Beal, and Brian Partridge. See the article on page four for more photos and news of the tour.

Will You Tell Us Your History of Norway?

We are in the initial stages of planning a new project: collecting your personal history of life in Norway. In normal times, we'd call this an oral history project, but these days, no one will be coming to interview you with a video camera or a tape recorder.

The details are still being worked out, but the project will include asking you to submit your story in writing. We would provide you with a list of questions to help get your memories started, things like going to school, where you worked and what it was like, your leisure activities, your fondest memory, what living in Norway was like, etc. Your "interview" would not be limited to only the questions. They would just be the starting point. Participation will not be restricted to people who grew up in Norway. If you have been here long enough to consider Norway even a part time home, we want your story.

The Society recognizes the importance of collecting the everyday history of past times, before it is lost. If this is something you'd like to help us with, please leave a message at 743-7377, or send an email to norwaymehistory@gmail.com. When we're ready to launch the project, we will let you know.



My Favorite Things

by Susan Denison, Curator/Collection Manager

It is difficult to appreciate its size from the photo on the left, but one of my favorite things in the museum's collection is an impressive peppermint stick, made by Fletcher's Candy Store. It measures 25.5 inches long and is still wrapped in its original cellophane. The candy was given to us in 1993 by Joyce Wilson, from the estate of her aunt, long-time local music teacher Bess Klain. Maybe Miss Klain received it as a Christmas present from some of her students.

Fletcher's Candy Store was in business on Main Street for more than 50 years and lived up to its billing as "The Sweetest Spot in Town." Established by John & Isabella Fletcher around 1904, the business was first located on Main Street across from what is now Fare Share Co-op, and then moved to the corner of Danforth and Main Streets in the building now occupied by The Dragon's Lair. The front steps of the second location are remembered as a great place for the neighborhood to sit and watch a parade. In 1946, the Fletchers' son Roy and his wife Winona took over the candy store, remaining in business until circa late 1950s/1960.

Fletcher's made chocolates, fudge, bonbons and other treats by hand. They also made & sold May Baskets, likely filled with their own candy. They might be best remembered for their ribbon candy and candy canes made only for Christmas. The front window was filled with the holiday candy. The display included a huge candy cane and whoever came closest to guessing its weight got to take it home. Fletcher's also had a small lunch counter that was popular with workers at the shoe shop, and a soda fountain with ice cream treats.

How many museums have a giant peppermint stick that is more than 60 years old? It really is one of my favorite things.

Special thanks to Sandra Fletcher Kennedy for making sure these details are correct.

BUY RIBBON CANDY AT FLETCHER'S

It is Home Made and Pure

Try our Home Made Chocolates 20c to 24c lb.

Some say they don't see but what they are just as good as regular 40c chocolates.

We have a large variety of other Home Made Candies, CARAMELS, FUDGE, etc.

J. H. FLETCHER

Opp. Elm House

Norway, Maine

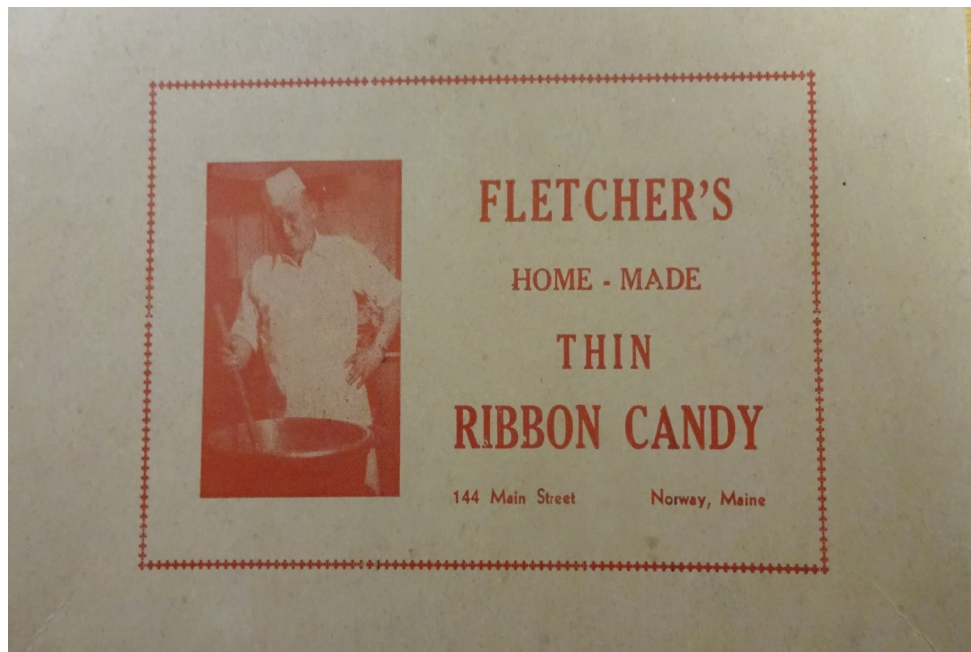
December 1912 newspaper advertisement



Sandra (L) and Shirley Fletcher and Christmas candy canes, circa 1940s/50s. Photo by Jack Quinn, a gift of the Paris Cape Historical Society.



Roy Fletcher and an employee, preparing ribbon candy, circa 1940s/50s. Photo by Jack Quinn, a gift of the Paris Cape Historical Society.



Another item from our collection – a now-empty box that once held Fletcher's ribbon candy.

Halloween Cemetery Tour

Since all programs we had planned for 2020 were cancelled, we were extra pleased when our friends up the street at the First Universalist Church proposed a socially-distanced tour of Rustfield Cemetery at the end of October. While we might have wished for slightly warmer weather, the tours were almost sold out and folks are asking when the next tour might be.

This was a true team effort – church officers & members and NMHS trustees pitched in as researchers, re-enactors and guides, putting the whole thing together in less than two months. The result was the opportunity to hear the stories of some of Norway's early residents and learn a little bit about Rustfield Cemetery.

We appreciate everyone's hard work and would especially like to thank Adrienne Cote of The Tribune for being our ticket agent, and we thank the town of Norway for clearing the leaves from the cemetery. And of course, thank you to all who came on the tour.



Ben Tucker as Benjamin Tucker (1776 -1857)



*Trustee Peter Hammond
as Samuel Ames*



*Joan Beal, left, as Elizabeth Blake Bennett
and Joanne McDonald as Susan Tenney Smith*



*Trustee Brian Partridge
as Stephen Greenleaf*

News from Bygone Days

Researched by Ed Staples

For his Historical Society project, Ed Staples reads the Society's extensive collection of old local newspapers in search of articles of historical significance, human interest, and those that are just plain fun. Ed transcribes the articles he finds and his transcriptions are now part of the Society's collection.

The article below, transcribed by Ed, "Elm House," is from The Norway Advertiser
September 28, 1849 Page 3.

Elm House Norway Village, Me.

S. T. DUTTON, PROPRIETOR

Mr. S. T. Dutton would respectfully inform the travelling public that he has lately taken this NEW AND SPACIOUS HOUSE, where he hopes, by strict attention to the wants of his custom-ers, to merit a liberal share of patronage.

PLEASANT AND AIRY ROOMS,

Which is a great inducement for travelers to call--- It is near the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Rail Road, and a more intimate connection will soon be opened.

In connection with the establishment is a

LARGE AND SPACIOUS HALL

Where parties of pleasure, at home or from abroad, can be accommodated in the best manner.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES will always be in readiness to take persons to any place where the stages cannot convey them direct. Also, Horses and Carriages to let. In the Stable, careful and experienced ostlers will always be in attendance.

The Proprietor trusts that in this Establishment nothing will be neglected that will conduce to the comfort of his customers, and they may rest assured that he will do everything in his power to make this establishment a first class hotel.

S. T. DUTTON

Elm House: This building was built in 1806 by Joshua Smith for his home and store. In 1812, he converted it to a hotel, which he operated until his death in 1843. In 1846, new owners added a third story and named it The Elm House. It operated under several proprietors until 1916 when it was torn down and was replaced by the building that now houses Fare Share. The date of this photo is not known, but may be around 1900.



Norway Museum & Historical Society

Our Mission:

The mission of the Society is to bring people together to share, celebrate and learn about Norway's heritage, by collecting, caring for and exhibiting Norway's historical treasures; by facilitating the collection of and research into family and local history; and by providing programs that make our history meaningful that engage people of all ages.



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