



# Whitefield News

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Volume 4, Issue 5

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November 2016

## Holiday Events

### CRAFT FAIR AT KINGS

MILLS UNION HALL

Nov. 5 from 10 to 2 pm

### CLA HARVEST POT

LUCK SUPPER Saturday,

Nov. 12, at The Sheepscot

General, from 4-7pm.

### SHEEPCOT

GENERAL'S HOLIDAY

BAZAAR Friday Dec. 2,

5pm-8pm at Sheepscot

General Store

### CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM AT KINGS

MILLS UNION HALL

Dec. 4 Annual Christmas

Program 3 - 5pm

## "Doing What's Right"

by Cheryle Joslyn

After months of campaign and political assaults, one could quite easily become disheartened about the future of this country. Meeting young Katherine (Kat) Newcombe, however, is an opportunity to regain hope in the future. Her youthful enthusiasm and commitment to "do what is right", may very well be what America will need to safely guide us into the next decade. She displays the type of respect for our country and for one another that we desperately need right now. November is the "election month", but it also is the month to honor all of our veterans. We are very fortunate to have a young woman right here in Whitefield who can teach all of us something important about "honor".

Phil and Darlene Newcombe raised their 20 year old daughter to have a sense of respect for those who serve this country. Ever since she was a little girl, she and her family have placed flags on the graves of family veterans for Memorial Day and have always brought "extras" for those they might notice were missing recognition. Kat was fascinat-



Katherine (Kat) Newcombe honors Pvt. Joel Ham (courtesy C. Joslyn)

ed reading headstones at an early age. She claims her parents lost her in a cemetery once, but that didn't seem to scare her away from the family's traditional practice to honor America's fallen soldiers. Now in her final year of college, readying to become an English teacher, she has taken on another mission to honor those who served this country.

Kat has made it her mission to reclaim the long-forgotten cemetery alongside Rt. 17 in Coopers Mills and to show her respect for those who are buried there. This Veter-

ans Day two small American flags and a bouquet of flowers mark where Joel Ham (b. 17 Mar, 1776 d. Dec. 1864) was laid to rest. What is currently known about Joel is that he served in the Maine Militia during the War of 1812 as a private in Capt. B Davenport's Company and in Lt. Colonel A. Reed's Regiment. Joel's stone (according to the Whitefield Historical Society) was the only visible stone remaining in the Edgcomb Cemetery in 1977. **Continued Pg. 2**

## A Farmer's Update II

(provided by Ben Marcus @ Sheepscot General)

We asked Ben what keeps him outdoors this Fall. If you garden, farm, or just love the results, you might appreciate his reply:

-We are doing a number of things as we prepare for winter. In order to make sure we have future harvests, we are getting spinach established in the greenhouse and garlic planted in the field. We are still harvesting chard, kale, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, beets and carrots from the field. We are picking the last of the apples off the trees for cider and table apples. Whenever we have ample



Great friends that bring us great local food. Thank you Chuck Acker! Photo courtesy Blue Horse Photography

apples stored up in the cooler, we make cider! We usually only make 20 - 30 gallons at a time with a small press. It is raw and delicious; made with a blend of usually four to six, or more, varieties. Blending apples is the key to making exceptional cider.

-One of the most important things for maintaining the quality of our soil is to cover it going into the winter. It's best to avoid a naked soil in general, and especially through the winter. We get cover crops established in order to hold the soil in place and provide cover and organic matter for the biology.

-While this season is fresh in our minds, now is the best time to start planning for next year. I have fields measured and am drawing up a crop plan. As soon as the seed catalogues arrive, I'll be able to order seeds based on the crop plan.

...and the cycle of the season continues! Thanks, Ben.



Photo courtesy Blue Horse Photography



**Doing Right Cont. from Pg. 1** However, Kat believes Capt. Benjamin Edgecomb, for whom the cemetery was named, is also buried there. Capt. Edgecomb was Joel's nephew.

Kat's father, Phil Newcombe (a 20+ year veteran with a remarkable military service story to tell someday) noticed a tiny cross on a survey of the 15 acres he purchased in the 90's. The cross indicated the location of a cemetery, and he felt obligated to make the site noticeable again. Over the past few years, his family has cut down trees and cleared several gnarly junipers on the 56x30 foot knoll, discovered small pieces of marble markers and three iron boundary markers, and at the Newcombe's request, the Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water conservation district moved its sign which was located right in the middle of the Edgecomb Cemetery. It is Kat's goal, also, to see the wooden rail and metal rod fence standing around its perimeter again as it was described in 1946 Whitefield Historical Society data.

The last known official mention of the cemetery is a Whitefield Historical Society inventory of the town's cemeteries from 1977. It describes the condition of the site as "deplorable" and estimates 18 people may be buried there, although only the one stone was visible and standing in 1977. "This cemetery has no fence and is just a knoll by the side of the highway," the document states. With Kat's determination, honor and respect will be returned to this site once again.

According to Kat's research, Joel and wife Hannah (Blake) Ham and the Edgecombs moved to Whitefield somewhere between 1830 and 1850. Unfortunately, it remains a mystery who else might have been buried in the Edgecomb cemetery. Albert Boynton once recalled that he remembers as a boy seeing that cemetery on a knoll in the hayfield alongside the Sheepscot River. The stones made haying quite difficult and therefore were removed and tossed into a swampy bog nearby. Only a few flat pieces of marble and two iron rods remain. That does not deter Kat, however. She is determined to discover who else is buried with veteran Joel Ham. Foremost though, in honor and recognition of this veteran, Kat will be asking the VA to contribute a headstone for Pvt. Ham to officially mark his resting place. Once that has been completed, she hopes to restore the fence around the cemetery.

How fortunate we are in Whitefield to have youth such as Kat who are raised to value this country and to respect all the generations of people who have helped to make it strong, and thank you, Phil and Darlene! Veterans Day is when we honor all military veterans who served our country, and it formally marked the end of major hostilities in World War I (the 11th hour, 11th day of the 11th month of 1918). This November 11, we applaud Katherine (Kat) Newcombe for her sincere and enthusiastic endeavor to honor veterans, to restore a piece of Whitefield's past, and to "do what's right".



**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
**KINGS MILLS UNION**  
**HALL**  
 Lots of fine gifts and crafts for sale.  
 Join us on Saturday, Nov. 5th  
 10 am to 2 pm



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

mid-October, they focused on trees and leaves. Each student "adopted" a tree and will visit it to see what's changed month by month.

At right, several students take a close look at the lichens growing on the bark of one adopted tree. Students ended their first day with a slow walk out a woods trail, using their new skills of keen observation.

## Whitefield at HVNC

Once again this year, Mr. Trask's 4th grade class at the Whitefield School will be visiting the Hidden Valley Nature Center for a day each month to learn about the natural world up close and observe its seasonal changes. For their first visit in



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer



## CLA Harvest Pot Luck Supper

by George Fergusson

Mark your calendars! The Clary Lake Association Momentum Committee invites you to join us- the community coming together, lakeshore owners, neighbors, friends, and family alike, for a Harvest Potluck Supper to enjoy each other's company, good home cookin' and to celebrate our Lake.

Our Potluck supper will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at The Sheepscot General on Townhouse Road in Whitefield from 4-7pm. The full scope of the event is still being developed, but we are now actively soliciting volunteers willing to contribute food—crock pot items, casseroles, salads, desserts, beverages. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. There will also be a raffle with details to be announced.

The Momentum Committee was formed to foster a positive outlook as we move forward, appreciating what we have been given even in the face of the challenges presented by our lake's current condition, acknowledging the challenges ahead, remembering all the hard work that has been done and will need to continue to be done in order to bring our lake back to its full health. It's a call to thankfulness, generosity and goodwill and to focus on the simple yet powerful potential in people coming together. This event will be one of many in our continued commitment to celebrate the bounty of community and the importance of reverent stewardship of our nature resources.



The money raised will be used in part to fund future Momentum Committee events and activities. For more information or to contribute to this event, please contact Margaret Fergusson @ 207-458-3143; Mary Gingrow-Shaw @ 207-622-3308, or Erin Grimshaw @ 207-346-4640. You can also email the Momentum Committee with questions or suggestions: fundraising@clarylake.org



## Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



The photo above is featured in the Arlington Grange 2017 Calendar.

This year the topic is Villages of Whitefield. All the pictures were graciously provided by the Whitefield Historical Society.

The Calendar can be purchased at the Alna Store, Hussey's General Store, North Whitefield Superette and Sheepscoot General. Or contact Debbie Rogers at 549-3491.



## Summary of recent Select Board activity

by Tony Marple

-The board has approved a solar contract with The Power Company of Washington, Maine. Installation of the panels on the fire station roof will take place in November or December. The board chose a lease model with a buyout option, which provides the town protection with respect to the uncertainties of net metering. Currently, most home owners and businesses with solar panels operate under a net metering contract with their utility which allows surplus electricity generated on sunny days to offset energy use at night and during inclement weather conditions. The LePage administration is opposed to net metering, though the issue is expected to come before the legislature again next spring. The Power Company approach will ensure that the lease expense will be 10% less than what the town's actual utility bill would have been, guaranteeing savings regardless of the net metering regulatory outcome.

-The replacement of the Finn Brook culvert on the Vigue Road is complete, thanks to the funding contributions from the DEP, the Nature Conservancy and Midcoast Conservancy which substantially reduced town funding. Dennis Merrill did a great job in securing the funding and coordinating the project.

-The Northy Bridge on the Howe Road has been removed by the DOT. The DOT replaced the concrete barriers with boulders, landscaped the surroundings and improved parking on the north side.

-The Economic Development Committee was organized by Sue Mckeen during the summer. The purpose of the committee is to understand the barriers and opportunities for businesses operation in town. The committee is also interested in how the community as a whole views the nature and extent of business development in town. The group is also looking for ways to expand and upgrade broadband in town. The committee has mailed surveys to current business owners and will be adding a survey for the community as a whole to the Whitefield Newsletter. The committee would appreciate your participation. The responses will help the committee develop recommendations to the Planning Board and Select Board.

-After issuing a request for proposal for assessing services to a variety of firms around the state, the town has selected RJD Associates of Belfast to serve the town. RJD will be an independent contractor, a change from the current employment model. RJD will begin their work on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Independent assessors do more of their work remotely rather than in the office, though RJD will spend a day a month onsite. We are confident that citizen inquiries will be answered promptly.

-The Planning Board has approved the US Cellular's application to construct a 190 foot monopole cell tower on the Pagurko property on the Townhouse Road. The tower provides access to four other wireless vendors in addition to US Cellular. The Planning Board approved the cell tower with conditions **including** the planting of a cedar tree buffer, culvert replacement and emergency vehicle access.



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## NOVEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm  
**KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 2nd** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm  
**WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 5th** **CRAFT FAIR AT KINGS MILLS UNION HALL**, join us for our annual Christmas Craft Fair at the Kings Mills Union Hall from 10 am to 2 pm
- 6th** **WHITEFIELD TRAILS MAINTENANCE** 9:00 to 11:00 AM, Join the Whitefield Trails Committee for some light trail maintenance on the Happy Farm River Trail. Meet at Recycling Center, wear orange, and bring hand clippers or loppers. FMI call Kit Pfeiffer at 446-9768.
- 7th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm  
**KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 8th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 10th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th** **CLA HARVEST POT LUCK SUPPER** Our Potluck supper will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at The Sheepscot General on Townhouse Road in Whitefield from 4-7pm. The full scope of the event is still being developed, but we are now actively soliciting volunteers willing to contribute food—crock pot items, casseroles, salads, desserts, beverages. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. There will also be a raffle with details to be announced.
- 13th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 17th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 22nd** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 23rd** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 24th** **Happy Thanksgiving**
- 29th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm

*Do you have an event?* Contact [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)



*Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)*

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