



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



The Graveyards of Barnstead



Barnstead Parade Cemetery

By Kristina Schram

Tis the season for spooky things, so I thought I'd write about this unique New England convention I've discovered, where apparently you can establish a cemetery twenty feet from your house and no one bats an eye. Talk about efficient! When we first moved to Barnstead, our family was chatting about all the perks of our new house, and my youngest son, who was four at the time, offered this little nugget: "And if one of us dies, we have a place close by to bury them!" It goes without saying that I'm grateful we haven't had to test the legality of doing this. Yet, anyway.

We didn't have that sort of thing in Minnesota - you know, the burying people in your yard thing. Or maybe we did, we just didn't let on that we did. Being primarily of Scandinavian descent in my neighborhood, we tended to keep things to ourselves and our graveyards far from our homes. Here in New Hampshire you put them where you can keep an eye on them. In our case, that's right from our living room. When our dog, Dorrie, was a little puppy she used to make a beeline for one of the gravestones in our little graveyard that belonged to a woman who had died very young (she was 20). Little Dorrie would sit directly facing the gray headstone, her chocolate brown head cocked to one side as though carefully listening (something she never did for me). I can only imagine the conversation that was going on.

While I'm not quite as cute and entertaining as a puppy, I still try to visit our cemetery when I can, picking up branches from nearby trees and leaving flowers in glass jars to brighten up the place, singing mournful dirges as I go about my business. The residents haven't yet tried to scare me off, so I must not sound too awful. Or they're just that desperate for company

This past Farm Day, the Barnstead Historical Society hooked me up with a list of people buried in our cemetery, and strangely, I found two names on the list that weren't written on the headstones we have. There's a rough remnant of what looks like a tombstone, and a small, upright stone that might also be a headstone, but no names on either one. Are those two extra names supposed to be attached to those bits of stone? I wish I knew.

One of my favorite Barnstead graveyards is the circular hill cemetery behind the fire station. I visited it years ago, before I started working at the library, but when I went there recently to take pictures for this article I found a now familiar name: Foss. As in Oscar and Sarah Ursula Foss. Sarah made the town library possible, and then dedicated it to her husband, Oscar. Now that's a providential find. And maybe just a wee bit eerie.

The graveyards of Barnstead - of any town, really - have stories to tell, and if you listen quietly, head cocked to one side in earnest concentration, you might just hear them. Or me singing. Either way, what a treat!



South Barnstead Cemetery

October Events at Oscar Foss Memorial Library

Story Hour with Miss Jerissa happens every Wednesday, starting at 10:30 in the Meeting Room. She reads stories, leads sing-alongs, and provides a craft to do while you're here. Wednesday, October 5th, features a special storytime with the Barnstead Police Department coming to visit us! Wednesday, October 26th, is Halloween storytime, and attendees, both young and old, are encouraged to dress up!

Have you heard the word about our book group, Mead & Read? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield. This month's meeting falls on October 5th, and the book is *At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracy Chevalier - a perfect read for autumn in New England. Since *Over the Moon* is located across from an orchard, we will literally be at the edge of the orchard. It's kismet!

On Friday, October 7th, at 6:00 pm, we bring to you *Fierce Females: Women in Art* by Jane Oneail and the NH Humanities. "This program examines the history of women in art in brief and then explores the lives, careers and works of several major women artists from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, and Frida Kahlo are some of the artists discussed in this program."

Also on Friday, October 7th, from 5:00 - 8:00, we are hosting Teen (14+) Game Night! Come with your friends and play all the games we have available here at the library. If you like something, you can check it out and bring it home. There are card games, strategy games, board games, and more!

On Tuesday, October 11th at 12:30 pm, we present: Autumn Gelatin Prints. This homeschool art event mixes art and nature. Participants will become printmakers and learn how to make their own unique leaf prints. Pre-register at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com.

On Friday, October 14th, from 4:00 - 6:00, come join the DnD Club (that's Dungeons and Dragons for those of us who aren't in the know). We will be going over rules and expectations for our campaign, ensuring players are comfortable with all topics discussed, and beginning our character creation! Bring DnD dice if you have them.

Family Movie Night is Friday, October 14th, at 6:00 pm, and we will be showing *Hocus Pocus!* This movie is rated PG-13. Snacks will be brains, eyeballs, and toads. Or maybe just popcorn. Prepare to run amok, amok, amok!

The OFML Kids Club happens on the 3rd Friday of the month (October 21st) at 3:30, and is for ages K - 5th grade. This month Miss Jerissa has planned a cookie decorating activity with Cookie Bear Baking, LLC! Please call the library at 269-3900 to sign up for this special event. C is for Cookie, and we hope to C you there!

Want to test your smarts? Try out our Witches Escape Room on Thursday, October 27th and/or Friday, October 28th from 4:00 - 7:30. Do your best to escape the library witches in this halloween-themed escape room! Call 269-3900 or email ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve a 30-minute time slot. Best for ages 12 and up.

The Teen Advisory Board will meet on Friday October 28th from 6:00 - 8:00. Come give your opinion on what you want to see in the library, suggest books to add to the catalog, and have a choice in the programs we do! Enjoy snacks and laughs with your peers.



What is Nature Journaling?

by Rebecca Cowser

Journaling is a creative process where people use images, words, quotes, doodles, drawings and more to convey a moment or a feeling. Wait. Did you just shudder imagining yourself having to draw something? Never fear! Journaling is more about saving thoughts and observations than making artistic masterpieces. Even better, your notebook can center around any theme, mundane or fantastical, that you want, like books you've read and movies you've watched. You could even make a weekly planner, a dream journal, a vision board, or a daily diary. You don't have to draw, either. Maybe you prefer to capture your thoughts and ideas in the form of poetry or photography. There are a million ways to journal creatively, and I encourage everyone to tackle a blank page!

In nature journaling, the goal is to achieve focused awareness when you're outdoors. That is, being present in the moment while in nature. Nature journaling provides an opportunity for you to stop and smell the roses, a sort of meditation where instead of quieting your mind, you release your curiosity to roam loud and free. Nature journaling asks, "What do I notice about this rose?" and "I wonder why roses smell so nice?" It also encourages you to say, "This rose reminds me of..." and "The scent makes me feel..."

Nature journaling is a wonderful activity for all ages. Maria Montessori said, "We cannot create observers by saying, 'observe,' but by giving them the power and the means for this observation and these means are procured through education of the senses." One great thing about nature journals is that they record a moment we can return to and learn from at a later time. A child may watch an orange butterfly floating around a patch of flowers, record the moment in squiggles, then learn in school or in a book that the butterfly's name is *Danaus plexippus* (aka the Monarch). The child may then feel inspired to learn more about the history, food, migration, and threats to the Monarch butterfly, thus transforming her into a citizen scientist. Citizen scientists are the everyday people of all ages who notice these little moments. When we observe what is around us, we become better caretakers of our outside world.

Journaling is an inspiring process that can help us learn and grow through focused awareness. If you're interested in accessing resources on creative or nature journaling, please come to the library! We have books on bullet journaling, collage making, hand lettering, sewing fabric images, and guides on nature, watercolor, and more. The website www.johnmuirlaws.com is also a wonderful resource for anyone interested in watching videos and demonstrations on the topic of journaling.

There's always something happening at the library!

Christmas Time's a Comin'!

We are looking to shine the Christmas lights on the first two vendors signed up to participate in the Historical Society's Christmas Sale:

Back with us from Open Farm Day is Made With Love Custom Quilts. An assortment of lap quilts, pet mats, place mats, and bowl cozies, are just a few of the hand-made quilted items available for purchase. Our second vendor is Ann Watson, who will have a variety of hand-painted items available for purchase, such as painted rocks and sand dollars, along with activities for the kids. A limited number of 8' tables are available on a first come, first serve basis for \$10. Please contact Denise at 603-269-5871 to reserve yours today!

The Historical Society will also have its ever-expanding range of books available for sale, including the Barnstead 50th Anniversary Recipe Book (\$15) and Tales of Barnstead As Told by George Pitman (\$10). From the Recipe Book comes this yummy cake, originally submitted by Mrs. Lloyd Hanson. The Hanson family has deep roots in South Barnstead, and originally owned a store in town that included a Post Office.

Apple Supreme Cake

4 cups chopped apples
2 cups flour
1³/₄ cups sugar
2 tsp. soda
2 eggs
1 tsp. salt
½ c. Crisco Oil
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. vanilla
½ c. chopped nuts

Combine apples and sugar; set aside. In a large bowl, mix eggs, oil, and vanilla. Beat 1 minute on medium speed. Add dry ingredients alternately with apples and sugar mixture. Stir in nuts. Use a large cake pan. Bake at 350-degree for 45-50 minutes. Do not underbake.

This partial story comes from the Tales of Barnstead. You will need to buy a copy to find out how the story ends!

George Wilkes lived above the Pitman Farm by about a mile on his own farm on the west side of the road. Sometimes, when the snow was bad, he and his family lived in Farmington, but most of the time, they lived in Barnstead. This was a time before television and radio and the means of entertaining was conversation and telling stories. As for telling stories, George said that always making them totally truthful was not a prerequisite. You see it is better to have a good yarn, which is not a true story than tell a boring one that is not totally true.



MODELS WANTED!

Oscar Foss Memorial Library is looking for..
Stylish pets who love the camera (and books) for
the 2023 "Pets of OFML" calendar !

Submit a photo of your furry, feathered or scaled friend posing with their favorite book to ofmlstaff@gmail.com by 10/31/2022. Please include pet name, "likes" and "dislikes" and owner's name and contact info.

We will put the photos on our Facebook page the first week of November for voting, and the winners will be featured in our 2023 calendar (and their owner will receive a free copy!) Calendars will be available for purchase late November, just in time for the holidays!



TRUNK OR TREAT

October 29, 2022 4 - 6 PM
at Barnstead Elementary School

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barnsteadparks@gmail.com

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Barnstead

Parks and Recreation



A BIG THANK YOU FROM BARNSTEAD PARKS AND RECREATION

Both the concert series and the swimming lessons were a huge success this summer. Thank you to all those who came out to support the musicians, the organizations selling concessions, and Parks and Rec. And thank you to all of the performers for sharing your talent with us at the Parade Grounds. The amount of positive feedback we have received is astonishing and we are excited to do it all again in 2023.

Swimming lessons were also a big hit this year and we want to thank everyone who participated! It's amazing to see how much the children can learn in just two weeks of lessons and it's always so fun to have the beach full of laughter and children.

Barnstead Parks and Rec loves to serve the community by hosting and/or supporting fun and useful activities. We are currently working on organizing a wide variety of new events and activities for the Barnstead community to enjoy so please follow our FB [page@barnsteadparks](#) for updates.

The Congregational Church of North Barnstead
presents their annual



Pumpkin & Pine

a charming Church Fair

Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9-2

Baked Goods - Treasures - Silent Auction
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Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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please email
danielle@oscarfoss.
org with the details.**

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Community Events for October

Friday, October 7th - Monday, October 10th
from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Fox and Crow Farm, 948 Province Rd Barnstead, NH 03218

Come join us at our Columbus Weekend Farm Store Open House!
Choose from a wide variety of our premium U-Pick Carving Pumpkins, Mums, and Gourds.
Shop our farm store, fully stocked with farm-raised meats, eggs, and farm foods, while enjoying a complimentary Hot Cider, Coffee, or warm pretzel. For more information, visit www.thefoxandcrowfarm.com, or contact us at thefoxandcrowfarm@gmail.com or at (603) 892-4575.

AA is still meeting on Tuesdays from 6pm - 7pm at the Center Barnstead Christian Church.

The American Legion Post #42 and the American Legion Auxiliary meet at the Earl B. Clark Legion Hall on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Cub Scout Pack 43 (Boys & Girls ages 5-10) meets on Tuesdays at BES from 6pm - 7pm.

Scouts BSA Troop 43 (Boys ages 11-17) meets on Wednesdays at the Earl B. Clark Legion Hall from 6:15pm - 7:15pm.

Scouts BSA Troop 53 (Girls ages 11-17) meets Mondays at T.L. Storer from 6pm - 7:15pm.

Girl Scout Troop 10340 (Girls grades K-8th) meets on Fridays at the Barnstead Town Hall from 4pm - 5:30pm.

It's that time of year again and Barnstead Parks and Recreation is going back to the old-style Trunk or Treat party! If you want to be a trunk, please contact us! We have a DJ lined up and there will be prizes for best trunk, and also for best costumes for the kids (judged using age brackets). So be sure to email us if you want to be a trunk, and/or if you would like to donate a prize or give toward helping us purchase prizes.



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