



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



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BARNSTEAD-BANNER

(PLEASE DON'T) BITE ME

by Kristina Schram

I don't know about you, but I'm glad summer has passed. I can't figure out what it was about me this year, but the bugs really enjoyed feasting on my tender bits. At one point I had 25 bites, and when I tried to reach them (all at the same time, of course) I'm pretty sure I looked like the Tasmanian Devil. The first bitefest happened while mowing; the second while kayaking, and the third while re-stacking old wood. There wasn't a fourth because after that, every time I ventured outdoors I sprayed myself with enough insect repellant to fell a moose.

I'm pretty sure chiggers were the culprit. Apparently they're part of the arachnid family (their cousins are spiders, just so you know what we're dealing with here). Adults are tiny and red and maybe kinda cute, but only if they stay in their lane.

The babies, who do the actual feasting, are super tiny and super voracious and prefer the dine-and-dash method of getting their sustenance (Rude!). When my husband saw the carnage they left behind, he yelled, "Bad babies!" I concurred. And I've since learned that if I don't treat the bites right away, I end up with large purple spots that last for months, like I was attacked by an octopus, or the plague, or a plague of octopuses. While this sounds kind of cool, in reality, it is not. It is just weird looking.

I had never encountered chiggers before coming to New England, and in fact, thought they were a down south sort of thing (along with all their other annoying insects). But no, they live in New Hampshire, and more specifically, apparently off of me. They love to camp out in areas where the clothing sits a little tighter, which makes sense when you think about it... those soft, fleshy areas are probably more appealing to the little twerps. They certainly aren't the only ones to feel that way. Unfortunately, those same areas are located where, if you scratch the bites in public, it might come across as a wee bit inappropriate. My advice is that during your high-itch stage, avoid people with recording devices. Take it from me, exhibiting unintended lewd behavior is not how you want to become Instagram famous.

Now yes, October is known for all sorts of other bitey things, like vampires and werewolves and Chucky, so I'm not out of the woods yet. If these other creatures do come around, though, I know exactly what to do. I'm going to sic the chiggers on them. Then again, maybe that's a terrible idea, because what if after partaking of tainted flesh, the baby chiggers become monsters themselves? If that's the case, I think it's time to move somewhere no chigger can go...an iceberg. And if the little monster babies do follow me, then I can guarantee payback...in the form of frostbite. Ha, ha!



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Worship Service 9:00 A.M.
Rev. Sandy Pierson—483-2846

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Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthy and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

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Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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OCTOBER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (Oct. 8).

Home School Group: Run by group members, it takes place at the library meeting room on Fridays from 10:30-12:30. Involves a mix of stories, simple science/learning activities, and a creative art/craft activity that all go along with a theme for the week. The activities are geared towards kids ages 4 and up, and younger siblings are welcome to come along. There will be an event posted ahead of time on the group's Facebook page (Barnstead NH Library Homeschool Group) for each weekly meet-up, so you'll always know what to expect and if you need to bring anything.

Music and Movement Storytime, aka Littles Love to Learn! Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 for an interactive storytime filled with group singing, dancing, imaginative play, crafts, and stories, all designed specifically for babies and toddlers.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 is **Children's Storytime**. Visit us at the library for stories, crafts, and singing. Then experience the cozy ambience in the children's area, which has all sorts of neat things to do. Make new friends. Set up playdates. Check out books, movies, and games, play with the trains, Legos, and puppets. Come for the learning, stay for the fun!

Start your week off with **Yoga Monday!** Gentle Hatha-Flow runs from 10:15-11:40, Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga is 12:00-1:00, and Intermediate Hatha-Flow lasts from 5:30-6:50. Classes are by donation (suggested \$8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate.

Build an Analog Bag at Oscar Foss Memorial Library! Throughout October, visitors are invited to decorate a bag and fill it with screen-free activities such as embroidery kits, crochet supplies, puzzles, coloring sheets, sketchbooks, paints, and more. It's a fun way to take a break from doomscrolling, explore a new hobby, and discover library books that can help you learn. This free, self-guided program will be available during regular library hours while supplies last.

Calling all Mahjong fans - come join us at the library! Players meet the first (Oct. 1) and third (Oct. 15) Thursdays of the month at 1:30. No registration or expertise required. Please note that we play the Chinese version, not the American one.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6:00, join us for an adult **Ghost Garland Craft (18+)**. Get in the Halloween spirit and join us in making ghost garlands. Examples will be available on flyers. Registration is required.

Playing a musical instrument alone at home is fun, but it's more fun to make music with others. Adult musicians of all ability levels are invited to join our small group. We meet in Barnstead's library meeting room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm every first (Oct. 6) and third Tuesday (Oct. 20) of the month, and play acoustic (non-amplified) instruments like guitars and ukuleles. Other instruments that might round out our sound would include the harmonica, fiddle, mandolin, etc. (Unfortunately, horns and other instruments that can't be played softly would overpower our softer sounding instruments.) We play various kinds of songs including folk, country, Irish, rock, and more. Sessions are very informal, and the goals are to meet people, share skills, and have fun. Check the calendar on the library website to confirm dates. Please join us!

Our **Read the Room Book Club (ages 18+)** takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (Oct. 7), from 6:00-7:30. This month's book will be "Isola" by Allegra Goodman. Next month's book will be "The Genius Bat" by Yossi Yoav. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

NEW! We are starting a Chess Club! Beginning this September, join us at the library every 2nd (Oct. 8) and 4th (Oct. 22) Thursday of the month at 6:00. No registration required, this is a drop-in program hosted in the adult fiction area. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own board if you have one, or use one of ours!

On Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6:30, we are hosting "Brewing in New Hampshire." Glenn Knoblock explores the fascinating history of New Hampshire's beer and ale brewing industry from Colonial days, when it was home- and tavern-based, to today's modern breweries and brew pubs. Unusual and rare photos and advertisements document this changing industry and the state's earliest brewers, including the renowned Frank Jones. A number of lesser-known brewers and breweries that operated in the state are also discussed, including the only brewery owned and operated by a woman before the modern era. Illustrations present evidence of society's changing attitudes towards beer and alcohol consumption over the years. Whether you're a beer connoisseur or a "tea-totaler," this lecture will be enjoyed by adults of all ages. This program was made possible by NH Humanities. Registration is encouraged.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and in recognition, the professionals at New Beginnings "Without Violence and Abuse" are bringing the survivor story presentation, "In Her Shoes" to the library. This talk takes place on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 6:00, and is for 18+. Registration is encouraged but not required.

On Friday, Oct. 16, from 5:00-6:30, we are doing a Fox Bead Tapestry crafting event. Follow along as we string beads to create a fox tapestry for you to take home and display! All supplies provided. Registration is required.

NEW! Introducing Young Readers Book and Art Club! Held the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00, and starting Oct. 21, this program is designed for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their favorite books and enjoy crafts or art activities. Light refreshments will be provided.

On Thursday Oct. 22, from 5:30-6:00, we are having a Costume Contest! Show off your costume and vote for your favorite. After the contest, join us for a special "Film to Table" event featuring "Hotel Transylvania." From 6:00-8:00, watch this fun movie and eat themed food and drinks along with the characters on the screen. No need to do the costume contest to do the "Film to Table" event. All ages welcome. Registration is required.

OFML is hosting a Fall Photography Contest! Calling all photography lovers: For one month (9/23-10/23), we are asking you to send us your best "Fall in NH" photo! One entry per person, the photo can be digital or physical, but please include your name and contact info. If your photo is in digital form, you can email it to ofmlstaff@gmail.com. After Oct. 23, we will post all the entries on our Facebook page, and in the library for voting, and the best photo will be announced on 10/29/26. The winner will receive a prize basket and their winning photo will be showcased in our display case during the month of November.

We are hosting a special Halloween Storytime on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 10:30. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes for trick-or-treating at the library!

On Thursday, Oct. 29 (NEW NIGHT! Last Thursday of the month), from 6:30-8:00, join us for Books & Banter. Read what you want, then come talk about it! Books & Banter is an 18+ book club with no assigned reading. Discuss whatever you've been enjoying lately, whether it's new, old, borrowed, or rediscovered. Share what stood out, hear what others are reading, and find your next great recommendation in good company.

Our "Let's Write a Novel!" writing group is looking for fresh faces (16+) to join our "Hero's Journey" experience. This structured group will help take your MG, YA, NA, or Adult story idea from concept to can-do! This class runs 6:00-7:30 on the last Friday of the month (Oct. 30). No writing experience necessary.

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Historical Society Page

Oscar (1845–1913) and Sarah (1851–1923) Foss

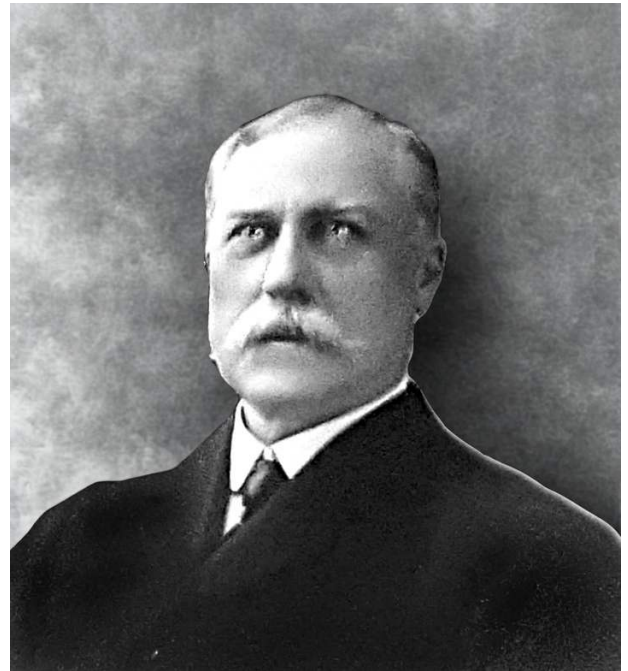
Oscar Foss was born in Barnstead on November 17, 1845, to Elias H. Foss and Mary Ann Furber Foss. His wife, Sarah Ursula Young, was born in Barnstead on December 13, 1851, to Civil War veteran Olier Pitman Young and Emily Jane Tuttle.

Oscar was a businessman whose primary trade was lumber. In 1866, he purchased the Seward Saw Mill, which is pictured on the stage curtain in the town hall. By 1895, he had purchased five additional mills. He also helped bring the railroad to Barnstead.

After Oscar's death in 1913, Sarah established a trust in his memory that led to the creation of the Oscar Foss Memorial Library. The building was constructed in 1916 and dedicated on October 27, 1917. At first, the library occupied one half of the front portion of the building, while the town office occupied the other. In 1985, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Oscar and Sarah are buried alongside their only child, Inez, in the cemetery behind the Center Barnstead Fire Station.

And yes, according to his people, the sometimes friendly, four-pawed orange visitor is named after Mr. Foss! We're not sure whether he crosses the street to visit his namesake.



OSCAR FOSS



OSCAR THE CAT



BARNSTEAD COMMUNITY FEAST



NOVEMBER 21 | 12 – 2PM



Join us for a delicious meal and warm company as we come together to celebrate being a part of the community of Barnstead and share a traditional Thanksgiving meal together.



**Get more
information
and RSVP**



tinyurl.com/BarnsteadFeast2026

Questions? Contact (603)269-3900



Community Events

Board of Selectmen Meeting is weekly on Tuesdays starting at 6PM.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held Tuesday evenings at the Center Barnstead Christian Church and Sunday at the American Legion Post #42 at 1078 Beauty Hill Rd, Barnstead, NH 03218 starting at 7PM

The Milfoil Committee meets at the library on 10/10 at 9AM

Barnstead Tricentennial Committee meets at the library on 10/5 at 7PM

Planning Board meets 10/15 at 6PM at the Town Hall

Suncook Valley Farmer's Market is Saturdays at 10AM by Barnstead Elementary School. The last market is 10/10!

Trunk or Treat will be held on 10/24. See the Barnstead Parks and Recreation Facebook page for more details.

For more information about Barnstead Events, use the following links:

Community Event Calendar: <https://teamup.com/ksojztyx6jsgmd92n2>

Barnstead Elementary School Calendar: <https://bes.pmsau.org/o/bes/events>

Prospect Mountain High School Calendar: <https://pmhs.pmsau.org/o/pmhs/events>

Barnstead Town Calendar: <https://www.barnstead.org>



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