



The

# Richmond Rooster

## Something to Crow About

November 2023

### Bennett Town Forest Hike Wendy O'Brien



On Sunday, October 1st, seven local residents, along with Conservation Commission member Dick Drew, Town Clerk Karen O'Brien, and Town Librarian Wendy O'Brien, took a hike through the Bennett Town Forest. The hike was in conjunction with the NH Humanities Big Read program, where patrons of libraries throughout the state read *The Bear* by local author Andrew Krivak. *The Bear* is a post-apocalyptic story of the last girl on Earth as she journeys to and from "The Mountain That Stands Alone," which we know as "Mount Monadnock." Befriended by a bear and a puma, she learns through her journey how to survive on what was available from the New England woods.

The hike opened with an insightful presentation by Karen on plants in the New England woods which the young girl might have utilized during her journey. Participants learned about the healing properties of a number of local plants, including ragweed (*our favorite cause of allergies*) which was used by native peoples as a poultice for insect bites, fevers and nausea, and the aromatic sweet fern which can be used to make tea and may be used as a cooking herb. Karen treated us to her own sumac lemonade which was especially refreshing after our hike.

Dick Drew then led the group on a hike on an old Town Road through the Bennett Forest. The road bore evidence of the heavy rain the day before as we persevered through vast puddles and mud. We stopped at the cellar hole of the Ellis Homestead, first settled by John Ellis, a Revolutionary War soldier, around 1760. This was a large house for its time as it is 58' x 44', with attached barns. This house was still standing in 1884, but was uninhabited.

The next stop was at an unknown structure made of field stone. Dick surmised that this is the remains of a log cabin, as it is too far away from the Ellis Homestead to be a barn. The 26' x 36' rectangle has no openings, so it could not be a paddock. We then turned right back onto the town road headed back towards the trailhead. If we had continued straight, we would have come to the Ellis Cemetery. James Ellis, a grandson of John, was buried there after being thrown from a wagon in Templeton, Massachusetts in 1813. Christopher Bullock, one of Richmond's first settlers, was also buried here, having died in 1809 at 89 years.

Our final stop was the Henry Bullock Homestead, which was originally the home of Deacon Martin Ellis, father of poor James. This large cellar hole made of milled stone is in excellent condition. Cut granite blocks remain on the left where the barn was located. Dick believes this to be a prosperous homestead, due to the quarried stonework, the evidence of pumped water from the well, and a summer kitchen in the back. This house was also standing in 1884, still inhabited by the Bullock family.

We then headed back to the trailhead, those of us with tall boots enjoying splashing through the mud puddles. Karen pointed out plants along the way back, reminding us that indigenous people also had lived in this area and used woodland plants for both food and medicinal purposes. Arriving back at the parking area, drinking sumac lemonade, it was interesting to think about how this forest has been used by people over the past thousand years. The young girl in *The Bear*, living in a fictional post-apocalyptic time, found a world similar to that encountered by native peoples and the first European settlers. With Dick and

Karen there to guide us, this older world became clear. The forest has many tales to tell to those who know. The following resources were used in writing this article (both of which are available at the RPL):

- Bassett, William. *History of the Town of Richmond, Cheshire County, New Hampshire*. Boston: C.W. Calkins, 1884.
- Jameson, Carol. *Nature Hikes in Richmond, New Hampshire, and Neighboring Towns*. Swanzey, NH: Silver Direct, Inc.: 2021.





## ***Holiday Fair***

### **Sat. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9 am – 2 pm**

**Richmond Veterans Hall**  
**150 Old Homestead Highway**  
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## **A History of Richmond -**

### **In the Beginning**

Lenny Solomon,

Richmond Historical Society

Richmond's first charter was granted by Benning Wentworth, governor of the province, under George II, to Joseph Blanchard and fifty-nine associates, on February 28, 1752. Under the terms of the charter, the grantees had to clear and farm at least five acres of land for every 50 they occupied. Also, this had to be accomplished within five years.

Times were hard, however. Despite occasional raids and skirmishes between the colonists and the Native Americans, the period of 1752 to 1754 was one of relative peace. This ended in 1754, the beginning of the French and Indian War. The French and Indian War (1754–1763) was just one of the conflicts folded into the Seven Years' War, which pitted the British and its allies against the French and their allies. Fighting took place in both the Old and New Worlds, as well as in Asia. Essentially, it was a fight for global domination (*so what's new?*). Due to the disruption caused by the war, the harsh climate, and lack of workers willing to emigrate to a hostile New Hampshire, the colonists could not fulfill their part of the agreement.

Because the conditions of the charter were not complied with by the grantees, the charter had to be renewed. This renewal was made by Governor Wentworth on June 11, 1760.

In renewing the charter (essentially a land grant), the grantees and the settlers under them obtained the security for their land titles and allowed the settlers an additional year to perform and fulfill the grant's conditions. The grantees had to renew the terms of the charter annually until his "Majesty's Plenary Instructions" should be received. This was the equivalent of a final confirmation of the grant.

Two years later, on December 11, 1762, a portion of the new township was annexed to Swanzey. This left the township an area of 23,725 acres, according to an 1805 survey (*I think you can see why the townspeople disliked the King's government*).

## **Richmond Historical Society**

**Richmond, NH The Town and The Forest,  
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In June 1815, however, this area was again reduced. A section of Richmond, along with portions of Swanzy and Fitzwilliam, was taken to form the township of Troy (*I think you can see why the townspeople disliked the NH state government*). It's interesting to note that this line was made very irregular in order to run around Oliver Perry's farm because he stoutly refused to have his property included in the new township.

No further changes were made to the town's boundaries until 1850, when part of Richmond's territory was added to Winchester. This was the last amputation the good township was forced to endure. Sources for this article were:

- *History of Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, New Hampshire, Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1886*
- *Gazetteer of Cheshire County, N.H., 1736-1885* by Hamilton Child, Syracuse, N.Y.: H. Child, 1885
- *HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND NH* by William Bassett, C.W. Calkins, Boston, 1884

## Guess who was Spotted at DubHub?

**Fran Heap**

(photos by Alan Conklin)

"Pie & Prine" was a combined pie contest and folk concert at Dublin's DubHub on October 8th. There were so many people, store-bought pies had to be served at intermission when the homemade ones ran out, and the concert was moved indoors to the nearby Congregational Church.

The donations-only concert was a tribute to the late John Prine and was sponsored in part by the Monadnock Folklore Society. Local area musicians lent their time and talents to the event. In fine voice, was Richmond-raised Ruth Blais Thompson!





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## Learning about Graves

**Fran Heap**

(photos by Alan Conklin)



Guests at Glenn Knoblock's presentation, "New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones," were treated



to a comprehensive look at the changing styles of NH gravestones and customs surrounding them. Mr. Knoblock included many important headstones he found in our Richmond cemeteries and was impressed with the work of our cemetery trustees in maintaining these precious historical markers

This free event was made possible by a grant from NH Humanities and the sponsorship of the Richmond Historical Society ("RHS"). RHS always welcomes new members.

## Books by Barbara and Tim Rogers

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### Richmond's Extraordinary Woman, Susan Harrington Pam Bielunis

The Harrington Family has had its challenges over the past year, but Susan Harrington deals with those on the home front while taking care of town business with a smile.



When I heard the Keene Sentinel was looking for nominees for the 2023 Extraordinary Women Awards. I immediately thought of Susan and submitted the following nomination:

*Susan Harrington holds the critical role of Town Administrator for Richmond, NH. She began working as the Administrator's Assistant in October 2015, but within a short time the Town Administrator had to terminate for medical reasons. Susan filled the void and assumed the Administrator's duties as well as her own. She stepped up to the challenge, did an amazing job, and was quickly promoted to Town Administrator.*

*She is regularly asked to assume many roles. In most cases, Susan recognizes what needs to be done prior and completes these tasks in a timely and thorough manner. Although she may not have realized it when accepting this position, there are many tasks that fall under the scope of this job. These include but are not limited to: assisting residents and staff with any issue, financial tasks, election planning, going out in the field with the road agent, researching legal issues, working with tax maps and building permits, managing town buildings, complying with FEMA protocols after the flooding, and coordinating all committees, meetings, and town events. None of these could be accomplished without Susan's hard work and dedication. In addition, she makes herself available to take on additional tasks and research, willing to help anyone in town.*

*One selectman commented, "Susan always puts in 110%. She is an asset to the Selectmen Board on all issues" (Andrew Wallace). The Tax Collector states, "I have worked with three different town administrators. Susan stands out as the stellar employee demonstrating attributes of the highest caliber. She tackles any task and is prompt to obtain answers and resolutions. I can go to her and am confident she will help me without a complaint no matter how busy she is. I would give her 6 stars on a 5-star scale" (Steve Boscarino). The Chairman of the Board of Selectman comments, "I have*



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# From a friend on Athol Road

*worked with Susan for 7 years. She has perfect attendance, comes in for extra details, and she puts in 12-14 hours on election days. She is not only an asset to the Board of Selectman, but to our entire community” (Bill Daniels). Her co-worker states, “Susan makes the Town Office a very welcoming and friendly place for everyone. I am in awe of her patience even in the most trying situations. This office would not be the same without her” (Jennifer Thompson).*

*Susan carries many responsibilities in all aspects of our town government. She has a wonderful personality and an infectious sense of humor. She lives in Richmond with her husband and two children. In the past year, her husband was in a serious motorcycle accident. She continued to work while caring for him plus took on the additional home responsibilities while he was recovering. Susan is our rock in town and at home.*

*Her work ethic, pleasant personality, professionalism, and dedication are exceptional. Susan implements strong customer service principles daily. All of Susan’s interactions contribute to promoting a positive image of Richmond. I highly recommend Susan be selected because she exemplifies the qualities of an Extraordinary Woman for 2023.*

*Thank you for this opportunity to recognize Susan’s amazing accomplishments and character.*

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Although Susan was not selected for a Keene Sentinel 2023 Extraordinary Woman Award, she is Richmond’s Own Extraordinary Woman. Susan, thank you for all you do for Richmond!

## Golden Pumpkin Bars Terri O’Rorke

### Ingredients

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1/4 C. vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 (16oz.) can pumpkin
- 1/2 C. slivered almonds, chopped (optional)
- 1 (14oz.) can condensed milk
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1/2 tsp. each, ground cinnamon and salt

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees (325 for a glass dish). Set aside 1/2 cup of cake mix. In large mixer bowl, combine remaining cake mix, oil and 1 egg, beating until crumbly. Stir in nuts. Press firmly on bottom of greased 13” x 9” baking pan.
- In same bowl, combine remaining ingredients, mix well. Pour over prepared crust. Bake 50 mins. or until set. Cool. Cut into bars.

Makes 24 - 36 bars.



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### Don't Panic about EMS Yet Fran Heap



By the time this edition of the *Rooster* reaches houses in Richmond, Chief Mike Spain will have retired from Cheshire County Emergency Medical Services ("CEMS") and Deputy Chief Chad Butler will follow shortly thereafter. This leaves vacancies at the new Swanzey facility which might make Richmond residents nervous. However, Acting Fire Chief Rob Skrocki has these reassuring words about our mutual aid agreements:

*If CCEMS is not available, we would rely on our neighbors in Fitzwilliam and Winchester to provide an ambulance for us. If they are unavailable, CCEMS has an agreement with Great Brook EMS out of the Concord Area, and they would send an ambulance to us.*

### Town Clerk Tidbits Karen O'Brien

#### Business Cards Wanted

As a benefit to local businesses, we have installed a business card holder in Town Hall. Any local business or service is invited to bring some of its cards and display them. There are many folks in town

who are looking for a specific service or goods, and it is our pleasure to help support local businesses. We do not endorse any in particular, but would like to be able to give a boost to the local economy.

#### Returned Checks

As stated previously, we are seeing a number of returned checks. PLEASE be sure you input the correct routing number for the bank, as well as your checking account number. DO NOT use a debit or credit card number even if it is linked to a checking account – these will be returned as they are not considered checks by the bank. If we do receive a returned check, there will be a service fee of \$40 added to your amount. We must have either a bank check or cash. If you do not comply, the DMV will suspend your registration.

#### RSA 6:11-a

*Any payment received by any state department or institution for a fee, license, or product which is returned to the state department or institution as uncollectable shall be returned to the sender and not deposited with the state treasurer. Whenever payment of any fee or for any other purpose is returned to any state department or institution as uncollectable, the department or institution may charge a fee of \$25 or 5 percent of the face amount of the check, whichever is the greater, plus all protest and bank fees, in addition to the amount of the initial payment to the person presenting the payment to the department or institution to cover the costs of collection.*

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## Richmond Holiday Fair Alison VanBrocklin

The 2023 Richmond Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the Veterans Hall, 150 Old Homestead Highway (Route 32), Richmond, NH. Shopping hours are from 9 AM – 2 PM. The Fair is sponsored by the Richmond Community Church. Enjoy luncheon in our Holly Café from 11 AM–1 PM, featuring corn chowder, chili, sandwiches and dessert. All community members are invited to drop off contributions to the church bake sale table on the morning of the fair.

Start your holiday season with a trip to the Holiday Fair! We have local artisans presenting a variety of quality hand-crafted gifts and confections including stained glass ornaments, wooden creations, hand-knit and crocheted treasures, traditional German baking, jewelry, quilted items, mixes and lotions, fairy gardens and a variety of seasonal gifts.

We hope you will join us for this unique shopping experience! For further information, please call Alison at (603) 239-4494. (*At the time of this writing, there were still a couple of spaces available for vendors to rent; please call if you are interested.*)

## Library News Wendy O'Brien

### Library Calendar for November

Anytime: StoryWalk @ Amidon Park - *The Thing to Remember About Stargazing*, Matt Forrest Esenwine  
Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime  
Saturdays, 10 AM - Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle  
Wednesday, Nov. 1st, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces  
Saturday, Nov. 4th, 7 PM: Family Owl Program with Suzie Spikol  
Thursday, Nov. 9th, 6 PM: Documentary Screening: *Bearer of the Morning: The Life of Te Ata Thompson Fisher*  
Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 6 PM: Book Club, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann

Nov. 15th - Dec. 6th: Holiday Handcrafts Raffle

Nov. 23rd: CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday

### Richmond Reminisces

On Wednesday, November 1st, at 11 AM, come and visit during our new monthly program "Richmond Reminisces." In October, we enjoyed remembering good times at Cass Pond, including birthday parties, swimming, and the natural world which surrounds the Town Beach. These memories will be recorded for future generations to enjoy.

### How to Prowl for an Owl

Join us on Saturday, November 4th, at 7 PM for a fun family program about owls. Susie Spikol, a naturalist at the Harris Center for Conservation Education and author of *The Animal Adventurer's Guide: How to Prowl for an Owl, Make Snail Slime and Catch a Frog Bare-Handed*, will be returning to Richmond for this special evening event. We'll learn all about owls and then spend some time outside in Amidon Park listening for our feathered friends.

### Special Documentary Screening: *Bearer of the Morning*

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, we are pleased to have permission from the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma to screen *Bearer of the Morning: The Life of Te Ata Thompson Fisher* on Thursday, November 9th at 6 PM. This is a 54-minute documentary



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highlighting Te Ata's extraordinary life as a Chickasaw woman. Her talent and passion opened the eyes and hearts of the world to First American culture. The documentary details how Te Ata transcended cultural and racial barriers to create a lasting legacy during a career that spanned more than 60 years.

### Holiday Handcrafts Raffle

We are pleased to announce that the fourth annual RPL Holiday Craft Raffle will be held November 15th - December 6th. Many local craftspeople and artisans have generously contributed their beautiful creations. Be sure to drop by the Library to find a special, unique, and locally created gift and support your Library at the same time!

### New Titles

*12 Months to Live*, James Patterson

*Judgment Prey*, John Sandford

*Traitors Gate*, Jeffrey Archer

*Holly*, Stephen King

*North Woods*, Daniel Mason

*Of Time and Turtles*, Sy Montgomery

### **Missing Cat**

Kasha, a black & white female tuxedo cat, was last seen in the Colony Hill Road area of Richmond on October 1st. Please call the Monadnock Humane Society at (603) 352-9011, Ext. 101, if you spot her, and mention Ten Thousand Eyes ID# 1755.



Please join us for our annual  
**Richmond Fire Department**



**Saturday, November 18, 2023**

**Where:** Richmond, NH Fire Department

(Next to the intersection of rte 119/32)

**Hours: 9am-12pm**

**\*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST\***

Pies and baked goods will be available for cash or check purchase in an effort to support your local first responders

If you have any questions or would like to donate a homemade pie or a baked good, please contact Erin at 603.757.3494 or [ERIN.LYMAN3@gmail.com](mailto:ERIN.LYMAN3@gmail.com)

Donations can be dropped off Friday, Nov 17 from 6-6:30pm

### **An Open Letter to Richmond Residents**

Not all scientists believe that there is a "climate emergency."

In 2019, emeritus professor of geophysics Guus Berkout and science journalist Marcel Crok founded a group called Climate Intelligence, (CLINTEL for short), to "generate knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of climate change as well as the effects of climate policy," according to their website. You can read all about their work at [clintel.org](http://clintel.org). It's a real eye opener.

Recently, CLINTEL published the "World Climate Declaration" which was signed by over 1,600 scientists, meteorologists and professionals,

**"...the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors."**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

*Support your Richmond Rooster*  
From a friend on Old Homestead Hwy.

including Nobel laureates, theoretical physicists and environmental scientists the world over that states that there is no climate emergency. They believe the "alarmist" rhetoric about climate catastrophe is purely political and not based on sound science.

I would urge everyone to go on their website and read what level headed scientists with no political agenda have to say about climate change.

Dan Connell

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**Email –** [therichmondrooster@gmail.com](mailto:therichmondrooster@gmail.com)

**Rooster Online:** <http://therichmondrooster.net>

**Town Administration**

**Selectmen:** William Daniels, Doug Bersaw,  
Andrew Wallace

Selectmen Meeting at Town Hall – Mon. 5:30 P.M.  
*Public is welcome to attend. Please call 239-4232 for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.*

**Town Administrator:** Susan Harrington  
**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 3 PM – 5:30 PM  
Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM  
Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

*For town business outside of the above hours,  
please call 239-4232 for a Monday evening appointment.*

**Town Clerk:** Karen O'Brien

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Cheryl Brake

Tues. 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Wed. 9 AM - Noon & 1 PM - 4 PM  
Thur. 8 AM - Noon

*For Tues. appointments (5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM),  
call 239-6202 or email the clerk.*

**Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino

**Deputy Tax Collector:** Mary Rogers

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

**Planning Board:** Held at Taylor/VanBrocklin Bldg.  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month - 7:00 PM

**Transfer Station and Recycling Facility:** 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM  
Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

**Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon  
Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

**Police (Non Emergency):** 355-2000

**Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency):** 239-4466

**Fire Warden:**

**Fire Permit:** Buzz Shaw, 239-4238

**Selectmen –** 239-4232

**Town Clerk –** 239-6202

**Tax Collector –** 239-6106

**Road Agent:** Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

**Building Maint.:** Pam Bielunis

**Zoning Compliance Officer:** Richard Drew

*[Phone number area codes are 603, unless otherwise noted.]*

Visit town online: <http://richmond.nh.gov> or in person at  
Town Hall at 105 Old Homestead Highway.



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Photo: Dan Millbauer

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