



DALTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

DALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.daltonhistoricalsociety.org

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Fall 2012

Dalton's First Settlers



**MOSES AND LUCY BLAKE'S GRAVESTONES
IN JOHNS RIVER CEMETERY.**

Moses Blake was born in Milton, Massachusetts in 1743. He and his wife Lucy Goodridge had six children. The first three - Lydia, Lucy and Sarah, were born before the family moved to Dalton. Lydia died

young. After their move to Dalton, Bathsheba was born March 16, 1785, and may have been the first female child born in town. Ruth was born February 15, 1787, followed by a son Dalton, born March 21, 1789.

Moses Blake accepted an offer from Tristram Dalton, one of the original proprietors of this town, to establish a road between Haverhill, New Hampshire, and Lancaster. For accomplishing this task, Blake was given two lots of his choice, and so was deeded nearly 250 acres in Dalton in January of 1787.

The Blake's first home was a log cabin, then later a sizeable frame house was built, and was known as Blake's Tavern. He also established a ferry, which carried passengers back and forth across the Connecticut River. The operation of the ferry was assumed by several men over the next several decades, and served the public until 1928, when a bridge was built between Dalton and Gilman, Vermont.

Sarah (Sally) Blake married John Blakslee, another of Dalton's early settlers. After her death, he married her sister Bathsheba. Some of their descendants still live in Dalton and surrounding towns today.

Dalton Gravestones Viewable on the Internet

Over the past few years, we have been taking digital photographs of the gravestones in Dalton's cemeteries, and are now pleased to say we have uploaded these photos to a popular website known as www.findagrave.com. Many thanks to Connie Russell.

Findagrave is a place to memorialize your loved ones online, for others to see. It is a respectful location to

further preserve their memories, and a wonderful place for genealogists and historians to gather and share information.

Each memorial can be accompanied by photos, obituaries and family tree information. Be sure to visit the Findagrave website if you are researching ancestors from Dalton.



See us at the Ladies Aid "Silver Tea and Sale",
Saturday, November 10th, 2012
at the Dalton Town Hall!

1874—Statistics and Gazetteer
of New Hampshire

Nine schools in town; average length
for the year: seven weeks.

The Trail of the Wild Flowers

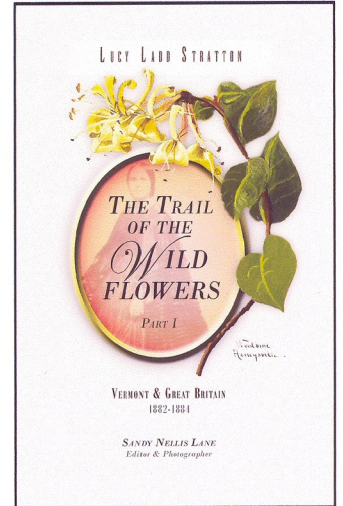
Book highlights Dalton woman's artistic skills and writing abilities.

Sandy Nellis Lane of Johnstown, New York has published a book containing the writings and artwork of her great, great Aunt, Lucy Ladd Stratton. Lucy Ladd was born in Dalton in 1834. She took painting lessons at a young age and became a gifted artist and writer. Lucy travelled throughout Europe and found her passion was painting wild flowers. Sandy Lane brings them to life with her photographs of many of these detailed paintings, now housed in a special collection at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

To order a copy of *The Trail of the Wild Flowers*, write: Sandy Lane, 3 Pewter Lane, Johnstown, NY, 12095.



Lucy Ladd Stratton, about 1860



Dalton's Participation in the Civil War

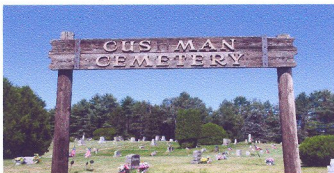
The Historical Society has a Civil War display in the lower level of the Dalton Town Hall, to commemorate those from town who served their country at that time. We welcome any memorabilia such as diaries, letters, military documents and especially photographs of Dalton's men who were involved in the war, or other family members who stayed home to care for their farms and community.

One soldier of interest was James P. Thorne, who resided in Northumberland when he joined the military, but later came to live in Dalton with his wife and children.

James Thorne was African-American, and joined the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, which was made up of 1445 enlisted men. The 54th Regiment was the first "all black" regiment to participate in the Civil War. It was honored in the film "Glory". Thorne later transferred to the 55th Regiment, also served by African-Americans. Mr. Thorne survived the war, and died in Dalton in 1887, and was buried in Cushman Cemetery.

Also worthy of note was Charles Emerson, who volunteered for service at age 16. Mr. Emerson was a prisoner in Libby Prison for several months. He was also one of the guards stationed outside of Ford Theater the night President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

Historical Society Planning Sign Replacement



Dalton's cemetery signs are in need of replacement.

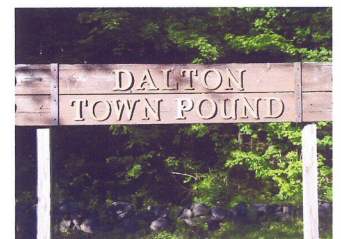
After nearly thirty years, we find it is time to replace the cemetery and Town Pound signs that the Historical Society erected as a community project.

The plank and post signs are showing wear from the weather, and some of the

wooden letters are either missing or have been replaced.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes and looking at designs. If anyone wishes to assist us with funding this project, please contact us. Our contact information is

located on the last page of this newsletter.



For general correspondence:

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Dalton, NH 03598**

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Email:

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**Dalton Town Hall, built 1845
Located on Route 135 between
the Congregational Church and
the Dalton Fire Department**

From the Gazeteer of the State of New Hampshire, 1817: Dalton contains a meeting house, 3 corn-mills, 2 saw-mills, and 1 mill for dressing cloth.

Send Membership Form
and dues to:

Dalton Historical Society
Rebecca McVetty, Treasurer
200 Union Road
Dalton, NH 03598

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Dalton Historical Society evolved from the Dalton Bicentennial Committee, which was formed for the purpose of organizing a town-wide celebration of America's bicentennial anniversary in 1976.

Our goal is to research and help preserve the history of our town, and to discover historical sites and aid in their preservation, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Society's officers are as follows:

President: Terri Parks; Vice President: Edith Switser; Treasurer: Rebecca McVetty; Corresponding Secretary: Terri Parks; Recording Secretary: Rebecca McVetty

Our society supports another non-profit organization, Friends of the Dalton Town Hall, which was formed in 2009 as a result of concerns over possible closure of the historic Dalton Town Hall, built around 1845. Since then, the Friends have done numerous improvements to bring the building up to state and local fire codes, and are now leasing the building from the Town and paying the operating expenses. It is being kept open year-round for both public and private functions.

Historical Society **meetings are held the first Thursday of each month** (except holidays) **at 7:00 p.m., at the old Dalton Town Hall**, 741 Dalton Road. Visitors are welcome. Our meeting/display room is in the downstairs rear portion of the building, and can be accessed either from the main floor, using the stairs, or directly through the rear doors, which are wheelchair accessible.

We welcome new members at any time. **Annual dues are \$5.00.**

**Dalton Historical Society
Membership Form**

NAME: _____

STREET/P.O. BOX: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____