

# GRAY ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2006

## 2006 REPORT OF THE GRAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 22 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 544

Gray Historical Society is now a 501c 3 non-profit organization dedicated, “**to collect, to preserve,** and to share the history of the Town of Gray and State of Maine.” It was founded on June 6, 1962 by the Gray Grange as a committee project, was incorporated in 1973 as a Maine Tax-exempt non-profit organization. In December 2005, our Society received the **501 c 3 Federal tax exempt status**. We would like others to join Gray Historical Society and become aware of the history of Gray. The meetings are held each month, except December, on the second Wednesday at 7 PM.

Visitors and researchers have come to the crossroads of Gray and to the second floor of Pennell Institute to discover answers to particular questions, to reminisce, to enjoy and /or contribute gifts for our extensive collection. Phanella Mayall, from England and a direct descendant of Samuel Mayall, who established America first water-powered woolen mill in Gray, visited here to learn more about her heritage and family.

- This year has been very busy with **accessioning over 300 donated items**, some included multi pieces of documents, artifacts, apparel, etc. Many visitors and researchers have come weekly for information about their new home, family genealogy, directions for grave sites, history of businesses and people, newspaper stories, information for books and pictures for books, etc. Many e-mail queries have been answered along with many telephone questions too. Also by e-mail we received information weekly from state and national museum associations providing up-to-date development and help for the Society.
- We continue to attract new members.

### **Summer 2005 exhibits attracted much attention and admiration.**

- “Tools of the Trade”
- “Pennell Pride”
- “Gray Center in 1880.” a diorama of 20 buildings by Gray's artist Herbert Snyder, continues and has been expanded with photos and artifacts from our collections.
- Open house: July 4, 2005 Pennell Alumni Day and September 18, Maine Heritage Day.
- Gray Historical Society planned for its part in the celebration on September 15, 2005 for the Gray Fire-Rescue Department 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Due to rain it was canceled and later scheduled for 2006.

### **Summer 2006 exhibits....**

- As originally planned for 2005, we took part in the Gray Fire-Rescue Department 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which was held on July 8, 2006.
- “Winning Ways at Gray Park Race Track and Fair, 1886-1902,”
- July 22, Open House for Pennell Alumni Day, with “Pennell Pride,” exhibit
- “Tools of Trade,” continues, with added items.
- “Gray center of the 1880's,” diorama by Herbert Snyder continues, as do the related additions to the exhibit.

Gray Historical Society's **exhibit case at the Gray Public Library** features items from our collections, which is another way we **reach out to the community**. **Many THANKS to the Library for giving us this opportunity**. Ongoing displays this past year are as follows:

- **2005** Part II of “Who Consults the Gray Historical Society's Research Room and Why?”  
**Fall:** Display of Election memorabilia: Political folders, buttons, etc.  
**December:** Holiday display; Robert Frost's poem, “Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening.”
- **2006 Winter, spring:** “Warm Kitchen Memories” showed related items

**All of the above continue to help us bring Gray's fascinating past to life.**

The Society continues to attend many informative meetings throughout the year pertaining to the organization and the protection of materials and artifacts. We are members of **S.O.L.V.E** a non-profit historical management organization covering Southern Maine; as well as **MAM**, Maine Archives and Museums; and **AASLH**, American Association for State and Local History. This was our second year using the **Past Time-Past Perfect software** which gives us flexibility to catalog, organize, manage, and research the collections quickly and easily. This software is the world leader in collection management.

We continue to encourage the scheduling of visitors and tours for special groups, such as Scouts, school classes, organizations, etc. The third graders at Dunn School received several talks and viewed our slides of early days in Gray. Concluding this project the student had a bus tour of the town and a brief experience of going to a one-room schoolhouse. ( Dry Mills one-room schoolhouse.)

Remember that Gray Historical Society continues to have available **unique items that make special gifts**, such as postcards, bronze medallion necklaces with the town seal, maps suited for framing, trivets, town of Gray afghan, several books, etc. To purchase any item call us, **657-2235**, or come the museum/ research room.

Hours are:

- Weather permitting, Research Room remains open year round on Tuesdays, 10 A.M to 3 P.M..
- The month of December...open by appointments only.
- Museum room is closed during heating season.
- Thursday evenings during the summer, 6 P.M to 8 P.M.
- Special appointments, call 657-4297 or 657-3507.

The **officers for the 2006-2007 year:** President, Louise Knapp ([cnlknapp@securespeed.net](mailto:cnlknapp@securespeed.net)); Vice President, Mae Beck; Second Vice President, Audrey Burns; Treasurer, Peggy Brown; Secretary, Lorraine Jones; Curator; Jean Szendrei; Membership Secretary, Lucille Stampon. Gray Historical Society telephone number is 657-2235

The Historical Society has appreciated and **THANKS all of the faithful volunteers**, including Becky Wilkinson, Jamie Nichols, Mr. Warren Jensen's and his Computer Club. A very special **THANKS** to **SAD#15** for the use of Pennell and to **Hall's Storage** for the use of one unit. We do appreciate all who continue to work and support Gray Historical Society's project of **preserving Gray's heritage and history** of the stories of its people, the traditions of the community, and the record of Gray's place in a changing world.

Respectfully submitted,

President Louise Knapp