

HIRAM HISTORY

Hiram was incorporated as a town in 1814, but was the home of the Sokokis Tribe of Native Americans when English settlers arrived. The first known survey in Hiram, also known as “Great Ossipee”, took place in 1773 for Prescott’s Grant and settlement followed in 1774 after an expedition led by Lieutenant Benjamin Ingalls. Ingalls surveyed lots of 100 acres along the Saco River in Hiram Village for Daniel Foster, Abial Messer, John Curtis, Ebenezar Herrick, and himself. John Watson came in 1777 and settled on what is now King Street. John Clemons and wife Abigail arrived in 1779 and built a homestead near the pond named for him, Clemons Pond.

Other early settlers were John Ayer, who bought his lot with “house and barn” in 1782 and built the first mill nearby in 1785. Thomas Barker, for whom Barker Pond was named, grew corn here by 1789. Land grants spurred settlement – 6000 acres in 1789 to Timothy Cutler, for whom Mt. Cutler is named, and the “Patriarch” of Hiram, Brigadier General Peleg Wadsworth, who bought 7800 acres at 12 ½ cents per acre in 1790, built a mansion in 1800 and promoted education.

Railroads brought prosperity in 1871 (later Maine Central RR) and 1883 narrow gauge (Bridgton & Saco River RR). The primary crop was hay; there were two Grange Halls, apple orchards, saw mills, grist mills, stores, a chair factory, carding mill, cooper shops, blacksmiths, a coat factory, corn shops, and two inns – an active, sustainable town.

HIRAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

...meets on the second Saturday of months May to October, with free programs open to the public. Business meetings start at 1:00 pm Programs start at 1:30 pm

Great Ossipee Museum is open the 3rd Saturday of months May to October 9:30 am-12:30 pm or by appointment 207-615-4390

Program calendar for 2019

May 11 – New Fruits to Grow in Maine. Jesse Stevens, farmer in Sweden, tells us how, and brings plants for sale.

June 8 – Deb Gould, Maine author is back to talk about her second book of historical fiction.

July 13– Maine’s Early Tourism: Growth and Development, with examples of Belgrade and Hiram by Linda McLoon & Sally Williams

August 10 – Popular storyteller Jo Radner on the misunderstandings in the interaction of Colonial settlers and Native Americans

September 14 - “Marty on the Mountain” weatherman Engstrom” talks about his years on New England’s tallest peak.

October 12 –.Katherine Rhoda performs original Vintage Grange Songs.

October 19 – Trash Can Turkey Roast and Mt. Cutler School Reunion, 12 noon, Hiram Community Center & Great Ossipee Museum Open House, programs and special exhibits.

SOME HISTORICAL LANDMARKS HIRAM, MAINE



Wadsworth Hall built in 1800 by Brigadier General Peleg Wadsworth, a founder of Hiram



Cotton’s Store 1816 in front of Mt. Cutler



Peleg Thompson Wadsworth/Blanchard/ Stacey barn, 99 feet long, c. 1890