New season is buzzing with energy on multiple fronts: From bees, bats, & bricks to weeds, words, & workers

Volunteers needed for invasive species campaign on Greenland Day July 21

The Weeks Brick House & Gardens begins another full season of activity this spring at the original 1656 Weeks family farmstead. News of our new beehives, bat house, chimney work, and other activities is detailed on the inside pages. Words? Our audio tour is imminent. Front-and-center this season, however, is our campaign – directed by WBH board member Jean Eno – against invasive plant species that threaten to overgrow our fields, wetlands, and trails.

Well-seasoned New Englanders are familiar with the ox-pull, the horse-pull, and the tractor-pull at the county fair, but this year along our trails, volunteers are invited to sign up for a new-age and much-needed “weed-pull” along our hiking trails.

At Greenland Day festivities on Saturday, July 21, in a cooperative project with the Winnicut River Watershed Coalition, participants can volunteer from 9 a.m. - noon to assist with this effort. Training on the use of special “weed wrenches” will be provided. The event is an opportunity for the environmentally-conscious to make a contribution to the healthy future of our hiking trails. Participants will receive wildflower seed packets to enrich their own environment.

As an added incentive, season passes for free admission to Historic New England’s (www.HistoricNewEngland.org) 36 historic house museums will be presented to the first 15 Weeks Brick House members (or non-members who join WBH on that day) who volunteer for our weed-pull.

For information about volunteering for the weed-pull, contact the Weeks Brick House at weeksbrickhouse@aol.com.

Also on Greenland Day, The Weeks Brick House will maintain its annual informational presence on the Town Green, and dispense maps of the hiking trails, directions to the historic property, and advice on how one can volunteer. Information from the Greenland Conservation Commission will define the importance of conservation land and the types of invasive species that endanger our local natural habitats.

The Weeks Brick House colonial-era herb gardens and WWII-inspired Victory Gardens will also be open for tours on Greenland Day. Master Gardener Leslie Stevens will be on hand to explain the finer points of herb and vegetable cultivation. This season she is adopting a system of heavy mulching with straw and newspaper, and will show the technique. Join us on July 21!

Plan now to attend our 2012 Annual Meeting September 7-9 at the 1710 Weeks Brick House

Weeks family descendants, members, non-members, community friends, and history enthusiasts are all invited to join us September 8 & 9, 2012 at the farmstead in Greenland for the annual meeting of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

The annual meeting features house and garden tours, trail walks, social events, genealogy networking, a guest speaker, and for descendants, the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of progenitor Leonard Weeks (1633-1707) on the original 1656 farmstead.

This year’s meeting also includes another opportunity (Saturday, Sept. 8) for volunteers to wield weed wrenches in our campaign to control invasive plant species.

On Sunday, Sept. 9, the featured speaker is Rebecca W.S. More, a Weeks family descendant and professor of history at Rhode Island School of Design.

Schedule and registration details are still being formulated, so be sure to visit our web site at www.weeksbrickhouse.org for the latest information.

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www.WeeksBrickHouse.org
A circumstance bound to happen: WBH board finally goes batty

By Jean Eno, WBH Board

Bats need help, and so the Weeks Brick House will be lending a hand, er, home, thanks in part to a donation of a bat house.

Bats have been known to be “squatters” in the attic of the Weeks Brick House, and the new bat house, at least in a small way, will help redirect such presumptuous tenancy as well as benefit their health and our ecosystem.

From New Brunswick to Oklahoma, biologists are finding sick, dying, and dead bats in unprecedented numbers. What is killing them? A white fungus called Geomyces destructans that grows on their muzzles (hence the name “white-nose syndrome,” or WNS), ears, wings and tails. The fungus is believed to disrupt water and air exchange through their wings, causing dehydration, and forcing bats to emerge from hibernation more frequently than they normally would. Such disruption then leads to gross consumption of precious energy stores, and ultimately, starvation. To date, over 5.7 million bats have died of WNS. (Note: Humans are unaffected by the virus.)

In New Hampshire, five of the eight bat species found here are affected by WNS. Mortality rates at hibernacula (where bats hibernate during winter) have ranged as high as 100% since WNS was first documented here in the winter of 2008.

Since bats are an important part of the ecosystem, they can use human assistance to overcome loss of habitat, and to encourage survival of the two “pups” per year that females produce. Bats comprise 20% of the world’s mammals, and are the single greatest predator of night-flying insects. In the summer, bats eat about half their body weight or more in insects every night. Without bats, the skies could become full of insects. Some biologists believe that with WNS, we are witnessing a potential ecological disaster. Therefore the Weeks Brick House & Gardens is doing its part to encourage the bat population—outside of the attic. At your next visit, be sure to check out our new bat house.

For more information on the web, visit the N.H. Fish & Game Dept.: www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/bats.html. ■

Editor’s note: Donation of the bat house is by WBH board member Jean Eno.

WBH represented at HNE Affiliate Forum

On Wednesday, May 9, board member and past president Amanda Nelson represented the Weeks Brick House & Gardens at the second annual Historic New England Affiliate Forum, held this year at the Lyman Estate in Waltham, Mass.

In 2011 WBH became an Affiliate Member of Historic New England, joining 44 other historic sites and preservation organizations. Affiliates retain autonomy while enjoying the benefit of association with a respected preservation organization.

Three sessions were presented by Historic New England staff: (1) how to maximize energy efficiency at a historic house, (2) the importance of maintaining original windows, and (3) education program strategies for small organizations.

WBH extends condolences

The Weeks Brick House & Gardens extends condolences to the family and friends of the late Greenland Police Chief Michael P. Maloney (1964-2012) – and to the entire community that perseveres after the tragic events of April 12, 2012. Chief Maloney was shot and killed during a police drug raid in Greenland. Four other officers were wounded. The two suspects died in a murder-suicide.

Historic New England has studied the performance of “replacement windows” versus original wood-frame windows in historic houses, and conclude that new replacement windows do not last as long. HNE has also developed ways to improve energy efficiency of original windows.

The Affiliate Forum also presented an opportunity to network with attendees with similar passions for their historic sites.

Historic New England, founded in 1910 as SPNEA, is the oldest and largest regional preservation organization in the U.S., with 36 historic properties, plus an archives and collections conservation center. ■

West chimney repairs set to begin this spring

Phase II of chimney repair at the 1710 Weeks Brick House begins in late spring. Upon completion, both chimneys should be as tight-to-the-weather as can be expected for decades. Donations to the chimney fund are still being accepted. ■

In phase II of chimney work at the Weeks Brick House, the brickwork on the west chimney will receive much-needed attention. WBH has enlisted for the project one of the most highly-regarded historic masonry craftsmen, Richard Irons Restoration Masons of Limerick, Maine.
A new labor force working at the Weeks Brick House: 24,000 busy and buzzy honeybees from Kagen Weeks

By Leslie Stevens & R.W. Bacon

Thanks to generous donations, the Weeks Brick House & Gardens now has two hives of honeybees in place --- and a new labor force of approximately 24,000 potential pollinators.

On Friday, May 11, 2012, Kagen Weeks of Nashua, N.H., a descendant of Leonard and Samuel Weeks, donated and installed two hives of honey bees as part of his program called “Hive at Your Home,” which offers hive placement and care to private homeowners and community gardens in southern New Hampshire and eastern Massachusetts.

Kagen arrived at midday to assemble the hive structures, place the two queens, and introduce the bees – a variety of cold-hardy bees originally from the Primorsky region of Russia, but bred in Germantown, N.Y. east of the Hudson River – to their new homes. The hives, refreshing in their simplicity, are in place at the edge of the meadow behind the Weeks Brick House, but still in close proximity to the fruit trees and gardens.

The new hives are vertical box hives designed by Weeks, with top bar frames spaced so that the bees can build honeycomb naturally. The design differs from commercial hives with side and bottom frames, which lead the bees to believe a hive collapse is imminent, making them build the combs faster. “I don’t want the bees to feel anything,” Kagen said in the Nashua Telegraph article. “I want them to choose. I want them to do things when they’re ready.”

Kagen’s program, “Hive at Your Home,” places hives in private yards and community gardens in New Hampshire and the Boston area as a way for gardeners to benefit from the pollination and honey without the responsibility of caring for the bees. Kagen installs the bees in their hives and cares for them, and the homeowner simply reaps the benefits. Along the way, the hosts learn about bees and how they help the environment. Kagen’s bees are not treated with any medicine, so their honey has no residual effects. The bees are also hygienic bees that can successfully resist invasive mites.

The hives, refreshing in their simplicity, are at the edge of the meadow behind the Weeks Brick House, but still in close proximity to the fruit trees and gardens.

“I am trying to be less focused on being a bee keeper and more focused on being a bee giver,” Weeks is quoted in a May 13 article in the Nashua Telegraph. The article notes that Kagen Weeks grew up familiar with bees through his grandfather, who kept hives of his own. Later as an environmental engineer, Kagen grew to appreciate bees from a “systems” point of view in the context of agriculture and our ecosystem. As such, he sees an educational component to his new enterprise. Later in the season, at a date yet to be arranged, Kagen Weeks will give a presentation on honeybees at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens, which will be announced at our web site, www.weeksbrickhouse.org.

For additional information about “Hive at Your Home,” visit http://hiveatyourhome.wordpress.com/.


“...and more focused on being a bee giver.”

– Kagen Weeks
300 Years of Weeks Family Homes in Greenland, N.H.

This issue’s feature graphic is a simplified and redrawn map that shows the location of early Weeks family houses in Greenland, N.H. The original map was drawn by Trudy Black in 1997, based on information from Greenland historian Paul Hughes. (Map redrawn and text re-set by R.W. Bacon, 2012.)

(1) 52 Bayside Road Dr. Ichabod Weeks & heirs (1772-1947)
(2) 150 Bayside Road Deacon John & heirs (Caroline & George Weeks) (c. 1810-1899)
(3) 239 Bayside Road Stephen M., Edward, & Adelaide Weeks (1857-1942)
(4) 655 Bayside Road John Porter Weeks & heirs (1877-)
(5) 670 Bayside Road Capt. Joshua Weeks & heirs (John & Robin Weeks) (1699-)
(6) 324 Great Bay Road Joshua & George Weeks (1780-1930)
(7) 1088 Portsmouth Avenue Jonathan Weeks (1740s), Brackett Weeks (c. 1800-1815)
(8) 655 Portsmouth Avenue Ichabod (1765-1722), Joseph (1805-1883), William, & John W. (1846-1903) Weeks
(9) 22 Post Road Capt. John Weeks (rented tavern 1782-1785)
(10) 462 Portsmouth Avenue Belknap Weeks (1926-1935)
(11) 391 Portsmouth Avenue Belknap Weeks (1902-1926)
(12) 364 Portsmouth Avenue Joshua & John Calvin Weeks (1806-1883)
(13) 160 Newington Road G. Newton Weeks & heirs (1922-)
(14) 36 Post Road (Weeks Public Library) Gift of Caroline Avery Weeks in memory of George Weeks, Mary T. Weeks, & J. Clement Weeks (1898)

www.WeeksBrickHouse.org
He coined ‘Greenland’ and hired a young Leonard Weeks, but just who was the peripatetic Captain Champernowne?

By R.W. Bacon

On September 6, 1705, Leonard Weeks (1633-1707) gave a deposition that “bout fifty years past I lived as a servant with Capt. Francis Champernowne deceased … who imployed me to receive severall Cattel & goods & provisions …”

The Weeks family progenitor’s reference was to a time when he was about 22 years-old (1655). The next year, he received his first grant of land, evidence that he was no longer a bound servant. In the ensuing decades Leonard grew his family and fortunes along with his farmstead in the center of activity in Greenland close to the Town Landing.

Janet Ireland Delorey, the professional genealogist who, with Melinde Lutz Sanborn, has published the most in-depth study of Leonard Weeks (N.H. Genealogical Record, April & July 2002), discards most of the 19th-century assumptions about his English origins and parentage. But from Leonard’s own deposition above, it is clear that his service to Capt. Champernowne (1614-1687) – for some unknown span of time before 1655 – led to his serendipitous landing in a place that he could prosper.

Who was Capt. Francis Champernowne? And what brought him to the area he would call “Greenland”? And why did he leave?


Not a Weeks descendant? Not to worry! Join us!

Did you know that the Weeks Brick House … is more than just a house?

• Over 30 acres of conservation land laced with marked hiking trails.
• A Colonial herb garden designed by garden historian Anne Leighton.
• A historic 17th-century farmstead at the gateway to the Town Landing.
• … And of course, one of the earliest brick houses in New England!

Remember, you don’t have to be a descendant to be a member! We need all of you. Join today!

“Site of Capt. Champernowne’s House”

Charles Wesley Tuttle (1829-1881) wrote a thorough hagiography of Capt. Francis Champernowne, published in 1889 — the source for much material in this article.

N.H. Old Graveyard Assn. holds its annual meeting at the Weeks Brick House

By Amanda Nelson, WBH Board

On Saturday, May 12, the Weeks Brick House hosted the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association (NHOGA).

NHOGA was founded in 1975 with the goal of not only maintaining old graveyards, but promoting the care and preservation of these historic sites. Every year they hold their annual meeting in a different historic N.H. Old Graveyard Assn. holds its annual meeting at the Weeks Brick House

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Who was Capt. Francis Champernowne? And what brought him to the area he would call “Greenland”? And why did he leave?

These questions began percolating in your editor’s mind thanks to the recent re-publication by the New England Historic Genealogical Society of the Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire (1928-1939) by Sibyl Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis. The entry continued on page 6.

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www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

Weeks Brick House & Gardens Membership Form

(For Renewals and New Membership)

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City/Town: __________________________ State:____ Zip:________

Phone: __________________________ E-mail: __________________________

Please indicate your preference: □ E-mail newsletter in PDF format □ Hard-copy postal mail newsletter

Please return this form with payment to: Weeks Brick House & Gardens, P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840. Thank You!

Make check payable in U.S. currency to “Weeks Brick House.” All gifts are tax deductible. Thank You!

Membership Dues Categories:

□ $15 Student/Senior

□ $25 Individual □ $50 Family

□ $100 Contributing

□ $250 Sustaining □ $500 Leader

□ $_______ to the Chimney Fund

□ $_______ to the Garden Fund

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_______

continued on page 6
Who was Capt. Champernowne?
continued from page 5

on Capt. Champernowne, compressed and cryptic as it is, still carries on for two pages about a complicated and convoluted life. In colloquial terms, he appeared to be a restless “rich kid” for whom the world was his playground, and who had plenty of assets and opportunities dumped in his lap.

Francis Champernown was born into a long-established landed family in Dartington, Devon, England. Grants of land in Maine and New Hampshire were awarded to Francis’ father, ship owner Arthur Champernowne, as early as 1636. Years earlier, in 1622, fishing rights in New England waters were awarded to Arthur Champernowne’s brother-in-law, Sir Ferdinando Gorges.

In 1634, when “Capt. Francis” was just 20-years-old, his father sent him from his baronial surroundings on a voyage across the Atlantic with a cargo of cattle to establish a branch of the family enterprises on 500 acres in what is now Kittery, Maine. (Although Francis was known as “Captain,” it is unclear whether he was trained as a shipmaster, or as a military adventurer.)

About 1640, Capt. Champernowne purchased 400 acres south of the mouth of the Piscataqua from Robert Saltonstall, and built a dwelling house that was located between the present 4th and 7th tees of the Portsmouth Country Club. This is the tract he would refer to fondly as “Greenland.”

Capt. Champernowne was a signer of an Upper Piscataqua compact in 1640, but he was an unabashed royalist who bristled at the Massachusetts Bay Colony exerting control over New Hampshire. Between 1641 and 1648 he rented his farm and was away from New Hampshire, accepting a command in the King’s fleet during England’s civil war. Most of this period was spent in the vicinity of the Madeira Islands, disrupting shipping. When it was clear he would be on the losing side, he returned to Greenland.

In 1650 Capt. Champernowne rented his farm to his neighbor Samuel Haines, and set off for Barbados in the West Indies, not returning until 1654. Shortly after his return the town granted him 375 additional acres.

In 1657, after facing a numerous civil suits brought during his absence, he sold his farm in Greenland (twice!), and moved to his land in Kittery. (He later received additional grants in Kittery: 500 acres in 1666 and 300 in 1669.)

Upon the restoration of Charles II in England, Capt. Champernowne accepted an appointment (1661) to a four-man commission to take charge of England’s interests in the Province of Maine. His royalist loyalty, anti-Puritanism, and opposition to outside control continued until 1668, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony took control by force.

In 1678 Capt. Champernowne was part of a commission that “negotiated” a peace treaty with Squando and the Indians of Maine – on Squando’s terms.

At some point between 1675 and 1682, Champernowne married for the first time. His bride was Mary, the widow of Robert Cutt. They had no children. His later years were devoted to overseeing his sprawling farms. He died in the spring of 1687.

Unfortunately the details of Leonard Weeks’ pre-1656 employ with Capt. Champernowne are unknown. Did Leonard serve the Capt. for years? Or just months? Did he have adventures on the high seas? Or did he just tend to the cattle?

In any case, the relationship between Leonard Weeks and Capt. Champernowne did not end for good when Leonard went on his own. In June 1666, the good Captain sued Leonard Weeks for trespassing.

N.H. Old Graveyard Assn. … continued from page 5

site across the state and then tour several important graveyards.

At this meeting they discussed a law recently passed by the New Hampshire legislature that permits concerned individuals and organizations to care for private graveyards. Previous to this change, only descendents of those buried in private graveyards could maintain the site. NHOGA was one of several organizations that was able to convince the New Hampshire legislature that such laws were destroying history, as many graveyards decayed because descendants could not be located.

The guest speaker was Greenland historian Paul Hughes, who spoke about the history of Greenland from its founding through the 20th century. In the afternoon, after lunch, the group departed for a tour of three Greenland graveyards.