

Webster *History Reports*

as compiled by the
Webster History Committee
1984-2014

Having just published the *History of Webster, NH 1933-1983* history book, the Town History Committee created a report for the *Town of Webster Annual Report 1984*, with the intent of supplying information for the future *History of Webster, NH 1983-2033* history book. This process continued, uninterrupted, through 2014.

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1984

The 1983 Webster Town History Committee feels that the following items may be of interest to the townspeople and of benefit to those who will be working on the next Town History around the year 2033!

The month of May, 1984 was one of the wettest in the 20th century. Due to a rainfall of 10.64 inches in May and 4.9 inches in early June, the water behind the dam reached 556.2 mean sea level, the third highest level in the history of Blackwater Dam.

On June 19, Daniel Webster Grange observed its 100th anniversary with a special meeting at the Grange hall. Organized on February 20, 1884, the Grange has played an active part in the life of the town since that time.

For the second consecutive year, the observance of Old Home Day in August was a two-day affair. Naomi Fifield, age 90, as Grand Marshal, rode at the head of the parade in a 1907 Stevens-Duryea, the car in which she first learned to drive.

The Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had an exceptional year, with a profit of \$10,800. an increase of about \$2,000 over 1983.

In mid-September, eleven Canada geese spent three or four days in the field at John Allen's farm, and another week in the pond across from the house.

78% of those registered voted in the 1984 Presidential Election. There were 697 voters on the checklist; 300 Republicans, 138 Democrats, with the remainder undeclared. 501 voted in person; 43 by absentee ballot. Ronald Reagan (Rep.) won by a landslide, easily defeating Walter Mondale (Dem.). In the February Primary election, Gary Hart surprisingly won the Democratic nomination for President in Webster, as well as in the State of New Hampshire.

A change to N. H. Planning and Zoning laws, effective Jan. 1, 1984, required that any ordinance imposing growth control had to be based on a master plan and a capital improvement program that reflect recommendations for growth and development appropriate to the town.

An Advisory Committee composed of two (2) members from the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment was formed to develop a Master Plan that would reflect the opinions and ideas of the residents of the Town of Webster. This Advisory Committee mailed 1360 questionnaires to the residents and tax payers during November 1984, 647 (47.5%) of these were returned. The data, comments and recommendations contained in these questionnaires, consistent with current laws and requirements will result in a Master Plan that will contain recommendations for the desirable, orderly, practical and logical development of the Town of Webster.

A group of former servicemen, having formed a Veterans' Committee in 1983, partially achieved their goal of erecting a memorial to honor all servicemen from Webster. Land at the corner of Allen's Road and Route 127 was donated by Edmund and Ruth Garvey in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Stock-bridge. A flag pole was given by Mrs. Phyllis Vaughn, and the flag was raised on Veterans' Day, November 11. Warner Legionnaires took part in the dedication ceremony. The committee plans to erect a granite monument with brass nameplates on the site.

Because of the large number of children in Webster schools, the annual Town Christmas Tree observance at the Grange hall was held on two separate nights this year, with nursery, kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 on the first night (standing room only!); Grades 3 and 4 on the second night.

In 1984. seven building permits for new homes were issued in the Town of Webster.

Members of the First Congregational Church of Webster began a study of the feasibility of constructing an addition to the church, which would provide rooms for Sunday School classes and other needed facilities.

The thermometer rose to 66°F on December 30,1984.

The Town History Committee would be glad to receive items of interest for use in the 1985 Town Report.

1985

The Building Committee presented a plan for an addition to the First Congregational Church of Webster. The estimated cost would be \$65,000. Replies to a questionnaire sent to church members showed about 50% for and 50% against the addition. No action taken.

According to the Austin family, the ice went out of Lake Winnepocket on March 29, 1985—the earliest date for this to occur in many years.

Scholarships were awarded to high school graduates as follows:

	1984	1985
Joseph Degan Scholarship	Seldon Nason Jr.	Everett Holton
Friends of the Library	Brooke Holton	Everett Holton
Daniel Webster Grange	Seldon Nason Jr.	Deborah McDaniels
William R. Pearson Memorial	None	James Cornell

Pond Hill Bridge was replaced with a culvert, privately financed by Robert Austin. (This bridge is on a Class 6 road.)

Clothespin Bridge was rebuilt this year at a cost of \$50,746. Traffic was rerouted for nearly 12 weeks.

Old Home Day was a one-day affair this year. William E. Phelps, age 87, rode in the parade as Grand Marshal.

Improvements at the Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fairgrounds included exterior paving and replacement of the floor covering in kitchen and serving areas. The Fair netted \$10,916.47 in 1985.

Recalling the disastrous hurricane of 1938, we prepared for Hurricane Gloria on Friday, September 27, 1985. Fortunately, she treated us gently. Wires and branches were down in some areas, roads were washed out and several sections of town were without electrical power for hours. A tree through the roof of the Behringer home on Clothespin Bridge Road was the most serious casualty.

Brian Sheldon took over the operation of Rose’s Garage.

On November 13, 1985, the Ladies’ Auxiliary of the Webster Fire Department was formed.

Frost’s Orchards were purchased by Adam and Barbara Mock.

The Town’s Master Plan was completed and will be presented for acceptance at the next Town Meeting.

There was one structure fire on October 22,1985 at the Ted Baker property on Dustin Road. A shed was totally destroyed.

Because of their close contact with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center during months of chemotherapy for their 6-yr. old son, Justin, the Allan Jones family and their many friends and neighbors

in Webster and surrounding towns raised nearly \$2,500 at a supper, raffle and auction to benefit the recently opened "David's House" in Hanover. A total of \$6,000 has now been raised. "David's House" is a "home away from home" for the parents and families of critically ill children undergoing treatment at the DHMC.

Changes and recommendations mandated by the State Fire Marshal's Office and our local fire department necessitated changes and modifications in activities at church and Grange hall. The balcony of the church is no longer used for Sunday School classes. The last candle lighting service permitting lighted candles was held at the church in December. No more than 180 persons are allowed in the upstairs hall of the Grange building at one time. An on-going program of safety improvements at both buildings is in process.

The annual popcorn party, sponsored by Daniel Webster Grange and the Women's Union, was again held at the Drown's farm-but no town tree, gifts or program were presented at the Grange Hall. Instead, a musical half hour was held at Merrimack Valley High School, with the first four grades only taking part. NO SANTA CLAUS! SO MUCH FOR ANOTHER TRADITION! However, members of Grange and Women's Union distributed candy and popcorn balls at Webster's Kindergarten and at school afternoon parties.

Channel 9 came to the Drown's farm and recorded the popcorn ball party for a TV program, which showed only a "flash" of our activities.

Leaders of several organizations have been as follows:

	1983-84	1984-85
Webster Homemakers Extension	Georgia Jeffrey	Georgia Jeffrey & Charlotte Bowie
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Marion T. Jones	Eleanor Corliss

Teachers at the Webster Elementary School for 1983

Grade 1: Elizabeth Hubbard

Grade 2: Debra Jones

Grade 3: George Radcliffe

Grade 4: Beverly McAloon (Principal)

The following is a list of salaries, wages and rates for the year 1985:

Selectman's Salary—\$900;

Selectman's Expenses—\$300

Administrative Assistant —\$6.50/Hr.

Town Clerk's Salary—\$400 plus fees

Tax Collector's Salary — 1% of taxes collected plus fees

Treasurer's Salary —\$750

Police Chiefs Salary—\$15,600

Police Matron's Salary—\$1,000

Police Officers—\$5.00/Hr.

Fire Chief's Expenses—\$1,200

Deputy Fire Chiefs Expenses—\$550

Fire Captain's Expenses—\$250

Firefighters' Expenses—\$2,500 (total man-hours used to determine hourly rate)

Road Agent's Wages— \$9.46/Hr.
Highway Department Laborer — \$5.26/Hr.
Truck Driver—\$5.58/Hr.
Truck—Hauling Rate —\$22.70/Hr. With Operator
Truck—Plowing Rate —\$25.10/Hr. With Operator
Bucket Loader —\$30-\$35/Hr. With Operator
Grader Rental—\$30/Hr. With Operator
Building Inspector's Salary —\$100 plus \$15 for each building permit
Cemetery Commissioners —\$100 Chairman; \$75 Members
Cemetery Workers —\$4/Hr.; Part-time-\$3.50/Hr.
Gravel —50¢-60¢ cubic yard
Sand—30¢-50¢ cubic yard
Road Salt —\$33.01/Ton
Cold Patch—\$23.00/Ton
Oil —\$1.074/Gallon

1986

On January 23, 1986, a fire (electrical) destroyed the home of Phoebe Bower on Little Hill.

Along with the entire nation, Webster mourned the death of the seven astronauts in the shuttle Challenger disaster on January 28, 1986, when Concord teacher Christa MacAuliffe was one of those who died in the fiery explosion.

On February 1, a fire destroyed John Little's garage on Deer Meadow Road. A fire at the William Richards' home on Roby Road on February 12 was caused by wood stacked too near a stove.

In March, Normandie (Dee) Blake published her first issue of "The Webster Grapevine," a monthly newspaper which is distributed free of charge to every family in town. Financed by its advertisers and contributions, this paper contains news and information of town organizations, the Merrimack Valley School District, editorials, and profiles of town residents. In December, "Dee" was awarded the Community Citizen's Award by Daniel Webster Grange for her efforts.

At the annual March meeting of the Merrimack Valley School District, with the largest voter turnout ever, a \$9,422,000 building program was turned down which would have returned the 5th and 6th grades to their home towns, remodeled the elementary schools and built a new Middle School for the seventh & eighth grades. The program failed by 19 votes to attain the necessary 2/3 vote majority. 285% of Webster's eligible voters turned out—a greater percentage than was achieved by any other town in the district.

The program was sent back to the Building Committee and an \$8.28 million program was submitted to the voters at a meeting on May 22, when 27.4% of Webster's voters (again the highest percentage of any town in the district) voiced their opinions. With 599 votes for and 194 against, the bond issue passed. Webster Elementary School will have an addition of three classrooms, a library and a 2000 sq. ft. multi-purpose room, plus up-dating of heating plant, septic system, and well. Only the fifth graders will be returned to town.

On April 1, after 53 years of ownership by the Stebbins family, Stebbins' Store was purchased by Bob and June Nason, and is now known as Corser Hill Country Store.

On April 12-13 (for the second year in a row), the New England Divisional Championship Canoe and Kayak

Races took place on the river below Blackwater Dam.

On June 16, the home of Brian Strong on Deer Meadow was struck by lightning and destroyed.

The Town Hall Building Committee met regularly during the year to find a solution to building a new town hall.

A Junior Fire Department Auxiliary was formed.

John Lorden retired from the Webster Police Department following many years of service.

Scholarships presented to graduates of Merrimack Valley High School by town organizations:

Joseph Degen Scholarship	Peter Kimball
Webster Library	Peter Kimball
William R. Pearson Memorial	Richard Plumb
Daniel Webster Grange	Deborah Hurst

On August 10, senior citizens over 80 years of age were honored at a party sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Webster Meeting House.

In spite of threatening weather, the largest number of persons in recent years attended Webster's Old Home Day on August 16. Mabel Anderson was Grand Marshal, riding at the head of the parade in a wagon drawn by Lisha Kimball's horse.

The Webster Church Book at Hopkinton Fair had a successful year, netting \$10,527.54.

Webster's fire department had a controlled burn on September 20 at Pillsbury Lake — a cabana that was structural unsafe.

Constance Jones closed her thrift shop "Connie's Corner" after seven successful years of operation.

On October 19, Ruth A. Stebbins was honored for her 50 years of residence and her contributions to our town. An open house was jointly sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Webster Meeting House and Daniel Webster Grange.

At 1:17 p.m. on October 25, an earthquake was felt in Webster. Centered in Northfield, it registered 3.9 on the Richter scale.

The annual popcorn party, sponsored by Grange and Women's Union, was held at the Drown farm in December. Candy and popcorn balls were distributed to kindergarten and elementary school children at their school parties. (We hope that in another year we may return to the previous custom of distribution at a Town Christmas Party, held in our new addition to the school!).

Leaders of various organizations:

Webster Extension Group	June Austin
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss
PTA	Nancy Cummings ('85 -86)
	Janet St. Cyr & Pamala Welcome ('86-'87)
Boy Scouts	Mark Lorden
Cub Scouts	Susan Emerson & Kenneth Charlton
4-H Clubs	Cynthia Finlayson
	Kathy McCormick & Marjorie Tanner
	Paula Hodakoski

Teachers at the Webster Schools:

1st Grade	Elizabeth Hubbard
2nd Grade	Nancy Goldstein
3rd Grade	George Radcliffe-teacher's aide, Jeanne Howe
4th Grade	Beverly McAloon, Principal
Kindergarten	Anne Holland-teacher's aide, Susan Emerson

1987

A proposed plan for reconstruction of Rte. 127 was presented to the townspeople by the State Department of Transportation. This project would extend from the vicinity of the F. George Roberts home to the Webster Elementary School and would completely eliminate the sharp corner at Tyler Road and Rte. 127. A completion date was set for September of 1990.

The month of January, 1987 had the second most snow on record and the month of February the second least!

On April 25-26, the third annual New England Division Championship Canoe and Kayak races were held on the river below the Blackwater Dam.

Due to the heavy April rains and melting snow, the Blackwater Dam held back the most water in its 46-yr. history; 88% of its capacity. Water was less than 2' from coming over the spillway; water coming into the flood area was equivalent to that reached during the floods of 1936 and 1938 before the dam was built. A previous record of 75% capacity was reached in 1969.

Fourteen inches of snow fell on April 28. Webster was without electrical service in varying degrees, from a few hours to over 60 hours.

Rev. Arlington E. Wry resigned as Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Webster after serving for thirteen years.

Michele Roberts received the Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship and Kathy Batchelder the Joseph Degen Scholarship.

Old Home Day was observed on August 15, with a large attendance and a fine parade. Homer Hunt, Sr. was Grand Marshal. Vice-President George Bush stopped for a short visit after the Business Meeting out near the school. Daniel Webster Grange held its annual chicken barbecue. A street dance was held at the corner of Allen Road just off Rte. 127; this promises to become an annual event.

On August 9, senior citizens over 80 years of age were honored at a party sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Webster Meeting House.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had another successful year, netting \$13,446.90.

Dan Kimball's sheet metal shop on Mutton Road burned on September 18.

On September 26, the Old Meeting House Society sponsored a walking tour of the original site of the meeting house and other buildings in the Town of Webster as they were prior to the construction of the Blackwater Dam.

Rose's Garage was reopened on October 12 by Steve Clark of Contoocook.

Remodeling of the Webster Elementary School was not completed in time for the beginning of the school year, so one second grade class occupied the upstairs floor of the Grange Hall until the Christmas

vacation.

At the annual meeting of the Webster Church, a church council was formed to oversee and coordinate activities of the church and its committees and to appoint a pastoral search committee. Guest speakers, selected by the deacons of our church, filled the pulpit each Sunday.

As of November 29, the church has been heated by a central heating system; a forced hot air oil furnace.

The Webster Elementary School's Christmas program was held on December 16 at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook.

The annual popcorn party, sponsored by Grange and Women's Union, was held at the Drown farm. Later, candy and popcorn balls were distributed to children in the kindergarten and elementary school.

Over 250 persons attended the town's first Old Fashioned Christmas Party, held at the Old Meeting House on December 6. An outside tree was decorated, carols were sung, and traditional refreshments and exhibits enjoyed.

Leaders of various organizations:

Webster Extension Group	June Austin
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Marion T. Jones
P.T.G.	Janet St. Cyr
	Pamala Welcome
Boy Scouts	Mark Lorden
Cub Scouts	John Pitrone
4-H Clubs	Cynthia Finlayson

Teachers at the Webster Schools (September 1986-1987)

Kindergarten	Ann Holland
	Teacher's aide, Michelle Gosinski
1 st Grade	Elizabeth Hubbard
2 nd Grade	Dale Barrett
3 rd Grade	George Radcliffe
4 th Grade & Principal	Susan Emerson
Teacher's Aide	Lorna Case

1988

During 1987, 35 building permit applications were issued, 16 homes were constructed, and one mobile home permit issued.

In 1988, 21 building permits were issued.

A revised plan for a town hall building was presented at town meeting. A vote to construct this building was defeated.

Also, at town meeting, it was voted to discontinue collecting a \$10.00 resident tax. This tax had been instituted in 1971 to replace the \$2.00 poll tax and \$5.00 State head tax first levied in 1951.

The town adopted the provisions of RSA 80:58-86 for a real estate lien procedure, under which the town

may purchase any land or buildings which are for sale for unpaid taxes.

Webster lost by death three of its oldest residents, Naomi Fifield, Ann Smith and Nina Howe; all were over 93 years of age.

The Fourth Annual New England Division Championship Canoe and Kayak races were held on April 16-17 on the river below the Blackwater Dam.

The Conservation Commission sponsored five "nature walks" and a public informational meeting regarding how the Trust for N.H. Lands could help Webster preserve and protect its natural resources.

Scholarships to Webster students were awarded as follows: Joseph Degen Scholarship (Old Meeting House Society), Mark Shilansky; William R. Pearson Memorial Scholarship, Mark Kimball; Helen Drown Memorial Scholarship (Daniel Webster Grange), Clinton Jones and Bethany Drown.

The Old Meeting House Society sponsored an old-fashioned ice cream social at the meeting house on June 25. Senior Citizens over 80 years of age were honored at a special party. Both events were well attended.

The First Congregational Church of Webster made progress in cleaning, remodeling and renovating the parsonage. Various newly formed committees: altar guild, budget, missionary' outreach and pastoral search committees were active.

The public suppers, held during the summer months by Church, Women's Union and Grange, netted over \$1,000.00 for each organization.

The summer of 1988 was one of the hottest on record, with the thermometer topping 90 degrees F on more than 25 days.

John Allen was Grand Marshal of the Old Home Day parade on August 20. The Concord Coachmen Barbershoppers furnished music; games, baseball and a chicken barbecue were held. The second annual street dance was again a huge success. Breakfast was served at the Grange hall following the dance.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had another successful year, netting \$12,000.

Additions to the remodeled elementary school were completed and an open house was held on September 18, 1988. The fifth graders now attend school in Webster.

A high percentage of voters turned out for the Nov. 8 Presidential election (George Bush/Dan Quayle vs. Michael Dukakis/Lloyd Benson). Of 785 on the checklist, 559 voted (35 by absentee ballot).

The old-fashioned Christmas party held on December 4, 1988 at the Old Meeting House was very well attended. As in 1987, an outside tree was decorated, ethnic refreshments and exhibits were on display, and carol singing appropriate to the season was enjoyed.

On December 15, 1988, our school's Christmas program returned to Webster, with five grades taking part in the new multi-purpose room of the Webster Elementary School.

The annual popcorn party, sponsored by Grange and Women's Union, was again held at the Drown farm.

Of interest to many was the continued work on the Hydro-Quebec transmission lines which will pass through Webster as power is carried to Massachusetts. Service roads were built and towers set by helicopter.

Teachers: 1987-88

Kindergarten

Jan Smith

1st Grade	Elizabeth Hubbard
2nd Grade (two classes)	Dale Barrett and Melinda Harrington
3rd Grade	George Radcliffe (Principal)
4th Grade	Suzanne Pinkham
Teachers' Aide	Lorena Case

Leaders of various organizations:

Webster Extension Group	Donna frost and Louise Capricotta
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Marion T. Jones
P.T.G.	Janet St. Cyr
Boy Scouts	Mark Lorden
Cub Scouts	John Pitrone
4-H Clubs	Cynthia Finlayson

1989

A demonstration of ice-cutting took place on Lake Winnepocket on January 21. In spite of the extreme cold, over 100 attended.

The Land Conservation Investment Program aroused the interest of a number of landowners, and at least six persons have expressed a desire to participate in this project.

Charles Bartlett was elected to represent Webster on the Merrimack Valley School Board. The estimated District Assessment for 1988-89 for the Town of Webster was \$801,333.46, with the estimated share of reimbursement from Business Profits Tax \$17,651.00.

The 5th New England Division Canoe and Kayak races were held April 22-23 on the river below the dam. There was a large attendance with 159 entries.

Ambitious plans for a NEW ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND at the Webster Elementary School were undertaken, with many fund-raising events and a construction day weekend scheduled for June 3 and 4.

For the first time, money was appropriated at town meeting to help defray the cost of uniforms and equipment used by the organized sports programs in town; soccer, basketball and Little League.

Habitat for Humanity began the construction of a home for the Ken Charlton family, with a number of local residents assisting.

James "Luke" Roberts retired as project manager of the Blackwater Dam, a position he held for 28 years.

The Meeting House Society sponsored another successful ice cream social.

Daniel Webster Grange's annual scholarship was awarded to Stanley Andrewski. The William R. Pearson Scholarship went to Jay Vachon.

Rev. Mary S. Caldwell of Concord, NH was welcomed as the new minister of the First Congregational Church of Webster.

Public suppers, sponsored by Grange, Church and Women's Union, netted each organization over \$1,100.

Twenty-one building permits were issued in 1989.

Marion R. Davis, 90 years old the previous day, was Grand Marshal of the Old Home Day parade. With ideal weather, we had the best and largest parade in many years. Marion Davis also participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, when the completed playground was officially opened. Games, chicken barbecue and the third annual street dance were all very successful.

The first recipient of the new Webster Cane was Ethel M. Simmoneau, age 98, of Tyler Road. This cane, presented on Old Home Day by the History Committee to the Town, will be given to the oldest person in Webster. The cane was beautifully crafted by Robert H. Pearson II from locally cut apple wood, with the top made from a black birch burl. A silversmith added the silver crown and inlay.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fairgrounds had another successful year netting \$13,014.72.

The landfill transfer station and Penacook trash to energy incinerator went into operation in October, and a voluntary recycling program was started.

On October 5, considerable vandalism occurred at the Webster school's new playground. Thanks to the efforts of many, trees cut down have been replaced and most of the damage repaired.

An armed hold-up occurred October 28 at the Corser Hill Country Store. Fortunately, no one was injured and a Belmont man was promptly arrested.

The second annual town-wide flea market, sponsored by the fire department, was a great success.

The Eastman house (pg. 215 in Town History) was dismantled, moved, and reconstructed in another town.

A computer has been purchased and is now in operation at the Selectmen's office.

The Hydro-Quebec transmission line construction has been completed.

The 3rd annual Christmas party at the Meeting House brought out the largest attendance ever.

Annual pop-corn ball party, sponsored by Grange and Women's Union was again held at the Drown farm. Candy and popcorn balls were distributed to Webster children at the Christmas program, held at the Webster school on Dec. 19, with all 5 grades participating.

The winter of 1988-89 was the driest for many years. December of 1989 was the coldest on record.

The Town of Webster won an award from the N.H. Municipal Association for the best Town Report (1988) in its category. Randolph Inman received an award for outstanding service in various volunteer positions in the town.

Due to strong opposition from local residents protesting the destruction of stone walls bordering Route 127 (caused by new road construction), the Transportation Commission, Gov. Gregg and the Executive Council have endorsed a policy aimed to preserve stone walls along the state-maintained system and the Webster walls should now be saved.

Teachers: 1988-89

Kindergarten	Sylvia Sink
Aide	Cynthia Malinski
1 st Grade	Elizabeth Hubbard
2 nd Grade	Dale Barrett
3 rd Grade	Nancy Webster
Aide	Pauline Colby
4 th Grade	Susan Pinkham

5th Grade

George Radcliffe

Leaders of various organizations

Webster Extension

Dorothy Monz

Daniel Webster Grange

Dorothy Haskins

Women's Union

Eleanor Corliss

Joan Leathers

PTG

Georgette Bachelder

The Women's Union and Daniel Webster Grange have offered to sell their buildings (Anderson Memorial church and Grange Hall) to the Town of Webster for a nominal fee, to be used for future town offices, hall and library facilities. The Selectmen appointed a building committee to look into the feasibility of accepting this offer, and voters will make a decision at Town Meeting 1990.

1990

After being without a town hall for 50 years, the residents of Webster voted at the 1990 town meeting to change all this. The vote was 113 in favor of, and 11 against purchasing the Grange hall for \$1,000 and the Anderson Memorial Church, from the Women's Union, for \$1.00. The plan was to build a connector between the two buildings, moving the church forward and excavating beneath it and the connecting area to provide the necessary room for town offices. The church would be used as a town library.

The cost of this construction was estimated to be \$318,500, raised with a bond issue of \$218,000 and \$100,500 coming from the Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen appointed a Building Committee to plan for the construction of the new Town Hall complex. Members were Edwin Piper, Marion T. Jones, Mark Moser, and George Cummings, with Ronald Frost as Chairman.

Robert T. Lake, Inc. of Webster was selected as the contractor, with Everett Van Dyne as Clerk of the Works.

As construction began, it was discovered that some floor joists in the Grange hall had deteriorated and rafters damaged by the fire in 1962 needed extra reinforcement. If the church was to be used as a library, the floor needed to be reinforced with steel girders. Also, the roof needed attention before the church could be moved back on its new foundation. A support from the floor to the belfry would be necessary.

In order to cover these unforeseen expenses, more money was needed, and on October 2, at a special Town Meeting, an additional \$48,000 was appropriated, to be raised by taxation during the current tax year.

The new hall will accommodate 350 persons, in comparison to the maximum of 180 allowed in the present Grange hall. New restrooms are located near the front entrance, a ramp leads to the center of the connecting addition, a large stage and closets for Grange storage have been constructed at the church end of the connector. Downstairs, the dining area has been enlarged by using the first section of the connector on the lower level, and the kitchen is slightly larger. The town office area includes Selectmen's meeting room, offices for the administrative assistant, town clerk, treasurer and tax collector, a larger vault, two restrooms and, at the moment, a spare room.

The church will be remodeled to serve as a larger town library. The stained-glass windows will remain, along with the curved-eave ceiling. The antique organ, which was to remain in the library, was stolen at some time during the construction process. The only apparent deficiency of this town hall/ office/library

complex is the lack of adequate parking. However, an additional parking area has been provided across the road, with the possibility of more at a later date.

Many residents of Webster were in favor of retaining the steeple of the Anderson Memorial Church, which is in very poor condition and would require extra funds to restore. Edna Frost volunteered for the task of raising \$8,200 for this project, and has received and earned \$5,000 as of January 1, 1991.

The first Webster resident to put land under a Conservation easement was Jean Talbot. Her 56 acres bisect Deer Meadow Brook, which flows out of Pillsbury Lake and has frontage on two town roads.

Several homes were burglarized, with the thieves taking over \$100,000 in antiques.

The sixth Annual New England Division Canoe and Kayak Races took place May 5 and 6 on the Blackwater River below the dam.

The Old Meeting House Society held its annual ice cream party on June 24, featuring home-made ice cream.

Daniel Webster Grange's annual scholarship was awarded to Beth Ogden and the Joseph Degen Scholarship went to Gary Winslow.

Public suppers sponsored by Grange, Church and Women's Union were held at the Webster Elementary School this year, because of the construction at the hall complex. Each organization netted over \$1,000.

Raymond Kimball, a long-time Webster resident and former selectman, was the Grand Marshal of the 92nd Old Home Day Parade. The weather was beautiful and the parade was the largest yet. Due to the Town Hall construction, there was no chicken barbecue, but a very successful street dance was again held on Allen's Road. Priscilla Phelps Stoddard, formerly of Webster, was the guest speaker at the Old Home Sunday Church Service. (We neglected to report that Sally Pearson Riis, also formerly of Webster, was the guest speaker in 1989.)

Considering the state of the economy, the Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had a very good year, netting \$14,000. Paul Labrecque is the new Chairman of the Church Booth Committee, replacing Jerry Pendleton, who served us for many successful years. Paul and his wife, Marsha, supervised remodeling of the building, doing much of the work themselves.

The Old Meeting House Society sponsored an old-time wagon ride on September 8, with the N.H. Draft Horse Association furnishing rides through the Blackwater Dam area. Persons at key points provided historical information.

In October, 1990, the interior of the Donald Mitchell home on Rte. 127 near Davisville was gutted by fire. No one was home at the time. The fire was considered electrical in origin.

A Town Hall Celebration Committee, with Bill Bird and Gene Blake as Co-chairmen, was appointed to plan for continuous projects and functions during the first months of 1991.

On Sunday, December 2, an Old Fashion Town-wide Christmas party was held at the Old Meeting House. Santa Claus arrived, refreshments were served, and outside Christmas trees were decorated for the birds.

The annual popcorn party was held at Kay and Bob Drowns' on December 15. As usual, Grange and Women's Union made and provided popcorn balls

and boxes of candy to be distributed to all children following the school Christmas program on December 17. On that evening, Grades Kindergarten through Fifth, provided the entertainment in the multi-

purpose room at the Webster Elementary School.

The Planning Board held several meetings to determine what areas of the 1985 Master Plan need updating.

The home, built by Habitat for Humanity, was completed.

Cable TV is expected to become available in Webster in 1991.

The First Congregational Church of Webster considered building an addition to the church, but no definite action was taken in 1990.

The Selectmen, who formerly met once a month on Saturday afternoons, began meeting in the evenings on June 5, 1978 on every other Monday evening. In 1991, they will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

Tyler Road bridge near the Hopkinton town line is receiving a new deck and guard rails.

Twelve building permits were issued in 1990.

Recycling is being introduced in Webster, with our trash disposal plant at the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill. A new building houses recyclables. Tipping fee at the plant was \$36.45 for 1990. The fee for 1991 will be \$37.45.

The major part of the reconstruction of Rte. 127 from Putney Hill to the new Town Hall was completed this year. The sharp curve at Stevens' Comer was eliminated. Much blasting was necessary below and near Busselles; also, between Marion Davis' home and Clothespin Bridge Road, where the hill in that area was eliminated. Many shoulders of the road were rip-rapped and seeded.

In exchange for the use of storage area for some of their equipment and buildings, the Audley Construction Co. assisted in the construction of a soccer field on the town land south of the school near the Town Hall leach fields.

December 1990 was the warmest December on record, and the entire year of 1990 was the warmest on record world-wide. New Hampshire's temperature averaged 47.9 degrees, compared with 45.8 degrees, which had been the average for many years.

TEACHERS 1989-1990:

Kindergarten	Laurie Billingham
1 st Grade	Elizabeth Hubbard Morse
2 nd Grade	Dale Barrett
3 rd Grade	Nancy Webster
Aide	Pauline Colby
4 th Grade	Margaret Halacy
5 th Grade	George Radcliffe

ORGANIZATIONS:

Webster Extension	Dorothy Monz
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss

TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES
(pay scales, etc.)

Selectman's Salary	\$1,000.
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Selectman's Expenses	300.
Administrative Assistant	10.50/hr.
Secretary	7.35/hr.
Town Clerk's Salary	840, plus fees
Tax Collector's Salary	8,400, plus fees
Treasurer's Salary	850.
Police Chiefs Salary	24,780.
Police Matron's Salary	1,200.
Police Officer's Salary	10,700.
Fire Chief Expenses	1,450.
Deputy Fire Chief Expenses	675.
Fire Captain's Expenses	375.
Firefighter's Expenses	3,000. (total man-hrs. used to determine hourly rate)
Road Agent's Wages	11.56/hr.
Highway Dept. Laborer	6.55-7.35/hr.
Truck Driver	6.95-7.82/hr.
Truck-Hauling rate	21.50-25.30/hr. with operator
Truck-Plowing rate	23.60-27.60/hr. with operator
Bucket Loader	24.50/hr. with operator
Grader	44.30/hr. with operator
Building Inspector's Salary	100. plus fees
Cemetery Commissioners	100., 75., 75
Cemetery Workers	6.55-7.35/hr.
Gravel	.75 to 1.25 cubic yd.
Sand	.50 to 1.00 cubic yd.
Road Salt	38.55/ton
Cold Patch	25.00/ton
Oil	1.11/gal.

1991

The new Town Hall celebration lasted over eight months, beginning in January with a huge bonfire on the new soccer field below the school and ending with a dance at the Town Hall on Old Home Day. An open house was held on March 2, when the townspeople could tour their new hall, complete with town offices, new kitchen, enlarged dining area, and library. On the previous day, an open house (by invitation only) was held for officials of surrounding towns to tour the building. The Old Meeting House Society arranged a fine display of old pictures and other memorabilia, including the construction of the Blackwater Dam and pictures of Webster's last Town Hall, taken in 1940.

The first old-fashioned dance was held March 2 in the new Town Hall as part of the celebration. A musical revue and play, "Laffin' Room Only", was held on March 22 and 23. A dinner/entertainment followed on April 20th.

An ice-cutting demonstration was held at Lake Winnepocket on January 26, with many people enjoying hot chocolate, coffee and a warm bonfire, while watching the activities. The Old Meeting House celebrated its 200th year in 1991 and several special programs were planned.

The former library was remodeled to house the Webster Police Department.

The annual school meeting was held at Merrimack Valley High School on March 7.

With her new office now in the Town Hall, Ruth Stebbins began a new schedule of office hours to coincide with those of the other town officials.

About 200 Webster residents turned out for the town's business meeting on Saturday, March 16. All warrant articles passed, except the one requesting that nonprofit organizations be allowed to sell food during Old Home Day activities. The results of Tuesday's voting found Robert Lake defeating Robert Mock for the position of Road Agent (201-141). There were no other contests.

Sports for the children of Webster have been expanded, with various age groups playing soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, and hockey.

In addition to raising money for the Steeple Fund, Edna Frost took on the enormous task of equipping the new town hall kitchen. Many donated time and talent in securing some of the needed items. The kitchen now has new cabinets, counter tops, dishwasher, refrigerator, a new stove with exhaust fan, a center island work area and closures for the pass-through serving area.

The 8th Annual N.J.E. Canoe and Kayak Races were held May 4 and 5 on the Blackwater River.

Fires were numerous in town in 1991. On March 11, 1991, the house beyond John Little's home on Deer Meadow Road, occupied by the Demers', was destroyed by fire: cause: a wood stove.

On April 11, Marion Jones' house on Winnepocket Road was destroyed by fire: cause, arson.

On May 19, Scott and Joanne (Whitcomb) Miller's home on Tyler Road (which they had recently purchased but not yet occupied) was totally destroyed: cause, unknown. They have since built a new home on the property. The original house is described on page 224 in the 1983 Town History.

On May 23, the barn belonging to Sandra and Charles Bartlett on Tyler Road burned: cause, undetermined.

A fire on June 8 destroyed the mobile home of Joan and Peter Robillard on Pleasant Street: cause, defective dryer.

On June 15, Leroy Smith's summer cottage at Walker Pond was struck by lightning and burned.

A fire on July 11 gutted the home of Charles and Caroline Pellock on Deer Meadow Road: cause, undetermined. This house is described on page 209 of the 1983 Webster Town History.

Seven building permits were issued in 1991, two of these for mobile homes. Two permits were later voided.

The reconstruction of State Route 127 was completed this year.

By the end of March, 1991, 28.5 inches of snow had fallen in Webster. Normal for the winter season is 62.3 inches.

Marion T. Jones retired as organist of Webster's Congregational Church after 47 years of service.

The church purchased the Edwin Buck house next door; it is now known as the Parish House, and is used as pastoral offices, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship rooms and meeting facilities, child care during church services, and (the most important item) for bathrooms!

The poor economy found many in need of assistance in the way of food. A food pantry has been formed

in the Parish House. Many contributions were received from individuals. Food from N.H.'s surplus left from Operation Desert Storm, Capital Area Food Program, Community Action Program, etc. are welcome additions. Twenty families received 40 boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas and the pantry is open weekly on a regular basis

The Town Planning Board appointed a committee to review the Town's Master Plan.

The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House held a Memorial Day service on May 30, patterned after the services of 50 years ago, with the children going to Corser Hill Cemetery to place flowers on the graves of servicemen.

Scholarships awarded by town organizations to high school graduates were as follows: The Joseph Degen Scholarship (given by the Meeting House) went to Angela Pitrone; Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship - Eric Cummings; William R. Pearson Memorial Scholarship - Travis Taliaferro.

Webster's 93rd Old Home Day celebration was held on August 17, a beautiful, warm, sunny day. Ruth Stebbins was the Grand Marshal of the parade, which was enjoyed by a large crowd. For the first time, a photo was taken of all present. Games, music, and swimming followed.

A Land Conservation Investment Program was completed in October, with the establishment of the Paul P. Mock Memorial Forest; 58.9 acres of land across from the swimming hole at Pearson Park. Thirteen adjoining acres of Edward and William Phelps land and 51.1 acres of Ted Gaskill land on Tyler Road, with 5,440 feet of river frontage behind Riverdale Cemetery were included. The aforementioned land was purchased, and 311.21 acres were donated by Abby Rockefeller, Harold and Betsy Janeway, and Lamar and Judy Riggs in order to close the deal.

Considering the state of the economy, the Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had another successful year, taking in around \$12,000. \$10,000 was turned over to the church.

The summer suppers were again a huge success, utilizing the new dining room and kitchen of the town hall. Proceeds of the first supper were donated to the Robillard's, following their fire loss; the remaining five suppers netted \$1,100 for each of the three sponsoring organizations (Church, Grange and Women's Union).

The Planning Board is holding meetings in regard to the Walker Pond Watershed Plan - it affects about 2,000 acres along Beaver Dam Brook and Walker Pond (Boscawen's water supply).

At the annual church meeting, Ruth Stebbins retired as clerk of the church after 47 years. Mary Welch was elected in her place.

The fifth annual town-wide Christmas Party was again held at the meeting house. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there to greet the children, refreshments were served, carols sung, and displays of doll houses and English Villages were enjoyed.

The annual popcorn party was held at the Drown Farm on Battle Street on December 10. Over 300 popcorn balls were made and boxes of candy filled, to be distributed following the school program, which was presented on December 12 at the Town Hall to a "standing room only" audience of family and friends.

The third annual Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles was held on December 24 at the church with a capacity crowd in attendance.

TEACHERS 1990-1991

Kindergarten

Nancy Rideout

1 st Grade	Elizabeth Morse
2 nd Grade	Dale Barrett
2 nd & 3 rd	June Branscom
4 th Grade	Margaret Halacy
5 th Grade	George Radcliffe
Aide	Pauline Colby

ORGANIZATIONS:

Webster Extension	Dorothy Monz, President
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins, Master
Women's Union	Janet Broker, President

1992

At Merrimack Valley School District meeting on March 5, a budget of \$11,407,288 was adopted. A special district school meeting was held on October 16 to accept a new contract with the teachers (\$191,000).

At Webster's Town Meeting on March 10, a proposed budget of \$536,162 was accepted.

Ruth A. Stebbins retired as Town Clerk after 26 years of service, and Linda McFarland was elected.

Public suppers to benefit the Church were held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from January through May. Over \$2000 was raised.

The ninth annual New England Canoe and Kayak races were held on May 2 and 3.

On April 17, we received 4" of snow; 35" for the entire winter. This was the least snowy winter since 1950-51, and the 8th least snowy since records were kept (1871).

Peter Johnson and his sled dogs finished 85th (good!) in the Iditarod held in Alaska. This race covers 1159 miles, from Anchorage to Nome.

Through the efforts of C.A.P. and several local residents, the Senior Citizens have been enjoying a luncheon and program at the Town Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month.

The Church's Food Pantry has helped 22 families in town as the need arises. Thirty-two Christmas baskets were delivered in December.

The Women's Union and friends arranged a thrift shop/yard sale in the barn of the Parish house. This was open during the summer and early fall months with proceeds going to the Church.

Scholarships were awarded this year as follows: Daniel Webster Grange - Ian MacGregor; Joseph Degen (meetinghouse) - Jeremy Gosinski.

Saturday night suppers held during the summer months were again successful. Six suppers netted each of the three participating organizations (Church, Women's Union and Grange) over \$1100.

Soccer Camp was held the week of August 10, with about 50 young people participating.

Old Home Day was cloudy and cool, but maintained a good attendance.

Marion T. Jones was Grand Marshal of the Parade. Marion has lived in Webster since 1940. She has held several town offices, and has been a Grange member for nearly 60 years, serving in many offices in Daniel Webster and Merrimack County Pomona Granges. She was the first person in Webster to serve as an officer in the N.H. State Grange. She was organist for 47 years and a Sunday School teacher for almost as long. She has been instrumental in the operation of the Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair and

will be remembered for her many donuts, made "on location" at the church booth. She was also the speaker at the Old Home Day Sunday church service.

As the oldest resident of Webster, Mary Chase, 87, of Pleasant Street, was presented the Webster Cane.

On September 12, the Country Fair and Auction, sponsored by the Meeting House Society, brought forth a smaller attendance than anticipated, but is well worth repeating next year following more publicity.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair was again successful, with a profit of \$12,000. \$10,000 was contributed to the Webster Church. Paul and Marsha LaBrecque now head up this project.

The Veterans' Memorial, at the junction of Route 127 and Allen's Road, was nearly completed. Stones and plaques with the names of all from Webster who served our country from WWI on are listed. Appropriate lighting, a flag and pole and a bed of flowers in the shape of the American Flag have been provided. Later, further landscaping and a small parking lot are planned. The land for this project was given by Ruth (Stockbridge) Garvey and her husband, Ed.

The National (presidential) election on November 3, 1992 brought out more voters than ever before in Webster's history. In mid-afternoon, more than 50 persons were waiting in line to vote. Dem. Bill Clinton received 266 votes in Webster; Rep. George Bush 250 votes, and Independent Ross Perot 175 votes. Bill Clinton and V.P. Al Gore were the winning candidates.

The Webster Congregational Church has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The carriage shed/wood shed was repaired with funds from the Old Webster Meeting House Society.

Through the generosity of residents and friends, a parking lot was constructed behind the Webster Congregational Church.

The tax rate for 1992 was \$51.94 per thousand dollars of property valuation (37%).

The Sixth Annual Christmas Party at the Old Meeting House on December 6 was again very successful. Santa was present as usual. Local musicians and carolers made this a festive occasion. The theme this year was ANIMALS, with ceramic, stuffed and wooden animals, old and new, on display.

Due to the town's very busy schedule, no popcorn party was held this year, but the Grange and Women's Union presented each school child with a box of goodies and an apple at the annual Christmas program. The Town Hall

was filled to capacity on this evening, with the Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 5 presenting their programs.

The Fire Department Auxiliary sponsored Tuesday Night Bingo at the Webster School during 1992.

The Black Water Players presented "Welcome to The West" on May 22 and 23. On October 23 and 24 they presented two one act plays "Any Body for Tea?" and "How Does A Thing Like That Get Started?"

Only three building permits were issued in 1992.

TEACHERS 1991-1992:

Principal	Irene Plourde
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grades 3 & 4	Nancy Webster
Grades 3 & 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	George Radcliffe

Aide
Kindergarten

Pauline Colby
Nancy Rideout

ORGANIZATIONS:

Webster Extension	Betsy Janeway
Daniel Webster Grange	Dorothy Haskins
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
George Hashem

1993

Public suppers benefiting the Webster Church were held during the winter months (January through May) on the second Saturday of each month.

The Webster Firemen's Relief Fund continued to profit from Tuesday Night Bingo held at the Webster Elementary School.

The Church/Town Food Pantry, under the direction of Sylvia Hook, has been very active in providing food for many needy families in town.

The Webster Sports Committee should be commended for its efforts. With the help of many volunteers as coaches, groundskeepers, and "transporters", we have several teams both girls and boys who participate in basketball, baseball, softball and soccer. Between 80% and 90% of all Webster children participate in at least one sport.

The Corser Hill store closed on February 15 due to the illness of its owner, June Nason. It was the first time in over 60 years that the store had been closed. It reopened on April 10 under the management of June and Bob's son, Don Nason.

The Boscawen Historical Society made available reprints of the Buxton History of Boscawen (1883-1933), which includes some of Webster's early history.

On May 1 & 2, the 10th N.E. Championship Canoe and Kayak Races were again held in Webster.

Following seven years of service as Webster's librarian, Lorna Austin resigned and was replaced by Cathryn Clark-Dawe.

At the March Town Meeting James Weld defeated Robert Drown 176 to 114 in the only contest for a town office; he was elected to the Board of Selectmen.

The Town Offices are now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday; the hours are 9-12 A.M. and 1-4 P.M. The Town Clerk's hours are 9-12 A.M. and 1-3 P.M. every Monday and Wednesday, and 7 to 9 P.M. every Monday night.

At Town Meeting, it was voted to hire a second full-time police officer; Steve Faer, a former part time officer.

The voters of the Merrimack Valley School District accepted a budget of \$11,761,457. At a special school meeting on September 29th, they voted to purchase land in Boscawen on which to build a new elementary school.

Progress is being made toward renumbering streets in preparation for an emergency 911 number for Webster.

Swimming lessons for Warner and Webster children continued to be held at Lake Winnepocket. These are sponsored by the Red Cross.

A boat access ramp for residents of Webster has been provided at Lake Winnepocket.

Senior Citizens' luncheons, sponsored by C.A.P., continued to be enjoyed on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Town Hall.

We had beautiful weather for Old Home Day in August. A new feature of displays by Webster craftsmen was enjoyed. Mary Chase was Grand Marshal of the parade. The Chicken Bar-B-Q was sponsored by the Senior Choir of the Webster Church, and featured take-out service for the first time. On this day, the flag was raised on the new flagpole in front of the Town Hall.

A Country Fair Day and Auction on August 22 was sponsored by the Webster Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House.

On December 1st, a fire destroyed the Wolenc home on the Warner Road. This house was built in the 1940's by Romeo Champagne.

The 7th annual Christmas Party was held at the Old Meeting House on December 5. Santa was present as usual, and the Junior Choir sang. Musicians and carolers made this a festive occasion. The theme this year was Colonial Williamsburg.

The Women's Union and Grange presented all children in town with apples and caramel corn this year; prepared in the Town Hall kitchen. (It still seems impossible to schedule an evening at the Drown Farm... we're a very busy town.)

The Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship was presented to Matthew Lampron. The Joseph Degen Scholarship went to Allison Blanchette.

The History Committee reports only 12 volumes of our latest Town History remain. One history has been placed in the Time Capsule.

Five building permits were issued in 1993.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, Dorothy Barter

Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss

Family & Community Education (formerly Webster Extension) - President, Betsey Janeway

School Board Members: Normandie Blake and George Hashem

TEACHERS 1992-1993

Principal	Irene Plourde
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grades 3 & 4	Nancy Webster
Grades 3 & 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	George Radcliffe
Aide	Pauline Colby
Kindergarten	Susan Stockley

1994

Public suppers benefiting the Webster Church were held on the second Saturday of each month, January through May, and proved financially successful. The Firemen's Auxiliary continued to hold Bingo games at the Webster Elementary School on Tuesday evenings. The Food Pantry had another year of successful operation.

A farewell party for Rev. Mary Caldwell was held on January 16 at the town hall. Our pastor for four years, Rev. Mary retired to pursue other work.

Under the direction of Sgt. Steve Faer, Police Explorer Post #360 was organized for young people interested in law enforcement.

Karen Mehuron was elected to represent Webster on the Merrimack Valley School Board, replacing "Dee" Blake, who did not seek reelection after serving nine years on the Board.

The School Budget for the District was \$11,451,552. A dual busing system was approved at the school meeting, with various grades beginning at different times, enabling older and younger students to ride on separate buses.

At the March 8, 1994 Town Meeting, 477 votes were cast, and for the first time in the history of Webster, there was a tie vote for the office of Selectman in a 3-person contest. Normandie Blake and Robert Drown each received 179 votes and Edward Hughes 112. A week later, a tie-breaker was held, with a name drawn from a hat! Town Clerk Linda McFarland drew Dee Blake's name and she became Webster's first female selectman.

A petition to extend the Class V section of Pond Hill Road 300' to enable a home to be built there was approved.

Duane Anderson, one of the original appointees to the Cemetery Commission in 1967, declined reappointment to that commission, and Ronald Frost was chosen to take his place.

Availability of sports for Webster children has really taken off in the past several years, with many levels of teams for both girls and boys in baseball, softball, soccer and basketball. Many generous relatives and friends help to make this possible by acting as coaches, umpires, referees, scorekeepers, etc.

A special meeting of the Merrimack Valley School District was held on May 19, 1994 to vote on the construction of a new elementary school in Boscawen, as well as improvements at the high and middle schools. A \$5,400,000 bond was approved for this purpose.

A Webster Business and Professional Association was formed to promote individual businesses and to inform townspeople of the broad range of services available within the community.

Rev. Dr. Frank L. Irvine of East Concord was chosen as the interim pastor of the Webster Congregational Church. He will serve until the church completes its quest for a new minister.

In June, the following scholarships were awarded to high school graduates:

- Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship - Casey Benson;
- Meetinghouse Scholarships - Susan Cummings and Susan Winslow;
- William R. Pearson Scholarship - Tim Taylor (Andover).

The Webster Meeting House sponsored a Candlelight Buffet on August 5, 1994. A "first" for Webster, this dinner was well attended.

A Chamber Music Concert was held at the church on the evening before Old Home Day.

Old Home Day was held on August 20, 1994. A fine parade was led by Edna Frost as Grand Marshal. A Fireman's Muster was held in the afternoon. The successful annual chicken barbecue was followed by a dance in the town hall.

Henry Mock, son of Winifred (Kimball) and the late Paul Mock, was the guest speaker at the church on Old Home Sunday. His topic was "Webster - Yesterday and Today."

The second annual auction benefiting the Meeting House Scholarship Fund was held on August 21. A total of \$550 was raised on that afternoon.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fairgrounds had an< successful year under the leadership of Paul and Marsha LaBrecque wit] assistance of many others.

The sixth annual town-wide yard sale was held September 18, 1994. Over 40 families officially participated.

The Corser Hill Country Store closed its doors on June 5th and for the first time in many years there was no store in the Town of Webster. It reopened on October 1, 1994 under new ownership (Allen & Joan Smith), and with a new name, "Cowdreys Country Store." The Smiths have made major repairs and renovations and are operating the business as a real "country store."

The Primary election, held on September 13, resulted in a small turnout. Nationwide, the November 8 election was a Republican landslide, with 508 votes cast in Webster.

Marion T. Jones resigned as a Supervisor of the Checklist, a position she had held for the past 49 years. Jane Millon was appointed as her replacement.

In October, our Town Clerk, Barbara Hochrein became an authorized Municipal Agent of the State of New Hampshire; now residents can renew auto registrations with the State, receive the new stickers and pay town tax at the same time. They may also renew their registration by mail. Nancy Rideout is the Assistant Town Clerk.

Following 19 years of service as a police officer in the Town of Webster, Chief Aime Roy resigned on October 31, 1994. His wife, Avis, Matron, also resigned as did Officer William Shackford. A committee was formed to recommend a new police chief, who will be appointed by the Selectmen. Meanwhile Steve Faer was designated to serve as Acting Chief. The above officers were honored at town and country celebrations for their service to the Town of Webster.

The re-evaluation of Webster's properties began in late fall and will continue for several months into 1995. The Division of the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration is working on the appraisals

The annual Christmas party sponsored by the Old Meeting House Society, was held on December 4, 1994.

No popcorn, apples, candy, or program of music provided by and for the elementary school classes was in evidence this year; one more town tradition gone!

A fire at the Joyal residence on Pleasant Street destroyed the office area of a small business in town on October 9, 1994.

A small bam at the Ohlson residence on Mutton Road was destroyed by fire on December 3, 1994.

Work is nearly completed on numbering the streets in Webster for the 911 project.

Nine building permits were issued in 1994.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Daniel Webster Grange - Elaine Hodgdon, Master

Women's Union - Eleanor Corliss, President

Family & Community Education - Georgia Jeffrey

School Board Members (Webster) - Karen Mehuron and George Hashem

FOUR-H CLUBS:

Early Hour 4-H - Cynthia Finlayson

Merrimack County OxBows - Bob Pearson III

Silver Spurs - Pauline Colby and Caroline McDonough

TEACHERS 1993-1994:

Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Nancy Webster
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	George Radcliffe (head teacher)
Principal	Irene Plourde
Aide	Pauline Colby
Kindergarten	Susan Stockley
Kindergarten Aide	Elizabeth Ober

1995

Temperature records were broken in January, with highs of 63 degrees in Concord on the 16th. Atop Mt. Washington, the temperature reached 44 degrees on January 15th and 16th. On the same date in 1994, -42 degrees was recorded. The summit had no snow and just a little ice. Some ski areas closed because of lack of snow. Many small streams flooded their banks.

Suppers benefiting the church were again held on the second Saturday of each month from January through May.

The Food Pantry had another successful year.

On December 28, 1994, a rabid raccoon bit Marjorie Andrews just outside her Battle Street home, bringing the rabies situation to reality for Webster residents. Dogs and cats now have to be vaccinated for rabies, due to the outbreak and spread of this disease. All animals exhibited at fairs must also be immunized.

On February 11, the trailer owned by David and Doreen Potter on Guideboard Hill Road was gutted by fire, apparently caused by a wood stove. It was reported by a passing snowmobiler. The Potters have rebuilt at the same location.

Steven Faer, an officer on the Webster Police Department for the past seven years, was appointed Police Chief on February 20, 1995.

The Homer Hunt Sports Banquet, which honored over 120 children from the first eight grades who participated in softball, baseball, soccer or basketball (as well as 30 coaches and assistants), was held in March.

Town Meeting elections were held on March 14, 1995. Robert Drown was elected Selectman with 314 votes. Nathan Foose received 94 votes and Richard Lehmann 17. Linda McFarland was elected Town Treasurer, replacing Linda Lorden, who did not seek reelection. The business part of the Town Meeting was held on the following Saturday, March 18, with one of the largest attendances in several years. The voters, apparently conscious of their tax bills and wallets, voted "no" to Kindergarten, road repairs and a higher police budget.

Selectman James Weld resigned on April 17th. RSA 669:63 states that when the two remaining Selectmen fail to agree on an appointment, the Superior Court or any justice thereof, on petition of any citizens of the town, and after such notice as the Court shall deem reasonable, may appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy.

On June 6th a petition was presented to Superior Court in the name of David Batchelder, along with 247 signatures of eligible voters in the Town of Webster. An additional 60 signatures were gathered before the hearing, for a total of 307. A hearing was held in Superior Court on July 10th and the Judge gave Selectpersons Blake and Drown a week to agree on someone to replace James Weld. When an agreement failed to be reached, David Batchelder was appointed by the Court.

The New England Divisional Championship of Kayak racing was held for the 14th year below the Blackwater Dam on April 22nd & 23rd. There were 126 entries. The U.S. Olympic Festival with Kayaks and Canoes was held on April 29th & 30th near the bridge on Tyler Road. There were 93 entries, with a good turnout of enthusiastic supporters.

The "Over 80" party sponsored by the Webster Meeting House Society, was held on July 9th.

Summer suppers, a longtime Webster tradition, began on Saturday, July 2nd and continued for seven weeks.

The State assessors finished their work, and booklets with everyone's new assessments were mailed in July; next, the wait for the tax rate.

The 97th Old Home Day was held on August 19th. Elizabeth (Betty) Pearson was the Grand Marshal of the parade. Games, music by "Strings N Things," a chicken barbecue and a dance were included in the celebration. Ruth Stebbins was the guest speaker at the Sunday Old Home Day Church Service.

August 27th was Dr. Frank Irvine's last Sunday as Webster's interim minister, having served the Webster Church for the past year and a half. The new Pastor for the Webster Congregational Church is Cheryl Garbos. Thirty persons attended Christian Education camps during the summer months.

The Road Agent's employees brought a complaint to the Labor Board for overtime due them in the amount of \$3,000 from the Town of Webster, it cost the town an additional \$8,000 for attorney's fees.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair was again successful. Thanks to all the wonderful people who donate their time and labor for a great cause.

The town-wide yard sale, sponsored by the Webster Firemen's Relief Association, was held on the rain date, September 24th with over 80 families participating.

In a nationwide crackdown of child pornography on computers, the F.B.I. raided a home in Webster and seized a computer, one of 125 seized across the nation.

Work continues on the 911 program. The emergency number is operational, but street numbers are not yet in use. Target date is set for February, 1996.

The Town Christmas Party was held at the Old Meeting House on December 3rd.

The snowfall for November/December, 1995 exceeded that of the entire winter season of 1994-95 by more than four inches. By the end of December 1995, over 40 inches had fallen.

Building Permits issued in 1995: 16

ORGANIZATIONS:

Daniel Webster Grange #100	Elaine Hodgdon, Master
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss, President
FCE (Family & Community Education)	Georgia Jeffrey, President
School Board Members (Webster)	Karen Mehuron & George Hashem
4-H Clubs:	
Early Hour	Cynthia Finlayson,
	(new) Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows	Robert Pearson III
Silver Spurs	Pauline Colby

TEACHERS:

Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Nancy Webster
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	George Radcliffe (head teacher)
Principal	Irene Plourde
Aide	Pauline Colby
Kindergarten	Susan Stockley
Aide	Elizabeth Ober

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

Grange	Greg Manning
Degen	Sara Bartlett
William Pearson	Keith Kraft (Andover)

TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES, PAY SCALES, ETC.

Selectmen's Salary	\$1,200.00
Selectmen's Expenses	300.00
Administrative Assistant	12.60 hr.
Secretary	9.00 hr.
Town Clerk's Salary	4.25 hr. plus fees
Tax Collector's Salary	9,400.00 plus fees
Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00
Police Chiefs Salary	27,000.00
Police Sergeant's Salary	18,000.00
Police Officers' Salaries:	
Officer, part time, not certified	5.00 hr.

Officer, certified	6.00 hr.
After 1 year	7.00 hr.
After 3 years	8.00 hr.
Part time, Training Lieutenant	9.25 hr.
Special Skills (DARE Instructor)	10.00 hr.
Experience level & performance - Details	18.00 - 20.00 hr.
Fire Chief Expenses	1,970.00
Deputy Fire Chief Expenses	732.00
Captain's Expenses	406.00
Firefighters' Expenses	3,500.00
(Total man-hours used to determine hourly rate)	
Road Agent's Wages	12.16 hr.
Assistant Foreman	10.73 hr.
Highway Dept. Labor Grade III b	9.95 hr.
Labor Grade II	8.85 hr.
Labor Grade I	8.17 hr.
Bookkeeper	8.50 hr.
Truck - Hauling rate 6-wheeler	19.70 hr.
10-wheeler	24.80 hr.
Plowing rate 6-wheeler	27.80 hr.
Grader (with operator)	44.30 hr.
Building Inspector's Salary	\$108.28 plus fees
Cemetery Trustees: Chairman	108.28
Other Members	81.21
Gravel: Bank Run	5.25 yd.
Crushed Bank	6.37 yd.
Crushed in Town Pit	3.00 yd.
Sand	1.00 yd.
Road Salt	35.65 ton
Cold Patch or Mix	26.00 ton
Oil	1.16 gal.

1996

Suppers to benefit the Webster Church were held every second Saturday of the month, January through May.

Bids for capping the Webster/Hopkinton dump came in under the estimate; Webster's cost should be around \$600,000. Time will tell!

A public hearing on the proposed 1996 Town warrant and budget was held on Tuesday, February 13. This meeting is sponsored by Daniel Webster Grange each year.

The Presidential Primary was held on February 20 with new voting hours; polls were open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. These hours will be used for State and National elections. Town elections will still use the old hours; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fifty-seven residents voted before 10 a.m. A total of 504 votes were cast with 883 on the checklist. Thirty-eight people registered to vote on that day.

The annual meeting of the Merrimack Valley School District was held on March 7 at the high school.

Town Meeting (election of Town officers) was held on March 12, with 470 persons voting. David Batchelder was elected Selectman for three years, receiving 279 of the 470 votes cast. On Saturday, March 16, over 230 persons attended the Town Meeting to vote on the warrant articles. After much discussion, a firearms ordinance was passed, prohibiting anyone not a police officer from entering the Town Hall with a gun in his/her possession. The residents voted to lease a new Fire/Rescue truck; then tightened their purse strings and cut several budget items. Forty warrant articles took 5 1/2 hours to act upon.

The winter of 1995-1996 turned out to be the third snowiest winter on record.

The canoe and kayak races held in April attracted many as usual. The 14th Blackwater Slalom Festival took place in the river (rapids!) behind the Webster Elementary School. One week later, the 1996 U.S. Junior Team Trials were held at the Snyder's Mill area of the river.

Webster continues to have many children involved in a great variety of sports for each season of the year.

Memorial Day was again observed at the Old Meeting House, with a good attendance. Children, veterans, and other adults marched to the cemetery, stopping en route at the Veterans' Memorial for a brief service.

The Webster Food Pantry continued to be very active, providing regular contributions of food, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, fruit and turkeys to many of our residents.

George Radcliffe retired after teaching for 24 years at the Webster Elementary School. He was honored by a well-attended party at the Town Hall.

The annual party honoring those persons over 80 years of age was held at the Old Meeting House.

The annual summer suppers, sponsored by and benefiting Church, Grange and Women's Union, were once again successful fund-raisers.

The long-awaited "911" went into operation on April 27; everyone in Town now has a numbered street address. After Webster's mail having been delivered from Penacook, Contoocook and Warner for many years, it is now delivered out of Concord to individual street addresses in Webster 03303. The greatest change is that Battle Street addresses now start at the Warner town line in Davisville and cover all Route 127 residents to the Salisbury-Webster line.

Instead of the annual banquet, a Homer Hunt Sport Picnic was held this year.

Stanley Andrews resigned as a full-time police officer for Webster.

Old Home Day was observed on August 17 under sunny skies. George Radcliffe was the parade's Grand Marshal and was also the guest speaker at the church on Old Home Sunday.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair had a busy time until weather forecasts of an impending hurricane, (which never really materialized), cut attendance. For the first time, prices on meals were cut and advertised as "Hurricane Specials."

Hy-Mar Fire Department celebrated its 50th birthday in September.

The State Primary election was held September 10. 309 voted and there are now 924 on Webster's checklist.

The town-wide yard sale was held on September 15, with over 120 homes participating. It was so successful that there's talk of a 2-day sale next year.

Town Clerk Barbara Hochrein can now issue license plates for passenger vehicles, trailers and motorcycles, as well as renew registrations.

Twelve building permits were issued in 1996.

Only one structure fire occurred in 1996; a chicken house at the Hubbard residence.

Cher Garbos, Pastor of the Webster Congregational Church, resigned on Sunday, October 20.

State and National elections were held on November 5. Forty-eight names were added to the checklist on that day, making a total of 994 voters in Webster, of which 741 voted (a 75% voter turnout).

In the Presidential race, Bill Clinton received 351 votes; Dole, 278; Perot, 86. In the Gubernatorial contest, Lamontagne had 241 votes; Shaheen, 459. Other results in Webster gave Sweatt, 341; Smith, 331; Bass, 381; Amesen 292. National election results: President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore won the election for the Democrats. Jeanne Shaheen became New Hampshire's first lady Governor. Republicans Bob Smith (Senator) and Charles Bass (Congressman) remained in office.

Scholarships were given to high school seniors as follows:

Degen Scholarship	Corrine Brannigan
Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship	Adam Fanjoy
William R. Pearson Scholarship	Derek Emerson

Leaders of various Town organizations:

4-H Leaders	Sandra Creighton and Loma Bates
Silver Spurs 4-H	Pauline Colby
4-H Merrimack County Oxbows	Robert Pearson III
Daniel Webster Grange	Elaine Hodgdon
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss
Family & Community Education	Georgia Jeffrey
Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House	Clarence Jeffrey

School Board members from Webster Karen Mehuron and George Hashem

TEACHERS:

Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Nancy Webster
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	George Radcliffe
Principal	Irene Plourde
Aide	Dora Rapalyea
Kindergarten	Susan Stockley
Aide	Liz Ober

1997

A fire at the home of Lionel and Nancy Reed on the Call Road caused damage to the chimney and partitions on December 21, 1996.

Winter suppers benefiting the Webster Congregational Church were held every second Saturday of each month, January through May.

At a special meeting on January 5, the church membership voted to sell the parsonage.

On February 11, at an open meeting of Daniel Webster Grange, the annual Town budget hearing and discussion of the Town Warrant took place.

On March 6, the Merrimack Valley School District held its annual meeting at the high school in Penacook. The voters approved Article IV, which provided Kindergarten and transportation for each town in the district. Normandie Blake was re-elected to the school board (she was presently completing Karen Mehuron's term) by 229 votes over Rupert Leeming (214 votes). The budget approved was \$15.2 million.

Voting for Webster's town officers was held on March 11, 1997. There were two contested positions: Selectman David Richardson (315 votes) and George Cummings (306 votes); Road Agent Adam Mock (376 votes) and Robert Lake (249 votes). The Town Meeting was held on March 15, 1997. There had been many articles and letters in local newspapers regarding the police department and selectmen of Webster. The morning was spent in discussing, voting and re-voting several articles in reference to the police department. After the police budget as proposed was passed, all other articles in the warrant were passed and/or approved in 2 1/2 hours.

The Blackwater Slalom New England Division Canoe Races were held April 19 and 20 at Sweatt's Mills.

The Northeast Regional Whitewater Kayak Trial Races were held on April 26 and 27 at Snyder's Mills.

A fire at the Ohlson-Martin house on White Plains Road caused damage to the chimney and partition on February 26, 1997.

A Memorial Day service was held on May 30 at Webster's Old Meeting House featuring the school children and special speakers.

In May, the Webster Private Kindergarten graduated its last class after 24 years in the Grange/Town Hall. In September, the students began attending classes at the Webster Elementary School.

Six public suppers were held during the summer months to benefit the Grange, Church and Women's Union.

Webster's 99th Old Home Day was held Saturday, August 16, 1997. Carol and Daniel Creighton were the Grand Marshals in the parade. A chicken barbecue, sponsored by the Webster Church Choir, was again successful. This was followed by a dance in the evening. Storyteller George Radcliffe was again guest speaker at the Old Home Day Service in the church on Sunday, August 17th.

The annual town-wide yard sale was extended to two days this year, September 20 and 21. More than 150 homes participated.

The Board of Selectmen voted to hire the services of Concord-based Municipal Resources, Inc., headed by Donald Jutton, to help resolve the long ongoing dispute between the Police Chief, residents, and selectmen.

Webster's Old Meeting House Society held its annual Christmas Party on December 7, 1997

The Mellen Company, manufacturer of control systems and components for vacuum furnaces and laboratory instruments will be expanding and moving to Concord.

A funeral with full military honors was held on November 1, when Sergeant William R. Pearson, missing in action for 25 years, was returned from Vietnam to Webster for burial in the family plot.

Fifteen building permits were issued in 1997.

Mabel Anderson, original member of the History Committee and co-editor of the 1983 History Book, passed away December 6, 1997. For many years she taught school in Webster and was held in high regard.

NOTE: All of the 1983 Town Histories have been sold.

Scholarships were awarded as follows in 1997:

Degen Scholarship	Emily Millon
Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship	Catherine Inman
William R. Pearson Scholarship	Derek Gordon
(This will be the last William R. Pearson Scholarship.)	

Leaders of various Town organizations:

4-H Leaders	Sandra Creighton, Loma Bates, and Pauline Colby
4-H Merrimack County Oxbows	Robert Pearson, III
Daniel Webster Grange	George Barter
Women's Union	Eleanor Corliss
Family & Community Education	Georgia Jeffrey
Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House	Clarence Jeffrey

School Board Members from Webster	George Hashem and Normandie Blake
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TEACHERS:

Kindergarten	Susan Stockley
Aide	Laurel Foss
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Nancy Webster
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	Nancy Plimpton
Aide	Elizabeth Harvey
Principal	Irene Plourde

1998

As of the first of the year, the problems between the Selectmen, residents, and Police Department had not been resolved. Late last year, representatives from Municipal Resources, Inc. were hired to mediate this long ongoing dispute.

Articles appearing almost weekly in the *Concord Monitor* added fuel to the fire. A group called "Concerned Citizens of Webster" was formed. It held several meetings and presented a petition which

included 52 names, requesting the Selectmen to discontinue the M.R.I. Audit Another petition containing 149 names was presented in support of the Audit.

The Audit continued, with representatives of M.R.I. interviewing office help, Selectmen, and residents on both sides of the issue. The Audit ended in March of 1998 when Chief Steve Faer resigned, after agreeing to a \$35,000 settlement with the town; no comments or questions allowed from either side.

The Town was then policed by the County Sheriff's Department and the State Police until a new chief was appointed.

The Webster Congregational Church held public suppers on the second Saturday of each month, January through May. Senior Citizens' Luncheons are served on the third Friday of every month at the Town Hall.

The Merrimack Valley School District Meeting was held on March 5, 1998. The budget was passed at \$16.1 million. Discussion was held on building options in the near future. George Hashem was reelected as one of Webster's representatives on the school board.

Voting for Webster's town officers was held on March 10 1998 420 residents voted. Roger Becker was elected Selectman for 3 years with 223 votes to Lynmarie Lehmann's 176 votes. The Town Meeting was held on March 14 1998. It was voted to prohibit the use of sludge in town, to pass over an article to establish a 5-person Board of Selectmen, and another article to form a committee to mediate the dispute between police and selectmen.

With the recent terrible ice storm in mind, it was voted to purchase a generator for the town hall for use in emergencies. \$21,822 was appropriated for this purpose, but the actual price turned out to be much less. 322 residents were present and voting.

During the five-day period March 27-31, 1998, the high temperature record was broken four times. March 31 broke two records in Concord; warmest temperature for that date 89° and warmest month of March ever recorded. For the five days, temperatures ranged from 71° to 89°.

On April 25 and 26, the 15th Annual Kayakers' race was held at Sweatt's Mills behind the school. On May 2 and 3, the Slalom/US Junior Team Trials were held at Snyder's Mills. Both events are sanctioned by the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team. The Blackwater River is considered one of the top four natural courses in America.

A special Memorial Day Celebration was held on May 29 at the Meeting House. Webster School children took part.

Clothespin Bridge Road, from the bridge to Battle Street/Route 127 dug up, and paved - a big improvement! Part of Dustin Road and Winnepocket Road received the same treatment.

The annual "Over 80" Party was held on July 12 at the Old Meeting House. The oldest person present was Pauline Goodhue, age 97!

Six suppers were held on Saturday nights during July and August to benefit the Church, Grange and Women's Union. Over \$900.00 was netted for each organization.

Old Home Day was celebrated on Saturday, August 15. The first Old Home Day took place 100 years ago, and was formerly celebrated on Tuesday. The parade took a new route this year; from Clothespin Bridge Road to the School; fewer hills! Prizes were given for parade entries and games held. Music was provided by "Strings 'N Things" in the picnic grove, where free hot dogs, punch and watermelons were served. A chicken barbecue, sponsored by members of the Church Senior Choir, a dance at the Town Hall and a spectacular fireworks display on the soccer field ended the evening. The guest speaker at the church on

Dale Barrett

Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5
Principal

Nancy Webster
Margaret Halacy
Kathleen Malsbenden
Irene Plourde

1999

On February 21, a gathering was held at the Town Hall, where those in attendance recalled and discussed the Depression Years. It was a very enjoyable evening, especially for the “older” folks who could remember going without many of the things that are considered essential today.

Merrimack Valley School District meeting was held March 4. A 16.7-million-dollar budget was approved; also 1.3 million dollars was raised for administrators, teachers and support staff. Another \$100,000 was appropriated for plans for additions and a new Penacook Elementary School.

Town voting in Webster was held on March 9, and the Town Meeting was held on March 13. Ronald Frost was elected Selectman; everyone on the ballot was re-elected. All articles passed, with the exception of one: the article to make the street K/A Old Route 127 a Class 5 road was skipped over.

It was voted to appoint an “expert road agent,” rather than to elect one, as in the past. Ed Piper resigned as Building Inspector and Steve Manning was appointed to take his place.

Two hundred forty-six voters cast their ballots on Tuesday and one hundred twenty-one on Saturday.

The Eastern Regional U.S. Team Trials Qualifier Canoe and Kayak Races were held April 25 on the Blackwater in the Snyder’s Mill area. The annual Schoolhouse Canoe & Kayak Races were held May 1 & 2 behind the Webster Elementary School.

The State Legislators voted a statewide property tax of \$6.60 to pay for adequate school costs. Most expect to see this issue back in court.

At the N.H. School Transportation Association Safe Driving Awards Banquet for school bus drivers, Marsha Labrecque received a 20-year award and Kay Drown a 40-year award for safe driving.

Summer suppers, a long-standing tradition sponsored jointly by the Webster Congregational Church, Women’s Union, and Daniel Webster Grange were held for seven consecutive weeks.

Old Home Day was held on August 21, with Bill Bird as Grand Marshal. Following the parade, the rains came, and several activities were moved to the Town Hall. Some of the chickens being prepared for the annual chicken barbecue, sponsored by the Church Choir, received a little unexpected rain, but still were delicious. A dance finished the day. Janice Dawe was the guest speaker at the Old Home Day Church Service on Sunday.

The steeple on the Webster Congregational Church went through much needed major repairs. The work was done by Steve Fifield, whose specialty is steeple restoration. The estimated cost was \$36,500. Donations and fund-raisers were held to cover costs.

The Webster Church Booth at Hopkinton Fair was more successful this year than last, with fewer physical changes in the booth needed to comply with fire marshal's and other regulations.

The Town-wide Yard Sale was held on one day only this year - September 18.

Merrimack Valley School Board held a special school meeting on September 23 to vote on how the State-allocated educational funds would be spent. The School Board recommended 20% or \$1,200,000 of the

funds be set aside in a capital reserve fund for future buildings, but the plan was rejected. No one was spending anything until they were sure the money was going to be available. Loudon is exploring the idea of pulling out of the Merrimack Valley School District.

The Town of Webster has published a Winter Road Maintenance Policy: Start plowing when snow has accumulated 2 to 3 inches. After roads are clear, sanding and salting will begin. In a freezing rain, sand and salt will not be applied until after the rain stops. Remember, if it's snowing hard, some roads will have additional amounts of snow until the plows can finish their routes.

The Town-wide Christmas Party was held December 5 at the Old Meeting House. Santa was there to see the young people, and all shared in refreshments and singing.

On December 18, Santa Claus arrived at the Webster Church by fire truck. Santa listened to the requests of many children, who with their parents, enjoyed music, gifts, refreshments, and carol singing. Nearly 100 attended.

The Fire Department's 1972 tanker truck was involved in an accident and was totaled. However, it was insured and the Town will get a new replacement for only the \$ 1,000 deductible.

The steeple on the Town Hall (library) has been removed and will be stored until spring. The option for repairing, replacing, or removing entirely will be voted on at Town Meeting.

Chris Rose's home near Rose's Garage on Tyler Road was destroyed by fire on December 1.

Nine building permits were issued in 1999.

Land has been purchased from Craig and Sueanne Thayer (the former Marion Davis property) to be used for a new fire station.

Our new police cruiser was purchased by lease agreement.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Aide	Tamara Lorden
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Nancy Webster
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	Kathleen Malsbenden
Aide	Laurel Foss
Principal	Irene Plourde
Secretary	Helen Brannigan (since 1989)

SCHOLARSHIPS-

Degen Scholarship	Danielle Pitrone
Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship	James Martin
Cilley Scholarship (Webster Church)	Sara Colby

4-H LEADERS-

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates
Silver Spurs - Pauline Colby Dairy
Goat 4-H - Chris Livingston
4-H Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, George Barter
Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss
N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Carolyn Baston (formerly Family & Community Education)
Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey
School Board Members from Webster Normandie Blake and George Hashem
Girl Scouts - Terry Olson-Martin
Cadet Girl Scouts - Mary Evanofski
Brownies - Marge Tanner

2000

The New Year 2000 came in very quietly in spite of much hype about the new Millennium.

January 16, 2000 brought the first measurable snow since March 15th, 1999; two inches, which was followed by very cold weather for more than a week. January 17th was very windy, with -14° in the morning and never getting above 0°. Finally, on the 25th, we got 8-10 inches of snow, but much more was needed for the cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. Downhill skiers are very lucky with all the technology of snowmaking.

In January, Loudon residents voted by a 2-1 margin to remain in the Merrimack Valley School District.

The first of the Nation's Presidential Primaries was held February 1st. Of the 943 on the check list, 615 ballots were cast with 73 new registrations: John McCain 242, George W. Bush 93, Forbes 50, Keyes 20, Bauer 3, Hatch 1, Gore 102, and Bradley 96.

The annual meeting of the Merrimack Valley School District was held on March 9, 2000 in the high school gym to accommodate the anticipated huge crowd. The large turnout approved an \$11.8 million building project, which consisted of a new elementary school in Penacook, kindergarten rooms at Loudon, Salisbury and Webster, and renovations at the Middle and High schools. The vote was 656 for, 87 against. A new first for Merrimack Valley - a football field, which will see a varsity team in 2002. The 19 million-dollar operating budget was approved.

On March 13, the History Committee lost a very dedicated member with the death of Edna Frost. Among her many contributions to the Town Edna also worked on the Town Quilt, Bicentennial Committee and in 1990 was a leader in getting the new kitchen "up and running" and the preservation of the Anderson Memorial Church Steeple in the newly renovated Town Hall.

Voting for town officers in Webster was held on March 14. The only contested seat was that of Selectman. David Richardson received 183 votes; Daniel Gainer 38. Votes cast were 223. Adam Mock was appointed Road Agent for the next three years.

Town Meeting was held on March 18 and lasted only 1 hour and 40 minutes. It was voted not to repair the steeple on the Library, unless the needed money could be raised by fundraisers and contributions. Money was raised for a permanent cap on the steeple, if needed.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$76,000 for work to be done on White Plains Road.

The land purchased for a new fire station was changed in name to Public Safety Building" land, to include the Police Department. Money was raised to cover site work improvements on this land.

At this time, let's compare prices of gasoline and fuel oil in the last year. The following oil prices are from one person's dealer: August, 1999: \$.76.9 cents per gallon with a 10% discount for cash and/or payment

within 10 days. December 28, 1999: \$1.09 per gallon. February 28, 2000: \$1.39. In June, to pre-buy on automatic delivery for the winter of 2000-2001 (at least 400 gallons \$1.04). September 2000 \$1.39. December 2000 \$1.53. Other dealers were much higher. Gasoline in October, 1999 was \$.989 (self-serve); December, \$1,019; February, \$1.33; March, \$1,519; July, \$1,639; September, \$1,579; December, \$1,499 up to \$1,669. Dry wood sold from \$135-\$ 150 per cord.

Canoe and Kayak races were held in the river behind the school on April 29th & 30th. This was the 18th year that the New England Open Boat Championships were held in Webster.

A Memorial Day Observance was held on May 30 at the Old Meeting House, with a special program furnished by the school children.

The "Over 80" party was held on July 9 at the Old Meeting House.

Seven public suppers were held on Saturday nights in July and August, sponsored jointly by the Church, Grange, and Women's Union.

Irene Plourde, Principal for the Webster and Salisbury Elementary Schools, retired after 30 years in education.

The Selectmen accepted the Building Committee's selection of a design- build firm, The Hutter Construction Corporation, for the new Public Safety Building.

Old Home Day was held on August 19, 2000 in very pleasant weather. Dorothy Haskins was the Grand Marshall. Dustin John Rose was the first baby born to Webster parents in 2000, and took part in the parade. Owners of several antique cars participated; also, Chuck Druding with his calliope; teens and children. Games for the children, music by "Strings & Things" and the annual Horseshoe Tournament furnished entertainment. The Congregational Church Choir put on their annual Chicken Barbeque, and a dance was held in the evening.

The Webster Congregational Church has a new full-time Pastor, Elizabeth (Betty) French. She was ordained on October 8th at her home church in Hopkinton.

The Town-wide yard sale was held on September 23rd.

The Webster Church Booth was open for its 49th year at Hopkinton Fairgrounds.

State Primary day was held on Tuesday, September 12, with the polls open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 989 registered voters; 9 names were added on that day. 351 persons voted.

At the last regular meeting in October, the Selectmen voted to permanently cap the steeple over the library. This was necessary, as there wasn't enough financial support to continue the fund-raising effort.

There is an environmental problem at the foot of Pond Hill Road (a Class VI road) and Lake Winnepocket. The Selectmen are looking into the problem and have contacted the proper agencies involving the environmental problem as to the best way to prevent the build-up of sand and silt in the culvert going out of the lake.

Daniel Webster Grange hosted its 3rd annual Halloween Party on October 20 for all Webster children through the 5th grade.

National and State elections were held on November 7, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. At present there are 1002 names on the checklist, with 80 newly registered voters on this day.

After much discussion regarding "chads", "dimples", "butterflies" recounts and court cases, George W. Bush was declared winner of the November 7th presidential election, on December 13*, 36 days after

the election, and not until the case was taken to the U. S. Supreme Court, a second time. Al Gore had won the popular vote.

Chris Rose's home on Tyler Road, which was destroyed by fire last December, has been totally replaced by a new house.

No Christmas party was held at the Old Meeting House this year.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Aide	David Thayer
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Aide	Mary Sell
Grade 3	Daniel Dianchenko
Grade 4	Margaret Halacy
Grade 5	Nancy Webster
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Heather Sherwin
Custodian	James Matchem

SCHOLARSHIPS -

Stephanie Huckins received the Joseph Degen Scholarship, given by the Old Meeting House Society.
Sandra Colby received the Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship.

4-H LEADERS -

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates
Silver Spurs - Pauline Colby
4-H Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, George Barter
Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss
N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Carolyn Baston
Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey
School Board Members from Webster - Normandie Blake and George Hashem
Girl Scouts: Leader - Mary Evanofski
Cadets - Mary Evanofski and Charline Vary
Junior - Terri Ohlson-Martin and Nancy Webster
Brownies - April Peterson

TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES, PAY SCALES, ETC.

Selectmen's Salary - \$1,300.00
Selectmen's Expenses - \$300.00
Administrative Assistant - \$16.50/hr.
Secretary - \$ 11.50/hr.
Town Clerk's Salary - \$3,200.00 plus fees
Tax Collector's Salary - \$10,000.00 plus fees
Police Chiefs Salary - \$38,500.00

Police Sergeant's Salary - \$26,000.00 (also DARE Instructor)
 Officer, part-time, not certified –
 Officer, certified - \$9.00 (after 1 year, \$9.50)
 Fire Chief- \$2,500.00
 Deputy Fire Chief - \$1,000.00
 Captain - \$700.00
 Firefighters' expenses \$3,500.00 (Total man-hours used to determine hourly rate)
 Road Agent - Labor rate - \$20/hr. (the Road Agent sub-contracts and pays worker's comp. & unemployment taxes)
 Bookkeeper- \$15.00
 Truck - Hauling rate –
 6-wheeler - \$35.00 (per hour)
 10-wheeler- \$40.00
 Plowing rate - 6-wheeler - \$40.00
 Grader (with operator) \$45.00
 Building Inspector's Fee - \$60.00/per
 Cemetery Trustees: Chmn. \$ 115.00
 Other members - \$ 8 5.00
 Gravel - Bank Run \$ 3.00/yd.
 Crushed Bank \$ 5.75/yd.
 Road Salt - \$29.45/ton
 Cold Patch or mix - \$32.50/ton
 Oil- \$ 1.35/gal.

2001

The Grange sponsored the discussion of the proposed 2001 Town Warrant and Budget which included news from the Safety Building Committee.

The Webster Cane given by the History Committee was presented to Chester Bowers on February 3, 2001. Chet will be 93 on March 24, 2001, he has lived most of his life in Webster. He served in the US Army during World War II serving in North Africa and Italy. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and served the Town many years as a fireman and policeman. He retired from the NH Highway Department in 1978. Chet and his wife of over 52 years, Marion, live on Long Street.

We had 24 inches of snow on February 5th and 6th. On March 5th and 6th we got another 18 inches of snow with smaller storms in between. On March 9th and 10th we got 12 inches. As of March 9th, Concord had recorded more than 67 inches of snow, 14 above normal and last year at the same time we had 31 inches. On the 30th over eight inches of snow fell.

The Annual School Meeting was held in Penacook and the budget was \$21,488,573 with another \$992,305 for Teachers and \$275,000 to purchase land in Penacook and Loudon, all of which passed at the meeting that lasted only one hour.

Town Meeting was held March 14th with all incumbents filing without any opposition. Article 2 was on the ballot asking voters to impose a moratorium on construction or placement of wireless telecommunications facilities for 180 days. 160 votes were cast.

The Business Meeting was held on March 17th, Article 2 voted on Tuesday passed 111 yes to 49 no. The

Public Safety Building was voted down, yes 115, no 124. AU other articles passed with only slight differences, total appropriated was \$958,640. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

The Blackwater Kayak races were held on April 29* behind the school.

It was the fourth driest April since 1868, with only .84 inches of rain.

May started off hot - May 1st at 85° and May 2nd set a record in Concord at 91°.

The Planning Board worked on amendments to the *Zoning Ordinance* in regards to telecommunication towers.

The Planning Board held their first public hearing on May 8th for a request from US Cellular for a tower on Dustin Road.

We had 1.21 inches of rain March 27th to May 27th and on May 28th we had 1.31 inches of rain.

Merrimack Valley High School's softball team won the State Championship for Class I. Several Webster girls played a major part in the team's success.

The summer suppers sponsored by the Church, Grange and Women's Union had another successful year.

A new committee was formed to study new plans for a Public Safety Building.

A second public hearing was held June 26th in regards to a proposed amendment to the *Zoning Ordinance* to regulate cell towers. As there were several changes it went back to the Planning Board. Another Public Hearing was held on August 7th and was again referred back to the Planning Board.

We had a very hot, dry summer August 6th through the 9th, 93° to 98° each day for an official heat wave.

The 100th Old Home Day was held August 18th under bright, sunny skies. Grand Marshall was Donald Frost who heading a very good parade. Strings and Things played, there was a petting zoo along with games. Special recognition went to the Oldest - Florence Scott at 91 years of age, Youngest - Riley Kimball, son of Chris and Sarah Kimball, at six months of age, Largest family - the Blanchettes and person traveling the farthest - Mike Cassidy. The day was marred by the accident that injured Florence Scott. The Webster Congregations Church Choir put on the chicken barbecue and the day ended with a dance. Cynthia Anderson was guest speaker at Church on Sunday morning.

For the 50th year the Church was at the Hopkinton Fair with many volunteers manning their booth.

On September 6th the last hearing was held by the Planning Board on the proposed *Zoning Ordinance* to regulate Personal Wireless Service Facilities referred to as cell towers.

September 11, 2001, who will ever forget the terrible tragedy except those of us old enough to remember Pearl Harbor. Terrorist took over the controls of two planes out of Logan Airport in Boston and hit the two tall Twin Towers in New York City killing over 3,000 including police and firemen that went to help and were crushed in the falling debris. Another plane from Dulles Airport in Washington hit the Pentagon killing about 189 people. The fourth plane from Newark Airport crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, no one knows where this plane was headed but passengers knew of the other incidents so kept this one from causing more deaths and destruction.

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9th to vote on the proposed amendments to the *Webster Zoning Ordinance*, whether to regulate cell towers or not. The amendment passed 91 - yes to 13 - no.

Some Zoning and Planning Board Members viewed the balloon test on November 3rd from 9:00 A.M. to

11:00 A.M. They went to deRhams property on Clough and Sanborn Hill Road, Pearson Hill Road, Pleasant Street at the Mock property, Janeway's on Tyler Road and several other locations.

There were joint meetings, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, to consider US Cellular's application for a cell tower on Ox Pond Hill off of Dustin Road. These meetings were held open to the Public with US Cellular representatives present on October 25th, November 5th, November 15th, and November 29th.

On November 29th, the hearing was closed to the public and opened to discussion by the Zoning Board of Adjustment who took up the question of the tower. The Board voted unanimously for the 140-foot, guyed steel tower that would allow for five co-locators.

A joint meeting was held on December 13th with members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board present. A Site Plan Review was discussed resulting in changes with the road design. The meeting was continued until January 10, 2002.

We've had a very, very dry fall with warmer than normal weather. The leaves turned pretty colors and stayed on longer than usual. It was late October before there was a killing frost on the hills. November 25th brought the first measurable rainfall in a long time.

December started off very warm, in the mid 60°'s, breaking records and then cooled down and we had four to five inches of snow within a two-day period.

There were 19 building permits issued.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Aides	Rosemary Nixon Marissa Carter
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Daniel Dianchenko
Grade 4	Kathy McBride
Grade 5	Nancy Webster
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Heather Sherwin
Custodian	James Matchem

SCHOLARSHIPS -

Matthew Cummings received the Joseph Degen Scholarship.
Chantal Bates received the Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship.

4-H LEADERS -

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates
Silver Spurs - Pauline Colby
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, David Hewes

Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss

N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Yvonne Wheeler

Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey

School Board Members from Webster - Normandie Blake and Mary Evanofski

Girl Scouts: Leader - Mary Evanofski
Cadets - Mary Evanofski
Junior - Nancy Webster
Brownies - April Peterson
Cadets - Mary Evanofski and Charline Vary
Junior - Terri Ohlson-Martin and Nancy Webster
Brownies - April Peterson

2002

The Old Meeting House Members bought and replaced several stone markers, at considerable cost, to replace broken and stolen posts that identified places of interest behind the dam. The posts are numbered and books are available describing what people would have seen before the dam was built. Eight houses and a mill were removed and the Meeting House was moved up the hill.

The winter was the warmest in 122 years according to the National Weather Service. We had little snow and no big storms.

Carl VanLoan, son of Nick and Nancy VanLoan, was chosen to be one of seven U. S. skiers named to the United States Olympic Nordic Combined Team to compete at Salt Lake City, Utah Winter Olympics.

The Town Warrant was discussed February 12th at the Town Hall. The Safety Building that was voted down last year, is being brought up again with revised plans.

The Planning and Zoning Boards held several meetings regarding the Cell Tower on Dustin Road. The Zoning Board voted for a 140' guyed tower. The Planning Board completed the Site Plan Review. The height of the tower was discussed but the Board kept their decision of 140'. It has been indicated that a lawsuit may be filed against the Town due to the height of the tower.

The Annual School Meeting was held on March 7, 2002. Webster's share of the school budget is \$1,436,034.

The election of Town Officers was held March 12, 2002. No candidates were challenged. Ronald Frost was again voted in for Selectman with 195 people voting.

On Saturday, March 16th over 300 people turned out to decide how the Town spent the money. A new Safety Building was approved by a very narrow margin, 303 voted with 203 yeas, 100 no or 66.9 percent of the vote, needed for passage was 66.7 percent. The article to remove sand and silt from Lake Winnepocket at the end of Pond Hill Road was voted down. Everything else passed, \$1,879,251 was appropriated with \$396,744 to be raised by taxation.

Hutter Construction Corporation was awarded the contract to build the new Safety Building for \$864,900 without changes, there have been two at this time.

Kayak races were held April 27 & 28 behind the School.

On April 22, 2002 we had three inches of snow after record breaking temperatures of 85° and 94° on April 17th and 18th.

The Webster Youth Sports Committee works very hard to include every child in a large variety of sports throughout the entire year.

The month of May was cold and wet. Gardens and lawns didn't grow much. After that it seemed to forget how to rain any large amount for the rest of the summer.

A Memorial Day program was held on May 30th with the children of Webster Elementary School participating.

The Selectmen decided not to advertise the position held by Barbara Mock as Administrative Assistant but appointed Selectman Roger Becker. There was much discussion about this for two reasons: there were several people in Town interested in applying for the position, secondly, Roger was given the same pay, \$18.20 an hour, that Barbara was receiving after 25 years. Roger stepped down as Selectman in July.

An Historic tour behind the dam sponsored by the Webster Meeting House was held on Saturday, June 8th. People that remembered what it was like before the dam were at points of interest to let people know how it used to be.

A lawsuit against the Town was filed by two residents against the Town to reduce the height of the cell tower to 120 feet. An agreement was reached to build the tower to 120 feet but it could be raised to 140 feet when and if more companies show interest in locating on it.

Barbara Mock was honored at a retirement party on July 20th. Her daughter Kathy came from Arkansas as a surprise for her. Over 200 family and friends attended.

Summer suppers sponsored by the Church, Grange and Women's Union were again held. Many thanks go to the people that work and donate food for the suppers.

The Webster ZB A met on August 13th to consider a request from Robert Lake - Eastern Towers to erect a 135' monopole wireless tower on his property. At the same time the Board heard a request from Craig Thayer - American Tower Company, to erect a 130' monopole on his property behind the new Safety Building.

Old Home Day was held Saturday, August 17th under sunny skies. Grand Marshall was Barbara Mock, recently retired Administrative Assistant for the Town. Games were held, there was music by Strings 'N' Things, picnic lunch and much more. The Church Choir served the Chicken Barb-B-Q with a Contra dance following sponsored by the Church. The Reverend Hal Harrison was the guest speaker at the Sunday Church services.

Five candidates were considered to fill the vacant Selectman's seat: Robert Drown, Lynmarie Lehmann, Dan St. Cyr, Tom Wolklin and Michael Borek. Each person was asked questions from the two Selectmen in an open meeting. In closed session, Lynmarie Lehmann was chosen to fill the seat until elections next March.

The Church again operated their food booth at Hopkinton Fair under the leadership of Dorothy Haskins. There were many volunteers to make it a success.

The summer was very hot and dry with few substantial rain showers. The first day of the Fair brought a very much appreciated rain that lasted all day, at least it laid the dust for a short while. It gave a boost to all the lawns and gardens also.

A Town-Wide Yard Sale was held September 21st with 114 places signed up, about \$2,700 was raised for the school playground. Michele St. Jacques chaired the event with many more helpers.

The Riverdale Natural Area, 52 acres of Town Conservation land was officially opened October 20th with a ribbon cutting ceremony to the trails. Eagle Scout candidate Matt Livingston organized the trail work with a great deal of help to clear brush, fallen trees and debris. He also planned the trails.

On October 23rd we had 3-4 inches of wet snow with a thick crust that didn't want to leave.

Hearings were held each month for the cell towers. The Town chose Ivan Pagacik, paid for by the tower companies, as a Wireless Consultant to help the ZB A Board view where the different tower heights would project their signals.

Eastern Tower amended their tower height to 170 feet with a 21' whip antenna that would cover the same area as the two towers. Lake's radio tower would be removed and incorporated with the cell monopole. This was approved with waivers and conditions at the December 17th ZB A meeting. All locators would be flush mounted or else be required to come before the ZB A Board to state reasons why that was not possible.

Over 13 inches of snow fell on Christmas Day, giving us the greatest White Christmas ever recorded.

There were 21 building permits issued: homes 20, cell tower 1.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Aides	Raymond Kling Judy Bouchard
Grade 2	Dale Barrett
Grade 3	Gwen Hall
Aide	Terri Clough
Grade 4	Daniel Dianchenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Heather Sherwin
Custodian	James Matchem

SCHOLARSHIPS -

Robert "Jake" Drown III received both the Joseph Degen Scholarship and the Daniel Webster Grange Scholarship.

4-H LEADERS -

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Lorna Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, David Hewes

Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss

N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Yvonne Wheeler

Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey

School Board Members from Webster - Normandie Blake and Mary Evanofski

Girl Scouts:

Leader - Mary Evanofski
Cadets - Mary Evanofski and Nancy Webster
Junior - Terry Ohlson-Martin
Brownies & Daisies - Karla Silver and Betty Abbott
Seniors - Mary Evanofski and Charlene Vary

2003

The History Committee has been reporting for 20 years the items of news in Webster that we hope may be of interest to the people that will be publishing a history for the years 1983-2033.

We regret that last year we omitted that the Webster History Cane was given on November 5, 2002 to Dorothea Young of White Plains Road who was 93 years old. Dora, born in England on April 4, 1909, came to the U.S. via Canada in 1915. She is an R.N. graduating from the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Concord, N.H. She married Perry Young of Warner where they lived for 33 years. They bought the Austin Home in 1965, which they ran for 33 years and she still lives close by with a granddaughter.

Everyone should appreciate all the time, energy and effort that the Webster Youth Sports and Recreation Committee and their many helpers give for the children in Town. There are sports for all seasons of the year.

Merrimack Valley's annual School Meeting was held March 6, 2003; an operating budget of \$25,383,387 was approved.

Suppers were held on the second Saturday of each month during the winter to benefit the Webster Congregational Church.

Voting for Town Officers took place Tuesday, March 11th. There are 981 registered voters on the checklist, 145 of which voted at an approximate cost of \$6.89 per vote. Lynmarie Cusack Lehmann received 127 votes for the 3-year Selectman, Daniel St. Cyr 134 for the 1-year term. As always Tax Collector Madeleine Roberts received the most at 143. Everyone on the ballot ran unopposed, a reason for the small turnout.

The Town Meeting was held on Saturday, March 15th. It was agreed to lease a new police cruiser and give the Select people permission to sell the old fire and police stations. Voters approved \$1.08 million in spending.

The 20th Annual American Canoe Association's New England Division Slalom Championships were held on April 26th and 27th. The course goes from the bridge over the Blackwater River to the Park behind the school. There are 25 "gates" that participants must traverse either forward or backward with 33 classes from beginners to advanced.

For many Webster residents that have driven through Franconia Notch in the White Mountains and looked to see the Old Man of the Mountain everything changed during the night of May 3, 2003 when the Granite Profile collapsed. His 40 x 25-foot face jutted out from Cannon Mountain 1,200 feet above Profile Lake for over 10,000 years. It has been determined that he couldn't be replaced on the mountain but a memorial will be built to honor the "Old Man" at the base.

The new Webster Safety Building has been in use since May, getting the Police and Fire Departments moved in. It was officially opened on June 22nd with an Open House hosted by the Pillsbury Lake Neighborhood Watch Program. It was well attended and everyone was glad to see a very nice building for the Police and Fire Departments to work from. Remember that the Fire Department is all volunteers who put in many hours to keep all the trucks, ambulance and needed equipment ready for use at a moment's notice.

Webster's Master Plan Revision process has started with a survey sent to all residents and non-residents so everyone could put their thoughts and needs in it.

Webster Summer Community Suppers were held for six weeks starting on July 5th. They are for the

benefit of the Grange, Women's Union and the Church.

Swimming lessons were held the first week of August for all interested Webster children at the beach on Lake Winnepocket opposite the Austin Home.

Old Home Day was held on August 16th with a parade starting at the Dam led by Grand Marshall Florence Scott, who is 93 years young. There were games for the children, a horseshoe tournament and music by Strings N Things. A Chicken Barbecue sponsored by the Church was held followed by a dance at night. Dorothy Haskins was the guest speaker at Church on Sunday.

Firefighters from more than a dozen towns responded to a four-alarm fire at 113 Little Hill Road, the Findlay House, on the night of August 16th. The house was built in the 1790's by Moses Fellows and then occupied by James Corser and his wife the former Martha Fitzgerald. Investigators have ruled the fire accidental, due to damaged electrical wiring in the ell attached to the home. The ell was destroyed along with part of the empty two-story house. It had just been advertised for sale at \$995,000 with 40 acres.

The Old Fire Station was purchased by the Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House to be used to house the 1947 fire truck, the wild boar's head, artifacts, etc. Joan and A1 Smith, owners of Cowdrey's Country Store, purchased the parking lot next to the Old Fire Station as their septic system was on it.

The Old Police Station, the last one room former schoolhouse, is still in the discussion period as to its final disposition.

The Webster Congregational Church operated their food booth at Hopkinton Fair for the 52nd year with the help of members and many friends. It was also open for the Highland Games that were held for the first time at the Fairgrounds on September 19-21.

Daniel Webster Grange held their sixth annual Halloween Party with 76 children and many parents in attendance. Prizes were awarded for various costumes in different age categories.

At the Planning Board meeting in November it received and accepted a formal application for a 13-lot subdivision at the corner of Battle Street and Call Road. It would create 12 building lots and a 23-acre landlocked "common area." This is the largest subdivision proposed to the Board in a long time.

Daniel Webster Grange sponsored a town wide Holiday Decoration Contest. There were various categories with at least 17 applicants participating.

Seven years ago, Pillsbury Lake Village District was a lovely rural community. About three years ago there was a building boom which threatened the water resources. There were just too many houses being built for such a small water system. Also, there were too many houses being built to be accommodated by local aquifers.

Pillsbury Lake was, and is, also threatened because of all the septic systems on and nearby the waterfront. The State of New Hampshire is awarding waivers to builders, and this is putting too many septic systems too close to each other. Residents are very concerned about the future of the area.

Otherwise, the Pillsbury Lake Village District continues to offer much to the Town. The Neighborhood Watch Group is active and up and running and recently put together a Halloween haunted house to help ensure a fun and safe event for the children. The community offered the clubhouse to be used for a program to teach children how to snowmobile safely, which was well attended. The annual Pillsbury Lake fishing derby continued to raise money for local charities. All Webster residents are welcome to join the fun.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kindergarten (Morning)	Janet Lemire
Kindergarten (Afternoon)	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Linda Kimball
Grade 3	Gwen Hall
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Tracy Murch
Custodian	James Matchem

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS from Webster - Normandie Blake and Michele St. Jacques

SCHOLARSHIPS

Old Meeting House - Heidi Olson
Daniel Webster Grange - Aaron Creighton

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

GIRL SCOUTS

Leader - Mary Evanofski
Cadets - Terry Ohlson-Martin
Brownies & Junior - Karla Silver
Seniors - Mary Evanofski

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, Glen Creighton
Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss
N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Yvonne Wheeler
Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey for 35 years

2004

January started the year, cold with very little snow but lots of wind. Webster is growing much faster than any of us can believe or want. A major subdivision known as the Nichol's Trust has been proposed for 12 building lots and a 23-acre "common area" on the northerly corner of the Call Road and Battle Street.

Daniel Webster Grange sponsored a Christmas decoration contest for homes and grounds. They had a very good response with several very pretty displays.

The Sports Committee is very busy with all the different sports and age groups for each. New members are always welcome.

The Webster Congregational Church held several suppers during the winter months on the second Saturday of each month.

First in the nation Presidential Primary was held January 27, 2004. We had 482 voters cast their vote with 1,022 on the checklist. Democrats received the following votes: John Kerry - 130, Howard Dean - 83, John Edwards - 56, Wesley Clark - 46. Joe Lieberman - 44, Dennis Kucinich - 7, and Al Sharpton - 3. George Bush received 77 on the Republican ticket; four others received nine votes combined.

The Town Warrant and Budget were discussed on February 17th at the Town Hall.

The Planning Board reviewed a revised "Nichol's Trust" subdivision eliminating the 23-acre "common area" and distributing that land among some of the 12 lots. The Planning Board has received another large subdivision of eight lots on 73 acres. The land, part of the Gerrish Farm at one time, goes between Gerrish Road and Deer Meadow Road and is owned by Nathanael Broker.

On March 2 we had 138 voters vote for a State Representative to Concord to fill a vacancy.

The Annual School Meeting was held on March 4 at MVHS. The budget of \$24.6 million dollars was approved, an increase of 1.68%.

A year-long project has started, Webster's Master Plan that has to be upgraded and brought up to date.

The Broker Subdivision has been approved for a revision of two lots, one being a 50-acre lot, between Gerrish and Deer Meadow Roads.

Town Election was held on March 9 from 10-7. We had three candidates for Selectman, David Batchelder received 118 votes, George Hashem 82 and David Buttrick 57. The rest of the officers ran unopposed. The business meeting was held on Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. We had a ballot vote for a lease-purchase agreement of \$260,000 for the purpose of leasing a custom pumping engine and related equipment for the Fire Department. The vote was 91 yes - 26 no, a 2/3 ballot vote required. Everything else passed with adjournment at 12:40 p.m.

The 21st Annual American Canoe Association New England Division Slalom Championships were held on April 24 and 25. The course goes from the bridge to behind the school. They have to traverse 25 gates.

The fifth grade spent a week at Ferry Beach Ecology School in Maine.

The Planning Board is meeting an hour earlier each month so they may discuss a chapter of the Master Plan each time.

A Memorial Day Celebration was held on Friday, May 28 at the Meeting House with the fifth graders reading essays they had written, a trip to the cemetery and back to the Meeting House for ice cream.

It should be noted that Grange, The Circle of Home and Family, Women's Union, 4-H club and several Girl Scout Troops are very active in town affairs.

The Summer Community Suppers that benefit the Church, Grange and Women's Union were held for seven weeks. These suppers require a lot of volunteers not only to work but to donate food.

The summer swim program was held in July on Lake Winnepocket across from the Austin Home.

Captain Daniel St. Cyr resigned after 23 years from the Webster Fire Department as he and his wife Janet are building a new home in Danbury.

Old Home Day was held August 21 even though it rained. The parade went as planned, starting at the Safety Building, with Janice and Fred Dawe as Grand Marshals riding in the back seat of the cruiser. There were floats, antique cars, oxen, bikers, walkers and a surprising number of spectators. Merrimack Valley High School Band played inside the Town Hall where the games. Strings 'N Things, picnic lunch and many more activities were held. A chicken barbeque was held, followed by a dance.

A lot of volunteers turned a lousy day into a lot of fun.

The guest speaker at Church on Sunday was Rev. Johanne Dame whose parents were former pastors here.

A fire at 1377 Battle Street destroyed the barn claiming the lives of two (2) horses but the firefighters saved the ell and house. The property is owned by Judy Garland. A new barn was built to replace the other one. Cause was unknown.

A committee was formed to present ideas for the future use of the old Police Station. Committee members are Dana Reddish, Nancy Rideout and Jennifer Carleton with Jerry and Dottie Monz added later.

The State Primary was held on September 14.

The Webster Congregational Church wishes to "Thank" everyone that helped at the food booth at the Hopkinton State Fair and the Highland Games as both were a big success.

A successful Town Wide Yard Sale was held on September 8 from 8-3, in the rain, to support the Playground Project.

Daniel Webster Grange, with help from the Webster Girl Scouts, hosted the 9th Annual Halloween Party.

The Presidential Election was held on November 2. The State went Democratic statewide but Webster didn't except for Governor John Lynch 600 to 421 for Craig Benson. George Bush - "Dick" Cheney won nationwide. We had 1,032 citizens vote with 155 new voters added that day.

Fire Chief Bill Welcome retired after 28 years of service as he has moved out of Town. A reception was held to honor Bill and wife Pam on November 14 at the Town Hall. The new fire truck was on display.

The new appointed chief is Shawn Mitchell who works for the Concord Fire Department and has been a resident for about a year.

A fire on November 23 completely destroyed the home of Marty Bender and family on Little Hill. Their son Noah 18 was home from college and awoke as his room was full of smoke but escaped safely. They lost everything including six puppies. The home was fully engulfed by the time the first firefighters got there. At least eight towns responded. The house was a former school house built in 1809 with many new additions added.

There are three homes being built in the "Nichol's Trust" subdivision as the year draws to a close.

If you think it's been wet this year, it has. We are over four inches above normal. Weather precipitation (Concord) total for the year 42.20", normal is 37.69". over by 4.51".

There was a total of 28 building permits issued this year. Two of these permits were for replacement homes.

Harold and Betsy Janeway lost their big barn built in 1861 early on December 29, 2004. The barn, along with three smaller buildings, was lost as well as some antique wagons and buggies, a pickup truck, tools and many other items. Their eight sheep escaped the blaze thought to have been started by an electrical water heater used to keep the sheep's' water from freezing. Luckily the 1789 farm house was saved.

It was 48° at 7:00 A.M. January 1, 2005.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten (Morning)	Janet Lemire
Kindergarten 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Linda Kimball
Grade 3	Shalissee Godfrey
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Tracy Murch
Custodian	James Matchem

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS from Webster

Normandie Blake and Thomas M. Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS

Old Meeting House - Emily Hochrein

Daniel Webster Grange - Marlene Hewes

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Lorna Bates

Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

Cadets - Terry Ohlson-Martin

Brownies - Karla Silver

Seniors - Mary Evanofski and Charlene Vary

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, David Hewes

Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss

N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Jane Bliss

Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey

2005

A fundraiser was held on January 22nd to benefit the family of Nancy Webster and Marty Bender who lost their home on Little Hill to a fire in November.

On the morning of January 26th the fire department was called to the Austen Home where there was a fire on a porch caused by improper disposal of cigarettes. This fire was followed by a chimney fire at Chandler 232 Battle Street which got into the walls and partitions.

The home of Robin and Dean Lampron on Little Hill burned on January 26. The house had been in Robin's family for years. Their son Matthew and his wife Jennifer also lived there. The fire started in the barn, spread through a connecting wall to the house. No one was at home at the time.

A public meeting was held on February 8th to discuss the Town Warrant and Budget which was hosted by the Daniel Webster Grange.

Joan and Al Smith sold Cowdrey's Store to Dan and Lee Tierny in February.

Election for town officers was held Tuesday, March 8th at the Town Hall 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There were four running for selectman: David Buttrick, George Hashem, Alan Clough, and Adam Pouliot. All other officers were running unopposed; David Buttrick was elected.

The business meeting was held on Saturday March 12 starting at 10:00 a.m. They approved \$348,323 for general government, \$233,694 for public safety, and \$85,750 to be added to capital reserve funds. \$2,000 was added to the highway budget to pull gravel down and smooth the parking lots around the town hall and offices after a petitioned warrant article to pave the same failed to pass.

Merrimack Valley School District meeting was held March 17th. A \$20.7 million bond issue passed - 607 out of 828 voters approved it. It was for improvements at MVHS, MV Middle School, Loudon, Webster and Salisbury.

A fund raiser was held on April 30th at the town hall to benefit Dean and Robin Lamprey whose house was destroyed by fire on January 26th, 2005.

Richard Doucette was voted by the select people as a permanent voting member of the Planning Board and Leslie Williams as the alternate. Ronald Frost was appointed as permanent member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Canoe and Kayak races were held on the Blackwater River on April 23 and April 24th.

The sports committee is working hard to obtain all the necessary personnel for all the various sports that they offer to the children of Webster.

The month of May was cool, foggy, and cloudy.

A Master Plan was accepted by the Planning Board after a public meeting on June 27th.

The public ham and bean suppers, a long-standing tradition in Webster, were held Saturday nights July 2nd through August 6th. The Church, Grange, and Women's Union share in the profits so they can carry on their work in Town.

Webster did not hold an Old Home Day for the first time since 1945, as no one volunteered to organize the event as it is very time consuming. There are a lot of factors to consider in putting on a fun filled day. Old Home Day observances began in 1899 and were held every year except 1943 and 1944 during World War II, until this year. Let's hope someone or several people will volunteer so it can be held in 2006.

The Webster Congregational Church wishes to thank everyone that worked at the Church Booth at The Hopkinton State Fair and also during The Highland Games as it was a huge success.

Mary-Jo MacGowan was elected chairperson of The Conservation Commission replacing Betsy Janeway who had done a great job for 18 years.

October was a very rainy month: over 18.4 inches. Several towns in the western part of the state lost lives, homes, livestock, and roads, some of which cannot be fully repaired until spring. The first frost of the season occurred on October 21st when it was 29 degrees in the valley. That's the latest anyone can remember. Years ago, the end-of-August frosts have come killing the vegetables in people's gardens; this year most gardens were cleaned up and put to bed for the winter.

A special Town Meeting was held on November 8th so voters could vote on proposed changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinances; all passed.

The Grange sponsored its third Town-Wide Holiday Home/Grounds Decorations contest.

According to records in Concord, 2005 has been the wettest year since 1881 with 57.19 inches of precipitation. Normal yearly precipitation is 37.6.

TEACHERS AT WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten (Morning)	Janet Lemire
Kindergarten 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 1	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 2	Diane Jacobsen
Grade 3	Cheri Perelli
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Tracy Murch
Custodian	Chet Ham

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS from Webster

Normandie Blake and Thomas Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS

Old Meeting House – Andrew Tanner
Daniel Webster Grange – John Lawless

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Lorna Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

Cadets - Terry Ohlson-Martin
Brownies - Karla Silver
Seniors - Mary Evanofski and Charlene Vary

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, Robert Bates
Webster Women's Union - President, Eleanor Corliss
N.H. Circle of Home & Family - President, Jane Bliss
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - President, Clarence Jeffrey

TOWN OFFICERS' SALARIES, PAY SCALES, ETC.

Selectmen's Salary per Person	\$ 2,000.00
Selectmen's Expenses per Person	415.00
Administrative Assistant	20.82 Hourly
Secretary	14.88 Hourly
Secretary-Planning & Zoning	11.50 Hourly
Town Clerk's Salary	4,292.08
Tax Collector Salary	12,520.56
Treasurer's Salary	1,629.97

Health Officer	200.00
Librarian	18,060.00
Snow Shoveler	10.40 Hourly
Custodian	12.68 Hourly
Code Enforcement Officer	100.00 Per Permit
Computer Consultant	30.00 Hourly
Police	
Chief's Salary	48,266.40
Sergeant's Salary	38,070.76
Officer - Part-time, Non-Certified	N/A
Officer, Certified	13.00
Dare Instructor	13.00
Administrative	11.00
Fire	
Chief	3,504.96
Deputy	1,719.96
Captain	1,169.04
Fire Fighter's Expenses	3,800.00
(Total man hours used to calculate amount)	3,926.00
Road Agent	
One-Ton Truck	45.00 Hourly
One-Ton w/Plow & Sander	50.00 Hourly
10-Wheeler (hauling)	60.00 Hourly
10-Wheeler w/Plow & Sander	65.00 Hourly
Pick-up Truck	40.00 Hourly
6-Wheeler w/Plow & Sander	50.00 Hourly
Loader	75.00 Hourly
Grader	75.00 Hourly
Tractor (sweeping, etc.)	50.00 Hourly
Labor Rate	30.00 Hourly
Excavator	125.00 Hourly
Fiat and CAT IT	65.00 Hourly
Cemetery Trustees	
Chairman	147.42
Other Trustees	114.66
Gravel	total expended 2005 8,464.49
Cold Patch	total expended 2005 497.73
Salt	total expended 2005 16,108.88

2006

On January 16, 2006 the newly purchased home of William and Jennifer Kendall located at 1612 Battle Street, the last house in Webster, was totally destroyed by fire. They had recently moved into the house previously owned by Shirley Dean. It was very cold and windy that morning. The fire started in a chimney and spread. The Kendalls are building a new house across the pond and away from the busy road.

Daniel Webster Grange hosted the annual Town Warrant and Budget Discussion night on Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

On February 17th we had high winds, over 50 mph that knocked out power leaving most of the Town without lights or heat for several hours, some were out for several days with the temperature around

zero degrees.

Annual voting for Town Officers was held on March 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. George Hashem received 188 votes and Tom Mullins received 139 votes for the Selectman's seat, the only contested race.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday, March 18th at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:45 p.m. Just think if tax bills came out a week before the meeting, we would probably have a much larger crowd and lower tax rate. The last article involved the "Old School House - Police Station," which made for a big discussion. As the building had already sold for \$1.00, the article was moot. The building has since been moved. The total budget passed was \$1,478,676 or an 18% increase.

Roger Becker resigned as Administrative Assistant at the March 27, 2006 Selectmen's Meeting while in non-public session.

There were several brush fires on the 10th and 11th of April at Walker Pond and Gerrish Road, which were considered suspicious.

Easter Sunrise Services were held on April 16th on Pearson Hill Road with breakfast following at the Town Hall.

New England Championship Canoe and Kayak races were held April 22nd and 23rd for the 26th consecutive year.

An emergency meeting called on May 5, 2006 by the Selectmen was held. After a non-public session, it was announced that the current Fire Chief Shawn Mitchell was placed on Administrative Leave. He later resigned as Deputy Fire Chief of Concord and charges against him have been filed by both departments.

Everyone will remember Mother's Day Weekend when we got over 13 inches of rain. The dam at Pillsbury Lake was breached with the lake disappearing in time. There was plenty of water held behind the Blackwater Dam, but didn't reach the record high water mark of 1987.

Adam Pouliot was appointed as Acting Fire Chief by the Selectmen.

At the June 19th Selectmen's meeting it approved the hiring of Wendy Pinkham part-time as the Financial Administrator reporting to the Selectmen. This was changed to full-time in November.

A Special District Meeting for Pillsbury Lake was held on August 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Club House. This was for the purpose of voting on Warrant Articles concerning dam repairs at a cost of \$481,500. The Article passed with 112-yes and 38-no.

There wasn't an Old Home Day this year, so the Webster Congregational Church held a "Party for Everyone" on August 19th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. A Chicken BBQ was held later sponsored by the Church Choir.

Clarence Jeffrey was guest speaker at Church on Sunday sharing his memories of Webster.

Terry Ohlson-Martin and Dot Haskins did a great job organizing the Hopkinton Fair Booth for the Church. It is a big job ordering food, getting help for all the shifts for every day before, during and after the fair. A big "Thank You" goes to them.

State Primary Day was held on September 12th with a very small turnout, only 230 voters.

The Town Wide Yard Sale was held on September 16th, it was a beautiful day and was a huge success for everyone.

A new 4-H Club was formed with co-leaders Donna Frost and Loma Bates specializing in Creative Crafts and Art Exploration for ages 12-18. The meetings are held at the Town Hall on Saturday mornings.

The Tax Rate for 2006 was approved at \$16.96 a thousand which breaks down to \$4.02 for the Town portion; \$8.89 for the Merrimack Valley School District; \$2.18 for the State Education Portion; and \$1.87 for Merrimack County'. Pillsbury⁷ Lake District residents paid an additional \$1.28 per thousand.

Adam Mock resigned as Road Agent on October 25th. Emmett Bean has accepted the position with a 3-year contract.

We may be a small Town but sometimes big town criminal activities occur like the home invasion on November 22, 2006 where one person was severely beaten. The Webster Police are handling all court proceedings.

November was the warmest November on record. It averaged over 4° warmer per day than normal. It was 64° at 1:00 p.m. on November 30th.

December was another warm month with only a dusting of snow until December 30th when we got two inches.

A skating rink is being built on the soccer field, but is having problems with the above normal temperatures. It will be great as people can skate under the lights.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire & Jessica Adams
Grade 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 2	Elizabeth Morse
Grade 3	Cheri Perelli
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Tracy Murch
Custodian	Chet Ham

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS -Normandie Blake and Thomas Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS-

Old Meeting House - Eric Pearson

Daniel Webster Grange - Aime Silver

4-H LEADERS -

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton & Loma Bates

Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Creative Crafts - Donna Frost and Loma Bates

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master, Robert Bates

Webster Women's Union - Eleanor Corliss

N.H. Circle of Home and Family - Nancy White

Society for The Preservation of The Old Meeting House Clarence Jeffrey

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS -

Cadets - Terry Ohlson-Martin

Juniors - Karla Silver

Brownies - Kathy Lacourse

Seniors - Charlene Vary and Mary Evanofski

2007

January 6, 2007 was the hottest January day since 1876 when, according to records, it was 65° at noon.

There was a Public Hearing on January 4th on proposed changes to the Webster Zoning Ordinances. The Town would be divided into two districts, Pillsbury Lake, would stay the same as only Residential. The remainder of the Town would be Residential/Agricultural with minimum lot sizes of 5 acres with exceptions. These changes would be voted on at Town Meeting.

David Buttrick resigned as a Selectman for personal reasons on December 28, 2006. Selectmen David Batchelder and George Hashem decided to wait until March Elections to fill the position.

Daniel Webster Grange hosted the Annual discussion of the Town Warrant on February 13th at 7 p.m.

A Public Re-hearing on the Cold Brook Campground Expansion was held on February 20, 2007. This application was first heard in November.

Daylight savings time began on March 11th instead of the last weekend of March.

Town Meeting voting day was busy as there was voting for Zoning changes, 3 candidates for 1 yr. selectman's position, 1 - 3 yr. selectman's position and a 1 yr. Town Treasurer. There were 387 votes cast for Selectman, Tom Mullins received 283 votes for the 3-year term, David Klumb 152 votes, Hermie (Harold) Blanchette 140 votes and Roger Becker 91 votes for the 1-year term. For Town Treasurer Mary Welch received 210 votes, Linda McFarland 164 votes. The Zoning Article passed 205 Yes to 146 No.

The Town Meeting wasn't postponed due to 12 inches of snow, approximately 150 voters showed up. An Article to allow the Selectmen to adopt and enforce the State Building Code was defeated 107 to 25.

Residents made the unusual move of giving money to a separate governing body when they approved spending \$5,200 to help Pillsbury Lake rebuild its Dam. The total appropriation was \$1.57 million but Capital Reserve Accounts had to be figured in.

A dinner-dance was held on Saturday, April 14th with a dinner and an Oldies Karaoke Show to benefit the Church.

The Kayak races had to be canceled for the first time in 27 years due to the high water behind the Dam.

A new well had to be drilled for the Town Hall complex, it is 520 feet and cost \$7,986 and provides 12 gallons a minute.

We had a very rainy cold April with several roads being closed due to flooding. You could always get out of Town but you might have to try several routes.

The Wilkins-Cloues-Bigelow Post #39 American Legion added the name Pearson to its Charter to honor William "Bill" Pearson from Webster who was killed in Vietnam in 1972.

Betty Morse retired after teaching for 26 years, 25 years in Webster.

Three days and one year after Pillsbury Lake Dam was breached, it started filling again after major repairs. A Memorial Day program was held May 30th at Webster's Memorial Park, the children then went to the cemetery to remember the Veterans.

The six summer suppers started July 7th sponsored by the Webster Church, Daniel Webster Grange and the Women's Union. This year the menu changed alternating three different menus. Volunteers provide the help and the food is donated.

Around the first week of August the Dam at Pillsbury Lake began leaking again. The leak was underneath one of the spillways causing erosion. The leak was fixed and now, as of December 1, 2007, the lake is filling again.

The Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee met with Selectmen and interested citizens to help decide whether or not to go with a proposed Pay-As- You-Throw idea.

Another year without an Old Home Day, but a fireworks display was put on by Telstar of Jaffrey at the soccer field.

Rev. David Walker, former pastor of the Church, was guest speaker on Sunday, August 19th. While pastor here he helped start the Food Booth at the Hopkinton Fair and the Old Home Day chicken barbecue.

Selectmen Mullins and Hashem attended the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill meeting as there were many questions arising about proof of Webster's ownership of Assets.

The Zoning Board met on September 11th to consider again a hearing on the Cold Brook Campground's proposed expansion of an additional 90 sites through a commercial exception. Campground owners James and Tina Schindelwig were represented by Attorney Peter McGrath. The discussion lasted almost three hours, Chairman Bender continued the hearing until October 9th when members of the Zoning Board unanimously denied the commercial exception.

A Fortune's Bam Reunion/Dance was held on October 20th from 1 - 5 pm. It was a fun filled afternoon attended by about 240 people. Coordinator Janice Colby Boynton spent a lot of time in the past year collecting information, pictures and stories about all the folks that played parts in her father's orchestra. Her sister, Myma Colby Toutant, organized a memorabilia table.

The Daniel Webster Grange once again sponsored a Christmas Decorated House Contest.

December was a very snowy month breaking the record in Concord set in 1876. It was 44.5 inches of snow. We had two storms two days apart of over a foot each. It seemed like it was snowing all the time, especially if you were the one cleaning up.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 2	Linda Kimball
Grade 3	Cheri Perelli
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Sandra Davis

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake

Thomas Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS

Old Meeting House - Skye Collins

Daniel Webster Grange - Tabitha Gregoire

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton and Loma Bates

Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Creative Crafts - Donna Frost and Loma Bates

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

Juniors - Karla Silver

Seniors - Terry Ohlson-Martin, Charlene Vary and Mary Evanofski

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master Steve Hewes

Webster Women's Union - Eleanor Corliss

NH Circle of Home and Family - Yvonne Wheeler

Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz

2008

The Presidential Primary was held January 8, 2008. There were 1,188 voters on the checklist to start, 118 new voters registered that day with 903 voting. Barack Obama received 191 votes, Hillary Clinton 181, John Edwards 104 and several others with fewer votes for the Democrats. For the Republicans, John McCain received 154 votes, Romney 92, Huckabee 46 and the rest received fewer votes.

The Town Warrant and Budget Hearing was held on February 12, 2008. This annual event was hosted by the Daniel Webster Grange.

Snow was the topic of conversation as Concord officially had 102 inches through February 27; by the end of the season it was the second highest snow amount on record. I think we were all sick of shoveling and plowing snow.

Some Pillsbury Lake residents would like to dissolve their Water District as they have their own wells and do not use the District's wells. It was voted on at their Annual Meeting and failed, 98 no to 32 yes. A 2/3 vote was required.

The Annual Merrimack School District meeting was held at the High School on March 12. A \$33.6 million budget was approved.

The Webster Town Meeting to vote for officers and Planning and Zoning ordinances was held on March 11, 2008. The Town Budget and Warrant discussion was held March 15, 2008. The budget was set at \$1.6 million, a rise of 4.6 percent. It was voted to discontinue the following Class VI roads at Pillsbury Lake: Amherst, Danbury and Rogers Drives and Wentworth Circle, but not Pond Hill and Gerrish Roads.

The owners of Cold Brook, Jim and Tina Schindelwig, are trying to add more campsites to the

campground. They were denied by the Zoning Board because they have added buildings and campsites without prior permission. There is now a lawsuit pending.

Sorry to report the death of our dedicated public servant, Town Clerk, Barbara Hochrein.

The New England Championship Canoe and Kayak races had to be cancelled due to high water.

There was a fire at the home of Randy Inman, 1604 Battle Street. He has since rebuilt.

A Memorial Day Celebration hosted by Webster's Old Meeting House members was held May 30, 2008. The Webster Elementary School children provided a program, then placed flowers on the graves of Veterans at Corser Hill Cemetery.

The traditional Webster Community Summer suppers started July 5th. They are sponsored by the Church, Grange and Women's Union. Only five (5) suppers were held due to a conflict with the rental of the Town Hall.

Another year without an Old Home Day. The choir of the Webster Church sponsored a Chicken Barbecue on August 16. Old Home Sunday was observed at the Church with Ronald Frost, a lifetime resident and former Selectman, as guest speaker.

The 1st Annual Barbara Hochrein Memorial Gold Tournament was held August 15 at the Loudon Country Club. The golf tournament was followed with a chicken barbecue. The proceeds go to a fund for an annual award to a student furthering his/her education. It was given this year to Charlotte Evanofski who is attending Syracuse University.

The Webster Congregational Church sponsored its annual Food Booth at the Hopkinton Fair. Many people - residents, non-residents, friends of friends - help to keep this money maker going. It did very well.

The Webster PTO hosted the Town-Wide Yard sale on a beautiful September 20th weekend.

The last Wooden Bowl Company is now at the former Cowdrey's Country Store on Battle Street. It is owned by Paul Silberman.

In October, the stock market fell to an all-time low. Several large banks, insurance companies and financial institutions closed. Large retail stores went bankrupt. The three (3) big U.S. auto companies, Ford, GM and Chrysler were close to closing and asked the U.S. Government for financial help. A large number of companies downsized, laying employees off. This down turn in the economy has really hit some residents hard, especially seniors counting on their interest and dividends from stocks and bonds to survive.

A record number of residents turned out to vote on November 4. There were 1,109 voters on the checklist to start and 102 new voters registered that day. At 8:00 AM the line went out the door to the road but after that the wait wasn't too bad. Barack Obama got 595 votes to John McCain's 490. Across the nation, Obama won big.

Last winter we had lots and lots of snow, but just missed the record of 122 inches. Then we had rain. The year 2008 was declared the wettest in Concord ever.

On December 12 we had snow, rain and a terrible ice storm. Power was lost to over 400,000 homes in New Hampshire. Trees, electric power poles and lines were down across roads and on some homes. People were without lights and heat from a few hours to over two (2) weeks during cold weather. Most of the residents on the north end of Webster with Unitil got power back within a couple of days, but

PSNH customers, which includes Pillsbury Lake and the southern part of Webster, were in the dark and cold for six (6) to seven (7) days. The lucky homeowners were the ones with generators because they could have heat, lights and water.

Can you remember when gas was five (5) gallons for \$1.00? It was very different this summer when it was \$4.00 per gallon. It is now down to \$1.50 per gallon. Heating oil was up to close to \$5.00 a gallon, but it has dropped to \$2.50. Many people locked in at the higher price as prices were predicted to go even higher; they are now stuck paying the higher price. Wood was selling around \$175.00 a cord, then jumped to \$300.00 a cord by some dealers this winter.

Food prices jumped accordingly with transportation costs increasing.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 2	Linda Kimball
Grade 3	Cheri Perelli
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Sandra Davis

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
Thomas Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS

Daniel Webster Grange – Nicole Hewes

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton and Lorna Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III
Creative Crafts - Donna Frost and Lorna Bates

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

Brownie & Daisy Troop – Kathy Lacourse
Junior Troop - Karla Silver
Junior Troop Tracy Balch
Senior Troop - Terry Ohlson-Martin,
Senior Troop - Charlene Vary and Mary Evanofski

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master Steve Hewes
Webster Women's Union - Eleanor Corliss
NH Circle of Home and Family - Yvonne Wheeler
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz

2009

After 25 years of keeping Webster's residents aware of the past year's happenings in the Town Report,

we are saddened by the passing of our energetic, knowledgeable reporter "Pat" Inman on October 27, 2009.

The Daniel Webster Grange hosted the Town Warrant and Budget discussion held on Tuesday, February 10th at 7p.m. Voting for Town Officers was Tuesday, March 10th from 10a.m. until 7p.m.

Annual meetings held were:

Merrimack Valley School District Meeting: March 5th at 7p.m. - voting held prior at 6p.m. Budget of \$34,822,906 was set.

Pillsbury Lake District held their annual meeting March 11th.

Town Meeting Day took place Saturday, March 14th with a budget passed of \$1,493,650.

The Tax rate was set at \$17.42 per thousand, breaking down to: \$3.71 town portion, \$9.03 MVSD, \$2.28 State Education and \$2.40 for Merrimack County. Residents of Pillsbury Lake paid an additional \$2.52 per thousand.

The year 2009 was a year of hardship for many people - i.e. job loss, unemployment as high as 7.2% in N.H., home foreclosures and turmoil regarding health insurance. Costs rose in all areas, wages were frozen, interest levels were down and stocks dramatically declined. Webster escaped none of this.

An approval to cut \$110,000 in spending came during discussion of the Public Safety Article #21 at the Annual Business Meeting. It was to be spread throughout all Departments. It resulted in a reduction primarily in the Police Force from five officers to one officer. This included the resignation of Chief Brian Milano on October 12th. Because of this decrease, a group of informed citizens evolved into the CCW (Concerned Citizens of Webster). This group obtained over 400 residential signatures of additional concerned citizens. The Selectmen hired a consultant, Donald Gross (a former Nashua Police Chief), to explore the needs of the Town's Police Department. The part-time secretary returned after being laid-off. Some resolution came at the December 14th Selectmen's Meeting. A "Conditional Offer of Employment" was offered to Richard LaValley (formerly a Webster part-time Officer). He accepted as part-time Officer (working and training with Lieutenant Philip Mitchell) until becoming full-time the second week of January 2010.

Merrimack Valley High School earned a special environmental designation to be certified as the first school building in the state for Collaborative High Performance in Schools (CHPS). In addition, MVHS won an \$86,000 grant for the connection of the Superintendent's building to the wood chip facility. Both are a part of "going green".

The Blackwater River Bridge on Rte. 127, was named in honor of Sergeant William J. Tracy Jr., a MVHS Webster graduate. Senator Harold Janeway sponsored the bill to achieve this. Sergeant Tracy was killed on February 25, 2003 in Kuwait. The war in Iraq still continues going on 7 years.

Webster's Saturday night suppers benefiting the Church, Grange and Women's Union were again held in July and August

Terry Ohlson-Martin and Dorothy Haskins headed the 58th year of the Church Booth at the Hopkinton Fair. Thanks to all who participated in making it another successful year.

Fifth grade Webster Elementary students were co-sponsored by the Daniel Webster Grange preparing a turkey dinner to help defray the cost of their Ferry Beach Ecology School trip in June.

All WES students observed Memorial Day on Friday, May 30th, an event sponsored by and at the Old

Meeting House. The school children provided a special program.

“Pennies from Heaven Farm” (owned by Dot Haskins) held Barn, Yard and Food sales on June 6th and October 3rd and 4th to benefit the First Congregational Church of Webster

A well-attended Reunion/Revival Dance was held the afternoon of Saturday, August 15th, with square dances, polkas, waltzes and fox trots of the late 40’s and 50’s.

The JKS Cold Brook Campground, LLC, property closed and was sold at a foreclosure sale on October 9, 2009. This came about in part due to many problems related to Zoning violations. They were the fourth largest taxpayer in Town.

Winter was white, spring was miserably wet and summer - what summer? With so much rain and cool temperatures, crops failed and tomato blight was rampant.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade 1	Gwen Hall
Grade 2	Linda Kimball
Grade 3	Cheri Perelli
Grade 4	Daniel Diachenko
Grade 5	Nancy Dobe
Building Aide	Laurel Foss
Administrative Assistant	Helen Brannigan
Principal	Sandra Davis
Custodian	Gene Pruel

SCHOLARSHIPS

Barbara Hochrein Memorial Bod Award – Jocelyn Tanner and Samantha Vary
Daniel Webster Grange – Nicole Hewes

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
Thomas Godfrey

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

Brownie & Daisy Troop – Kathy Lacourse and Andrea Morrill
Junior Troop - Karla Silver, Tracy Balch and Amy Chadbourne
Seniors Troop - Terry Ohlson-Martin,
Seniors Troop - Charlene Vary, Terry Ohlson-Martin and Mary Evanofski

4-H LEADERS

Early Hour - Sandra Creighton and Lorna Bates
Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange - Master Dorothy Haskins
NH Circle of Home and Family - Yvonne Wheeler
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz
Webster Women’s Union - Eleanor Corliss

2010

On January 1st Webster lost one of their lifelong residents, Robert H. Pearson, Jr., at the age of 85.

The U.S Census Bureau reported the population of Webster to be 1,808 in 2010, up from 1,579 in 2000. The census form was one of the shortest in history, asking only 10 questions.

Webster has a new Police Chief, Robert Dupuis, and a new Fire Chief, Colin Colby.

Daniel Webster Grange sponsored the reading of the Town Warrant and budget review on February 9th.

The 2010 Town Meeting elections were held on Tuesday, March 9th, with 649 out of 1,394 registered voters casting ballots. The Town Meeting continued on Saturday, March 13th. It was well attended, with dozens of residents standing at the back of the Town Hall after more than 100 chairs were taken. The residents approved all 22 articles by voice votes, most with little debate or discussion, including \$100,000 in new taxes for work on Pearson Hill Road, \$40,000 from the budget surplus for sealing roads, and \$27,000 from a capital reserve fund for a new police cruiser. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half.

The Hopkinton/Webster MSW (Managed Solid Waste) Facility withdrew from the Concord Regional Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative (Coop) recycling facility in Penacook. In 2009 the Coop created a restatement of purpose without going back to the towns for input. They granted themselves certain rights, one of which was to tax the towns without consent. Hopkinton and Webster received \$50,000 between them in exchange for indemnity from future obligations or liabilities - including the ash pit in Franklin - and for their contributions since 1985. Waste Management Inc. won the Towns' contract, and the trash will likely be taken to facilities in North Andover or Claremont for \$70 per ton. The Hopkinton/Webster trash will go to an incinerator not a landfill.

The November 2nd national election saw a 56% Webster voter turnout and 33 same-day registrations.

For the first time in five years the tax rate decreased. The rate was set at \$16.99, down from the 2009 rate of \$17.42 per \$1,000. The breakdown was as follows: Municipal, \$3.98; County, \$2.38; Local School, \$8.45; State School \$2.18. The Merrimack Valley School District budget was \$34,800,000, resulting in a decrease of \$.15/\$1,000. There were no salary raises or layoffs.

Twelve properties were deeded to the Town for non-payment of taxes, and eight families lost their homes to foreclosure between October, 2009 and October, 2010.

There were six building permits issued at a cost of \$600 each, in addition to septic and impact fees.

The 2010 fuel prices were as follows: Gas, \$3.00 on December 15 - it has not been this high since 2007; dry cord wood, \$225/cord; oil, \$2.999/gallon; propane, \$3.399/gallon.

As of December 2010, the national unemployment rate was 9.8% and the New Hampshire rate was 5.4%, down from 7.2% last year.

The Grange was in its 126th year of existence in Webster. They again provided dictionaries to third-grade students in the Webster, Boscawen, and Salisbury schools. They continued their Christmas Mug Project by filling mugs with cocoa mix, crackers or cookies and distributing them to shut-ins at the N.H. Hospital, Merrimack County Home, McKenna House, and Austin Home. They sponsored a Christmas Decorated House contest. They also provided lunch on election days and Town Meeting day.

The Pillsbury Lake district held its annual Easter Egg Hunt for all Webster children the Saturday before Easter.

On April 4th, Easter Sunrise Services were held on Pearson Hill followed by breakfast at the Town Hall.

The New England Canoe & Kayak Racing Association held its annual race on the Blackwater River on April 17th-18th, with the participants camping in the Town Park behind the school. Sonny Hunt has coordinated these races for 27 years.

The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House held their annual Memorial Day event on May 28th. The Webster Elementary School children attended, read poems, sang songs, and proceeded to the Webster Cemetery to place flowers and flags on the graves. Afterwards they returned for hot fudge sundaes.

The Society hosted their annual Round Robin Day for the fourth-grade classes from Webster, Salisbury, and Andover on June 2nd. The students learned about the history of each Town's museums and artifacts.

Webster's Circle of Home and Family continued their annual spring and fall roadside pickup along Battle Street.

Summer suppers, offered on Saturdays during July and August, were still going strong. These were sponsored by the Grange, the Women's Union, and the First Congregational Church of Webster.

The First Congregational Church of Webster, with Elizabeth French as pastor, took on two major projects this year: remodeling the Food Pantry and painting the steeple. The remodeling was done using funds from the Isabel Anderson Fund and private donations. Peg Foss oversaw the effort and organized many volunteers. The Pantry continued to provide for the families in Town during its makeover. The steeple painting was done by R. T. Lake and cost \$12,750. It took 18 gallons of paint and two coats of primer. Bob Lake and Eric Lake scraped and painted the steeple along with Sally Lake who climbed two ladders to get to the top. The Church Booth at the Hopkinton Fair made a profit of \$10,000. Dot Haskins held her twice-yearly yard sales at her Pennies from Heaven Farm, bringing in a total of \$900 in sales for the Church.

Cold Brook Campground, after being sold, reopened for the season as Indian Orchard Campground. It was then sold in the fall to Matt Augeri and Joe DiPrima and will open under the name of Cozy Pond Camping Resort.

The Webster Youth Soccer Committee organized the soccer program for Webster children in grades K-12. The Webster School Ski Program, started by Georgia Jeffrey in 1981, was still going strong. Thirty children participated this year, coordinated by Marjorie Blanchette. All of the children are transported to Pats Peak entirely by carpooling.

Two conservation projects added to the protected lands in Webster. The first project was 308 acres in Webster and Warner around Trumbull Pond and Schoodac Brook. It was placed under a conservation easement by the Courser family in partnership with the Ausbon Sargent Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Land and Community Heritage Program, Open Space Institute, New Hampshire State Conservation Committee, Town of Webster, private foundations, and donors. The second project included 128 acres on Little Hill, which Susan and Steven Youngs sold to the Nature Conservancy. The Youngs then put a conservation easement, held by the Ausbon Sargent Trust, on another 235 acres on Dublin Lane, off Little Hill Road. All this land protects a portion of the Schoodac Brook headwaters. It also provides a critical link between large blocks of conserved land: the Schoodac watershed with 2,000 acres and the Blackwater River watershed with over 11,000 acres. Ninety percent of the easement ranked among the highest wildlife habitat in the state by the 2005 NH Wildlife Action Plan. The existing snowmobile trails will be retained and pedestrian access will still be allowed. Six consecutive generations of the Little family originally owned this land.

Residents heard Whip-poor-wills in different parts of the Town this summer, after not hearing them for 10 years. Several residents also reported bobcat sightings.

February 23rd saw a horrendous wind, snow, and ice storm. With as many as 800,000 people without electricity statewide, Governor Lynch declared a state of emergency. Most of Webster was without electricity for four to six days. The Town received \$7,753.13 from FEMA for storm damages incurred February 23rd through March 5th.

Summer brought a drought severe enough to affect wells in Town, with several running dry. Pillsbury Lake Management shut down their water system at night to allow the storage tanks to refill. They also prohibited filling swimming pools and washing vehicles. The drought played havoc with the hay crop - the second crop was very short.

On Saturday, September 25th at 11:28 p.m., Webster residents felt the ground shake and heard the rumble of a magnitude 3.1 earthquake. According to USGS it was situated 2.1 miles underground at 43.2915N, 71.6568W. These coordinates correspond to a location on Corn Hill Road in Boscawen.

The year ended with a 12-inch snow storm on December 26th-27th.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade One 1H	Gwen Hall
Grade One 1T	Jessica Tarbell
Grade Two	Linda Kimball
Grade Three	Cheri Perelli
Grade Four	Daniel Diachenko
Grade Five	Nancy Dobe
Principal	Sandra Davis
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
School Nurse	Judy Elliott

SCHOLARSHIPS

Barbara Hochrein Golf Tournament: Bridget Tevnan
Grange – Andrea Beltolino

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
Thomas Godfrey

4-H LEADERS

Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

K-1 Daisy Girls – Andrea Morrill
2-3 Brownies – Melissa Pettingill
4-5 Juniors – Joe Schmitl

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange -Dorothy Haskins, Master
Webster Women's Union – Janet Broker
NH Circle of Home and Family – Jane Adams, Chair
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz

Respectfully submitted,
DOROTHY MONZ, ELIZABETH PEARSON, MARJORIE BLANCHETTE

2011

2011 started out with January snowstorms dropping 14-20" on the 12th, another 8" on the 18th and 6" on the 21st. By the end of January temperatures dropped to minus 17. This was the snowiest January in over two decades. But Mother Nature was not finished yet. February seemed to promise more of the same. February 1st thru the 8th dropped another 12". The first day of spring, March 21st, we had 3" of snow followed by 8" on April 1st. May arrived raining every day from the 13th to the 20th. We got through summer, but along came Hurricane Irene on August 28th. By the time it reached New Hampshire, after causing much flooding and destruction along the east coast, it was only a Tropical Storm. Even in its weakened state, it caused rivers to rise, leaving about 165,000 homes and businesses across the State without power. All Fire and Police personnel state-wide manned their stations prepared for the worst. Webster was also on alert, but luckily only some trees came down. Neighboring Vermont and the north country of NH did not fare as well. Webster received \$5,959.91 from FEMA for storm damages occurring from Tropical Storm Irene. An uneventful summer passed and then on October 28th we had a snowstorm causing some Halloween activities to be postponed.

On a positive note, avid mushroom hunters reported that an abundance of edible mushrooms grew due to the wealth of moisture.

Daniel Webster Grange sponsored the reading of the Town Warrant and Budget review on Feb 8th.

The 2011 Town Meeting elections were held on Tuesday, March 8th. The Business Meeting continued on Saturday, March 12th. Nearly 140 voters filled the Town Hall and made quick work of a \$1.6 million-dollar Town Budget. This included the expenditure of \$140,000 to catch up on long-neglected road repairs. The biggest news was Moderator Harold Janeway was stepping down after 20 years.

The tax rate was set at \$17.64, up .65 cents from the 2010 rate of \$16.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The breakdown was as follows: Municipal \$4.11; County \$2.36; Local School \$9.00; and State School \$2.17. Merrimack Valley School District Budget rate increased .55 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Webster's portion of the school budget was \$2,448,332. The County tax portion was \$546,084.

Two properties were deeded to the Town for non-payment of taxes, and seven families lost their homes to foreclosure. There was one building permit issued at a cost of \$600. In addition, there was a fee of \$150 payable to the Town as well as a \$300 fee payable to DES for the review of new septic systems. Upon issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the Town's impact fee of \$5,306 will be due.

The 2011 fuel prices as of December 26th were as follows: gas \$3.22/gallon, up .22 cents from last year; oil \$3.759/gallon up from \$2.999; propane \$3.389/gallon down from \$3.399 gallon. Dry cord wood sold for between \$250 and \$300, up from last year's average of \$225.

On December 28th the national unemployment rate was 8.6% and the NH rate was 5.2%, down 5.4% from last year. This was not much of a change and seemed to stay steady over the year. The highest rate was in Coos County at 6.9% and Merrimack County was the lowest at 4.3%. The NH rate was the lowest among the New England states.

The Webster Grange is now in its 127th year of existence. The projects for the year included "Dictionary Project", where they provide dictionaries to all third-grade students in the Webster, Boscawen and Salisbury schools and their "Christmas Mug Project" where they fill, wrap and deliver mugs to those in nursing homes and homeless people (between 10 to 12 dozen).

April 17th saw the return of the canoe and kayak racing event in the New England Slalom Series on the Blackwater River starting under the Sgt. William J. Tracy Memorial Bridge on Route 127 and continuing

on behind the Webster Elementary School. This was the event's 27th year organized by Sonny Hunt.

As well as hosting the kayaker's breakfast on April 17th, the Grange sponsored the annual Easter Sunrise breakfast at the Town Hall after the Easter Sunrise Service that is held on Pearson Hill Road. All profits are donated to Webster's First Congregational Church Sunday School.

The Pillsbury Lake Annual Easter Egg Hunt was not held this year due to the lack of potable water at the Clubhouse.

The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House once again held their annual Memorial Day event on May 27th. All students from the Webster Elementary School celebrated Memorial Day by visiting the Meeting House. There were presentations by classes showcasing their knowledge about the meaning of Memorial Day. They also visited the Veterans Memorial and the Corser Hill Cemetery where they placed flowers and flags on the graves. Hot fudge sundaes were served on their return to the Meeting House. This event was also open to the public. The fourth-grade classes from Webster, Salisbury and Andover learned about the history of each town's museum and artifacts at the annual Round Robin Day held on June 1st sponsored by the three towns' museums. The Meeting House joined in this year's Old Home Day by opening the museum for the weekend. All displays were updated and new ones added.

The First Congregational Church of Webster held a luncheon on May 22nd wishing a fond farewell to Pastor Elizabeth French who had been minister for 10 1/2 years. On November 1st Reverend David Pearson was appointed Interim Pastor. David and his wife, Gail, come from Rochester, NH.

The Church Booth at the Hopkinton Fair took in \$1,700 less than last year, \$8,300. Once again Dot Haskins held her twice-yearly yard sales at her Pennies from Heaven Farm, netting a total of \$725 in sales for the benefit of the Church. One side of the Church booth at the Hopkinton Fair had to be repaired. Luckily there were volunteers to do the work. Unexpectedly, the 3-4 year-old furnace at the parish house had to be replaced, costing the Church \$1,500 to have it installed.

After six years, Webster once again celebrated a traditional Old Home Day on August 20th. There was a parade with floats, a frog jumping contest, horseshoe games and a greased pole to climb. A chicken barbeque supper was held at the Town Hall and in the evening, there was dancing in the street on Allen Road.

This year The Circle of Home and Family, originally known as the Webster Women's Extension, disbanded after 50+ years. Members were invited to join other clubs in surrounding towns.

The Webster Elementary School Ski Program, coordinated by Marjorie Blanchette, had 35 children carpooling to Pats Peak each week.

The Webster Community Suppers at the Webster Town Hall continued this year starting on July 2nd and ran for six consecutive Saturdays. Proceeds from these suppers are shared by the Grange, the Women's Union and the Webster First Congregational Church.

Repairs were made to the Town Hall. Roof repairs involved new 30-year shingles at a final cost of \$46,896.50. Additionally, the Clerk of the Works cost \$1,904.40; building rot repairs cost \$2,463.15; and pest services were required due to an infestation which cost \$395. Painting of the steeple was also done because of the convenience of having lift equipment already on the site at a cost of \$2,000.

The former campground known as Indian Orchard re-opened in May as Cozy Pond Camping Resort. It got a facelift and some upgraded amenities. The campground was approved for 10 additional sites, bringing the total to 79. The construction of a swimming pool was approved for use by those camping on the grounds only. A camp store was also opened for the convenience of the campers and the

townspeople. Beer, wine, snacks, groceries and other staples will be available for sale from May to October.

Webster has a winery in Town located on Battle Street known as Coffin Cellars Winery. The winery is a family-run business. Peter Austin, along with his two sons, Jamie and Tim, specialize in wines with fruits and berries, many of which are grown locally or on their own property.

The towns of Webster, Boscawen, Andover and Salisbury have joined forces to save money for buying items in bulk, rather than in smaller, separate transactions. This is an ongoing process. The pooling resources committee will continue to promote and explore shared services.

Two loggers and the landowner of Webster properties, (which were logged back in 2009, on Little Hill Road), were cited for unauthorized wetlands violations and had to pay more than \$25,000 in fines for failing to protect the wetlands. Since then one of the properties was sold. The new owner sold the land to the Nature Conservancy and has a conservation easement on it. The forest is now growing back and is being protected after significant portions were clear cut.

Changes at the Town Clerk's Office resulted in an easier way to renew your vehicle registrations. Renewals can be done through the mail or taken to the Town Clerk. Boat renewals also can be done by the Town Clerk. Good news, when you register your boat in Webster, the municipal tax stays in Webster.

A law was passed by the Legislature that persons over the age of 75 do not have to take a driver's test to renew their licenses.

On November 18th the Prive residence on White Plains Road was destroyed by fire due to arson. Police investigations resulted in the identifications of multiple suspects and one arrest.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade One	Gwen Hall
Grade Two	Jessica Tarbell
Grade Three	Cheri Perelli
Grade Four	Daniel Diachenko
Grade Five	Nancy Dobe
Principal	Sandra Davis
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
School Nurse	Judy Elliott
Building Assistant	Laurel Foss
Custodian	Steve Rhoades

SCHOLARSHIPS

Grange – Faith Alissa Bouchard

Barbara Hochrein Memorial Book Scholarship Award: Faith Alissa Bouchard. Faith is attending Colby Sawyer College majoring in Graphic Arts.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake

Thomas Godfrey

4-H LEADERS

Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

K-1 Daisy Girls – Jody Allen and Heather Ordway

2-3 Brownies – Sarah Chalsma and Jennifer Barnard

4-5 Juniors – Andrea Morrill and Kate Merchant

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange -Dorothy Haskins, Master

Webster Women's Union – Janet Broker

Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz

Respectfully submitted,

DOROTHY MONZ, ELIZABETH PEARSON, MARJORIE BLANCHETTE

2012

2012 started with an unusually mild winter with only 13.8 inches of snow in December, January and February. March was the warmest on record with a temperature of 42°. After a nearly snowless winter, extremely dry conditions across the State made forest fires a real danger. 2012 was not a typical year. In April, usually a reliably wet month, there was barely one-tenth of an inch of rain. Road Agent Emmett Bean was thankful there had not been much rain. The dirt roads thawed and dried up nicely allowing him to grade them. Summer was hot and dry.

On January 10th, polls were open for the Presidential Primary Elections. Election results: Webster had 461 Republican and 92 Democratic ballots cast; of that amount, 300 were undeclared voters. There were 32 election-day voter registrations. Due to a State law change, voters needed photo identification or sign a challenged voter affidavit. Webster Town Hall was the place to be on November 6th for the General Election. Our voter turnout was approximately 85% and well above the NH statewide turnout of just under 70%. On the same day the Supervisors of the Checklist registered a whopping 105 new voters. The NH statewide total of same day registrations was 99,301. The number of voters in Webster was 1,144. President Barack Obama was re-elected over Mitt Romney.

The Daniel Webster Grange sponsored the reading and review of the Town Warrant & Budget on February 14th. Town elections were held on Tuesday, March 13th and the Business Meeting continued on Saturday, March 17th. Serving Webster as Town Moderator for 22 years, Harold Janeway passed the mallet to Robert Pearson III. Acrimony reigned over the Police Budget and its policies in an attempt to abolish the Department. Following an hour of seething debate, a secret ballot vote failed the attempt by a 131-119. Voters went on to cut the police budget by about \$6,000. A one-time \$10,000 bond to help offset the Pillsbury Lake Dam Replacement was voted down. Also voted down was the article to pay partial health insurance premiums for part-time Town employees who work a minimum of 15 hours per week. They also set aside \$140,000 for road work.

The tax rate was set at \$18.37 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The breakdown was as follows: Municipal \$4.24; County \$2.31; Local School \$9.70; and State School \$2.12. Property in the Pillsbury Lake District was an additional \$2.75. The Merrimack Valley School District budget of \$36,185,986 reflected approximately a one percent increase over last year. Webster's portion of the school budget was \$2,635,524.

Four properties were deeded to the Town for nonpayment of taxes, and four families lost their homes to foreclosures. There were five building permits issued; one was a replacement due to fire; one was a replacement for a mobile home; one was a replacement due to obsolescence; the remaining two were for new residents. There were 566 dog licenses issued.

The 2012 fuel prices as of December 27, 2012 were as follows: gas \$3.25/gallon, up .03 cents from last

year; propane \$3.12/gallon, down from \$3.389; oil \$3.59/gallon, down from \$3.759 and dry cord wood \$235, down from last year's average of \$275.

The national unemployment rate was 7.4%. New Hampshire's rate was 5.6%. Grafton County had the lowest rate of 4.4% and Coos County had the highest of 7.1%.

The Webster Grange once again provided dictionaries to all third-grade students in the Webster, Boscawen and Salisbury schools. The Christmas Mug Project continued which consists of Christmas mugs packed with cocoa and cheese and crackers and wrapped in colored cellophane paper. These are then given to the residents of Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen; Maplewood Nursing Home in Keene; the Austin Home in Webster; NH Hospital and the McKenna House, both in Concord. The Grange's large fundraising project each year was held on May 26th at the Webster Town Hall. Activities included a Penny Sale with a mixture of items including new and old. While the Penny Sale was going on upstairs, the Chicken BBQ was being served downstairs. A free event, 'Come See Santa Clause' on December 23rd at the Town Hall was also sponsored by the Grange. It included simple crafts for children to make and, for adults, writing a letter of thanks to the troops. Also, old cell phones that could be refurbished and have minutes added were collected so the troops could call home. The Webster Congregational Church held a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Mardi-Gras games were enjoyed by the youth. The next night Webster Church members joined with members of the Salisbury Church for a combined Ash Wednesday service in Salisbury. The Grange also cooked breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 8th after the 6 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service on Pearson Hill Road. Profits from the breakfast go to benefit the Webster Sunday School of the Webster Congregational Church.

A total of \$920 was raised for the Concord Hospital Pediatrics Unit by Rebecca Hashem's senior project.

Webster summer suppers were held five times. The proceeds from the suppers were split between the Daniel Webster Grange, the Webster Women's Union and the Webster Congregational Church.

In May, Share Day at the elementary school was a big success. There were many informative workshops thanks to the efforts of the PTO leaders and the community. They included the following: hikes along the river; llamas; scrapbooking; letter boxing; tie-dyeing, gardening, and discovering how small appliances work. Other activities included representatives and demonstrations from the Webster Fire and Rescue Ambulance; a bucket loader from Milton Caterpillar; linemen from Unitil; and the Sheriff's Office.

The Church Booth at the Hopkinton Fair took in less again this year and \$7,500 was donated to the church. Dot Haskins had three yard-sales at her Pennies from Heaven Farm, netting a total of \$1,707.75 in sales for the benefit of the Church. On November 17th, a Harvest Supper and Penny Sale of many new articles benefited the Church with \$1,270. Christmas Caroling took place on Sunday, December 16th at the Church followed by the decorating of the Christmas tree. The Food Pantry located at the Church is now fully functional after a makeover last year. Besides providing supplies once a month, they provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for regular recipients. Maintenance of the Church included re-grouting of window panes and some new storm windows.

The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House held their Annual Memorial Day event on May 25th. Webster Elementary School students celebrated the day with presentations by classes on the meaning of Memorial Day. They visited the Veterans' Memorial and the Corser Hill Cemetery where they placed flowers and flags on the graves, then returned for hot fudge sundaes. The event was open to the public. The Annual Round Robin Day with the fourth-grade classes from Webster, Salisbury and Andover was held on June 1st sponsored by the three towns' museums. The students learned about the history of each town's museum and artifacts. The Meeting House was opened once again on Old Home Day

weekend. There was a tremendous turnout as people came in advance of going on a horse drawn ride behind the Blackwater Dam. The public heard about how the Old Meeting House was moved; where the cemetery use to be and much more Webster history. Many enjoyed looking at the pictures of old homes, school houses and students from the past. On June 9th the Meeting House was host to the Farm Fair and Art

Show "Articulture". This was the brainchild of Webster resident, Mason Donovan. Seven artists from Boscawen, Webster and Canterbury displayed new works of art created especially for "Articulture" and inspired by 16 farms in those towns. The farms held a Farmers' Market on the grounds of the Old Meeting House. Over 1,000 people from Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire were greeted by the Farmers' Market tables filled with local produce including honey, homemade jams, flowers, meat, baskets, baked goods and hand crafts. Inside the Old Meeting House, they were treated to the beautiful historic interior which served as a gallery of exhibits for the local artists. There were two primary goals for this event: 1) to raise awareness of our local agricultural businesses, and 2) to join as a community and enjoy a day together. Mission accomplished! Also, The Over 80's Party was held again this year on July 8th. Honored guest, their friends and families, enjoyed reminiscing about days of old and participated in the Ice Cream Social which followed. KSD Custom Wood Products of Boscawen replaced the main entry door unit at the Meeting House at a cost of \$8,336. Electrical work at the old fire station was undertaken by Mike Warren for \$1,600 and a new dehumidifier was purchased for the basement.

A committee was formed to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2012. Data was compiled on possible hazards both man-made and natural and how to be better prepared for those hazards. This is necessary so that Webster can qualify for FEMA aid when and if disasters occur as well as for a number of grants that may become available. Residents were asked to submit dated pictures of disasters as well as a short written "blurb" about the event. The updated document was then sent on to FEMA for their review. Once approved, the document will be kept on file at FEMA in order to receive any future aid money.

The Webster Conservation Commission opened a walking trail at the Riverdale Natural Area off Tyler Road. The trail is now ready for easy walking and the blue blazes have been repainted. The trail follows along the river, passing by old oxbow swamps, a couple of old fields, a red pine forest and some impressive white pines.

A Blackwater River outing was sponsored by the Webster Conservation Commission on August 5th. It was a leisurely paddle down the river from Route 127 across from the Cozy Pond Camping Resort to the Town of Hopkinton border on Tyler Road.

The Cozy Pond Camping Resort at 541 Battle Street got approval from the Webster Planning Board to expand the number of campsites from 69 to 93 sites. The 80-acre campground is open from Mother's Day to Columbus Day. The camp store, which sells beer and wine and a few other staples, is open to the public.

New carpeting and tile were installed in the office area of the Town Offices. The dining/kitchen area downstairs in the Town Hall was painted while painting and touch ups are ongoing in the upstairs of the Grange Hall.

On October 3rd, the Webster Elementary School participated in the International Walk to School Day. Despite a rainy morning, over 50 students, parents and grandparents gathered at the Webster Public Safety Building and walked in a line down Route 127. Florescent safety vests, umbrellas of many hues, and bright posters with positive messages made for a colorful parade of children and adults enjoying the healthy benefits of walking to school. This group was joined by students from busses who had a

shortened route and the school community was able to walk into the building together.

This year Webster's Old Home Day was celebrated on August 18th & 19th. The parade began with the Webster Police cruiser, clearing the road for Roger Sanborn's horse drawn carriage carrying Grand Marshalls, Pat and Paul Whitcomb. Following was a Color Guard, the Merrimack Valley Band, Cub Scouts, floats, walkers, antique cars and other miscellaneous entries. New this year was a baking contest. In the grove several games were played for kids and adults too. There were free ice cream sundaes and a live band. The oldest person present was Ethel Kenniston; the youngest person was Harper Austin; traveling the furthest was Marcia Riis Tyrol and the largest family members present were the Pearson's. Roger Sanborn took his horse drawn wagon through Cogswell Woods. With 68 people enjoying the ride, he talked about where the Old Meeting House used to be, the cemetery and much more Webster history. There was a chicken barbeque and the day ended Saturday night with a street dance held on Allen Road.

Harold Janeway of Webster was an honoree at the Jefferson Jackson Celebration on October 26th. Harold received the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award for his lifetime of involvement and support of progressive causes.

The Webster Elementary School Ski Program, coordinated by Marjorie Blanchette is still going strong with 36 children carpooling to Pat's Peak in Henniker each week. Webster Elementary School officially became a member of the International Baccalaureate Program. The IB Program emphasizes the characteristics students should develop such as being risk-taking and reflective while also mastering academic material such as Math, History and Science. It joins another Merrimack Valley District School, the elementary school in Salisbury. Much controversy has arisen about this program. The District has spent between \$100,000 and \$190,000 annually for the last two years and is projected to spend \$190,000 in 2012. The program is covered through a federal grant the district has received for more than a decade. Some voters are worried about what will happen if the grant dries up. IB Coordinator is Nancy Webster.

Selectmen approved a purchase order for the Cemetery Commissioners to Perry Brothers Monument Company for the restorations/repairs of headstones at Corser Hill Cemetery in the amount of \$3,000; \$1,000 of which came from encumbered monies.

After State redistricting, Webster is now represented by two new House Representatives; David Karrick & Clyde Carson.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade One	Gwen Hall
Grade Two	Jessica Whinnie
Grade Three	Cheri Perelli
Grade Four	Daniel Diachenko
Grade Five	Nancy Dobe
Principal	Sandra Davis
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
School Nurse	Judy Elliott
Building Assistant	Laurel Foss

SCHOLARSHIPS

Grange – Rebecca Hasham and Chantel (Bates) Rizzio

Barbara Hochrein Memorial Book Scholarship Award: Shelby Hamel

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
Thomas Godfrey

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange -Dorothy Haskins, Master
Webster Women's Union – Janet Broker
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz
4-H Leaders Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III
Dairy Club – Beth Silver
Beef Club – Guy Larochelle

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

K-1 Daisy Girls – Jody Allen and Heather Ordway
2-3 Brownies – Sarah Chalsma and Jennifer Barnard
4-5 Juniors – Andrea Morrill and Kate Merchant

Respectfully submitted,
DOROTHY MONZ,
ELIZABETH PEARSON,
MARJORIE BLANCHETTE
Historical Society Members

2013

January 3rd saw temperatures in the single digits. The North Country was below zero; coldest day since January 2011. Then in the beginning of February a blizzard swept across New England and brought the area the largest snowstorm in 125 years. Two feet of snow fell. The blizzard ranked second in history behind a March 1888 storm that dropped more than 27 inches of snow. FEMA payments were received for snow removal during the Feb 8th-10th storm in the amount of \$9,547.55. Summer got off to a wet start. From May 1st through July 12th, a total of 13.16 inches of rain fell, it was 4.69 inches above normal. In November, an earthquake was centered northwest of Contoocook. The earthquake was classified as a magnitude 2.5 to 2.6 tremor, significantly smaller than the 4.0 magnitude earthquake that struck New England a year ago.

Town Elections were held on March 12, 2013 and the Business Meeting continued on March 16, 2013. Webster voter turnout was as follows: Webster Town Election 242; Merrimack Valley School District Meeting/Elections 49; Pillsbury Lake District Meeting/elections 50. Once again, the Police Department came under fire. Webster voters, totaling 330, came out to support the Police Department, rejecting a proposal to eliminate the entire public safety budget and approving the purchase of a new cruiser. It was the largest turnout in recent history, with voters overflowing into the Town Hall basement where they watched the proceedings on a monitor. Voters approved \$10,000 to Pillsbury Lake District for dam repairs, an annual article that failed last year. Every warrant article passed, resulting in a \$1.57 million budget, up less than 1% from last year. Under new business, Tara Gunnigle proposed the Town establish a Police Advisory Board consisting of police, selectmen and Webster citizens. This article passed.

The 2013 tax rate was set at \$21.73 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The breakdown is as follows: Town = \$5.07; County = \$2.67; Local School = \$11.63 and State School = \$2.36. Property in the Pillsbury Lake District is an additional \$3.61 per \$1,000. The Merrimack Valley School District budget was \$36 million. Webster's portion of the school budget was \$2,872,067 which was \$246,543 over last year.

No properties were deeded to the Town this year.

The Pillsbury Lake Neighborhood Watch and the Webster Police Department sponsored a Bike Rodeo. Webster children brought their bikes to the Pillsbury Lake Community Center. A representative from S&W Sports was on hand to check each bike, and Concord Hospital gave a seminar on concussions. A limited number of helmets were given to the children and a barbeque was held. Caleb Swislowsky had his name drawn as the winner of a new bicycle, thanks to *Toys "R" Us*.

Stephanie Wheeler was named the new principal of the Salisbury and Webster Elementary Schools. She succeeded Sandy Davis, who retired in July.

In 1989 Bob Pearson, Jr. made the Webster Cane, a replica of the Boston Post Cane, which is presented to the oldest known citizen of Webster. This cane is made from an apple tree that was on land owned by George Little on Little Hill. It was cut by Chester Bowers, sawed by David Gordon at Bob's mill in the early 1950's and stored in Bob's barn until it became Webster's beautifully handcrafted cane. The top is made from a black birch burl and a silversmith did the silver work. The first recipient was Ethel M. Simoneau from 1989-1992. It then was given to Mary Chase from 1992-2000 and Chester Bowers from 2000-2002. The most recent recipient was Dorothea Young from 2002-2013. The Select Board signed a recognition certificate to Dorothea Young on her 104th birthday on April 4, 2013. She passed away on August 7, 2013.

In January the five-year State mandated revaluation of property began. All property owners whose property had not had an interior inspection since the last full revaluation of the Town in 2008 were sent "List Letters". Approximately 479 letters went out and property owners were advised of times when staff members from Cross Country Appraisal Group were at the Town Office to make appointments. The new valuations were effective September 1st.

The Town was awarded a Conservation License Plate grant, in the amount of \$6,272, to preserve three volumes of Town records dating back to the late 1800's.

Town Clerk hours were expanded by adding the last Friday of each month from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. There were 560 dog licenses issued. The Town Clerk's Office can now register boats. The good news is that when you register your boat in Webster any municipal tax on the boat stays in Webster rather than another town or the State.

2013 fuel prices as of December 2013 were as follows: gas \$3.35 per gallon, up \$0.10 cents from last year; propane \$3.45 per gallon, up from \$3.12; oil \$3.59 per gallon, the same as 2012 and dry cord wood remained the same as last year at \$235.

The national unemployment rate was 7%. New Hampshire's rate was 4.8%, with New Hampshire ranking 11th best in the nation in November.

Daniel Webster Grange started another good year by sponsoring the reading and review of the Town Warrant and Budget on February 12th. The Grange provided refreshments at this meeting, as well as at the annual Town Election day on March 12th and at the Town Business meeting on Saturday, March 16th. The Grange distributed dictionaries to all third-grade students in the Webster, Boscawen and Salisbury schools. This Dictionary Project is carried out all across the United States. They sponsored and cooked the Easter Sunrise breakfast on March 31st with help from friends of the Grange. The Webster Church Sunday School teachers along with friends of the Grange and Church served the food and cleaned up after the breakfast. All profits benefited the Webster Congregational Church Sunday School. The 30th Annual Kayak Races were held behind the Elementary School April 19th to 21st. A breakfast was sponsored by the Grange. The Grange once again held their big fundraising event of the year on May 25th,

with a chicken BBQ followed by a large Penny Sale. This project greatly helped to cover the cost of the Grange's Christmas Coffee Mug Project. The purpose is to fill Christmas mugs with packages of hot cocoa and cookies wrapped in festive paper and given to the residents of Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, the Austin home in Webster and the McKenna House in Concord. NH Hospital of Concord requested puzzles instead of coffee mugs. New 2014 calendars were collected and divided among the above-named homes. The Grange worked on the community suppers and was very fortunate to have so many friends in our Town, as well as throughout the State that helped on this and other projects. Daniel Webster Grange was organized February 20, 1884 and has been around for one hundred and thirty years. It was first organized to help farmers, but with the decline of farms, it is now regarded as a legislative and community service organization, with a special interest in education. One of the saddest days in this Grange's life was November 22, 2013, the day that the Grange as well as the whole Town of Webster, lost one of their most prominent members, Marion T. Jones. She was a seventy-five year plus member of the Community Grange, the County Grange, the State Grange and the National Grange. Thank you, Marion, for giving so much of yourself to the Grange and your community.

Unitil Corporation donated three trees to the Town, with a total value of \$500; a crabapple tree, a magnolia tree and a cherry tree. These trees were planted in front of the Public Safety Building, the Town Hall and at the Webster/Salisbury town line. A sign post from the Meeting House Society, a value of \$100 was installed at the Town Hall. A new Town sign was donated and installed at the Webster/Salisbury town line by Mason Donovan. Mulch was donated for the Public Service Building from Charles Rose. The flower boxes on the Tracy Memorial Bridge on Battle Street by the Blackwater Dam were filled with donated plants from Sue Roberts' *Fleece and Flower Farm*. Sue also donated her time to care for the flower boxes.

On December 19, 2013 the Webster Fire Department and Rescue honored Marge Blanchette for her 30 years of service to the department. A large group was in attendance, which included the Selectmen and most of her family.

The First Congregational Church of Webster said good-bye to their Interim Minister in early December. The Reverend David Pearson and his wife Gail, of Rochester, NH decided to leave for their winter home in sunny Florida after serving the church for two years. A farewell party was held December 14th in the Parish House. They will be greatly missed by the congregation. The Church Search Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of Pastor and is using supply ministers in the interim. The Church's largest fundraiser is the food booth at Hopkinton Fair, serving the fair continuously for over 60 years. The Fair Booth turned in \$7,000, which due to bad weather on Labor Day was \$500 less than last year. Additional funds were generated from the summer suppers, the Pennies from Heaven barn & food sales, and their Harvest Supper and Penny Sale. The Food Pantry that the church sponsors and houses continues to serve neighbors in need. Thanks to their director, Peg Foss, the pantry is fully stocked and ready to help anyone who calls. The Trustees started a fundraising drive in April to re-plaster the downstairs walls and ceiling in the sanctuary. R. T. Lake and Sons was hired to do the work. The balance of the work has been put on hold until the Spring of 2014. The church was the grateful recipient of a \$3,000 grant from the Gemini Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation given to them to use in finishing this project. The family of Marion Jones, the church's oldest member, who passed away in November, graciously asked that donations be made in her honor to the project.

The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House had a very busy and productive year. It started off with a World Fiddlers' Day event held at the Webster Town Hall on May 18, 2013, for which there was no charge. Fiddlers from Webster and surrounding towns brought great enjoyment for a day of family fun and good music. A two CD set was made and sold for \$10.00. Next, our annual Memorial Day

Service was held at the Meeting House with Reverend David Pearson providing the prayer and the Webster Elementary School students did a small program. They walked to the Veteran's Memorial, where they placed a wreath, and then continued on to the Corser Hill Cemetery to place flowers on our Veterans' graves. Upon their return to the Old Meeting House hot fudge sundaes were served to all. On June 8th the Society hosted the second year of the Arti-Culture where there was an art gallery inside the museum and a farmers' market on the lawn outside as well as live music, food, wine and nano-brewery beer tastings. On June 5th the fourth-grade classes from Webster, Salisbury and Andover met at the Meeting House for the annual Round Robin. This event exposes the students to the history of the three towns, their museums and artifacts.

Congratulations to Town Residents: Chantal (Bates) Rigg, daughter of Bob and Lorna Bates of Webster and wife of Jason Rigg. Chantal graduated from Merrimack Valley in 2001. She married Jason in 2005 and he is from the UK and they have two sons. Since earning her Master's Degree, she has accepted a two-year position teaching English as a second language in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where she and her family currently live. Valerie Drown of Webster has been named Chair of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer program. Alex Ryan Cilley, son of Ellen Kontinos-Cilley and Eric Cilley of Webster, was recently elected to the American Colleges and Universities Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa.

New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family-Molly's Girls' member Dawn Barrett hosted seven members representing the communities of Webster, Boscawen, Dunbarton, Chester, Concord and Hopkinton. Each month they collect items for the Food Pantry in the town where the hostess lives. The month of October went to the Webster Food Pantry. They also continue to make quilts for Community Bridges and decorate the entrance to the Merrimack County Nursing Home.

A Halloween trick or treat open house at the Public Safety Building was held in October. Over 200 adults, kids and even tiny babies, most in costume came to the event! The Fire Academy Smoke Trailer offered an opportunity to experience a smoke-filled room and to hear what smoke alarms sound like. The PTO made Halloween cupcakes, cookies, jello (with worms) cakes, breads and even a platter of "good" vegetables. Donated were donuts on a string, popcorn, apples and cider.

The Webster Elementary School Ski Program, coordinated by Marge Blanchette, carpooled 36 children to Pat's Peak in Henniker.

Our State Legislators finally sent us \$31,029.24 for the Flood plains subsidy for the loss of taxable land due to flood control measures begun in the 1950's. This payment is in lieu of taxes from Massachusetts for the Blackwater Dam project.

Improvements to the water system at the Town Hall were completed, which including a sediment filter and tank replacement, at a cost of \$4,873.

Pavement Preservation work was done on Little Hill Road, Deer Meadow Road, with portions oiled, and Allen Road, with the cost of this project totaling \$155,606.

The Cozy Pond Campground received approval from the Webster Planning Board to expand the number of campsites by another 14, making a total of 107.

A generous gift of a conservation easement was given to the Town by the Phelps family consisting of a 12-acre parcel between Route 127 and Pearson Hill Road, which added to preserved land in the nearby Mock Forest. This land acts as a "rest stop" for migrating swallows and offers other birds important resources as well as a productive forest, several large oak trees, a small pond and grasslands. Webster's Conservation Commission donated \$10,000 to help cover processing costs.

The Webster Conservation Commission cleared, mowed and readied the trails at the Riverdale Natural Area on the Blackwater River. The trail entrance is by a green sign just south of the Riverdale Cemetery on Tyler Road and runs along the river in a loop, an easy half-hour stroll. The Committee organized a Town-wide cleanup for Earth Day. This successful event is another example of how volunteers make the Town of Webster work. About 30 adults and more than a dozen kids succeeded in gathering 80 bags of trash, a record that will be hard to beat on Earth Day 2014.

Old Home Day Week Celebration ran Saturday August 10th thru 17th. The festivities started with the street dance on Saturday, August 10th on Allen Road. Admission once again was a donation for the Webster Food Pantry. The Webster Historical Society had the Old Meeting house open on Sunday, August 11th and Saturday, August 17th. An Art competition was part of Old Home Day this year and was held on Wednesday, August 14th at the Town Hall. The Old Home Day Parade and field activities were held on Saturday, August 17th behind the elementary school. The parade started at 10:00 am on Saturday led by Grand Marshall Madeleine Roberts. Activities that followed were a baking contest, games for all ages, horseshoe tournament, free ice cream, along with "Lunch at the Dump" music. A chicken barbeque was held at 4:30 pm in the Town Hall. There was a special presentation on Sunday, August 18th at the First Congregational Church of Webster and the Old Meeting house was open again with horse and carriage rides down behind the dam. The week-long celebration ended with the Select Board re-enacting a Select Board Meeting at the Old Meeting House where they arrived in 1860's period attire.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade One	Gwen Hall
Grade Two	Jessica McWhinnie
Grade Three	Cheri Perelli
Grade Four	Daniel Diachenko
Grade Five	Nancy Dobe
Principal	Stephanie Wheeler
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
School Nurse	Judy Elliott
Building Assistant	Laurel Foss

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake
Thomas Godfrey

SCHOLARSHIPS

Grange – Ashley Silver
Barbara Hochrein Memorial Book Scholarship Award: Samuel Hickey

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange – Master Robert Bates
Webster Women's Union – Janet Broker
Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz
4-H Leaders Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III
Dairy Club – Beth Silver
Beef Club – Guy Larochelle

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

K-1 Daisy Girls – Jody Allen and Heather Ordway
2-3 Brownies – Sarah Chalsma and Jennifer Barnard

Respectfully submitted,
DOROTHY MONZ
ELIZABETH PEARSON,
MARJORIE BLANCHETTE
DOROTHY HASKINS
FAITH ANDERSON
JOANNE MILLER
Historical Society Members

2014

Mother Nature gave us extreme weather conditions throughout the year. This hindered farmers and residents with their crops, gardens, vacations and Thanksgiving dinners. Two weather records have been reported for NH: 35.3 inches of snow accumulation in February made it the snowiest on record, and the cold -8 degrees ranked this March the 4th coldest on record in 150 years. January brought us a day of 50 degrees, 10 days that were below zero, and 14.4 inches of snow. April's temperatures varied from 79 degrees on the 14th to a plummeting temperature of 18 degrees on the 17th. May, June, July and August gave us a good soaking with an accumulation of 18.71 inches of rain. September had a freeze in the middle of the month, but our average temperature was 80 degrees. And then there was November, a month we will not forget. A major snow storm came through on the 26th, 27th and 28th leaving 12.6 inches of heavy snow. Its aftermath left fallen trees and downed power lines. Webster and the State had a wide spread power outage that lasted up to a week or more for some. Thanksgiving dinners were improvised in many ways by barbecuing, using generators, going to restaurants, or just putting it off until power was restored. Our Public Safety Building was open for residents who needed the facilities for warmth, water/shower or kitchen/oven usage. December was quiet with only 3.5 inches of snow. Totals for the year as reported by the National Weather Service were snow 76 inches and rain 41.57 inches.

Fuel prices as of December 2014: Gas: \$2.75; Propane: \$2.99; Oil: \$2.89; and Cord Wood \$285.

The annual Merrimack Valley School District Meeting was held on March 6, 2014. The budget passed at \$37.08 million dollars which included full-time Kindergarten costing \$194,310 bringing Webster's portion to \$2,979,565.70. This high cost raised interest in Webster and Salisbury as residents petitioned for a study on whether it would be feasible to withdraw from the MVSD. At this time no decisions have been made. On October 14th, Commissioner of Education, Virginia M. Barry, recognized 24 districts, schools and educators that were aspiring towards excellence. Webster Elementary School was one of six NH schools included in the Commissioner's Circle of Excellence. Criteria necessary for the award included academic achievement, innovation, performance on standardized tests and school culture/climate. The School's NH Fisher Cats Challenge to Read five books outside of school with 100% participation won Webster the Grand Prize drawing of \$3,000 as well as each student receiving two tickets to the Fisher Cats' games.

Daniel Webster Grange #100 was organized in 1884 and our Women's Union in 1929. Both organizations were established to help serve and support those in need with Christian fellowship, education, and financial support for the needy. At times they work side by side on fundraiser events to support a specific cause. Young and old alike may not know how or who supported them all these

years but you should tell them that the Grange and the Women's Union most definitely will have played a part. The following are a few of the activities they sponsored: hosted the refreshments for Town Meeting, State and National Elections, Chicken BBQ and Penny Sale, Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast, calendars given to two Nursing Homes, Canoe & Kayak Breakfast, local suppers to support the Church, donations to fire victims, Webster's Food Pantry, support of Webster Elementary School needs, and donations to those with medical needs.

Webster Old Home Day Week ran from August 9th through August 17th. Activities started with a public dance on Saturday, August 9th on Allen Road. An Art Show competition was held at the Town Hall on August 13th. On Saturday, August 16th, the 5K Run/Walk began at 8:30 am and the parade began at its traditional location at the Blackwater Dam entrance at 10:00 am. Well planned activities commenced after the parade with a baking contest, games for all ages along with fun climbing attempts on the greasy pole and a Horseshoe Tournament. Jeff Dearborn and his band entertained us all during our picnic lunches and there was free ice cream with all the fixings. Carriage Ride Tours to the Old Town Center along the Blackwater River via Cogswell Woods Road were given by Roger Sanborn of Boscawen. The Old Meeting House was open Saturday, August 16th and Sunday, August 17th. To complete the week, you could go to the First Congregational Church to hear guest Pastor, Reverend David Richardson on "Growing Up in Webster".

The First Congregational Church of Webster spent most of 2014 searching for a replacement pastor. In the meantime, our deacons have led our worship services with inspirational stories and faith-filled messages. We have been fortunate to have Reverend David Richardson, a long time Webster resident, agreed to fill our pulpit a couple of Sundays a month. David works for the NH Bible Society in Concord, NH. As the year progressed into fall, Reverend Richardson agreed to become our Transitional Pastor. His humor and ability to bring us a better understanding of God's work has been a blessing to us all. He will now be conducting our Bible Study on Monday evenings, work with committees and our Youth Group and Sunday School. Reverend Richardson is available for counsel, marriage and funeral services.

Under the direction of John and Terry Martin, our Hopkinton Fair Booth Committee turned over \$5,000.00 (after expenses) to the Church in November. The Hopkinton Fair Committee eliminated Thursday from its schedule which caused our proceeds to be lower than previous years. The Church's other fundraisers did well and we thank all those who contributed or worked toward our goals. The following fundraisers were held throughout 2014: The Annual Harvest Supper/Penny Sale, Pennies from Heaven Barn & Food Sales coordinated by Dorothy Haskins, and our Summer Suppers held at the Town Hall. Funds collected from the Restoration Fund Drive which began in 2013 allowed Webster contractor R.T. Lake & Sons to complete the re-plastering and painting of our downstairs walls in the sanctuary. Future fundraisers will be needed by the grace of volunteers to help tackle the ceiling and upstairs walls. Under the direction of Peg Foss, the Church's Food Pantry is fully stocked and continues ready to serve our neighbors in need. Peg remains dedicated to bringing food to those without transportation or who need access to the pantry on days we are not open.

Town elections were held March 11, 2014 with Bruce Johnson elected Selectman for 3 years. The Town Business Meeting was held on March 15, 2014 with standing room only at 220 voters. A budget of \$1.3 million dollars passed, which was an increase of \$53,500 or 4.3% above 2013. After much debate the \$43,000 wood pellet boiler heating system for Town Hall did not pass. The passing of the \$128,120 for improvement of the Public Safety Building was necessary due to inaccurate structural strength of its roof when it was originally built. Architect/Engineer Frank Anzalone Associates and Granite Roots Construction LLC won the bid. Selectman Mason Donovan resigned as he is moving to Boscawen, NH. Roger Becker was appointed as his replacement until March 2015.

The 2014 tax rate was set at \$22.69 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The breakdown is as follows: Town = \$5.61; County = \$2.88; Local Education = \$11.69 and State Education = \$2.51. Property in the Pillsbury Lake District is an additional \$3.34 per \$1000.

State General Election had 299 ballots cast with a turnout higher than the State average. State Primary Elections had 819 ballots cast.

National unemployment in October was 5.8%; New Hampshire was 4.2%, and Merrimack County was 3.6%.

NH State Agencies are cutting a combined \$18.3 million dollars from their budgets. Their list of cuts/costs when applicable will be shifted to local communities.

The Town received two property lots as gifts from the Harty family, located in the Pillsbury Lake District shown on map 10 lots 1-54 and 1-59.

Lake Winnepocket waterfront residents questioned the Selectmen why their 2013 revaluation assessments done by Cross Country Appraisal Group were higher than the rest of the Town. After review and discussions with Jeffrey Earls, owner of the appraisal group, the Selectmen agreed to return the land only to the 2013 assessment values prior to the revaluation.

Three sides of the Town Hall will be painted in 2015 with the bid going to Keith D'Alessandro of KDD Painting for \$9,935.

The Pleasant Street fire pond has been repaired for \$3,800.

Allen Road's dry hydrant has been repaired for \$7,000 with the money withdrawn from the Dry Hydrant/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund.

New this year is a Cemetery Deed Fee for Webster residents who want to be buried in Webster. The fee for a burial lot is \$250 and for a family of four it is \$500. Cemetery Maintenance will receive \$200 per Deed.

An inquiry request from the Selectmen to the Army Corp of Engineers was sent to ask if the Blackwater Dam could be used to generate power for the Town Hall. Their answer was "No".

Two new propane furnaces were purchased for the Town Hall at a cost of \$8,750. Thanks to our State Representatives Clyde Carson and David Karrick, Senator Andrew Hosmer and neighboring State Representative Mario Ratski, payments in lieu of taxes for the Blackwater Dam were received from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$49,038.49 for years 2012 and 2014. There is more work needed to get total reimbursement including 2013.

The Police Advisory Committee was short lived. The request for this committee was approved in 2013 to enhance the relationship between the residents of Webster and the Police Department. The survey in 2013 was very positive showing past conflicts were easing. In 2014 another survey was sent; this one took an unexpected turn causing old wounds to resurface. The shredding of anonymous documents caused outrage. Our Selectmen request-ed an investigation by Police Chief Robert Dupuis, which was done. County Attorney General George Stewart advised the Selectmen and Chief Dupuis that no criminal liability was found. In the meantime, four out of five members resigned. The Board of Selectmen and Police Department decided not to continue with a Police Advisory Committee until further consideration.

The Webster Post Cane was given out twice recently to two of Webster's oldest residents: 97-year-old Roger Verville, who has since passed away, and in January 2015 to Eleanor Corliss on her 96th Birthday.

We are very fortunate to live in a community where we have so many activities, events and programs. A big Thank You to our Church, Grange, Historical Society, Coaches, Teachers, Conservation Committee, Old Home Day Committee, 4-H Clubs, Fire and Police Departments and Selectmen. Here are just a few mentionable events in 2014: Webster Ski & Ride at Pat's Peak (Coordinator Marj Blanchette; Assistant Coordinator Brenda Silver); snowshoe hike to explore two conservation lands off Clough-Sanborn Hill Road (organized by the Webster Conservation Committee); Easter Egg Hunt (Sponsored by Webster Fire/Auxiliary & Police Departments and Webster's PTO); Easter Egg Hunt (Sponsored by Pillsbury Lake Community); Town-Wide Clean Up (Sponsored by Roadside Cleanup); Chicken BBQ & Penny Sale (Sponsored by Daniel Webster Grange); Round Robin Field Trip for Webster, Salisbury & Andover 5th Graders (Sponsored by each towns' Historical Societies); Pillsbury Lake Running Club 5K Run/Walk to raise money for the Playground at Pillsbury Lake (Organized by Pillsbury Lake Community); 31st Annual Canoe & Kayak Races along the Blackwater River with Sunday Breakfast (organized by Sonny Hunt); Chicken BBQ Benefit Dinner for Bobby Drown (400 Chickens Served and Sponsored by Webster Fire/Auxiliary Department); Food Drive to Benefit the Webster Food Pantry (Organized by Pillsbury Lake Management); Halloween Party at Pillsbury Lake Clubhouse (Sponsored by Pillsbury Lake Management); Truck or Treat Night at the Public Safety Building Committee (Sponsored by Webster/Auxiliary, Webster Police Dept. and Webster PTO); Holiday Fair (Organized by the PTO); and throughout the year, Saturday Suppers to bene-fit the Church, Grange and Women's Union.

Marj Blanchette and Tara Gunnigle, Historical Society Members of the Preservation of the Old Meeting House, were very busy helping the Sanborn family carefully sift through historical documents, books, clothing and memorabilia that belonged to past member Dorothy Sanborn. Dorothy was our secretary for years and had a vast knowledge of Webster's history as well as Boscawen's. Items which pertained to Webster were donated to us by her son, Roger. For the next year or more we will be recording items in our accession book; to be cleaned and properly protected. The ongoing recording project being done by Betty Pearson, Janet Broker and Dotty Monz is going well.

The annual Historical Society Memorial Day Service was held May 30th with the Webster Elementary School participating in a program with a walk to the Veterans Park to lay a wreath at the Corser Hill Cemetery, to sing a song, and place flowers among the graves. After their long walk back, the children were served ice cream along with hot chocolate. June brought us to the fourth graders Round Robin. This event is an invitation to teach our young about their Town's history and the towns around them. Webster, Salisbury and Andover schools participate by busing fourth graders around to each Historical Society. They find the members in vintage attire with a story, scavenger hunt or maybe a guessing game as to what this old thing-a-ma-bob was for.

TEACHERS and Employees at the Webster Elementary School

Kindergarten	Janet Lemire
Grade One	Gwen Hall
Grade Two	Jessica McWhinnie
Grade Three	Cheri Perelli
Grade Four	Daniel Diachenko
Grade Five	Nancy Dobe
Principal	Stephanie Wheeler
Secretary	Helen Brannigan
School Nurse	Judy Elliott
Guidance	Lissa Tupeck

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Normandie Blake

Karin Page

SCHOLARSHIPS

Grange – Colby St. Jacques

Barbara Hochrein Memorial Book Scholarship Award: Aliza A. Cilley

ORGANIZATIONS

Daniel Webster Grange – Master: Dorothy Haskins

Webster Women's Union – Dorothy Haskins

Society for The Preservation of the Old Meeting House - Gerald Monz

4-H Leaders Merrimack County Oxbows - Robert Pearson III

Dairy Club – Beth Silver

Beef Club – Guy Larochelle

NO GIRL Scout leaders as of 2013

Respectfully submitted,

GERALD MONZ

DOROTHY MONZ

ELIZABETH PEARSON

MARJORIE BLANCHETTE

TARA GUNNIGLE

JANET BROKER

Historical Society Members