

Please join us at the Catamount Hill Association's 2023 Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 12, 2023
First Baptist Church of Colrain
81 Foundry Village Rd., Colrain, MA 01340
1 pm EDT in person and via Zoom



The Catamount Hill Association was formally organized in 1875 to honor our ancestors. Quinquennials are held every five years. Celebrate 148 years with us!

Program

- Welcome from the Association President
- Business Meeting with reports from the Officers and Board Members
- Program – *“Voices from the Hill”*

Current Officers

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Sonya Hamdan |
| Vice President | Dorothy Giffin |
| Clerk | Linda Wagner |
| Treasurer | Diantha Wholey |
| Historian | Prentice Crosier |
| Board | Sarah Davenport |
| | Richard King |
| | Susan Samoriski |
| | Ellen Shaw |

How to Access the Meeting Using Zoom

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, please email us at catamounthill1875@gmail.com with your contact information so we can send you the link or the phone number and password to log onto the meeting.

Joseph Riley Farnsworth, born on Catamount Hill in 1840, was a wounded Civil War veteran. While returning home from a medical appointment necessary to collect his benefits, two Catamount Hill ruffians beat him and robbed him of the \$3 in his pocket. The two men received life in prison because Joseph died of his injuries. He left a wife and two small children.

Cemetery Walk – May 21, 2023 *Tidbits from Catamount Families*



On a warm and sunny May afternoon about 45 people gathered at West Branch Cemetery in Colrain to learn about settlers and early residents of Catamount Hill. Standing at their stones brought the reality of their lives into focus.

Historian Prentice Crosier spearheaded this walk and presented highlights of the lives of these intriguing people.



Rick Siemens and Ellen Shaw shared entertaining talks on their ancestors. Some in attendance also contributed details.

Thanks to all who attended.

Voices from the Hill



Our program will highlight snippets from the lives of early Catamount settlers

Paul Davenport meets Widow Bennett

Did a witch accost Nathan Barnes?

John Anson Dwight's Rainy Day Stories

Samuel Maxam came to Catamount Hill in 1809. He built a foundry on the old Dwight homestead and operated it nearly twenty years before converting it to a distillery. When Spiritualism became popular in the 1870's he built what was called Maxam's Temple.



This is a photograph of the lake on Catamount Hill taken from a drone by Mike Wallitis.

In 1812 when Artemas Churchill built a house at the north end of the pond, he and the community called it Beaver Meadow. Later, when Dr. Nat Davenport took ownership, he blasted away the last of the beaver dam.

At some undocumented date, Sam Brown operated a sawmill at the south end, taking advantage of the water flowing through the stone flume.

Earl McLeod purchased the land in 1942. When the area was acquired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1966, the name "McLeod Pond" was retained.

Morris Pierce was a lifelong Catamount Hill resident. He won many awards for his Merino sheep, horses, and cattle.

Catamount Hill Publications make great family gifts

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| | <i>A Sketch of the Origin & Growth of the CHA of Colrain, MA</i> \$20.00 137 pgs | | <i>The Puzzle of Catamount Hill</i> \$8.00 46 pgs |
| | <i>The First Schoolhouse Flag</i> \$6.00 19 pgs | | <i>The Toad and The Eagle - A Catamount Tale</i> \$7.00 31 pgs |
| | <i>Where the Schoolhouse Flag First Floated</i> \$7.00 23 pgs | | <i>The Young Housekeepers' Companion</i> \$6.00 39 pgs |

(includes shipping -- see more details on our website)
Request publications by mail or email
catamounthill1875@gmail.com

Lysander Hillman, born on the Hill in 1815, was the grandson of early settler Lot Hillman. He grew up on the Hill and as an adult moved to Charlemont to teach. He was an active member of Catamount Hill Association and a frequent speaker at quinquennials.

"Let the ground on which we tread, the grass and the flowers of the field, the rocks and the trees, the hills and the valleys, be our educators." L.H.

Tom's Beloved Catamount

Few knew or loved Catamount more than Tom ("Monsai") Maloney. Aside from growing up on the southern-most extremity of the mountain, it was Tom's playground from the time he could ambulate.

Starting with bicycles and advancing to an old VW Beetle, to snowmobiles and to dirt bikes, Tom traversed nearly every inch of his beloved mountain. From the lake and its lakehouse, to Mill's Camp and the ominous caves, to the spot of the country's one room school house where the first flag flew over a house of education, Tom knew Catamount's haunts like the "back-of-his-hand."

In Tom's absence I will always hitch Tom and Catamount to the same wagon in my thoughts and remember him flogging either a snowmobile or a dirt bike past me and looking back over his shoulder with a bovine residue-eating grin on his mischievous face. And if he could splatter me with mud from his rear tire, his glee would increase exponentially! In later years when Tom wasn't riding trails himself, he could be found repairing and otherwise maintaining them for others to use and to enjoy. In this regard he was a true steward of the mountain that gave him so much pleasure in his own lifetime. You'll be missed, Tom, by so many who shared your mountain over the years.

BRAD BRIGHAM
 Colrain

Printed in the Greenfield Recorder January 25, 2023

Tax-deductible donations will help support our mailings, website, meeting expenses and future activities.

Checks may be made out to:

Catamount Hill Association
 P.O. Box 8
 Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

The Catamount Hill Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity organization.

Visit our website:

www.catamounthillassociation.org

Find us on:

[Facebook at CatamountHillAssociation, Inc.](#)