

Please join us at the Catamount Hill Association's 2024 Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 2024
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 **149 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.

Elihu Holden and his wife **Abigail** arrived on Catamount Hill in 1807. Holden Brook is named for his family. Elihu Jr.'s son, Jacob, married Rosetta Frazier. After both Jacob and their son, Fred, died in the Civil War, Rosetta's friends and neighbors on the Hill built her a house on land owned by Thomas Purrington. Elihu's and Abigail's daughter, Dolly married Abram Farnsworth. Dolly and her daughter, Roxanna Davenport, were some of the last residents to leave the Hill.

Catamount Hike with Muriel Russell



Saturday, April 27th was a picture-perfect day for a guided hike on Catamount Hill. Muriel led a group along trails, checking frog eggs in vernal pools, learning about nature's plants and becoming acquainted with some old home sites.



Watch for postings of our October 12 rock walk!

[Click for more details](#)

Voices from the Hill



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

West and East

**Very Important Pigs
and other readings from
'Catamount Hill Folks'**

Simeon Blandin and his brother, **Otis**, bought land on Catamount Hill in 1800. They were farmers, originally from Attleboro, MA. Blandin Brook is named for them. Simeon built a mill on Taylor Brook. Most of Simeon's and his wife Sally's children heard the call of westward exploration and went to Illinois. One daughter, Lydia, married David Smith Pierce. He was the grandson of two families of early Hill pioneers.

Total Immersion

When Peter Shippee and his family migrated from Gloucester, RI, in 1778, they settled in Charlemont on Route 2. They brought with them their Baptist religion.

Unlike Congregationalists who christened infants, a central practice for Baptists was--and still is--the total immersion in water to mark a person's entry into the religious community.

Amasa and Reuben Shippee, sons of Peter, the Joseph Davenport family, and others practiced their Baptist religion on Catamount Hill. The rocky terrain of the Hill was suitable for raising sheep. In a poem dated 1890, Maria Davenport Stacy reminisced about one aspect of this process:



*These rough hillsides so
rocky and steep*

*Furnished excellent pasture
for cattle and sheep.*

With their superior ability to find grazing among the rocks and shrubs, the sheep adapted better than did the cattle and they soon became an important source of income.

Baptism of Christians was not the only form of ritual immersion practiced on the Hill. The Shippees also "baptized" their sheep. This practice, however, had nothing to do with godliness. It had to do with cleanliness. Holding the sheep and swishing them back and forth in water made the wool cleaner and easier to work with after it was sheared. The sheep-washing pool where Amasa Shippee's sheep were immersed can still be found today near South Catamount Hill Road. It is a natural basin formed by ledges and fed by a cascade of clean, cold water from Houghton Brook.

"A check of the earliest families on the Hill shows that they were mostly young men, newly married, who had served as privates in the Revolution." *from The Puzzle of Catamount Hill*

Catamount Hill Publications make great family gifts

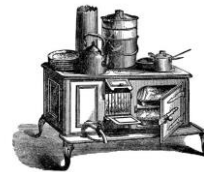
	A Sketch of the Origin & Growth of the CHA of Colrain, MA \$20.00 137 pgs		The Puzzle of Catamount Hill \$8.00 46 pgs
	The First Schoolhouse Flag \$6.00 19 pgs		The Toad and The Eagle - A Catamount Tale \$7.00 31 pgs
	Where the Schoolhouse Flag First Floated \$7.00 23 pgs		The Young Housekeepers' Companion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

(includes shipping -- see more details on our website)

Request publications by mail or email
catamounthill1875@gmail.com

Annie Giles Shippee

Annie Giles Shippee was the youngest daughter of Nathan Shippee (past CHA president) and step-daughter of Fanny Bowen Shippee. Annie's nicknames were Doda and Dodie. As an adult, she contributed the recipe below to Fanny's cookbook.



*Fanny P. Shippee's
Cook Book.
1897.*

*Doda's Cookies
1 cup molasses, 1/2 cup sugar, 2/3 cup butter
1/2 cup hot water, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 teaspoons
cinnamon, 1 teaspoon ginger, 1 teaspoon salt
flour to roll out.*

*Cure for rheumatism.
catch a bee & put in a tumbler, or small bottle
shake it so as to get the bee mad, then tip it out on
to rheumatism. its sting has cured patients*

In preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Catamount Hill Association, we are inviting each family of descendants to provide photos with information about ancestors, cellar holes, gravestones or other topics that depict your family history. Each family's information will be displayed on a portion of a cardboard trifold, or if you prefer, bring your own display providing family history.

Your information may be mailed to the Catamount Hill Association, PO Box 8, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 or email it to catamounthill1875@gmail.com prior to December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your participation in the 150th celebration!

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

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