

Please join us at the
Catamount Hill Association's
31st Quinquennial Reunion – 150 Years

Saturday, August 9, 2025
 Shelburne-Buckland Community Center
 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
 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 150 years with us!

Program

- Welcome from the Association President
- Business Meeting with reports from the Officers and election of officers
- Program: Erica Wheeler

<i>Current Officers</i>		<i>Election Candidates</i>	
President	Sonya Hamdan	President	
Vice President	Dorothy Giffin	Vice President	Dorothy Giffin
Clerk	Linda Wagner	Clerk	Linda Wagner
Treasurer	Diantha Wholey	Treasurer	Diantha Wholey
Historian	Prentice Crosier	Historian	Prentice Crosier
Board	Sarah Davenport	Board	Sarah Davenport
	Richard King		Susan Samoriski
	Susan Samoriski		Richard Siemens

In July, we regretfully accepted Ellen Shaw's resignation as a Director. Ellen donated countless hours researching Catamount Hill families. We appreciate her time and expertise, and her skills are greatly missed.

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.

Thank You President Sonya Hamdan

Under the capable leadership of our longtime president Sonya Hamdan, notable achievements were accomplished: the acquisition of the Catamount Hill monument land originally donated by Tom Davenport to the Mary Lyon Foundation until the CHA achieved formal nonprofit status; Bylaws were adopted; regular cemetery cleanups and hikes on Catamount were held; new publications were printed, an annual newsletter was created, and our Facebook page and website were established. Sonya's tireless efforts and dedication to the CHA for 12 years are greatly appreciated.

From The Puzzle of Catamount Hill

The skunk was of value, having more commercial value if it had a minimum of white stripes. The oil from the fat was the best to be had for a chest lineament or when taken internally for severe colds and croup.



Erica Wheeler

Interpretive Trainer | Visitor Experience Specialist | Creative Mentor | Singer-Songwriter

Erica Wheeler's programs awaken a deep sense of place that invites personal connection, reflection, and belonging. Her approach helps us remember what we've lost, treasure what we have, and feel inspired to take care of places for the future, so that both people and places can thrive.

For the 150th reunion of the Catamount Hill Association, Erica will offer a keynote experience—a *journey of song, story, and conversation*—designed to evoke memories of the past and present, to be shared across generations.

Her program will help deepen a sense of place for all who love Catamount Hill—whether through ancestral roots or a personal connection to the land today. Through her signature blend of storytelling, interpretation, and emotional resonance, Erica helps communities bridge past and present—honoring shared heritage and inspiring a renewed sense of belonging, continuity, and stewardship.

This celebratory experience is both a tribute to the legacy of Catamount Hill and an invitation to carry its story forward.



Muriel Russell, our local Catamount Trail guide, leads families to their ancestral cellar holes on the Hill. To make an appointment for your guided hike, contact Muriel at **413-624-3311**.



Although not an official national holiday, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14 around the United States. Days before declaration of the War of 1812 Colrainers used the still unfamiliar flag in a new expression of national identity.

Legend vs. Reality

Popular perceptions of historic events are often distorted beyond the actual facts. The legendary 1812 flag-raising protest on Catamount Hill, for example, has been retold and reimagined multiple times. In the 1920s the painter, Percy Moran, created this fanciful interpretation as calendar art. It is filled with inaccuracies.

Among the artist's embellishments is a church with a steeple. That never existed — the little school-house doubled as the community's church. The fine attire such as the tall boots, redingotes, bows, lacy collars, and parasols were not worn by the population on the Hill who eked out a living from thin soil, rocks and swamps. Details collected by Fanny Bowen Shippee (1836-1926) from still-living witnesses of the event form a very different picture. She recorded, for instance, that the very pregnant Rhoda Shippee was the only attendee to arrive on horseback.

To the artist's credit, the school was, indeed, a log structure, and the flag was a novelty to most Americans who had never seen it before. Until 1812 the flag was still a military banner usually raised over forts and ships at sea.

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

From *The Puzzle of Catamount Hill*

Migrations were generally made in February when streams and lakes were frozen over. If a family had much livestock, the older boys remained behind to feed out the hay and wait for the grass to get green so the animals could feed along the way.

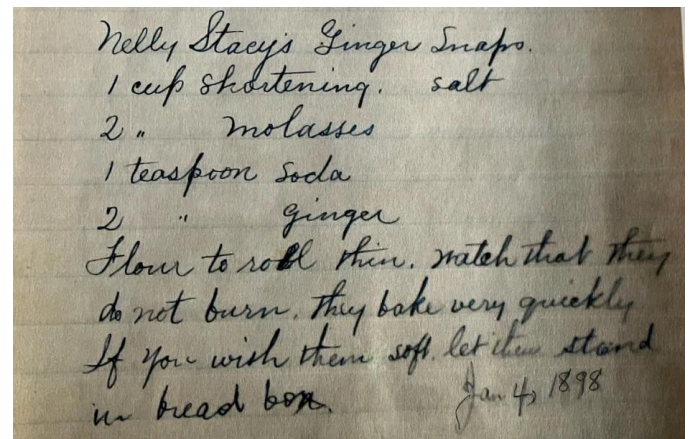
Fanny Bowen Shippee (1836-1926) was born in Whitingham, Vermont. She was a member of one of the earliest historical societies in Western Massachusetts, the Pocumtuk Valley Memorial Association. When she married Nathan Shippee, she delved into the Hill's history. Much of what we know is due to her research. She also collected recipes. Here is one she received from Nelly Stacy, a descendant of Joseph Davenport, a veteran of Bunker Hill and a Catamount settler in 1780.

From *Fanny Bowen Shippee's Cookbook 1897*



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

Nelly Stacy's Ginger Snaps



According to the 1880 Census, Nelly Stacy was born to Reuben Stacy and Maria Davenport May 30, 1875. At the reunion of 1895, at age 20, along with Clara Garnsey, she sang a song called "Two Little Girls in Blue". She was a member of the Grange, First Baptist Church, and attended Arms Academy, becoming a teacher. Nelly married Archie Stetson in 1905 and moved to Florida.

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.](#)