

Please join us at the Catamount Hill Association's 29th Quinquennial Reunion

*Saturday, August 1
& Sunday, August 2, 2015
at Colrain Central School,
22 Jacksonville Road, Colrain, MA*

The Catamount Hill Association was formally organized in 1875 to honor our ancestors and we have gathered every five years ever since. At the 2010 reunion the officers were mandated to create new bylaws and pursue status as a nonprofit corporation. These goals have now been accomplished. Come celebrate with us!



The image above is a painting by the American illustrator, Frank Earle Schoonover (1877-1972). He did most of his work in the early 20th century for book covers and magazines such as the Ladies Home Journal. This illustration was created for a calendar which presented a different patriotic American theme for each month. It depicts the Flag Raising of 1812 by members of the Catamount Hill neighborhood in opposition to the Federalist party's complacency to the fact that American sailors were being taken off ships at sea and impressed into the Royal Navy. Another depiction of this event is a poem by Fanny Bowen Shippee which is read at Quinquennial Reunions. Both Shippee's poem and Schoonover's painting capture the fervor our ancestors expressed in 1812, in an event which we descendants still celebrate today.

Saturday's Program, August 1

9:00 a.m. Central School will open for early arrivals. Please sign our reunion guest book which has been maintained since the 19th century. Coffee and tea will be provided gratis. (Baked goods will be available for sale; the proceeds will help the Association's treasury.)

10:00 a.m. Genealogy information swap. Bring information and materials you would like to share or join a guided visit to the West Branch Cemetery where many of the early Catamount settlers are buried.

11:30 a.m. A group photograph of this year's attendees will be taken by a professional photographer to memorialize the event.

12:00 noon. Picnic lunch. Bring your own "basket lunch," an old Association tradition.

1:00 p.m. Quinquennial Reunion Program will begin with the traditional ringing of a cow bell. The Board of Directors and officers will report on their many activities since the last Quinquennial in 2010 as well as plans for the future such as creating an archive. The afternoon's agenda includes the traditional Roll Call of the Families, speakers and entertainment reflecting Catamount lore as well as the election of officers in accordance with our new bylaws.

Sunday's Program, August 2

11:30 a.m. A Hike on Catamount. The itinerary of this hike will be determined on Saturday according to the interest of the attendees. The hike is likely to take from 3 to 4 hours with stops at various cellar holes and other features of the hill that relate to the lives of Catamount Hill ancestors. The terrain can be rocky in places and mucky in others. Be prepared with appropriate footwear and clothing. Pack a lunch, water, and bug repellent!

Useful information

For people unfamiliar with Colrain or western Massachusetts, look for a helpful listing of accommodations, restaurants, etc., on our website:

www.catamounthillassociation.org

As we are a small organization, we have never solicited contributions beyond the passing of the hat at Quinquennial Reunions. However, we are often asked by those unable to attend how to contribute. Checks may be made out to "Catamount Hill Association". This is for our general fund and helps support our mailings, web site, meeting expenses, and future activities. Thank you.

Catamount Hill Association
PO Box 8
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Find us on Facebook at
CatamountHillAssociation

Stories Told in Stone



Many of Catamount's stories are expressed in stone. Not only do stone walls abound, but also, remains of old cellar holes dot the Hill as do the stone bridges and sluices built in earlier times to control the flow of water. The Association has been documenting the locations of these by photographing them as well as recording their GPS locations. Recently a stone configuration on South Catamount was identified as a threshing floor. There are gravestones in the Farley Cemetery on the Hill as well as in the West Branch Cemetery at the foot of the hill where many of the earliest residents are buried.

The marker in the foreground of this photograph records details of the life of Betsy Adams Davenport, the wife of Colrain's beloved clergyman, "Elder" Edward Davenport. This stone has a symmetrical design in typical Federal Period style with an urn and weeping willow motif. It is one of the many we view on a tour of the West Branch Cemetery on Saturday, August 1.