



## Winnie Moore



Winifred 'Winnie' Rae (Richardson) Moore, daughter of Elmer Gordan and Mildred (Dolloff) Richardson, July 18, 1925 - Dec. 12, 2012. Winnie was born and lived in Denmark for most of her life.

The Denmark Historical Society is indebted to Winnie for starting up the Society and getting it off the ground. It is most likely due to Winnie's influence that the Historical Society collection began to grow.

The way the Denmark Historical Society started as told by Winnie: At one time I was asked about how the Denmark Historical Society got started. The only thing I can remember is several people in town mentioned we should have one, and then one day in the post office Allene Feindel (now Allene Westleigh) said, "When are you going to start a historical society?" I said to her, (because she was the one who maintained the calendar for the library community rooms schedule), "Well, when can we have a date?" She set up a date for the next month. The thought was "if we could have eight people come each month it would be a viable organization". We met for a year, and had our eight people per month, not always the

same eight, but eight people. After a year's time we became incorporated.

I never had the pleasure of getting to know Winnie because she had passed before I came to the town of Denmark.

She attended the one room schoolhouse in East Denmark, now a private residence at 13 Hio Ridge Road, and Denmark High School. Her father was a logger and a farmer, and her mother worked part-time jobs, ironing and laundry for some of the summer camps, was a Sunday school teacher, and worked at the corn shop. She also worked for Elvira Davis and Florence Sanborn selling knickknacks and used clothing at 92 East Main Street. Winnie was raised on the Wentworth farm which her father purchased in 1929, now Patch Farm. She and her sister gathered the cucumbers in the field across from the farm for the pickle factory for their summer pocket money. She had many stories to tell about growing up in East Denmark and was the keeper of so much historical information.

She married Merle Rankin Moore on 7 Sept

1946 after graduating from Central Maine General Nursing School as an RN. She worked at the Erwin Center Clinic, Bridgton Hospital, Northern Cumberland Memorial and for a short time was a substitute teacher at Denmark Elementary School.

Winnie wore many different hats in her life. She was a wife, mother, and grandmother as well as a great-grandmother. She was involved in Bridgton Hospital as a nurse, director of nurses and as an administrator. Winnie was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Rebecca's, Rainbow Advisor, DAR, Bridgton Hospital Board of Directors, Bridgton Hospital Guild and worked in the coffee shop after she retired. She was also a Member of the Denmark Congregational Church, a Sunday School Teacher, an organist, a member of the Church Guild, Denmark Library, Denmark Historical Society, Denmark Draggers, Denmark Senior Citizens and served on some of the town boards.

She had a great love of doing genealogy research. Her love of many types of crafts, knitting, crochet, and embroidery was passed on to her family. She was the first recipient of the 'Winnie' award from Bridgton Hospital.

We can't talk about Winnie without mentioning a little about her husband, Merle.

Merle R. Moore, son of Jessie Merle and Sophronia Gladys 'Frona' (Rankin) Moore, 6 Apr 1922 - July 2, 2004. He was born in Denmark April 6, 1922. He was born at the same farm as his mother, Frona. The farm has been in the family since 1893. Merle served in the Army during World War II, in the Panama Canal Zone, with no leave time. Merle worked for A.E. Rankin & Son of Denmark, doing lumber and building. He worked for Thomas Hammond & Son Lumber Mill in Hiram, where he was a maintenance man. He built Conifer Cottages while with Hammond and was a sawyer when he retired.

After retiring Merle spent a lot of time in his garage shop tinkering with lawn mowers and other small engines. He was always available to help friends and neighbors with mechanical problems. Merle was frequently seen with his cousin Harold Rankin. They enjoyed snowplowing and had many adventures together. He was always interested to talk with people and was a wealth of local lore and had many stories to tell.

Merle was fire chief of Denmark for 20 years



**Merle Rankin Moore 1942**

and was an active firefighter for five more years with the department. He was Post Master and a 53-year member of Mount Mirah Masonic Lodge, and a charter member of the Denmark Draggers Snowmobile Club, their head trailmaster for a number of years.

Winnie and Merle built their house in the calf pasture of the farm where she grew up and there they raised their two children, Donny and Betty Jean. Anyone who met Winnie and Merle Moore knew right away that they represented the heart of Denmark and they are remembered with great affection.

## First settler of Denmark

Does the name Daniel Baston ring a bell to anyone? Maybe if I said Daniel Boston it might sound more familiar. This is where Boston Hills got its name. It was originally called Baston Hills.

**Daniel Baston**, from an old family of Scottish extraction in York. He was born about 1740, in Wells, Maine. He was a soldier in the revolution in the summer of 1775, in Captain Joshua Bragdon's company, Colonel Scammon's regiment. He was the first settler in the town of Denmark, a native of Sanford, who began clearing land and built a log house in 1775 between the most western of "Baston Hills" and Saco River, near a small pond which took his name. Here he resided several years. His only thoroughfare was the Saco, which was traveled by boat or sled, varying with the season. He soon found the land too frosty to raise corn and removed to the Hiram Hills across the Saco River, June of 1783. He became one of the first assessors of Hiram when the town was organized in 1803. It is believed that he went to Vermont late in life with his grandson and died there.

**Note:** This surname seems to have been used interchangeably with Boston and Batson from ancient times in England and America to the present. In some of the previous accounts and books the name Daniel Boston is mentioned. This is inaccurate. The proper spelling of the name is Daniel Baston. The last name was slaughtered and mispronounced to Boston. Just as Boston Hills in Denmark were also originally called Baston Hills. You can see this written on the 1880 map of Denmark. This also ended up as Boston Hills.

(I) Thomas Baston settled in Saco, Maine

(II) James Baston, son of Thomas Baston (1), was born in Wells, Maine.

(III) Gershom Baston, son of James Baston (2), born in Wells, Maine.

(IV) **Daniel Baston**, son of Gershom Baston (3), was born about 1740, in Wells, Maine.

Children:

1. Winthrop, born in Brownfield, Maine, about 1775-80. He married Huldah, daughter of John Robbins, and settled at Hiram, Maine, between land owned by his father and the farm of Joshua R. Ridlon.

2. Benjamin, married Mary Clark; lived in the valley between Mount Misery and Mount Cutler, on the old road (now known as the Boston road) leading to Saco river road; remembered as a stout-built man, with coarse features and shaggy brow, a blunt, rough old fellow, said to have moved late in life with a son to Woodstock.

They had nine children:

3. Loammi, married Rebecca Powers; inherited father's homestead, now or lately owned by Llewelyn A. Wadsworth, though the original house was burned in 1815. They had six children.

4. Royal, married \_\_\_\_ Leathes; six children; married second Sally Merrill: They had four children.

5. William.

Jan-Mar 2024

Denmark Reflections is published by Denmark Historical Society for its members.

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**Membership** is open to all. See the form on the last page for details.

**Newsletter** will be published quarterly.

If you have anything you would like to contribute please contact Rick Towle at [attroll@gmail.com](mailto:attroll@gmail.com).

**Note:** Check map on next page to see location of Baston Hills and the estimated location of Daniel Baston's original homestead.



## Snow rollers

Summer driving on the dirt roads in the 1800s was a bumpy, jostling affair. Winter was much smoother going! With typical Yankee ingenuity, our New England forebears designed large heavily built wooden rollers to pack the snow on the roads. Each town had several of these rollers, kept in roller barns when not in use, and crews of men with horses or oxen who drove them. Despite the hard work it made more economical use of time and resources to pack the snow for a smooth, hard, level road than to have men out trying to shovel the roads clear for wheeled carriages and wagons.

Snow rollers were used in the late 1700s but mostly from the 1880s into the 1930s, when automobiles were in more common usage. In some New England states the greater use of snow rollers to keep the roads navigable coincided with legislation providing financial aid to towns to maintain the roads. The pay was minimal and the work was hard. It was cold; it was exhausting for men and animals; and working conditions could be miserable, exposed to wind and snowstorms with men often working into or after dark by lantern light. Drivers wore wool and sheepskin clothing, hats and fur lined gloves. Sitting up above the roller they also relied on a thick Buffalo robe over their legs and kept a foot warmer box packed with hot coals to stave off freezing feet. The advantage of snow rolling over removing snow from the roads is that it provided a hard, level track wide enough for two teams to pass on the road without danger.

Rollers were constructed of heavy wooden staves, often oak or spruce, with metal or wooden wheels at each end. There were usually two barrels or drums on a single axle. A heavy, horizontal wooden frame supported the axle and stabilized the vehicle. A long tongue connected the roller to the team or teams pulling it. Some snow conditions or terrain required more than one team. Rollers varied from 2 to 6 feet in diameter. The larger the diameter of the drum, the greater depth of snow it could handle. A roller could compact a snow accumulation roughly half of its diameter. Rollers could be up to 12 feet wide.

Before the introduction of snow rollers, travel, even on horseback, was really limited. With packed roads wagons and carriages often swapped wheels for ski-like runners so they could glide along in smooth comfort. After the snow was rolled and packed it would harden more at night providing a smoother riding surface. Small sleighs called cutters were used for light traveling.

There were often two men up on the roller's seat and two "swampers" walking along beside the roller with shovels in case they were needed to break up drifts ahead. Five to six miles, depending on conditions, was a long haul. Stopping at farms along the way to change teams and have a hot drink or hot meal was common practice. Rolling the roads was a real community effort. Winter was a time when residents had more time to visit each other without the farming chores, and many activities were planned in the town's neighborhoods such as dances, sings, readings and general socializing.

Rolling the snow created better traveling conditions while winter lasted but come spring there were often weeks when roads began to be impassable and people had to stay home. "Tiddy I" Lowell in his diaries did not remark about snow rolling, but every year he mentioned the day when the first carriage passed on the road. It



About 1920's. Building in the background is 366 Bull Ring Road. Belonged to A.I. Pingree in 1858 and O.I. Pingree in 1880. Recently the Morris's.



In 1923, snow rollers were used to keep the winter roads open. Arthur Sanborn is driving with Ingalls behind the roller, the gentleman besides the rear horse is not identified.

was a major happening, meaning life would be getting back to 'normal'.

While snow rolling made winter travel much easier, it took longer for the hard packed snow to melt and for the road underneath to thaw and dry out. Thus we have the long, drawn out mud season. The increase of cars and trucks required more serviceable roads in all seasons and plows took over removing winter snow. The last recorded payment for snow rolling was made in 1938. Now that roads are paved and plowed, transportation all year round is simplified. Another advantage of plowing instead of rolling snow is that we generally have a much shorter mud season.



Restored Snow roller in Bartlett NH



As use of rollers ceased, most of them languished in their barns. Many of the barns fell to ruin and many of the rollers just deteriorated along with the barns. Bartlett, NH has a restored snow roller, and there is a museum of snow rollers in Peacham, VT. There is one smaller roller in Denmark. We were thinking horses would have rather been pulling this smaller roller up Fessenden Hill in those winters past.

## *Year in Review*

The archive room downstairs in the library was moved from the right-hand side to the left-hand side. It was a major undertaking that involved many helping hands. The larger space is already filling up, but the move facilitated better organization and a little more room. Additionally, the old insulation in the ceiling was stripped out and four air purifiers were added to improve working conditions and the two rooms were thoroughly cleaned after the removal.

In July we hosted Jo Radner at the Arts Center giving her talk, "Tangled Lives", about some of her ancestors' interaction with native people in the Fryeburg area which was very thought provoking. In August we hosted Katherine Rhoda and her collection of stringed autoharps. She demonstrated playing, and sang some songs. Who knew there were so many unusual stringed instruments? We also helped sponsor the Denmark Authors' series which included authors, poets and their works including Sally Williams talking about her Hiram history, "Faces of Founders".

Dick and Mari Hook donated a unique panorama photo of Pleasant Mountain which we had copied. A framed copy is now hanging downstairs in the library.

The Chamberlain map has been printed for sale at JimBob's along with notecards. These have been selling well there along with reprints of old Denmark postcards.

People from near and far continue to get in touch looking for genealogical assistance. LeeAnn Shand, our curator, has been searching for information on numerous Denmark families, and we purchased our own DHS Ancestry account to make this research easier.

She reports that there have been many views of the society website. Charles Linden has been working with her to keep it updated. Lots of information as well as the past newsletters can be found at [denmarkhistoricalsociety.com](http://denmarkhistoricalsociety.com).

Another popular resource is the Facebook page Denmark, ME Memories. The number of followers is ever increasing. Posts include both past and present events and photos and have received many comments and reactions.

## Places or items needing identification

We are collecting old photos of Denmark and its residents of the past and other items of historical interest. We cannot always identify the location or the people. We will occasionally post a few of these photos in the newsletter and on the Denmark Memories Facebook page. If you can help identify these photos, please contact Rick Towle at [attroll@gmail.com](mailto:attroll@gmail.com). If you have photos or other items to share, he can scan them right in your home!



1



2

We have had a little luck identifying one home (shown below) that we posted on the DHS website a few months back. We came across another photo of this same home that was labeled “Old Davis home”. That now tells us that it was one of the Davis homes in Denmark. There were three Davis houses listed in Denmark on the maps back in the day. We are in the process now of figuring out which Davis house it was. If anyone can help with this, please let us know.



3



*Old Davis house*

### New Denmark History

As the last book written about our town was printed in 1976 for the Bicentennial, (Denmark Past and Present), Rick Towle and Linda Whiting have begun working on a new book of Denmark history, yet to be named. They are researching the homes and families represented on the 1858 and 1880 maps. Breaking the town into smaller districts, they are researching deeds, photos, cellar holes and more, doing interviews with older members of the community and others who grew up in Denmark. It has been a fascinating journey so far. We would like to hear from anyone with information, stories and recollections to share. There is a lot to learn and it will take some time. Stay tuned.

## Local News

Denmark Draggers Snowmobile Club reports that Mr. Pulsifer has closed his property to all snowmobiles. This loses the trail connection from Rocky Knoll Road and Fryeburg to Moose Pond. The club cannot find any land owners that are willing to allow access on their land to get to Moose Pond from east Denmark. Unless they can find access to get to Moose Pond you will have to take the trail through Boston Hills to get to town and then to Moose Pond.

Denmark ATV Club reports that the road from Lords Hill Road to Route 113/Pequawket Trail is now off limits to ATV traffic. There are currently no longer any trails that connect the Denmark Trails to the Brownfield Trails.

## Upcoming Events

### Denmark Clubs & Meetings

**Denmark ATV Club** - Bob Spear, President.  
Facebook: Denmark A.T.V. Club

**Denmark Draggers Snowmobile Club** - Jim Stacy, President. Meetings start in the fall and continue throughout the winter. Meetings are the second Monday of every month at 7pm at municipal building. Facebook: Denmark Draggers Snowmobile Club. 18 February - Snowmobile Rally at municiple building, keep your eyes open for more information.

**Denmark Lions Club** - Nicole Watkins, President. Meetings are the fist and third Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the municipal building. denmarkmainelions@gmail.com.

**Denmark Rod and Gun Club** - John Wiesemann, President. Meetings are the first Saturday of every month at 7pm at the municipal building. denmarkrodandgunclub@gmail.com.

**AA Meetings** - Every Thursday at 6pm at the municipal building.

**Denmark Veterans Committee** - Rick Towle, President. The committee is working towards updating or replacing the current veterans monument in front of the municipal building. If you would like to get involved reach out to Rick at [attroll@gmail.com](mailto:attroll@gmail.com).

**Denmark Recreation Center**, Director, Hillary Allocco  
Facebook: Denmark Recreation

### Denmark Events

**Denmark Congregational Church**  
**Easter Pie Sale** - 30 March 2024, in front of church.  
**Spring Concert**, usually at the end of April. Keep your eyes open for more information.

#### Denmark Library events

**Mahjong Group** - Meets every Tuesday at 3pm.  
**Coffee Cafe** - Meets the first Friday of every month from 9am - 11am at the Denmark Library.  
**Book Club** - Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 4pm - 5pm at the Denmark Library.  
**Story Time** - Kids 5 and under Wednesday's at 10:00 am.

**Denmark Arts Center**, check website for upcoming events. [www.denmarkarts.org](http://www.denmarkarts.org)



*Message from newsletter staff  
Rick and Linda*

The last DHS newsletter appeared in the summer of 2016, seven years ago. Rick Towle and Linda Whiting, members of the DHS Board of Directors, have taken up the task of creating a quarterly newsletter, the first to be issued in January 2024. This first newsletter will be dedicated to Winnie Moore, the founder of the Denmark Historical Society.



↑ Libby's House and Store, September 1942 →

**Scanning & Digitizing Services**  
Denmark Historical Society

Transfers your photos and movies (VHS, VH-C, Hi8) to digital format.  
Note: If you have historical photos relating to Denmark that could be of interest to the Denmark Historical Society, I will scan your photos and put them on a free thumb drive for you. Can do in-home scanning.

Rick Towle  
Email: [attroll@gmail.com](mailto:attroll@gmail.com)

**Hours of operation**

**Denmark Library**

Tuesday: 2pm-6pm  
Wednesday: 9am-12pm  
Thursday: 2pm-6pm  
Saturday: 9am-2pm

**Denmark Tranfer Station**

Memorial Day thru Labor Day  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 8am - 4pm  
Labor Day thru Memorial Day  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 9am - 4pm



**The Denmark Historical Society's goal**  
Collect and preserve all historical material relating to Denmark Maine.  
**Long term goal**  
Someday have its own building to house all historical material and host a town historical museum. If you have a building that would suit this purpose, please contact the Denmark Historical Society.

**“If you are a member, lifetime member, sponsor and would prefer to get this newsletter by email, please send your email address to [denmarkmainenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:denmarkmainenewsletter@gmail.com)”.**

**Denmark, Maine Historical Society** Members and Donation Form

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## WhiteBlaze Pages A Complete Appalachian Trail Guidebook

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[whiteblazepages@gmail.com](mailto:whiteblazepages@gmail.com)



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