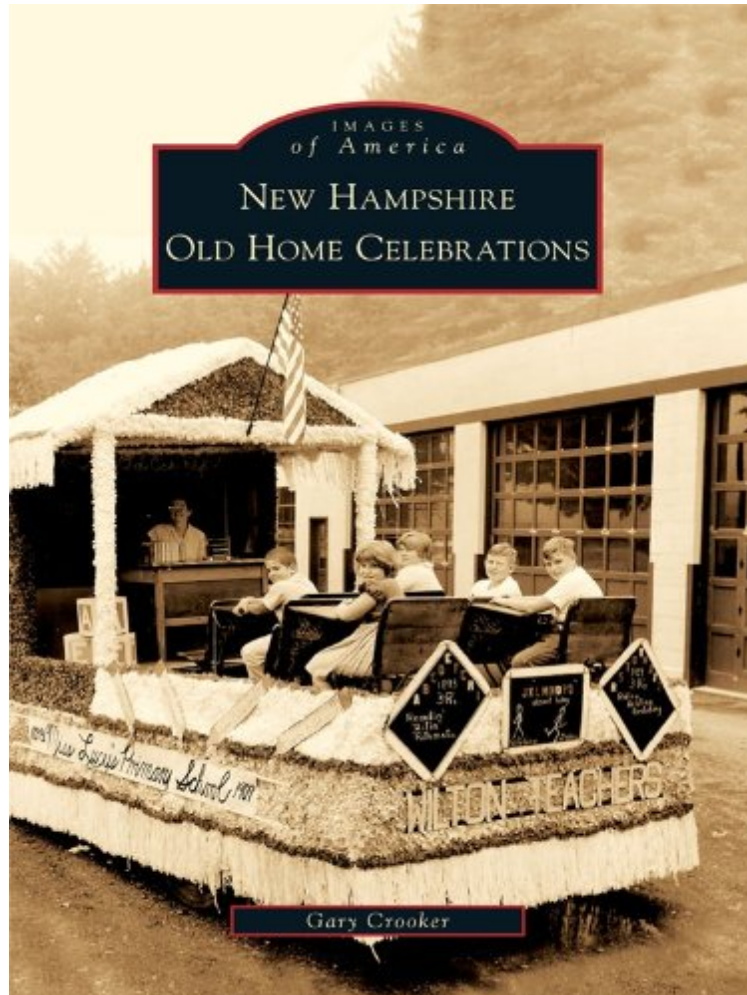


[Get free] New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations (Images of America)

New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations (Images of America)

Gary Crooker

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2972518 in eBooks 2009-06-01 2009-06-01 File Name: B0099IRFWU | File size: 64.Mb

Gary Crooker : New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations (Images of America):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If it's your town's Old Home Celebration, then maybe....By N.H. BookwormFound this book to cover only a few NH towns' old home celebrations, which was disappointing.A "lazy man's" coverage at best...wish they had been more specific with the title. I may not even keep the book as it's pretty shallow and not even a good reference.

In 1899, when many New Hampshire residents were moving to cities and other parts of the nation, Frank Rollins, soon to become governor of New Hampshire, delivered a proposal to hold an annual event he dubbed Old Home Week. Similar in form to many of the family and town picnics already a tradition throughout New Hampshire, Old Home

Week was designed as an open invitation to all the former residents of the Granite State to return to the homes of their youth. In addition to the ballgames, picnics, parades, and bonfires that were held during the third week of August, the celebrations resulted in municipal improvements across the state. Old homesteads were refurbished as summer homes, and libraries and monuments sprung up throughout the region as residents returned, creating a movement toward a renewed pride in the community.

Title: Londonderry featured in Old Home Day collection Author: Suzanne Laurent Publisher: Derry News Date: 5/28/09 Londonderry is one of the featured towns in a new book from the "Images of America," series that captures the history of a unique statewide tradition Old Home Day. The book titled "New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations" is written by Gary Crooker of Wilton, also the town where he served as chairman of the local Old Home Days Committee for the past 30 years. Londonderry has celebrated Old Home Day since its inception in 1899 when soon-to-be New Hampshire Gov. Frank Rollins initiated the event to bring former residents back to their home town for a day-long celebration. It continues to renew pride in the communities that still celebrate Old Home Day. Londonderry is one of fewer than a dozen communities that have faithfully observed Old Home Day on the third weekend in August. Although it takes place over more than one day, the town keeps the name "Old Home Day" for historical and nostalgic reasons. This year, the 110th Old Home Day will kick-off with Senior Night on Aug. 12 and end on Sunday, Aug. 16. Old Home Day Chairwoman Kathy Wagner recalled being called by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing, for photos of past celebrations and she referred him to the town's historical society. In the Merrimack Valley chapter of Crooker's book, Londonderry is listed as the first town with photos of an invitation to the event in 1900, a parade from 1919 celebrating the town's 200th anniversary, a group photograph taken in 1920 in front of the Londonderry Presbyterian Church and a 1994 Old Home Day program cover that celebrated Londonderry Linen, one of the community's most famous products said to be worn by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. In addition to the book, "New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations," priced at \$21.99, there is a companion postcard packet for \$7.99. The book and postcards will be available for sale on Monday, June 1 at local retailers, online bookstores or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling 888-313-2665.

Title: New book celebrates Old Home Days Author: JESSIE SALISBURY Publisher: The Cabinet Date: 7/10/09 Gary Crooker has been involved with Old Home Days for at least 30 years, serving as chairman of the town's celebration committee every five years. The whole idea of the annual homecoming, first proposed in 1899, has fascinated him and about two years ago he started talking about doing a book on them. "I had the idea for the book for a long time," he said. "I realized nothing had been written about them as a statewide movement, which it was. There is a lot of local stuff." He eventually connected with Arcadia Publishing, publishers of local history including the "Images of America" series. The book "New Hampshire Old Home Day Celebrations" came out last week. "Their format (of mainly old pictures) really works for telling this kind of story," Crooker traveled across the state, getting as far west as Chesterfield and north to Pittsburg. "It's a small-town celebration," he said, "and I tried to cover the towns that are still doing it." Locally that includes Hancock, Wilton, Mason, Peterborough, Hollis, Bedford, Pelham, Hudson, Mont Vernon and Brookline. Old Home Days were begun by a proclamation by Gov. Frank Rollins as a way of stimulating the economy and revitalizing the spirit of the home state. It was to give towns the chance to spruce up the community and get together with former residents. Reunions and townwide picnics were encouraged. Initially 44 towns responded, and Mont Vernon claims the honor of being the first, although Temple and Hancock were among them. Originally the state set a date in August and towns sent in an annual report of their activities. Now each town plans its own celebrations. Wilton celebrates for a week every five years. This year it will be from Aug. 22-30. The grand parade will be held Saturday, Aug. 29. There are four bands signed on, with the Temple Band leading. This year's theme is "Welcome to Main Street," and the three grand marshals are longtime Main Street fixtures: Dennis Markaverich, operator of the Town Hall Theater, Dick Putnam of Putnam's Clothing, and barber Elmer Santerre, who is celebrating 50 years in business. "There is music for every night of the week," Crooker said. "The children's parade has been revitalized and there will be a petting zoo." Another feature from 15 years ago is being brought back: the townwide scavenger hunt, with teams of four competing to find or photograph a list of items or places. "It was very successful," Crooker said. "This year Bob Mackintosh and Lloyd Locklin came up with the list. It should be a lot of fun." "It was important to me that this (Old Home Days) started in New Hampshire," Crooker said. "Other states picked up on it," including all of the New England states and into the Midwest. "Most of the holidays we celebrate -- Christmas, Thanksgiving -- center on coming home. Old Home Days comes right out and says it," Crooker, 58, is a lifelong resident of the area. He is a freelance writer and an antiquarian bookseller. He is vice-president of the New Hampshire Antiquarian Booksellers Association and a former director of the association's annual fair. He has written for The Milford Cabinet and the Monadnock Ledger and has monthly columns in antique and other magazines. "New Hampshire Old Home Day Celebrations" is available for \$21.99, and a pack of 15 historic postcards (Postcards of America series) is available for \$7.99 at local stores, online bookstores or through Arcadia Publishing at www.acadiapublishing.com or 888-313-2665. About the Author Gary Crooker is a freelance writer and

bookseller living in Wilton. The photographs in New Hampshire Old Home Celebrations were provided through the cooperation of historical societies throughout the state, as well as the Granite Collection of Sam Allen of St. Anselm College and the author's private collection.