



New Boston Historical Society
Oral History Project

The New Boston Historical Society would like to interview you about your memories of life in New Boston, New Hampshire. Recording your stories will help us preserve an important part of the town's history for future generations.

We have a list of questions to discuss. You do not have to answer all questions, and you may have memories of New Boston which are not on the list. We encourage you to talk about those things which are most interesting to you.

We will make a recording of our conversation or take written notes or both. We would like your permission to keep the recordings, transcripts of recordings, and written notes on file at the Historical Society where they will be available to the public. If during the course of our discussion you tell us a story that you would not be comfortable sharing with the public, please tell the interviewer and we will erase the record of that story.

Let us know if you have photographs, diaries, letters, or mementos that we might photograph, scan or copy.

Name of person interviewed: _____

Address of person interviewed: _____

Date of interview: _____

By signing this form, you give your permission for any recordings and/or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, exhibitions, World Wide Web, and presentations.

I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Your signature: _____

Interviewer's signature: _____

Restriction description:

New Boston Oral History – A Discussion Guide

You & Your Family

Were you born in New Boston? If not, when did you move to New Boston, and why?

Tell us about any New Boston connections of your ancestors (parents, grandparents, etc.), brothers and sisters, your husband or wife or partner, your children and other relations.

Home Life

Where in New Boston have you lived?

Who were your neighbors?

Did you have farm animals or pets? Did you have a garden?

Did your house always have electricity, a phone, indoor plumbing and central heating?

What games did you play as a child?

Did you have favorite foods or activities? Were there things you didn't like to do?

School

What schools in New Boston did you and your family attend?

Did anyone attend district schools or the graded school (or high school) where the firehouse now stands?

Have you memories of teachers, your daily schedule, recreation, graduation, or other school events?

How did you get to school? What did you do for meals?

Did you do anything in school that you are particularly proud of? Or not too proud of?

Work

If you lived in New Boston as a child, what chores do you remember?

Where did you work as an adult? ("Work" includes paid employment, volunteer work and unpaid work like raising a family.)

If you worked outside of the home, how did you get to work?

What New Boston businesses do you remember? Stores, taverns and restaurants, farms, mills and factories, doctors, barbers, repairmen?

Did you or your ancestors have memories of J.R. Whipple's Valley View Farm, the New Boston Railroad, or Roger Babson's Gravity Research Foundation?

Town & Community Organizations

What do you remember of fire and police departments, road agents, selectmen and town clerks, or the library?

Did you belong to the Grange, 4-H, scouting, or any other New Boston organization?

Did you play sports? Which sports, when & where?

Have you memories of any New Boston church events?

Transportation & Communication

What do you remember about traveling around New Boston? Were there other places you would visit?

Think of your first car (or your parents') or older stories about horse-drawn wagons or trains.

How did you get about in winter?

Do you remember your favorite radio and TV shows? What newspapers and magazines did you read?

Historic Events

Did your ancestors have any stories of the Fire of 1887 or earlier New Boston events?

Have you any stories of hurricanes, storms or floods?

Have you stories of the World War II bombing range, or the arrival of the Satellite Tracking Station?

Can you think of any memorable events, like New Boston's bicentennial in 1963?

Would you like to share any personal events in your life in New Boston: births, weddings, deaths?

What changes have you seen in the time you have lived in New Boston?