



Post Office Box 4077
Concord, NH 03302

September 3, 2014

September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9th, starting at **6:30 PM** at the barn/museum on the Hopkinton Fair grounds. We will be finishing up putting things away after the fair as well doing a critique of the fair activities. Also, planning for the final outings for the coaches will be on the agenda.

Upcoming Events

September 6 - Danville, NH - The yellow coach will be traveling to Danville for an event at the Old Danville Meetinghouse . Check with Brian Erickson for more details.

September 14 - The Audi Gala - Downtown Concord at the City Hall Auditorium - Sunday Evening - We will be setting up around 5:00 PM.

October 11&12 - Saturday & Sunday - The Warner Fall Foliage Festival - Again this year we will be set up in Jim Mitchell Park by Main Street Bookends - We will have a coach and the gift shop tables - This is a another very popular event This is the last scheduled outing for the coaches this year.

Fair Report

The fair was a resounding success for the Society. We had large numbers of visitors and they were very interested in the exhibit. They had lots of questions and many spent a lot of time viewing the displays, not just walking through.

We did something different this year. We had a signup sheet for more information and had twenty three people sign up. We will be sending those that signed up a special newsletter inviting them to join. We also had a new member sign up at the fair.

The gift shop did record sales, almost twice any previous year. We received \$250 in awards for our two displays, the grange and the wagon with the flowers in front of the barn. Thank you to those who helped with that. The donation boxes were down a little, but the gift shop sales more than made up for it. People were buying items to remember us by instead of just making a donation.

The barn looked really good. Thank you to all who helped get it ready. The displays out front really drew in the visitors.

On Saturday afternoon Dave Hubbard's family came and presented a plaque for the little coach that Dave's Grandson, Ben Davenport, has donated to the Society. It is a huge attraction for families with small children who sit in it and have their pictures taken. We thank you Ben and we want you to know that that coach will always bring back fond memories of your grandfather and all he did for the good of the Society.

A special thanks to those who came in costume to greet the visitors. The costumes add to the atmosphere in the barn and also make it easy to identify the members when the visitors have questions. Dottie Brown's manikins, Alonzo and Lucy, were real attention getters.

Thank you to all who worked shifts at the barn. The days were long, but we had good crews for every shift. In the past we could get by with 2 or three people at a time, but with the gift shop, the display areas, the coaches out front and the larger numbers visiting, it really takes 3 or 4 or more at times. Many of you worked multiple shifts to give us the coverage we needed.

Donations

We received several donations this month which will help the Society in its mission of preserving the history of Abbot & Downing and the Concord Coach. We now have the second trailer and it is fully equipped with an electric winch to load and unload the coach. This one is 2 feet longer and we can load the coach and another smaller vehicle. We have used it twice in August to carry the Dartmouth Coach and the miniature coach.

Another donation that I am sure that those who were at the fair noticed was the red and green delivery wagon. This was a generous donation from Rod and Rosanne Moreau of East Concord. While not totally original, it does represent the type of horse drawn vehicle in use at the turn of the 20th century.

There were several members who made donations of "special" items to the gift shop to be sold. Many of these were very collectable and they sold well and added to the great success we had in the gift shop sales.

Other August Events

On Saturday, August 23rd, we had two coaches displayed in different locations. the yellow coach went to Allenstown to the Allenstown/Pembroke parade. It was a great parade and we got a lot of positive feedback. The brown Dartmouth coach was set up at the Weare Old Home Day. We had a great location and many, many people came and looked over the display.

If you know of other such events that would like to have a coach on display or in a parade, be sure to mention it to the people who are running the event. We have the trailers and taking the coaches out for the public to see is one of our best methods of spreading our message.