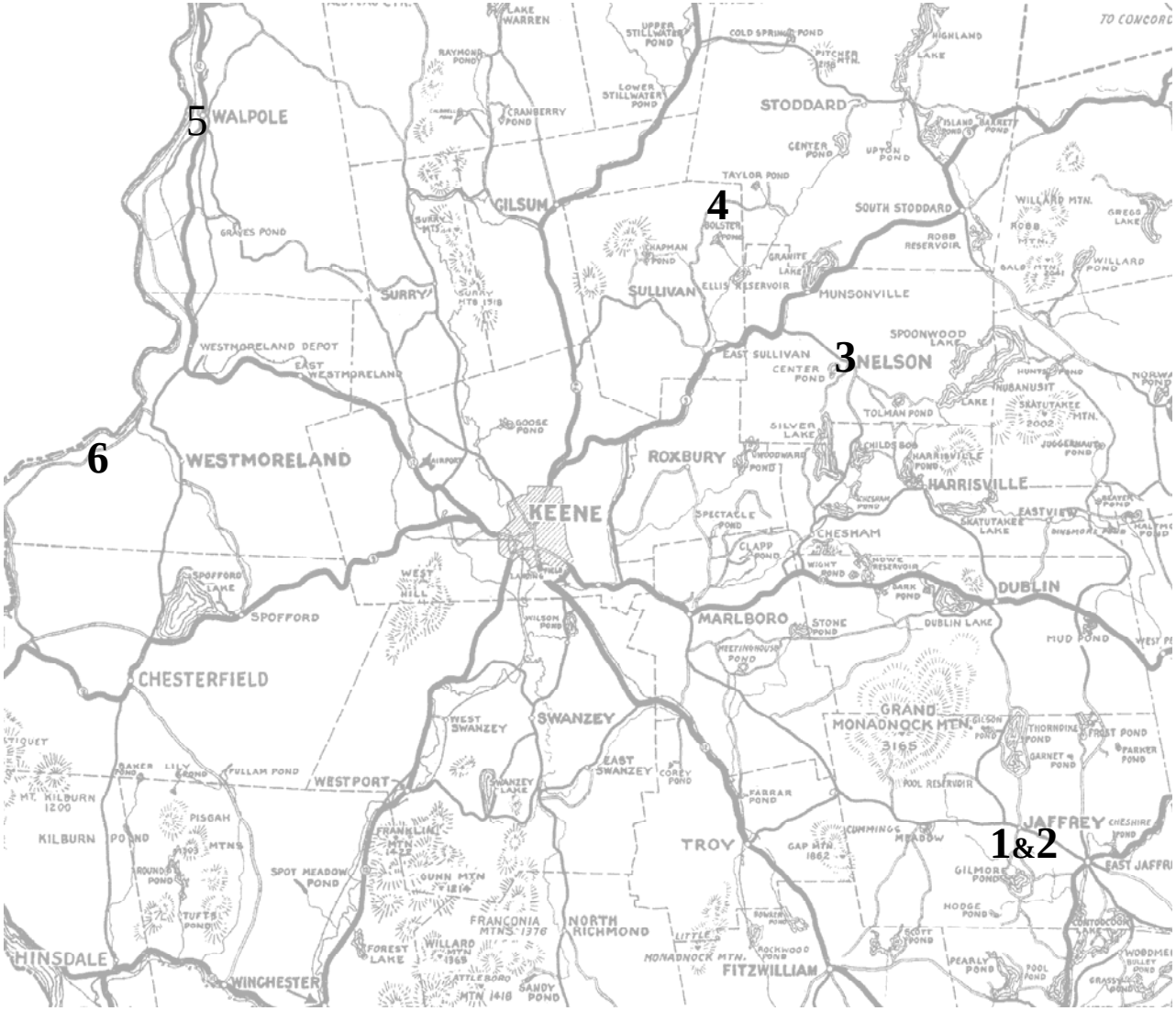
Sites of Open Schoolhouses and Academies



1. Jaffrey Center: Little Red Schoolhouse - Next to the Historic Jaffrey Meetinghouse.
2. Jaffrey Center: Melville Academy - Near Meetinghouse on the Corner of Blackberry Lane & Thorndike Pond Road.
3. Nelson: Village School House - On the Common in Nelson Village.
4. Sullivan: District Schoolhouse No. 3 - 279 Bowlder Road on the Seward Mountain Farm.
5. Walpole: Walpole Academy - Main Street, up hill across from Burdick's in the village.
6. Westmoreland: Corner Schoolhouse - Corner of River & Poocham Roads.

The Monadnock Historical Societies Forum

features an

Open House

of

One Room Schoolhouses and Academies

on

Sunday June 13, 2010
From 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by

Hoffman Family of Sullivan
Jaffrey Historical Society
Jaffrey Center
Village Improvement Society
Nelson Town Archives
Sullivan Town Archives
Walpole Historical Society
Westmoreland Historical Society
Historical Society of Cheshire County

Open House

The Monadnock Historical Societies Forum, or Roundtable Forum, is hosting an open house of many of the remaining one room schoolhouses and academies in the region. The public is invited to visit each site to learn what it was like to attend school during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Admission to all sites is free.

This open house is part of a series of programs associated with the exhibit *Nursery of Liberty: Schools and Education in the Monadnock Region*. The exhibit, a collaborative effort by the Roundtable Forum, explores the evolution of schooling with artifacts, photographs, and archival material from each of the participating organizations. The exhibit is on view through July 1, 2010 at the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene.

Jaffrey Center

Site No. 1: Little Red Schoolhouse

Originally built in 1822 on the Dublin Road, it was used as the District No. 11 Schoolhouse in Jaffrey until 1886. After years of decay, the Jaffrey Historical Society acquired the schoolhouse and moved it to Jaffrey Center next to the meetinghouse in 1960. The Little Red Schoolhouse has been fully restored, and will give the visitor a sense and feel on how schooling was conducted during the 19th century.

Contact: Jacqueline Johnson, 532-7379

Jaffrey Center

Site No. 2: Melville Academy

Melville Academy was a private school built in 1833, and for more than 20 years it offered a classical education to young men and women between the ages of 12 and 20, many of whom became teachers, ministers, and other professionals. The Academy closed in 1857 during an economic depression. In 1863 the Town of Jaffrey reopened Melville as the District No. 7 elementary school, and for a brief time it was also used as a high school beginning in 1879. The former academy building was closed in 1918 as a school, and was taken over by the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society in 1920 for a museum and meeting place.

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Nelson

Site No. 3: Nelson Village Schoolhouse

The Nelson Village Schoolhouse was built in 1838 and used as the District No. 1 schoolhouse until 1945. After careful renovations designed to limit any impact to the historic structure, the old schoolhouse now serves as the Nelson Town Office. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Nelson Town Archive has a History Corner with an exhibit case in the building, and maintains exhibits on town history. Its current exhibit displays artifacts from the Nelson Congregational Church built in 1841.

Contact: Bert Wingerson, 847-9945 or beewing@cheshire.net

Sullivan

Site No. 4: District No. 3 Schoolhouse

The second District No. 3 Schoolhouse was constructed in 1849. Thoughtfully designed, the school was considered modern for its time, with three walls of windows for light, sloped floor so all students could see the front wall of the classroom, and an entryway for storage. The schoolhouse was used until 1939. It has been preserved in its original state by the current owners, the Hoffman family on their Seward Mountain Farm.

Contact: Chris Pratt, 847-3458 or cpratt@keene.edu

Walpole

Site No. 5: Academy Building

Walpole Academy was a private school that opened in 1825. It closed as an academy in 1850, with the academy building reopening as the High School in the same year. It was used as a high school from 1850 to 1949. The two story and seven room building is currently a museum, which has a one room school room set up on the second floor, and home to the Walpole Historical Society.

Contact: Sue Vose, 756-3589 susan@vose.org

Westmoreland

Site No. 6: Corner School House

Originally District No. 9 Schoolhouse, (High Tops School because of tall trees) it was located on the Reynolds Road and built around 1789. It was moved by oxen as populations shifted. The school's final move to its present location was in 1846. The school was consolidated with South Village School after 1949. It is now maintained by the Westmoreland Historical Society.

Four former Corner School students will be at the school during the tour to answer questions and to tell of their schoolhouse experiences.

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