

## **2023 ARCH Annual Meeting Education Committee report**

Throughout the past year, ARCH offered a variety of programs to inform and educate the public about the rich history of our community. Fortunately, improving health conditions last summer and into 2023 permitted the return of indoor programs at the Wentworth House: 40 guests enjoyed holiday music, stories, and a Yule log ceremony at the holiday open house; Harmon's Snowshoemen were once again in residence over MLK weekend; and the ever-popular cribbage tournament returned after a two-year hiatus. The fall Colonial Market Fair and Militia muster is still our most popular event of the year, with approximately 120 visitors in attendance in October 2022.

The very productive partnership which ARCH developed with area spinners in 2022 has expanded this year, and is bringing new visitors to the Wentworth House. In addition to once again hosting the Granite Webmakers' Sheep to Sweater event (held on April 29 as part of the 2023 International Back to Back Wool Challenge) as well as monthly free learn to spin and spin in sessions, the Wentworth House is now serving as a host site for the South East New Hampshire Spinning Guild. Guild gatherings focus on educational programming in the fiber arts: the first gathering was a Wool Day on May 20; subsequent gatherings will be Flax Day on August 5 and Dye Day on October 14. Other textile and fiber arts programs at the Wentworth House during the past year included Tea & Stitchery, workshops on making an 18<sup>th</sup> century pocket and an early American *buswif*, and sewing sessions for re-enactor groups.

Because last summer's free monthly garden concerts were so well-received, the series is continuing this year. This summer's musical series is underwritten by New Hampshire Humanities and includes Jeff Warner (Songs of Old New Hampshire) on June 15, Marek Bennet (Rally Round the Flag – Songs of the Civil War) on July 20, and Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki (Songs of Immigration) on August 23.

Research into the history of the Wentworth family and the town is ongoing, and is shared with the public via tours, periodic email newsletters, and the ARCH website. ARCH welcomes the opportunity to partner with area museums, historical societies, and other organizations to bring interesting and meaningful programs to our members and the wider community.

*Respectfully submitted by Julia Roberts, Education Committee chair*