

PLAINFIELD HISTORY ACCOUNT
(administered by the Plainfield and Meriden Libraries)
January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006

Choice White Pines and Good Land: A History of Plainfield and Meriden, New Hampshire has continued to sell steadily. The Plainfield and Meriden Libraries are in charge of selling, marketing, storing, and shipping the books. It has been 15 years since the history was published, and the number of copies sold to date is 1,067. The cost is \$45, and they are available at the town office and the Plainfield and Meriden Libraries. Our town is an interesting place and quite unique in many ways. Many researchers use this history as a reference for their books and magazine articles. "Choice White Pines..." is cited in many bibliographies. Purchase your copy now and read about **your** community.

At Town Meeting 2000, a warrant article was passed authorizing the establishment of a capital reserve fund called the Plainfield History Fund. The fund was established with money from this Plainfield History account and periodically funds from sales will be transferred to the capital reserve. Eventually, the Plainfield History Fund will be used to underwrite the cost of writing the next volume of Plainfield's history. See the Trustee of Trust Funds report for the balance of this fund.

Financial Report

Balance January 1		\$1,925.67
Income:		
Sale of books	\$ 520.00	
Bank interest	<u>8.71</u>	
Total income		<u>\$ 528.71</u>
		\$2,454.38
Expenses:		
None		
Balance December 31		\$2,454.38

KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY STUDY COMMITTEE

The charge of this committee is "to meet with representatives of the KUA administration and maintain an ongoing review of the relationship between the academy and the town, including any agreement pursuant to RSA 72:23, and to report its findings at next March's annual town meeting." Over the last three years the committee has held its discussions with the stated goal of "working as a collective community to maximize all of our local resources to enhance opportunities for all and at the same time reduce or control property tax increases."

Based on our work this year, your committee reports the following:

Exclusive of students of KUA faculty, there are currently 31 students from Plainfield attending the academy. This is up from the 24 students that were reported last year, and 21 reported two years ago. The committee has, for several years now, been working with the academy to return to past years' levels of having 30 or more local students attending the private school. In the 2006/07 academic year, day student tuition was \$24,500. The property tax funded tuition at Lebanon High, the town's designated high school for Plainfield students, is \$11,262.

Based on the academy's dormitory, dining hall and kitchen assets valued for tax purposes at \$5,143,500, the discretionary exemption granted for 2006 had a value \$126,000. In return, Kimball Union provided to local students \$124,550 in "Plainfield Grant Assistance." In addition, the school informed the committee that another \$117,150 in financial aid from the school was awarded to local students.

The committee continues to support a need-based distribution of the Plainfield Grant. In 2006, the formula was 70% based on need with the other 30% being divided evenly among the non-faculty Plainfield students attending the school. This resulted in all students receiving at least \$1,300 in tuition relief with the maximum Plainfield Grant award being just over \$9,000. This year's committee recommends that this same formula be used for the 2007/8 year.

During this year's meetings, the topic of a future location for the Meriden Post Office was heavily discussed resulting in the following: The school is not likely to renew the lease for the post office at its current location. The existing lease expires in August of 2009. It is generally acknowledged that the current facility is not in compliance with postal service facility standards. The continued existence of a post office in Meriden Village is a high priority for both the town and the academy. At this time, KUA is working with its master planning consultants in an effort to identify other campus facilities that might serve as a future postal location.

As part of its continued efforts to address safety concerns along Main Street, the school in consultation with the town and approval of the state installed cross walks on Main Street. The success of the crosswalks depends largely on all pedestrians consistently using the provided locations when crossing the street. There are highly visible signs indicating the crosswalks to motorists. Pedestrians need to also be aware that due to the grade of Main Street, vehicles may not be able to immediately stop. This is particularly true in poor weather conditions.

Kimball Union has continued to provide support to the town's expanding Geographic Information System. The school's technology center is being used as the hub for this group's work. The school's map plotters allow the town's GIS group easy access to large hard copy maps from the system.

Access by Plainfield residents to KUA facilities, grounds and events has continued to broaden and be better publicized in the last year. The school's new turf athletic field was used by local high schools and the Plainfield Elementary School allowing for several soccer tournaments to be completed despite the very heavy rains that occurred last fall. As part of the site plan review approval by the planning board a public period of comment and review of the first year's use of the field, particularly the lights, will take place with the Meriden community later this summer.

The school played a key role in the establishment of the Ira and Sara Townsend Bridge, which is located on KUA property. The bridge allows access to the French's Ledges trail system from the Plainfield Elementary School. As part of this effort, the school also granted to the Town of Plainfield an easement, which insures public access to the French's Ledges area in perpetuity.

KUA students again this year hosted the holiday luncheon for Plainfield Seniors. This annual event features a holiday meal from the school's dining hall coupled with performances from KUA music students.

This year's committee also discussed options for either expanding existing scholarships or the establishment of a new privately funded scholarship as a means of providing

enhanced private opportunities for Plainfield students to attend the academy. Key to this effort will be identifying school alumni who are willing to contribute to such an effort. To provide just an additional \$10,000 of annually available assistance would require a scholarship endowment of approximately \$200,000.

Because the continued progress in all aspects of the complex town/school relationship, a majority of the committee, again this year, supports the approval of the KUA tax exemption.

Given that the current funding arrangement requires annual voting approval at town meeting, the committee recommends that its focus next year be broadened to consider other possible long-term funding solutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bartles, Susan Plummer, Douglas Cogan, Gordon Defoe, Stephen Halleran, Diane Rogers, Michael Schafer, Bradford Atwater

Kimball Union Academy Study Committee

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In response to warrant articles at the 2005 and 2006 town meetings, this Solid Waste Committee was tasked with developing a proposal for solid waste management for the town of Plainfield beginning July 1, 2007. At that time, the New Hampshire/Vermont Solid Waste District's 20-year contract with the Wheelabrator incinerator expires. Plainfield sends about 900 tons of its annual 1,150 tons of solid waste to the incinerator. Another 125 tons are recycled at curbside, and another 130 tons are recycled at the drop-off shed.

Plainfield currently pays \$91/ton to dispose of material sent to the incinerator, or about \$82,000 per year. Plainfield does not pay any processing fee for materials picked up curbside for recycling. Northeast Waste Services charges the town \$125,000 per year, plus a fuel surcharge, for weekly curbside collection. In 2006, the surcharge totaled about \$7,400. The town's user fee system for trash generates about \$125,000 per year, leaving around \$82,000 to be raised from local property taxes. The tax rate impact is about \$.40 on a rate of \$24.50.

Major Developments in 2006

- On the committee's recommendation, the Selectmen and Town Administrator negotiated a contract with the Lebanon Landfill to dispose of Plainfield's solid waste from July 1, 2007 – 2011. The first year's tipping fee will be around \$70.
Two key reasons cited by Lebanon officials for allowing Plainfield to use their landfill were our recycling program and curbside collection program.
- On the committee's recommendation, the Selectmen and Town Administrator negotiated a contract with Northeast Waste Services to continue curbside collection of Plainfield's refuse and recycling through 2011.
- The committee held the first annual Pre-Father's Day Recycling & Clean-Up Extravaganza. The event resulted in the recycling of:
 - 1 ton of electronics
 - 5 tons of tires