

Questions and Answers on the Archives

Why are there so few records digitized for the years after 1910?

We started our research in 2006 with the 1850s and are working forward. As time progresses the later years will be more thoroughly researched and more files added to the archives.

Why do the map files load slower?

In order to get the most information from the maps, the resolution had to be increased to allow you to zoom in on details. It does increase the load time on slower internet connections.

Is it possible to see items such as books that are referenced in the timeline but not available online?

We can make arrangements to meet with you at the old school house on Concow Road and show you the documents that are not online. Some of the books referenced can be purchased at Amazon.com. Contact us through the contact option on the web page to make an appointment to see our reference library.

How often are the Archives updated?

We are always adding items to our files but we update the web Archives about every six months. Check the top of the Indexes and Timelines to see when they were last updated.

Can I copy things from this web site for my own use?

Yes, you can. We are a teaching organization so we encourage the use of materials located on our website. We have tried not to make any copyrighted or proprietary information downloadable. If you would like to reference our web page when using any materials found here, we would appreciate it!

Why are the PDF files for newspaper articles in the Archives not individual files rather than the current batch files? I am only interested in downloading a few articles.

Because of the large number of newspaper files, over 1500 pages to date in the Archives, maintaining links to all the individual files would be hard to maintain as we add new information continually. Batching files in PDFs, which reduces the number of links, makes the system more reliable over time.

Are you interested in adding things that I have to your archives?

If they pertain to our area of research and we do not already have a copy we are interested! We will make arrangements to meet with you and digitize any documents in person if possible. If you have physical items related to this area, we would like to photograph the item so we can use a photographic copy in a future digital display in our virtual museum! Due to limited space, we normally collect only physical items that are directly associated with the 1856 Messilla Valley school house or can be safely displayed there. The school house serves as our headquarters and a community center in the Yankee Hill/Concow area.

If I see errors in the archives or have problems searching the archives, would you like to be notified?

Yes, we would! Please contact us using the contact form. If the error is a serious error, we will change it ASAP. If it is a minor error, we will fix it for the next update. If you just have a question we will try to respond back within 2 days.

Can I volunteer to help with the archives or webpage?

Yes, you can. There are several different steps required in maintaining the archives:

- (1) Research at the various organizations mentioned in this overview (Library, County Records, etc.)*
- (2) Scanning documents with our computer and scanner*
- (3) Interviewing and recording residents on local history (we have a recorder available).*
- (4) Entering data into our spreadsheet as new items are discovered.*
- (5) Filing records into the appropriate file on our computer or in some cases physical binders we maintain.*

We can train you on any of these steps and you can participate in any number of these areas you feel comfortable with. If you are required to visit another facility or interview someone you can accompany our staff until you are comfortable working alone.

Interested in writing an article about our local history? Contact us and we can discuss it further.

The web page is created in WordPress. If you have expertise in that program, we could use some assistance with updating the site periodically.

There are other areas where you can volunteer with us. School house maintenance and help with planning events are just a few.