Defender of Liberty for 300 Years

Your Guide to Nottingham’s celebrating its 300th Anniversary

The 300th Committee
2022 Calendar for the 300th

January – Bonfire, 1/8/.22 Nottingham Fire Rescue

February – Basketball Tournament for Middle School 2/18-20/22 Nottingham School
   A family hike/snowshoe the Conservation Commission 2/19/22 9-11 AM Marston

March –
   April – Mini March, linked to Patriots’ Day 4/23/22

May – Fishing Derby – 5/7/22
   Terry Nelson speak on Henry Dearborn at the Library 5/12/22 at 6:30 PM
   Charter Day – 5/15/22
   Burying of the Time Capsule
   Reading of Town Charter
   the Never ‘s Second Regiment Band
   The Town Meeting play May 21-22
   Cruise Night and a Cruise, Liar’s Paradise 5/24/2022

June – Strawberry Short Cake Sale 6/18/22 NFRD Association
   Historic Town Building Tour

July – Declaration of Independence 7/4/22
   Blueberry Baking Contest 7/24/22 Nottingham Fire & Rescue Association

August – Parade 8/13/22 later Fireworks
   Blueberry Pancake breakfast – Nottingham Historical Society 8/14/22
   Talent Show 8/16/22
   Encampment 8/19-21/22

September – 9/24/22 Chili Cookoff Contest Nottingham Fire & Rescue Association
   9/17/22 Town picnic Pawtuckaway Lake State Park with Boat tours
   Farm Day – open farm for tours, have agricultural activities such as tractor pull,
   crazy vegetable contest, shingle making machine
   Movie night
   Old Time Baseball Game

October – Story Walk The Barefoot Farmer of Pawtuckaway
   Nottingham Library and Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department 10/1/22
   Chowder Chowder Contest 10/8/22 Nottingham Fire & Rescue Association
   Cemetery Tour Sat. 10/15/22
   Scarecrow Contest
   Recreation Halloween Event 10/22/22

November – Veterans Day Program 11/11/22
   One Book: One Nottingham Library

December – Holiday Parade
   Closing ceremony
As chairman of the 300th committee, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support. We are a small group of citizens and while we are small in numbers, we take great pride in our town. Nottingham in my opinion is one of the greatest towns in the area. We started this planning a few years back and were looking to have many events but then along came Covid. To this day we have had to cancel some events due to Covid. We have had a few events so far and I was glad to see my fellow neighbors there. We are still moving forward, and we have many more events. I hope you can all take in some of them I look forward to seeing you there.

Your Friend and Neighbor

Steve Welch

Winners Logo Contest

Elementary/ Middle School Elena LaRoche.

High School/adults by Rob Anderson.

Congratulations to Nottingham on your 300th year celebration, I have enjoyed being part of the last 30. Thank you for a wonderful place to raise my boys, wonderful friends and the Bettys, Basketball and coffee at Liars.

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The schedule for the 300th week of August 13-21, 2022

In Nottingham’s year-long celebration of its 300th Anniversary, the week that starts on Saturday, August 13, and concludes on Sunday, August 21, features four major events. These are the following activities then: the Parade on Saturday, the 13th with fireworks that night, the Nottingham Historical Society’s Blueberry Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, the 14th, Nottingham’s Talents Salutes the 300th, on Tuesday, the 16th, and a Revolutionary War Encampment and Reenactments Friday through Sunday, the 19th to the 21st.

**August 13 The Parade**

Marchers and units will gather by 11 AM on Francesca Drive also known as Dunbarton Estates off of NH Route 152. At that site, folks will check in at the registration desk. There will be porta-potties available. The Parade kicks off at 12 noon. It will follow the 1.5 miles way on Route 152 and end at the Community Center. At its conclusion, there will be buses to return the participants to Francesca Drive. Spector parking will be on the only side of the road along the following thoroughfares: Flutter Street (between the Highway Garage and Deerfield Rad), Gerrish Drive, McCrillis Road (between Gerrish and NH 152), Camelot, Halls Way, and NH 152 (between Francesca Drive and McCrillis Road). There is planned a reviewing stand next to the Library.
An honor guard carrying the United States and New Hampshire flags will lead the procession. Next members of the Nottingham Select Board will walk. This will be followed by a horse-drawn wagon conveying the holder of the Boston Post Cane for Nottingham and the Parade’s Grand Marshall. That is, of course, Ruth “Hike” Twombly. “Hike” received the Cane at the Second Annual Nottingham Earth Fest, on Saturday, September 21, 2019, from the Nottingham Historical Society as the town’s oldest living resident of Nottingham.

![Ruth Twombly, left, with the Boston Post Cane with Peggy Tucker who played the Oldest Person in the 300th production of the play, *The Town Meeting*.](image)

Ruth Twombly, left, with the Boston Post Cane with Peggy Tucker who played the Oldest Person in the 300th production of the play, *The Town Meeting*.

There will be a number of floats in the cavalcade. One will be a pontoon boat pulled on a trailer. This will be entered by the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA). There will be another one that features a 12-foot Birthday Cake to celebrate the 300th Anniversary. Steve Welch said that there is still room for others to enter floats in the parade.

There will be marching bands in the Parade. One of them will be the New Hampshire Police Association Pipes & Drums as pictured above. Another band performing will be the Piscataqua Rangers Jr Fife & Drum Corps. Out of Portsmouth, they will feature colonial-era music. And, then there are the Soggy Po Boys. They come from Dover and “serve their jazz messy, mixing bass-fueled mayhem with spirituals, Meters-style old-school funk, and the Caribbean side of the New Orleans tradition.”

There will be many contingents from the Bektash Shriners of NH as part of the Parade. One will be the Bektash Shriners Mini Kar Patrol. “We perform precision drills with 5 hp go-carts in parades...we drive is a 4 wheel 5 hp go-cart with a 1954 red Corvette body.” There be the Bektash High Rollers Mini Monstrer Truck Patrol. This is “a motorized mini monster truck patrol that was formed in 1992. We have fun parading around the area. And there then come the clowns with Bektash Clown Kaleidoscope. These are clowns with “the purpose is to make kids laugh, participate in parades, perform skits, and perform at parties”. There will be antique cars. One of them will be a 1939 LaSalle Opera Coupe sponsored by the Nottingham Historical Society. And, there will be firetrucks. They will be from Nottingham Fire and Rescue Department as well as other southern NH communities.

Later at the Community Center, there will be a band playing before the fireworks. Atlas Fireworks is providing the aerial display. The fireworks are scheduled to commence at dusk which will be about 9 PM. Do not forget to bring your chairs and enjoy the show.
As Nottingham Is a Defender of Liberty,
The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement
Association Is a Defender of the Lake,
by inspecting boats, finding invasive species, removing milfoil, testing water, and cleaning up the roadside

HAPPY 300TH ANNIVERSARY!
The Nottingham Historical Society will host its signature Blueberry Pancake Breakfast Sunday, August 14, 2022, from 8 to 10:30 AM in front of the Nottingham Square Schoolhouse/Els Cilley Chapter DAR Building rain or shine. The admission price for adults is $5.00 and for children $3.00. There will be live music and antique cars.
Nottingham’s Talent Salutes the 300th

Lisa Kennard
singing the official
Nottingham town song
which she wrote

Claire Burbank and Cassidy Green
Directors of the play, The Town Meeting
Performing popular songs

The Sunrise Strummers
Ukulele Band out of Newmarket Senior
Center playing “Golden Oldies” and popular
music

Dan Raymond and Gary Hume
Playing Celtic and Blues Music

Craig Werth
NH Songwriter and multi-
instrumentalist weaves
Folk, Acoustic and
Americana music together

Stolen Covers Duo
Theresa and Rick Landry playing
Classic Rock Covers

Tuesday 6PM
August 16, 2022

RAIN OR SHINE
WHERE: At the Bandstand
139 Stage Rd. Nottingham NH

WHAT: Bring your chairs, your voices, and your
snacks to enjoy this remarkable ending of the
Summer Concert Series as these gems and stars of
local talent salute Nottingham’s 300th
Anniversary.

For more information contact:
Steve Soreff at 603-895-6120
soreffs15@aol.com

Steve Soreff, the MC
With Wit and Wisdom

Sound Production by
Schuyler Scribner
The 1st NH Regiment involved a reenactment, September 2021, at Fort 4.

The camps on Nottingham Square. The Continental Army will be on the south side of Ledge Farm Road where the US flag flies. The British forces will be on the north side next to the Minuteman/ Four Generals statue.

It commences on **Friday, Aug19, 2022.** Starting at noon that day, troops of re-enactors and their partners arrive, register, and set up their camps. This will not be open to the public for that part of the weekend. The Continental Army will be camped on the south side of Ledge Farm Road where the US flag flies in Nottingham Square; the British forces, on the north side next to the Minuteman/ Four Generals statue. Reenactors representing the following groups will compose the Continental Army: the: 1st NH Regiment, which is the host of the event, the 2nd NH Regiment light infantry, the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment line infantry, the 3rd Massachusetts Regiment line infantry, Jeremiah Eames’s Rangers light infantry, the 13th Continental Regiment line infantry, the Acton Minutemen line infantry, the United Train of Artillery from Rhode Island an artillery group, the Crane’s Continental Artillery Regiment from Rhode Island an artillery group, and the Regiment Saintonge line infantry. All of the units of the Continental Army are all part of the Continental Line which “is an educational organization of recreated units representing the Continental Army, the Continental Artillery, the Continental Marines, the State Navies, the various colonial militias, and units in the service of the French King during the American Revolution.” There are two British Army reenactor units His Majesty 10TH Regiment a Foot and the King's Rangers Loyalists.
Along with the two armies moving it on Friday, there would also be the Sutlers. They are folks who sell Revolutionary War items not only here but also at other encampments. They will be located next to the Romeo Danais/ General Butler house. Bob then went on to give more details about the unit and the events. First, he explained the different unit designations line, light, and artillery. Line infantry meant that the units stayed in line formation initially and throughout the battle. They often carried heavier weapons than the light units. The light infantry was involved after the initial line formation; troops would break into small groups. The artillery clearly said they used cannons not muskets. He added the 300th Committee would be providing the campers with water, ice, and firewood. There will also be porta-potties for both reenactors and the public. Public parking will be in several fields on the north side of Deerfield Road as well as to the Community Center and the Nottingham School with shuttles buses provided by the 300th Committee.

The next day, **Saturday, August 20, 2022**, things begin to happen. An artillery blast at 8 AM signals the start of the day. The camping reenactors make and enjoy their breakfasts. At 10 AM the public is invited to enter the campgrounds. From 10 to noon, various units will be doing a variety of activities. These include demonstrating musket firing, parading, drills, and tactical A skirmishes.

Cooking fires at the encampments at the Revolutionary War Weekend Charlestown, NH September 25-26, 2021

Members of The First New Hampshire Regiment along with other Continental Regiments, conducting a Drill.
At noon, reenactors cook and have lunch which is called nooning. At 1:15 AM, reenactors move into their positions on the battlefield, which is a huge expanse behind the Romeo Danais/ General Butler house. From 1:30 to 2:30 PM there are enacted a number of battle scenarios. The public is asked to leave at 4:00 PM. The reenactors and their partners have the evening to themselves.

British troops preparing for a reenactment, September 2021, at Fort 4.

On the last day, Sunday, **August 21, 2022**, things concluded with a busy schedule. Again, an artillery blast between 7 and 8 AM signals the start of the day. The camping reenactors make and enjoy their breakfasts. At 10 AM the public is invited to enter the campgrounds. From 10 to noon, various units will be doing a variety of activities. These include demonstrating musket firing, parading, drills, and tactical A skirmishes. At noon, reenactors cook and have lunch which is called nooning. At 1:00 AM, reenactors move into their positions on the battlefield, which is a huge expanse behind the Romeo Danais/ General Butler house. From 1:15 to 2:15 PM there are enacted a number of battle scenarios. Then, at 3:00 PM the camp closes and the public is asked to leave. The reenactors break camp and return home.
Demmons

The old elementary school

Eduard Viel
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Fiddle Ensemble
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www.nhfiddleensemble.org
This July fourth, 2014 marks the 97th Anniversary of the dedication of the Four General's Monument located on Nottingham Square. On that day, back in 1917, the Else Cilley Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution invited people to the Square to honor and remember those four men. The monument is located on the corner of Route 156 and Ledge Farm Road in Nottingham which was formerly named North and King Street. It is a 16ft tall, granite statue with a minuteman on top and has the last name of each of the four generals engraved on a side of the square base. The names are Cilley, Dearborn, Bartlett, and Butler and they are the ones that the signs at the edge of town take pride in announcing as residents. If you have ever wondered about who these men were then let me share a bit about them and the impact that they had on the town and the country.

The most well-known of the four is probably General Joseph Cilley whose parents Else and Captain Joseph Cilley moved to Nottingham from Newbury, Ma in 1727. I feel the need to disclose that I gained entrance into the Else Cilley Chapter, NSDAR by proving that I am a direct descendant of his. He participated in the 1774 raid on Fort William and Mary. In 1775 he was appointed Major in Col. Poor’s Regiment by the Assembly of NH. Upon hearing of the Battle of Lexington, General Joseph led a group of 100 men from Nottingham Square to Boston. His Regiment fought at Bemis Height and two weeks later was there when Burgoyne made his last stand and surrendered. He would also fight at Monmouth and other key battles. He would become Major of the First New Hampshire Regiment, a position that was held after him by two other Generals from Nottingham. After the war, in gratitude for his past and continued service he was presented with two pistols from the NH Assembly. They are on display along with his picture in the NH Statehouse. He was repeatedly elected a representative, senator, and councilor.

Henry Dearborn was a doctor practicing on the Square before the Revolution began. Upon hearing of the news of fighting at Lexington and Concord, he led 60 men from Nottingham Square to the Battle of Bunker Hill. This was a trip that took them 12 hours to complete. Once he arrived his regiment was incorporated into that of General Stark’s. This was June 17, 1775. Towards the end of that year, he traveled to Quebec to fight with Benedict Arnold and General Richard Montgomery. It was not a successful trip for any of them because Arnold was wounded, Montgomery was killed and Dearborn was taken prisoner for a time. He was released in May of 1776 but not exchanged until March of the following year. On March 19, 1777, he was appointed General of the 3rd NH Regiment. He then transferred to the 1st NH Regiment and served under Cilley. He would go on to fight at Burgoyne, Ticonderoga, Monmouth, and other battles. He would eventually rise to the rank of Major General during the War of 1812 and serve as Secretary of War under Thomas Jefferson.

General Henry Butler was the son of Reverend Benjamin Butler, the 1st settled minister in Nottingham. He was Captain of a company in Col. Thomas Bartlett’s regiment at West Point in 1780. He would later follow Bartlett into the 1st NH Militia where he would hold the rank of Major General for several years. After his service, he would hold many town and state offices, as well as becoming Nottingham’s first postmaster. He and his wife would run an Inn and Tavern on the Square called The Bird in Hand Inn which was built in 1756 and still stands today.

The last but not least of the four Generals is Thomas Bartlett who was born in Nottingham and was Town Clerk for 26 years. He held the position of Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel Gilman’s Regiment in 1776, Colonel Whipple’s Regiment at Rhode Island in 1778, and under General Stark at the capture of Burgoyne. In 1780, he was a Colonel of a Regiment at West Point when Benedict Arnold betrayed the Fort. He was Major General of the 1st Division of NH Militia from 1799 - 1805. He held the title immediately after General Cilley and before General Butler. He held many positions within the town including selectman and representative and was a Speaker of the House. In 1790, he was appointed Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, a position he maintained until his death in 1805.
Congratulations Nottingham 300 Years!

The Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library is a non-profit group that supports the library in various ways. Through fundraising we may supply materials for the summer reading program, assist in the purchase of museum passes, and contribute to special library programs benefitting the community. We are always happy to welcome new Friends, please join us at our monthly meetings!
Slaves in Nottingham
Rhoda Capron

Slaves were owned by some of the more affluent landowners in Nottingham. E O Foss estimates that the number of slaves in town ranged from nine to sixteen. It is thought that Peter Hanson was a slave owned by the Leathers family who was granted his freedom. Below is his eloquent request for a divorce from his enslaved wife so he will not father slaves.

[Petition of Peter Hanson for a Divorce: addressed to the General Assembly, Feb. 12, 1778.]

“Most humbly sheweth, Peter Hanson of Nottingham in said State, that your Petitioner was born in that unhappy Quarter of the World called Africa, whose Inhabitants have been usually Stole, transported and Sold in the Markets of America like Cattle, notwithstanding they have but two legs, and are formed in the Same Image as White men. In like manner your Petitioner was bro’t to this State and Sold, where by his faithfull and diligent behaviour in his Masters Service he has Obtained his freedom; and humbly presumest that by his Industry he is in a likely way not to be Unuseful to the Community. He begs leave further to shew that in the time of his Servitude he was Married to one Venus his Countrywoman and Slave to M’ Nathaniel Cooper of Dover, that by agreement with, and Consent of said Venus he has for more than one year past refrained to Cohabit with her as his wife, for the following reasons viz Because he Verily believes the making Slaves of any of the human Race is Unrighteous in the Sight of God, and a Cruel Despotick power used by one part of Mankind over another, and that his begetting Children to be and remain Slaves during their lives would be very Wicked, and for which he might deserve the Curses of such a Postery groaning under Bondage—Also for that in his present happy State of Freedom he cannot have any Comfort in the Conjugal State with a person who is a Slave and cannot reside with him or Even so much as Speak to him without leave from her Master or Mistress, which he has been formerly denied and he not Suffered to tarry in the house with her.

Wherefore your Petitioner most humbly prays that your Honours (who have so nobled Struggled in the Cause of Natural Liberty) will take his case into your wise Consideration, and relieve him from being tied to a Slave, under the Temptation of begetting Slaves, and liberate him by dissolving the Bonds of Matrimony between him and the said Venus. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray most fervently

his Peter P Hanson mark”

[In H. of Rep., Aug. 20, 1778, a hearing was ordered for the next session of the legislature; but the matter did not come before the next or probably any subsequent legislature.—E0.]

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Nottingham Historical Society
Preserving Nottingham's past for the future

Museum Hours:
Thurs 9-11am

Annual Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
August 14, 2022
The 300th history

Holiday Parade Saturday, 12/7/2019
Meeting outside Summer 2020

Zoom meeting 2/16/2021
Bonfire 1/8/2022

Alarm Day 4/23/2022
Charter Day 5/15/2022
A special thanks to the following folks who made this booklet possible: Tiler Eaton, who launched it, John Bartsch, Tina Cooke, and Mary Colvard of the Nottingham Historical Society for donating the black and white postcard photographs, the administrative staff at the Town Hall Betsy Warrington and Kelly Dallaire who organized the material, Gary Fuller of Select Print Solutions who produced it, the authors who contributed articles and our advertisers. Again, THANK YOU 😊

A big thank you to all these people that made this a yearlong celebration of events possible.

The 300th Committee  Steven Welch, Chair, Gary Anderson, Stephanie Beck, Rose Breslin-Dawson, ,Rhoda Capron, Tina Cooke, Bob Davidson, Tiler Eaton, Bill Garnett, Leanne Gast, Michelle Insley, Steve Soreff, Jaye Vilchock, Laurie Weisz, Joe Welch, Steve White


And to the people of Nottingham whose support and participation made all this happen.

Steve Soreff, MD The booklet organizer