



December 2023

President's Message and A Digital Exhibit Sneak Peak



Maxville loggers company photo c.1926. Courtesy of Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center.

Greetings and welcome to our last newsletter of the year!

As we are getting ready to shut down for the holidays, I wanted to send you a final 2023 greeting from the FHS.

I hope the days ahead will give you a chance to step away from the day-to-day bustle of the year, so you can relax and engage in the spirit of the season, whether that means sharing time with friends and family, or going for a long walk in the woods. For me, it will also mean catching up on some reading, which I have been meaning to do but never

seem to have quite enough time for during the year.

If you too are looking for something to read, we may have a recommendation for you... I am pleased to share with you a sneak peak of our newest digital exhibit. "Reclaiming Maxville: The Legacy of African Americans in a Lumber Town" won't go fully live until the new year, but I am excited to share it now with you, our friends and supporters of the FHS. Explore the exhibit by clicking the box below.

"Reclaiming Maxville" Exhibit

The exhibit was created in collaboration with the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center in Joseph, Oregon. It offers a fascinating look at life and work in an Oregon lumber town in the first half of the 20th century. As you'll see, Maxville was very much a town of its time but also defied some of the social and racial norms of the day.

We hope you enjoy it!

From all of us at the Forest History Society, we wish you happy holidays and a peaceful and healthy new year,

Tania

Set of Reuben Robertson Papers Donated



Peter Robertson (left) toured the building with historian Jamie Lewis (right) before sitting down to discuss how best to preserve the remaining papers in the family's possession.

Peter Robertson, a great-grandson of Peter G. Thomson, the founder of the Champion Fibre Company, visited FHS to donate two bound volumes of historical papers from his grandfather, Reuben B. Robertson Sr. "RBR," as Peter refers to his grandfather, ran the company and Champion's plant in Canton, NC, for several decades. The company was a major player in the pulp and paper industry; the Canton plant transformed western North Carolina. The volumes contain the typeset notes RBR had compiled about the early years of the Canton plant.

Peter Robertson (left) met with historian Jamie Lewis (right), archivist Eben Lehman, and FHS President and CEO Tania Munz while at FHS. He toured the building before sitting down to discuss how best to preserve the papers still in the family's possession.

You can learn more about the history of Champion Fibre plant in Canton and the Thomson-Robertson families through [one of our digital exhibits](#).

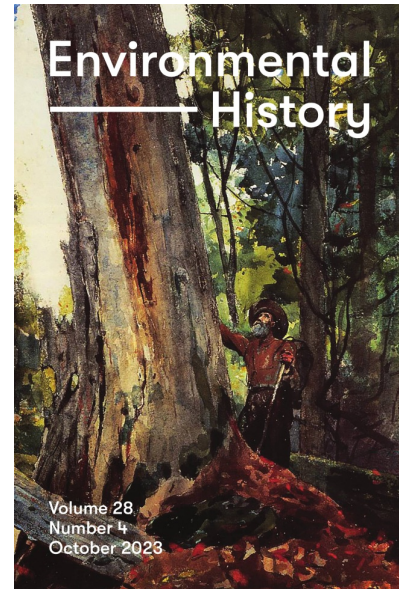
Check Out the Forest History Forum in EH

The October issue of *Environmental History*, copublished by FHS and the American Society for Environmental History, features a forum on forest history. We strongly encourage you to check it out. To understand the many future directions the field of forest history may be going, it is important to be familiar with the path it has traveled. This forum is an excellent primer on the topic.

The journal editors wrote in the issue's introduction that in the forum, "Jason Newton, Willa Brown, and Mark McLaughlin draw on a long-standing thread in forest history to make the case that the idea of a 'timber frontier' might be worth revisiting when tracing the history of North America's forests. Graeme Wynn and Ellen Stroud are more circumspect about the possibilities of doing so given the cultural freight that the notion of a frontier often carries, but agree with the authors that the intersection of forest history and environmental history is long overdue for regeneration." The articles included are:

- "Forests, Frontiers, and Extractivism" by Graeme Wynn
- "Cutover Capitalism: Connecting Labor and Nature in Forest Extraction" by Jason L. Newton
- "'Half Man, Half Wildcat': Itinerancy and the Myth of Frontier Manhood in the United States' Lake Region" by Willa Brown
- "Forests as Laboratories: The Intersections of the Histories of Forests, the Environment, and Science" by Mark J. McLaughlin
- "New Directions in Forest History, but Please No New Frontiers" by Ellen Stroud
- "Forest History and Environmental History: Kissing Cousins?" by Graeme Wynn

Ellen Stroud's article, in part, critiques the use of the term "frontier" and its troubled past. Graeme Wynn's second article reviews the history of FHS and ASEH, the journals they have published and publish, and the historiographic changes in the fields of forest history and environmental history.

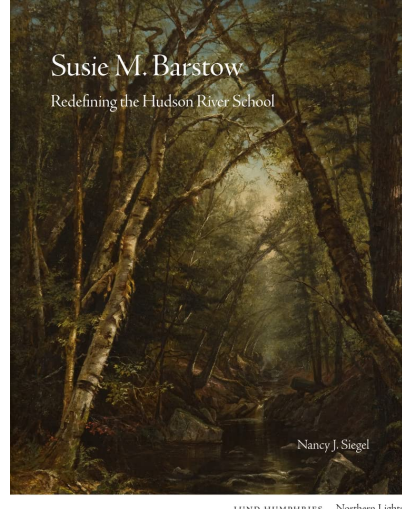


Join Us for A New Year of Webinars

Join us for the webinar series

Conversations in Forest History

With host and FHS Historian Jamie Lewis



"Susie M. Barstow: Redefining the Hudson River School of Painting" with Nancy Siegel

Jan. 25, 2024, 1-2 PM ET

Conversations in Forest History kicks off a new year of presentations with one linked to a new biography and an art exhibit. Susie M. Barstow and other women were part of the Hudson River school of landscape painting in the 1800s but were omitted from its histories when they were written in the 20th century. A prolific artist, Barstow (1836–1923) was as popular and widely travelled as the men in her lifetime but quickly slipped from public memory after her death. Nancy Siegel's talk will examine the life and career of this fascinating artist through vast and previously unknown archival materials. This rare occasion to mine the depths of an artist's life through paintings, letters, photographs, and sketchbooks provides a unique opportunity to present a comprehensive study that is both art-historically significant and visually stunning.

Barstow is the subject of Siegel's new biography [*Susie M. Barstow: Redefining the Hudson River School of Painting*](#). Her work is featured in the exhibit "Women Reframe American Landscape: Susie Barstow & Her Circle / Contemporary Practices" at the [New Britain Museum of American Art](#) until March 30, 2024.

This webinar is approved for 1 hour of CFE credit in Category 1.

[Register Here](#)

Andrea Anderson Retiring from FHS

After 32 years of amazing service, including working for three of FHS's five executive directors, Andrea Anderson will be retiring as our Administrative Assistant in January. She has supported our back office, including book orders and sales, awards, external events, and so much more. She is also known to many of you as the always-friendly voice at the end of our phone line.

Please join us in thanking her for all that she has done for the FHS. We wish her well in her much-deserved retirement!

Call for Papers – The 2024 Dublin Seminar

for New England Folklife



*"Lumbering Camp in Winter," by Edward Hill (1843–1923), 1882.
Courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society*

The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife is pleased to announce the subject of its 2024 gathering, "Into the Woods: New England Forests in Fact and Imagination," to be held June 28-29, 2024, in Deerfield, MA. The Forest History Society is a proud sponsor of this year's seminar.

The 2024 Seminar invites proposals for *individual* papers and presentations that address the rich and varied histories of the relationship between the peoples of New England and adjacent areas and their forests. Organizers welcome proposals exploring the economic, cultural, or social significance of trees and forests in New England history, or sharing methodologies for studying, interpreting, or mapping trees and forests. The Seminar encourages papers grounded in interdisciplinary approaches and original research. Presenters will have the opportunity to publish their papers in the *Annual Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar*.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 12 PM EST, Monday, February 19, 2024. For more details and information, visit [the Dublin Seminar website](#).

Year-End Giving

Thanks to you, our members and donors, FHS has accomplished so much this year! Here are examples of your membership donation dollars at work:

- Our searchable databases now list: 40,576 images, 18,425 books, 27,671 articles and 3,605 dissertations and theses!
- Over a twelve-month period, just over 15,000 searches were performed on our website.
- Nearly 3,500 people attended the

Conversations in Forest History webinar series.

- More than 15 on-site researchers and Bell Travel grant recipients visited FHS to perform research

The Forest History Society is a charitable 501(c)3 organization that relies on private support to operate our programs and keep our building open as a free resource to all.

Please renew your support before the end of the year so that we can keep the work going. We cannot do it without you!

If you would like your credit card to be processed before December 31, 2023, please donate online at the link below or call our office before 5 p.m. on Friday, December 22, 2023. Thank you!



[Renew Your Support](#)



Mark Your Calendar!

The Forest History Society, including the library and archives, will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024. Happy holidays!



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