

29th Annual Conference on New England Industrial Archeology

Saturday, March 5th, 2016

Boyd Hall, Room 144
Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.

Program

9:30 am - Registration, coffee and donuts

9:45 am - Greetings from Northern New England
Chapter President David Dunning

Introduction of Speakers by David Coughlin,
conference chair

10:00 am - **Bill Gerber:** “Canal Side Landings”

In the first half of the 19th century a 120 mile system of canals and navigable waterways provided “heavy lifting” transportation services throughout the Merrimack Valley and the area north of Boston. Interspersed throughout much of the system were more than three dozen “Landings” which provided shipping and receiving services for those who had goods to transport.

10:40 am - **Peter Stott:** “Lost Tools -
The Disappearance of the *Engineering Index*”

The paper will briefly look at the history and significance of the *Engineering Index* over nearly a century 1886 -1968.

This annual index to the western world’s engineering periodicals used to be on the open shelves of every research library in the country. It has been removed to the library stacks where “out of sight is out of mind”. In the age of the Internet, researchers and librarians alike have assumed that “everything is online” and today many younger research librarians no longer even know what the *Engineering Index* is.

11:20 am - **Dennis Howe:** “Chair for Discussion
Session”

This session is regarding the current issues facing the two New England chapters. All attendees are invited to join a discussion about the challenges facing our chapters. For example, suggestions for using new communications techniques and media might be discussed along with ways to increase membership.

Noon - LUNCH

1:20 pm - **Chip Taylor:** “ A 220 Year Old Dig
- How Not to do It”

There has been digging on Nova Scotia’s Oak Island since the late 1700’s. First picks and shovels were used, then steam powered drills and pumps and dynamite. Today it’s backhoes, bulldozers, and SCUBA gear. What are they looking for? Chip Taylor will provide the facts and myths of this dig which continues today.

2:00 pm - **Marc Belanger:** “M.M. Rhodes & Sons
Company, Taunton, Mass. - Part II

In 2014, the M.M. Rhodes and Sons Co. in Taunton, Mass. closed after more than 150 years in business by the Rhodes family. The company produced a variety of small metal items over the years, but the most successful item was paper-mache shoe buttons made between 1875 and 1915. This presentation will expand upon the talk given at the 2015 New England SIA conference in Holden, Mass. and will provide new information on production methods and other business details, including a notable New Hampshire connection.

2:40 pm - **David Starbuck:** “Ireland’s Favorite
Industries on Display to Visitors from Around
the World”

A recent visit to Ireland included tours of Waterford Crystal and the Guinness Storehouse. Waterford’s new manufacturing facility melts over 750 tons of crystal a year. The 7-floor Guinness Storehouse is an industrial museum that is one of the most popular attractions in Europe. Taken together, these two sites provide a dynamic view of Irish glass making and brewing.

For further information contact David Coughlin at
ykforestry@yahoo.com before day of conference.