

October 28, 1982

Mr. John H. Hemenway  
New England Forestry Foundation  
85 Newbury St. Boston MA 02116

Dear Mr. Hemenway,

Thank you for your recent letter with the Foundation News included. We appreciate your kindness in permitting our Old Home Day pilgrimage to the old "Lead Mine." This has been a feature of our celebrations every year since our 1969 Bicentennial. I am enclosing snapshots taken Oct. 2, 1982 on this year's trip. I have also included a copy of a picture taken by my father, about the turn of the century, of another group at the mine. The girl lying down is my mother. The man standing is my father's brother with his wife, recently married, and in the hiking clothes of the period.

Twenty three people were on hand at nine O'clock in the morning for this year's climb, and were served coffee and doughnuts at the Parish Hall before the start. The vehicles were left near the cellar hole where Sarah and Samuel White's house once stood. Sam White sold the mine property to General Benjamin Pierce (Franklin's father) in 1828. We followed the old road that was used by the ox cart drivers to haul the barrels of crushed ore down the mountain.

The trail comes into Foundation property near the Northwest corner bound and continues diagonally up the mountain to the mine which is not far from the Southeast corner.

About half way a stop is made and while the weary climbers rest a few of the hardy ones go to inspect "Aunt Annie Bradford's" cellar hole. The panorama to the north and west is breath taking, but I marvel at the toughness of the old lady who faced the northwest wind as she went out to do the barn chores in those January days.

Our Old Home Day program is quite varied and an attempt is made to have something of interest for everyone, but the lead mine trip is always the feature attraction for many people and is talked about and looked forward to, whenever the celebration is mentioned.

President Pierce bought his father's interest in the mine in 1844 and nine years later that portion that belonged to his brother, Henry D. Pierce. In 1864 he sold the mine to The Sunapee Mining and Manufacturing Company. This company, with a larger work force and perhaps newer machinery and better methods worked the mine actively for three years, but due probably to economic conditions it was closed down in 1867.

Very truly yours,  
Arthur W. Nelson