

North Hampton Historical Society

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The Great Sheep Boom and Its Enduring Legacy on the New Hampshire Landscape

North Hampton Town Hall May 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm

In a brief 30-year period in the early 19th century the New Hampshire countryside became home to hundreds of thousands of sheep. Production of wool became a lucrative business, generating fortunes and providing the only time of true agricultural prosperity in the state's history. It left behind a legacy of fine architecture and thousands of miles of rugged stonewalls. **Steve Taylor** discusses how farmers overcame enormous challenges to make sheep husbandry succeed, but forces from beyond New Hampshire were to doom the industry, with social consequences that would last a century.

Steve Taylor is an independent scholar, farmer, journalist and longtime public official. With his sons, Taylor operates a dairy, maple syrup and cheese making enterprise in Meriden Village.