

Block Out This Date: Saturday, May 19th 2012
Northern New England Spring SIA Tour
Claremont, NH, beginning at 9:30 am (rain or shine)



Sites – Subjects – Sequence

The **Concord to Claremont Railroad** finally linked the Claremont mills to the eastern coast in the 1870's when a newfangled steam drill bored through the Newbury cut.

The **Sugar River** begins at Lake Sunapee and meanders about 18 miles to the Connecticut River. Dropping 800 feet along the way, it powered many mills of many types.

The **Monadnock Mills** produced some of the nation's finest Jacquard quilts and cotton and linen fabrics for almost 90 years.

The **Claremont Gas Light Company** provided gas lights for The Monadnock Mills and some stores and houses in the village.

One of only three remaining **Moseley tubular bowstring bridges** left in the US is right here!

LUNCH will be at **The Common Man** in one of the mill buildings overlooking the river. You can go elsewhere but you'll miss the old mill atmosphere and the great old photos on the walls.

The **Sullivan Machine Company** made mining and quarrying machinery which revolutionized the coal mining industry. Merging with Joy Manufacturing Company in 1946, they produced the thousands of compressors and rock drills that we saw building the interstate highway system.

The **Sullivan Foundry** was right where we'll be parked. Retired managers from both the foundry and the manufacturing plant will tell us all about them. Other Sullivan retirees will share their personal experiences of the old days there.

The **Sullivan Power Plant** (remnants there) had three Wickers boilers, an engine and compressor room housing a Corliss compressor made by Sullivan and a fire pump house.

The seven **Hydro-turbines** along the Sugar River in Claremont are now owned by one company. We will learn about them and their history. Pictures of the Sullivan turbine room will be on display.

About four miles west is the **High Railroad Bridge**. The first wooden bridge was built on granite piers about 1850 and replaced with a much higher iron trestle about 1880. One of the first steam shovels ever operated on a large job was trained and then hauled from Boston for this project. Visitors coming from the Vermont side will drive under this entering Claremont.

Everyone should bring a guest who might join.

Check in at the **Waypoint Visitors Center**. Coffee and donuts will be waiting inside along with informative tour maps and large photos. All is free to members but there will be a contribution can next to the coffee. Non-members will be asked for a \$5 donation.

Directions Coming from any direction look for small brown signs saying Visitor's Center. It's at 14 North Street. (Google it or ask someone) When you see the view of the mills across the river, you're there. Please park in the lower parking lot and walk up. Arrive early.

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