

NFLA Historical Committee opens for business

Posted Oct. 16, 2009 (from the newsletter)—The NFLA Historical Committee held its inaugural meeting on October 6, 2009. The committee is co-chaired by Debo Powers and Morgan Hart. The meeting was well attended with 7 members gathering to discuss ways in which the NFLA can locate, duplicate, categorize and store aspects of the rich historical heritage of the North Fork. The collective activities of the committee, its members and any interested affiliated individuals will be referred to as The North Fork History Project for external communications purposes. Potential project areas discussed by the committee included: oral history, a timeline of the North Fork with associated reference materials, Indian trails, history of fire, homesteader biographies, art history and culinary history.

There are a great deal of artifacts in the form of oral histories and stories; documents such as diaries, journals and letters; photos and maps as well as locations of buildings which need to be captured before they are lost. Our old timers aren't getting any younger and deteriorating source materials should be collected, duplicated and stored as soon as possible. Efforts were initiated to locate these artifacts with initial priority given to locating and conducting interviews with senior North Fork residents and former residents. The committee was excited at the prospect of relocating the old North Fork School House (aka Funk Cabin) to a location adjacent to Sondreson Hall and having it be a North Fork Museum. We discussed the need for funds to make that happen. There has been discussion at the last two business meetings about reviving the North Fork auction and the Historical Committee suggested using the auction specifically as a fundraising activity to raise money to acquire and move the old school house. The committee is also going to pursue federal RAC funding. Finally, the committee would like to urge all NFLA members to

think about and list anything that you can think of that might be of interest for the project. Make a list of the people, stories, documents, pictures, diaries, drawings, maps, journals, tools, books, photos, tapes, etc., even buildings, and send the list to either **Debo Powers** or **Morgan Hart**. There is a vast store of knowledge in North Forkers themselves. We need to identify and locate former residents. As committee member Tom Edwards said during the meeting: “People make the North Fork special.” Help preserve the memories of this special place.