Sanborn Mills Farm
Loudon, New Hampshire
A traditional New Hampshire farm incorporated as a nonprofit . . .

And dedicated to . . . sustainability, creativity & preserving folklife & agricultural knowledge so that the best of the past can help shape our future.
Using water-powered technology . . .
The Sanborns provided essential services to the community of Loudon and beyond . . .
Six Generations of Sanborns . . .

John Sanborn (1681 - 1727)
Immigrated from England – a successful entrepreneur on the Seacoast near what is today Exeter - raised 12 children.

John’s son . . .
Elisha Sanborn (1710 - 1786)
A lumberman, house wright, surveyor & furniture maker on the Seacoast - invested in a share of a sash sawmill on Gilmanton Pond in Loudon – raised 5 children.
**Elisha’s son . . .**

**John Sanborn** (born 1747)
770 & 1773 purchased land in Loudon where his father’s sawmill was - became active in the Town of Loudon.

**Captain John’s son . . .**

**Edmund Sanborn** (born 1788)
Rebuilt the dam on Sanborn pond - his son-in-law Theodore Farnum Elliott built a new sawmill & grist mill.
Edmund’s son . . .

James B. Sanborn (born 1820)
Upgraded the up & down sash sawmill to a circular blade - 1870s
built a Colonial Greek Revival house for his 2nd wife, Mary Yeaw
James’ son . . .
John B. Sanborn (born 1863)
Kept up with the traditions of New England farm.

John B.’s daughter . . .
Ruth Sanborn King - in 2009 at the age of 100 wrote Listen to the Crickets - A Memoir on Rural Life in New Hampshire in the early Twentieth Century.
John’s son . . .

Albin Sanborn (died 1972)
Modernized some of the operations - added milking stanchions, a bulk tank & a loafing shed to the barn.

Albin’s son . . .

John A. Sanborn (died 1995)
Shipped milk off the farm until the mid 1980s.
1996 - Colin & Paula Cabot purchased Sanborn Mills Farm. Embarked upon restoration work of the mills & began to offer education programs . . .
Aerial of Sanborn Mills Farm - 1994
The Houses
Big House, Little House,
Back House & Barn
House built in 1870s - Barn built in 1850s

as seen in 1918
Main House

As seen in 1996
Main House

As seen in 2015
Old Carriage Barn
(right) Built 1850s
New Carriage Barn
Built 2017 & 2018
New Carriage Barn

Lower floor – function space  /  Upper floor – bunkhouse
Red House
Built late 18th century in Maine

Arriving at Sanborn Mills Farm - 1998
Red House

As seen in 2016
Red House Interior

With overnight lodging for workshop students
THE BARNs
Sanborn Barn
Built in 1850s

As seen in 1918
Sanborn Barn

As seen in 1960s with manure shed & milk house
Sanborn Barn

As seen in 2016 - with cellar being repurposed for kitchen & dining hall
Sanborn Barn Interior

As seen in 2016 - restored timber framing by Fifield Relocation & Restoration, Canterbury, N.H.
Horse Barn

Built 1850s
Horse Barn

As seen in 2016 - restored with high drive to 2nd floor
Horse Barn Interior

Serving as the wood shop for ongoing construction projects
Horse Barn Interior
Bachelder - Edgerly Barn
aka Grano Barn  built in 1806

Formerly on route 4 in Northwood
Bachelder -Edgerly Barn / Grano Barn

Laying out the timber framed floor system
Bachelder -Edgerly Barn / Grano Barn

Raising the first side bent with gin poles
Raising the second side bent with gin poles
Bachelder -Edgerly Barn / Grano Barn

Nearly completed frame with roof system in place
Bachelder - Edgerly Barn / Grano Barn

Finished barn complete with siding
As seen in 2015
Bachelder - Edgerly Barn / Grano Barn

Used for hay storage, oxen workshops & corn husking celebrations
Corn Crib

Original date 1800’s – Relocated 2007
Barden Barn

Built in 2008 - named for teamster Les Barden
Barden Barn

Timber frame nearly complete
THE MILLS
Sawmill

Built in 1829 as sash sawmill
1870s - converted to circular saw
1891 - 56” Lane sawblade installed

As seen in 1918
Sawmill

As seen in the 1990s
As seen the 1990s with slabs piled up & collapsed bridge in foreground

Sawmill
Sawmill

As seen in the 2016
Sawmill

Carriage can saw up to 40 foot timbers
56 " Lane saw blade & sawing lumber & gearing for the sawmill
Wide board pine harvested & sawn at Sanborn Mills Farm
Steps in Rebuilding the Sawmill Dam

• Drain pond
• Move sawmill off the old dam
• Remove old dam
• Bring in concrete
• Rebuild stone walls
• Rebuild lower level
• Replace sawmill on the dam
Drain the pond
Move the sawmill & remove the old dam
Bring in concrete & heavy equipment
Relay the stone walls on the mill pond side of the spillway
Relay the base stones on the toe side of the spillway
Rebuild the lower level
Replace mill on new foundation
Original turbine, gearing & drive shaft
Blacksmith Ralph Sproul fits a new bearing to the old turbine
Sawmill

As seen in 2015 with dam fully restored
The Grist Mill
built in 1830

As seen in the mid 1900s
Grist Mill

As seen in the 1990s
Grist Mill & Upper Dam

As seen in the 2015
Grist Mill
Grist Mill

French burr stone for wheat

Granite millstone for corn
Grist Mill

Grinding corn meal
Grist Mill

Water wheel to run a second mill stone
Grist Mill

Temporary gearing system to run the corn cracker
Grist Mill

Corn cracker
Rebuilding the Grist Mill Penstock

In 2015
Rebuilding the Grist Mill Penstock

Draining the pond & building up the form to pour concrete for the penstock
Old Blacksmith Shop
Built in 1850s
Old Blacksmith Shop

Historic forge, anvil, quench bucket & leather bellows.
Ornamental Gardens
Ornamental Gardens
Ornamental Gardens
Ornamental Gardens
Day-to-day Farm Life
Livestock
Haying & Grains
Haying & Grains
Haying
Forest Management
Logging in Winter
Firewood & Lumber
Vegetable Gardening for Workshop Meals
Vegetable Gardening for Workshop Meals
Workshops in Old Ways
Blacksmithing Workshops
Blacksmithing Workshops
Blacksmithing Workshops
Blacksmithing Workshops
Draft Animal Workshops

Working oxen in the gardens
Draft Animal Workshops

Working oxen in the woods.
Ox Yoke Making Workshops
Ox Yoke Making Workshops
Traditional Floor Cloth Workshops
Basket Making Workshops
What’s Next?
Explore & expansion of educational opportunities & adapt facilities for people to stay, eat, learn, & create.

Draft design concept for the "upper campus" by TMS Architects along with our staff team.
We are lighting the way from the past to the future . . . Stay tuned!
VISIT US !!
Open House &
Water-Powered Mill Demonstration Day
Sunday, July 29, 2018
10 am to 3 pm