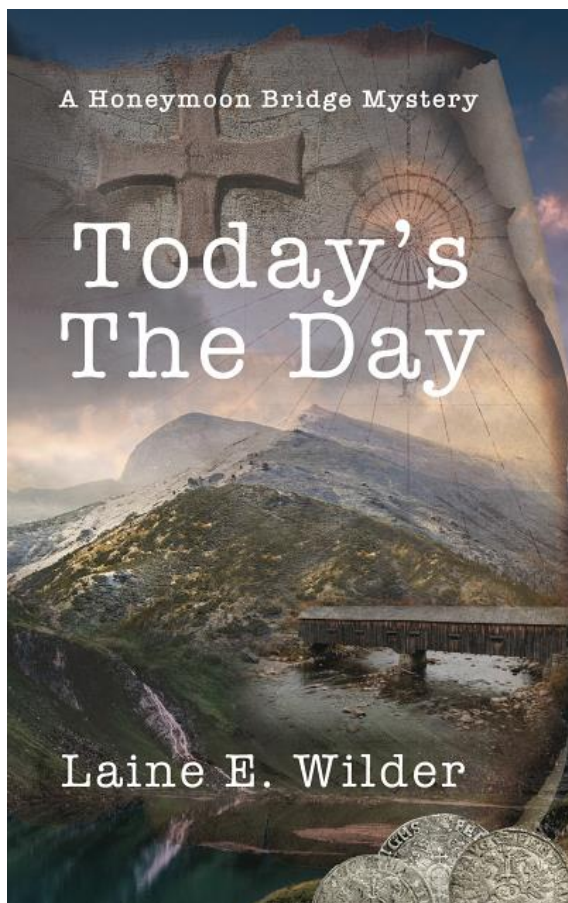




The second novel in Laine Wilder's Honeymoon Bridge Mystery series, Laine weaves ancient native legends, Knights Templars, Pre-Columbian discoveries, holy relics, and modern-day greed into another fascinating visit to the village of Jackson.

Today's The Day
By Laine E. Wilder

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A Honeymoon Bridge Mystery

Today's The Day

Laine E. Wilder

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Print ISBN: 978-1-961269-03-3

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88532-719-0

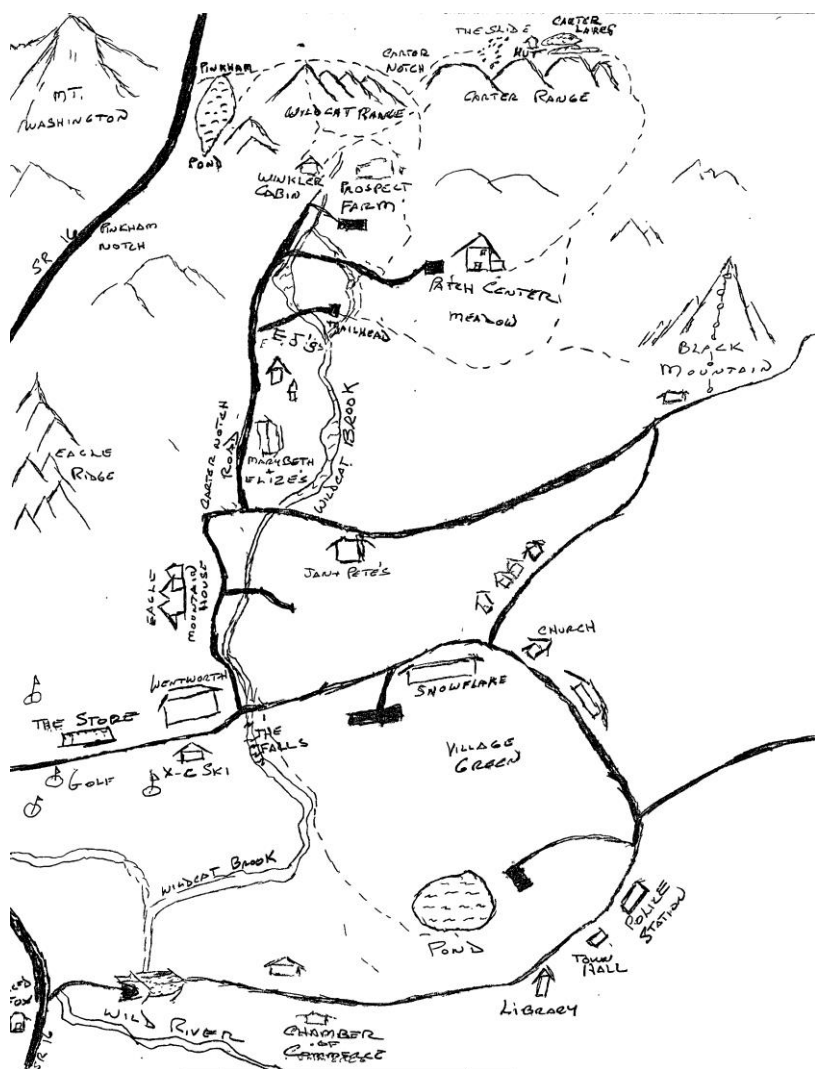
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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

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BookLocker.com, Inc.
2026

First Edition



Prologue

April in the White Mountains of New Hampshire is traditionally ‘kickback and recharge’ time for locals. Winter’s major hits are over; almost all of the ski areas have closed, and many of the lodges, bars, and restaurants shut down for a few weeks to give the employees, and the owners, a breather before Memorial Day Weekend ushers in the summer season.

Not much goes on in Jackson, New Hampshire in April. The golf courses at The Wentworth and Eagle Mountain House are semi-open, walking only, no carts due to soggy turf. The maple trees have given all the sap they could give and now are budding with this year’s leaves. It was a great snow year, so now Wildcat Brook is a white-water torrent, carrying snow melts from the high country to the sea in Portland. Too rough to kayak, way too rough to fish.

The little village proper was quintessential New England, with a rustic town hall, a few old bars and inns, a school, and even a library that had been taken apart, moved three miles, and reassembled on its present spot. All scattered around the village green and anchored by the white steepled Community Church of Jackson.

A major source of excitement is the appearance of tulips and daffodils in gardens and along roadsides waking up, their leaves and buds stretching skywards, seeking the warm sun after having spent a long cold winter in their bulbs.

Also waking up from a long winter’s nap are the area’s black bears. They emerge from their dens ravenous after living off body fat for four or five months. Their relentless pursuit of nutrition provides a topic of conversation among locals whose

porches and garbage cans have been visited by these beautiful creatures.

Come the end of April, after being basically closed for a month, you can feel the village getting a bit antsy to get rolling again. The 1,000 or so inhabitants of Jackson can only stay dormant for so long!

This year, our local ski area is staying open until the first Sunday in May, which helps with publicity for our little town, and Margie Wilder from the Chamber of Commerce has been pushing Springtime in Jackson, working with tour companies, our local hotels and attractions, along with the outlet center in North Conway to include our town on their itinerary. It has worked fairly well, and the five weekends between now and Memorial Day look busier than we had hoped.

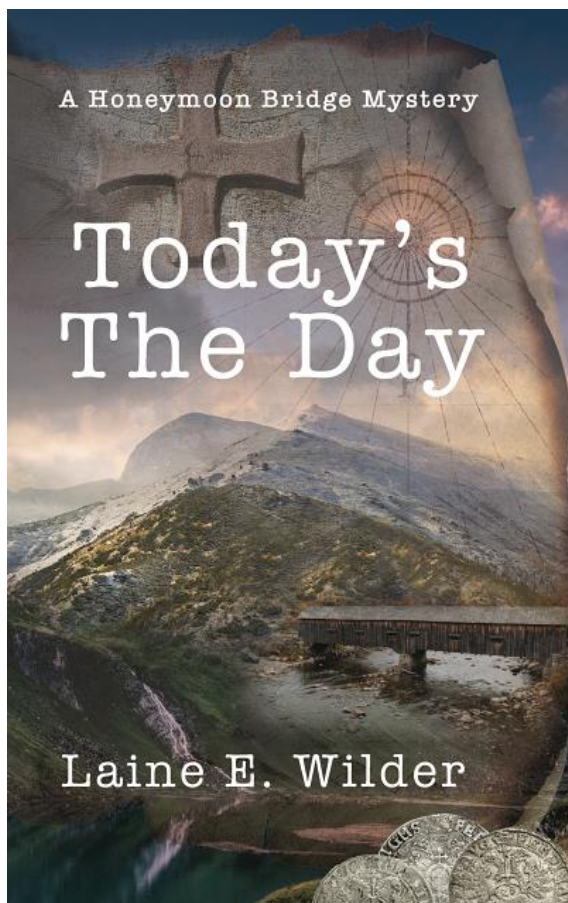
In order to get a jump on something major for next spring, having heard about the Spring Social gathering of the five nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy of First Peoples, Margie has reached out to our indigenous Abenaki Tribe's elders about hosting the Social here in Jackson. Since it is their turn to host next year, Chief George Henry was all ears and will be coming to Jackson to discuss it.

It could be a huge event, drawing hundreds, if not thousands of visitors. The event would surely fill all of Jackson's rooms and restaurants, and probably many in North Conway as well. People love the crafts, the dancing, the costumes, and especially the story telling by each tribe of long-ago legends and myths.

Some stories are fanciful, some involve tribal beliefs, some are historical, harkening back farther than any known European contact. Unbeknownst to almost everyone except a few Abenaki Chiefs and Elders, and the Chiefs of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia, one long forgotten legend that no one seemed to really

believe, has recently been given a new life, as evidence has come to light that the legend may actually be fact. If it is proven to be true, it will have lasting impact not only on the history of European contact, but also on the tribes themselves. For some, the impact would be good, for other tribes perhaps not.

And wouldn't you know it- this legend is centered around our little village of Jackson....



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