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## Sketch by 19th Century Vermont Painter Donated to Society

**A**n 1882 crayon and wash sketch of Kent's Corners in Calais, Vermont, by James Franklin Gilman (shown below) has been donated to the collections of the Vermont Historical Society by J. Brooks Buxton of Jericho. The Society owned and operated the Kent Tavern, the centerpiece of the sketch, from the 1940s to the late 1990s.

Gilman worked with a variety of mediums – oil, crayon, watercolor, or etching – in creating his detailed Vermont landscapes. Measuring 20 inches by 30 inches, the Kent's Corners picture is noteworthy for Gilman's inclusion of nine members of the Kent family in the scene. "This is the only one of Gilman's landscapes of farm and family in which the people look posed," writes Adele Godchaux Dawson in her 1975 book, *James Franklin Gilman: Nineteenth-Century Painter*. Family stories told by the Kent family say that Gilman posed three different groups of people and made sketches of them, which he later placed in the finished picture.

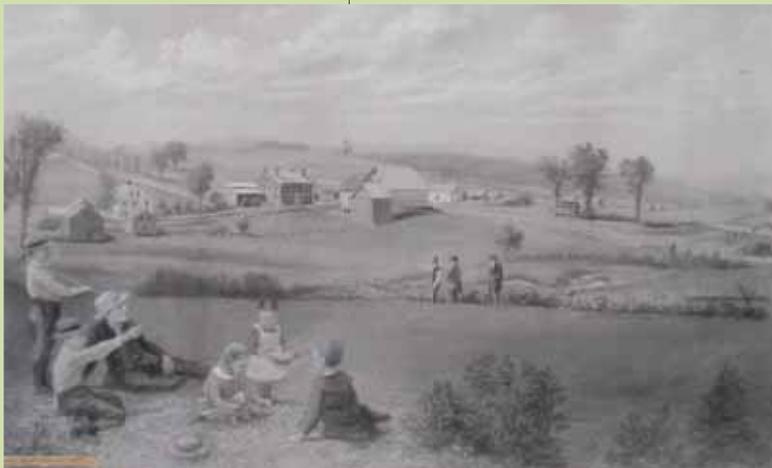
"The Gilman drawing represents the best of what the Vermont Historical Society is looking for in a new acquisition," said VHS Curator Jackie Calder. "The visual documentation of a known community within the Vermont landscape, the quality of the artist's work, and information about the Kent family – which adds to the Society's collection of Kent family papers – make this a very important addition to our collections."

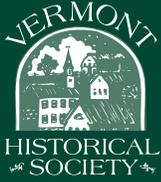
VHS is home to the largest collection of Gilman paintings and drawings. Gilman worked in Vermont, principally in Washington County, from 1872 to 1891. During his long career he produced approximately 300 paintings of New England farms, homes, fields, and landscapes. The acquisition of the Kent's Corners sketch adds to the 39 Gilman prints, paintings, or drawings owned by the Society.

J. Brooks Buxton is a trustee of the Vermont Historical Society and a prominent collector of Vermont art. He serves as co-chair of the VHS collections committee and has donated several important Vermont paintings to the Society in the past two years.

The Society will display the Gilman picture at its museum facility in the Pavilion building on State Street in Montpelier. "This is a significant central Vermont picture," VHS Director J. Kevin Graffagnino

said, "and we want to make sure that residents of the area in which Gilman lived and worked will have the chance to see it in conjunction with our 'Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories' permanent exhibit."





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The Vermont Historical Society engages both Vermonters and “Vermonters at heart” in the exploration of our state’s rich heritage. Our purpose is to reach a broad audience through our outstanding collections, statewide outreach and dynamic programming. We believe that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.

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children under 6: Free;

Student school groups: Free

Call 802-828-2180

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From the Director



## A Statewide History Community

Most members and friends of the Vermont Historical Society know that VHS is fortunate to be part of a strong, vibrant network of heritage organizations in our state. Not a week goes by that we don't interact substantively with local historical societies, state agencies, museums, libraries, and other entities working on some aspect of Vermont's past. Sometimes VHS is in the lead; sometimes we're part of the group; and occasionally we're just helping out with a great initiative someone else has launched – but in almost every case Vermonters benefit from the collegial and collaborative spirit these cooperative ventures generate.

The range of institutional resources available for anyone interested in Vermont history is impressive. At the local level, there are 196 active town historical societies in Vermont, up from about 150 a decade ago. At VHS we like to think our Vermont History Expo, with its emphasis on providing a popular display venue for local heritage, has been a driving force in that increase, but whatever the reason it's encouraging that almost every community in the state with a population over 300 now has its own historical society. Take a look at the publications, lectures and presentations, school programs, and exhibits these organizations provide, and it's pleasing to see that Vermont natives and newcomers alike have easy access to information about the history of their towns.

Move up a step in size, and you have to be proud of Vermont's outstanding historical entities. How many small states have museums like Shelburne Museum, Billings Farm and Museum, Bennington Museum, The Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, the Old Stone House in Brownington, Fairbanks Museum, Rokeby in Ferrisburgh, and the “Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories” VHS exhibit at the Pavilion in Montpelier? Or organizations like the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Humanities Council? On the research collections side, all VHSers know that the Society's library is extraordinary for its Vermont sources, but we're awfully glad to have the remarkable holdings of the Wilbur Collection at UVM, the libraries at Bennington and Sheldon, the state colleges, and the Vermont holdings at local libraries throughout the state available as well.

And let's not forget state government. Where would we be without the Division for Historic Preservation and its work on Vermont's built environment, archaeology, highway markers, historic sites, downtown revitalization, historic barn programs, and other services? Take away the rich collections of the State Archives and the Public Records division, and there would be sizeable gaps in our knowledge of Vermont history. If State Curator David Schutz and the Friends of the State House organization were not part of the equation, our splendid capitol and its furniture, artwork and other treasures might languish unattended. The Division of Tourism and Marketing puts substantial time and money into heritage tourism; the Department of Education has a position devoted to social studies and history in our schools; other state agencies provide funding for heritage projects; the administration and legislature are always attentive to the role history plays in the quality of life in Vermont – add it all up, and we're lucky indeed to have a state government that appreciates history's importance to our state.

VHS is stronger for having these partners in our work. We're proud that we're the oldest heritage organization in Vermont, and we know our programs, services and activities are valuable to all Vermonters, but everyone at the Society is well aware that it's a team effort. Vermont wins when VHS works as part of the whole, and having such a strong roster of cultural heritage partners is gratifying indeed.

– J. Kevin Graffagnino, VHS Executive Director

## Photos Wanted!

Photographs are some of the most popular materials in the collections of the VHS Library. Researchers and visitors love to look at old photographs and see what familiar places used to look like. We can almost imagine ourselves stepping back in time when we look into an old photograph.

The VHS Library is always seeking additions to our photograph collections. Sometimes, however, owners of historic photographs do not want to part with the originals. In these cases it is possible to make digital copies of selected photographs. Following up on that idea, for the second year in a row, the VHS Library will have a booth at the Vermont History Expo set up to scan photographs for the Society's permanent collections. Library staff and volunteers will be available to create digital copies of photographs brought to Expo.

Ideally, photos should show some activity, structure, or landscape from the past. Studio portraits, photocopies, and newspaper clippings will not be scanned. There will be a limit of five photographs per household. Copies of these photographs will become part of the Society's collections for use by future generations. Owners will be asked to sign a release and provide any known information about the images; if they wish, owners will receive a CD containing copies of the images. People who want to bring already scanned photographs on CDs may do so as long as they are adequately identified. 📷



*The Scanning Photographs for the Future table was first featured at Vermont History Expo last year. Members from the Library staff work with visitors to scan their historic pictures.*

## Trapp Family Photographs at Library

One of the most enduring tales of struggles for freedom in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the story of the emigration of the von Trapp family from Austria to the United States in the 1939. The family, chased out of their native country by the Nazis, first settled in Pennsylvania. Then, in 1942, they purchased a 600-acre tract of land on a hillside in Stowe, whose topography reminded them of their homeland. There they built a home, a summer camp, and eventually a lodge and ski center. For the past 65 years the family's home and hostelry has been a Vermont institution.

The Vermont Historical Society recently purchased a collection of photographs from the early years of the Trapp family in Vermont. In 1944 the family rented an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp near their Stowe home and established a music camp there. Over a thousand people of all ages and from all walks of life made their way to Stowe to learn a cappella singing and recorder playing. The camp was discontinued after the summer season in 1956, when the family began to develop new avenues for their creativity and hospitality.

The photo collection that is now in the Society's library is comprised of professional photographs of activities at the camp and publicity photographs of the family. The collection includes a scrapbook with 26 images and about 35 loose postcards. From the markings on the images, it appears that the postcards were created by the company that produced the postcards for the family. Although some of these photographs were already in the Society's postcard collection, the new collection gives a broader view of the family's activities and their early efforts to create one of the landmarks of Vermont tourism. 📷



*A photo of the Trapp family now in the VHS collection.*

## Ernie Haas Donates Painting

**W**ell-known maritime artist Ernie Haas donated one of his paintings to the Society this past year. The *Chateaugay in Burlington Harbor* Circa 1895 (right) depicts the famous steamboat with the Burlington waterfront in the background. Put into service in 1888, The Chateaugay was the first iron-hulled steamboat on Lake Champlain. In 1937 it was cut into pieces and moved on flatcars to Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. It was launched in 1940 and continues service today as the diesel-powered *M.S. Mount Washington II*.

This vibrant painting of Vermont's bustling late-nineteenth-century waterfront city is a prime example of Haas's beautifully rendered and historically accurate artwork. The artist, who taught history for 20 years



before retiring to South Burlington, has combined his love of history and painting into a successful career. The painting makes a valuable addition to the VHS collections and can be seen on display at the Vermont History Center in Barre. 

## Vermont Days Weekend June 9 and 10

**V**ermont Days is a free statewide event celebrating Vermont's natural resources, history, and talent brought to you by the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Tourism & Marketing, and the Division of Historic Preservation, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Vermont Arts Council, Vermont

Information Centers, and many supportive state employees and volunteers. **Free admission is enjoyed to the following:** day use at Vermont State Parks, fishing on Saturday, June 9th, entrance to state-owned historic sites and the Vermont Historical Society Museum, entertainment including live music and artistic demonstrations, and Vermont dairy products. Find other special events and locations in your area at [www.vermontdays/vermont.gov](http://www.vermontdays.vermont.gov) 



Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, William Jenney

## Los estudiantes de Vermont traducen los materiales del museo\*

Visitors from all over the world come to explore the “Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories” exhibit in Montpelier. Now, thanks to the work of Montpelier High School’s Spanish III class, Spanish-speaking visitors will have a more meaningful museum experience. Under the guidance of teacher Ellen Sholk and service learning coordinator Matt McLane, these students have completed a translation of an exhibit overview into Spanish.

Foreign language translations of the exhibit have been on the Society’s “wish list” for some time, but Education Director Amy Cunningham’s recent trip to Argentina made it a high priority. “From a visitor’s perspective,” Amy recalls, “I began to understand what a difference it made in my museum experience to have a simple overview of the exhibition in my native language. It really opened my eyes to the importance of our providing the same resource to non-English speakers at our Montpelier museum.”

The Spanish III class kicked off their project by inviting Amy to visit their classroom. She shared comment cards with them in Spanish, written by museum visitors from Mexico, Peru, Argentina, and Belize. The students dove into the project with enthusiasm, visiting the museum the next week and completing their translations

soon after. “This has really been a meaningful experience,” said Meredith Whitney, a member of the class. “I had the chance to apply what I have learned in Spanish to something outside the classroom. I felt like an expert in something by sharing it with others and was able to make a positive change. For me, it is one of the best ways to learn.”

The philosophy of service learning is to create opportunities for students to connect their studies with a community need. The Society has worked with local schools on service learning projects before. Last year, 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Main Street Middle School created a timeline of recent Montpelier history that is still on display at the museum.

In addition, the French Club of South Burlington High School, under the guidance of Marc Juneau, is currently working on a French translation that will be ready this summer. They were inspired to undertake this project after bringing an exchange group of Quebec students to the museum in March.

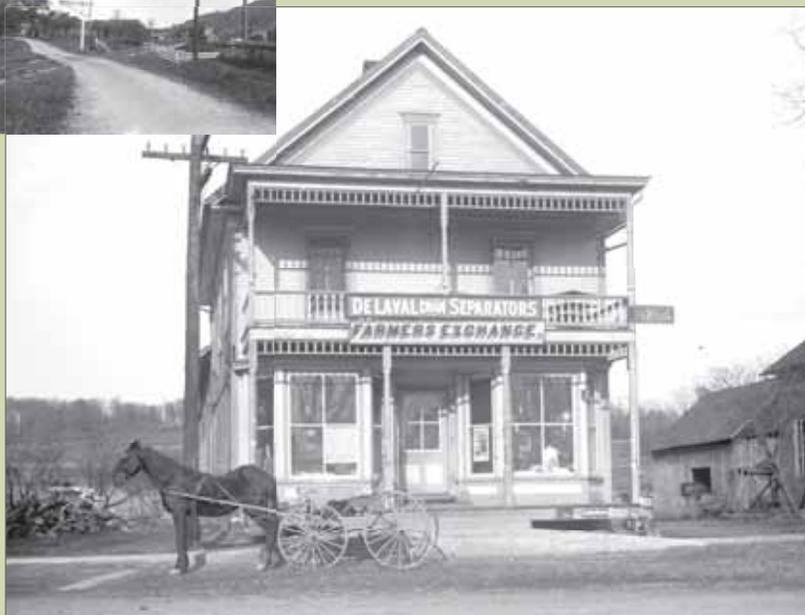
We are grateful to these students and teachers for their important contributions. ❤️

*\*Translation of heading: Vermont students translate museum materials*

### Mystery Photo

Last issue’s mystery photo was identified for us by Martha Howard, Assistant Director of the Thetford Historical Society. Ms. Howard recognized this scene as a section of old Route 5, now known as Pavilion Road, in Thetford. She even sent us a modern photo of the same scene, which looks very similar today.

This issue’s mystery photo is from a glass plate negative in the recently processed papers of Mabel and Milo Turner. Rev. Turner served parishes in Coventry, Newbury, Burke, East Haven, Franklin, Barton, Swanton, Randolph, Bethel, Windsor, and Hartland. This store may be located in one of these communities. If you can identify this photo, please contact the Society’s librarian, Paul Carnahan, at 802-479-8508 or [paul.carnahan@vhs.state.vt.us](mailto:paul.carnahan@vhs.state.vt.us) ❤️



# Postings from Vermont's Local Historical Societies



## Barre Historical Society

Chet Briggs, president  
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The Barre Historical Society is hosting the following events during the Primo Maggio Celebration 2007:

**April 30:** *If Stone Could Speak* ("Se la pietra sapesse parlare")

World Premiere and first public screening of film by Randy Croce (University of Minnesota) on the Italian immigration to Barre. Dessert and coffee served. At the Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite Street, 7:00 p.m. Free admission.

**May 1:** "Primo Maggio: Origins and history of the Workers' Holiday"

Prof. Rudolph Vecoli (University of Minnesota Emeritus), guest speaker. Traditional Italian dinner, cash bar. Fundraiser for Labor Hall Restoration Fund. At the Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite Street, 6:00 p.m. Tickets \$18 per person. For reservations, email briggslane@charter.net or call 476-8777.

The principal underwriter is The National Italian American Foundation ([www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org)). With additional support from the Vermont Labor History Society and the Green Mountain Forum.

## Berlin Historical Society

Norbert Rhinerson, president  
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historicalsociety@berlinvt.org  
[www.berlinvt.org/bhs.htm](http://www.berlinvt.org/bhs.htm)

This is the year when it finally happened. We now have permanent quarters in the town office building. For a number of years the selectboard has allowed us to maintain temporary residence in a cubicle that was carved out of the large meeting room. But since the recently completed renovation of the interior of the town office building, we now have a room that is dedicated for our use. We have an outside entrance, which was the old Berlin Police Department entrance, and another

entrance off the selectboard's meeting room. We have dedicated our room to Richard Nye and his mother Mary Greene Nye, and also to Harold and Hilda Woodbury. The collection of Berlin memorabilia that Richard Nye left to us provided the foundation for our entire collection and the money to get us started. The house that the Woodburys bequeathed us provided the \$30,000 that we turned over to the town in return for the space allotted to us as well as the funds to keep us in existence.

Our year has revolved around moving our collection out of the way before construction on the renovation began in July and then back into the new location about the middle of September. However, we are all settled in now and our collection is again accessible.

We participated in the Berlin festival in September where we posted an exhibit at the Berlin Elementary School. The grand marshal of the parade was our president, Norbert Rhinerson. Norb was so honored for the many, many hours of service he has put in for the Town of Berlin. In addition to being the longtime president of the Berlin Historical Society, he serves on the Sewer Board and as chairman of the Cemetery Committee..

Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. at the town office building. The public is always welcome. If you are interested in receiving email notices of our meetings, in joining our organization (dues are \$10 a year), or viewing any part of our collection, contact any one of our officers:

Norb Rhinerson, President -  
norbert925@verizon.net  
Vern Turner, Vice President -  
vern.turner@verizon.net  
Richard Turner, Secretary -  
moturn1989@yahoo.com  
Mary Wells, Treasurer -  
mammywells@aol.com

You may also email the Historical Society office computer at [historicalsociety@berlinvt.org](mailto:historicalsociety@berlinvt.org) We still need your help in preserving the history of Berlin. Your stories, pictures, and artifacts are vital to that history. Please make a note this year to make these treasures available for present and future Berliners by sharing them with us.

## Bradford Historical Society

Larry Coffin, president  
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lccoffin@charter.net

The Bradford Historical Society owns one of four remaining undated Wilson globes sold in 1810. The Society is having the Williamstown Art Conservation Center examine its globe and propose a restoration/conservation project. The Society has established a special globe fund to help raise the approximately \$5000 that it will cost to have the globe restored.

**April 14:** Quilt Documentation Day, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Bradford Academy Auditorium. Vermont Quiltsearch documented pre-1960 quilts. Each quilt was photographed and an oral condition report given to the owner by the appraisers. The information was then entered into the Quiltsearch data bank.

**April 25:** "Bradford is a Baseball Town." A panel discussion about town/school baseball in Bradford's history. Museum's baseball exhibit open for the event. 7:00 p.m., Bradford Academy Auditorium.

**May 19:** Tour of the Ely Mine site. In cooperation with the West Fairlee Historical Society, we will tour the site of the Ely Mine village, with optional climb to the mine site. Meet at West Fairlee Museum (next to Bean Hall), Main St., West Fairlee at 1:00 p.m. Rain date Sunday, May 20.

**June 9:** Alumni Day at the museum. Hours 10:00 a.m. – noon.

**June 23-24:** Vermont History Expo 2007 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Our exhibit topic: "History of the Bradford Strawberry Industry." We are looking for artifacts, pictures, and information on this topic.

**July 6:** Concert in the park by Newmont Military Band, 7:00 p.m. Free-will collection. Annual Strawberry Festival will begin at 1:00 p.m., sponsored by the Eastern Star/Masons. Rain location: Bradford Academy Auditorium.

**July 18:** Panel discussion on the history of the Bradford strawberry industry. 7:00 p.m., Bradford Academy Auditorium.



**August 3:** Concert in the park by McLure Alumni Band. 7:00 p.m. Free-will collection. Rain location: Bradford Academy Auditorium.

**August 17:** Concert in the park by "Spare Parts." 7:00 p.m. Free-will collection. Rain location: Bradford Academy Auditorium.

**September 8:** Graveyard Gossip 2007: "Ghosts of Main Street II." Seventh annual reenactment will feature residents of the northern portion of Main Street. Time and gathering place to be announced. Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 9.

**October 16:** Annual pot luck supper. Program on the Vermont Women's History Project. Supper at 6:00 p.m., program to follow. Those who wish to participate in the supper should bring a hot dish, salad, or other item to share. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Location: vestry of the UCC Church.

## **Bristol Historical Society**

Sylvia Coffin, president  
19 West Street, Bristol VT 05443  
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lscoffin@gmavt.net

At the 2006 meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies, our own Ted Lylis received recognition for his work with our society. Ted has worked tirelessly for years to get the renovation of our Howden Hall off the ground. Our museum is housed here and needed serious work from its cupola to its basement. Ted worked with a local builder who had successfully bid on this first phase. In addition, Ted has done research on local topics and continues to bring fresh ideas to our executive board. This past fall he became the treasurer and does a remarkable job keeping records.

During the spring, summer, and fall we invite the public to join us to hear our speakers. Our meeting is on Thursday evening at Howden Hall in Bristol, across from the St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Meetings are free and begin at 7:30 followed by refreshments. The business meeting ends the evening. Our speaker schedule is as follows:

**May 17:** Local historian Gertrude Bingham will speak on "Boarding House Living."

**June 21:** Second Annual Artifact Night. A pot luck supper is followed by a "show and tell" from community members of their family artifacts and the history behind these artifacts. Last year we had a varied collection that ranged from a family Delft milk pitcher to Revolutionary War documents.

**July 19:** Daniel Bean will speak on "The Orphan Trains."

**August 16:** Speaker Victor Rolando's topic will be "Iron Mining."

**Sept. 20:** Adam Kane of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will present his new program, entitled "Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain." This will entail some of the most treacherous stories on the lake from the Revolutionary War to the present. As Adam's program brochure states, "With over 300 wrecks in its dark, cold waters, Lake Champlain has witnessed feats of heroism, and terrible tragedies. Take a memorable tour through slides, drawings and video of what lies beneath the waves."

**October 18:** Vincent Feeney, a member of the Speakers Bureau of the Vermont Humanites Council, will present his program on "The Allen Brothers: Original Vermont Developers," discussing Ira and Ethan Allen as real estate developers.

## **Cambridge Historical Society**

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In 2006, the Cambridge Historical Society published its first book, *The Sugarhouses of Cambridge Vermont*. The book, a compendium of sugarhouses in the town both past and present, was compiled by co-president Roberta Marsh. The book proved very successful, even winning an award from VHS. Along with the society's yearly fundraiser, Old Farm Days in October, the book sales put the Cambridge Historical Society on sound financial footing for the first time since its incorporation in 2000.

In 2007, the Cambridge Historical Society is embarking on another significant project. Funded by seed money from a generous member, CHS will begin to compile oral histories of community members. Several CHS members attended a workshop at the Vermont Folklife Center about oral history projects over the winter and in May Greg Sharrow of the Folklife Center will speak to the membership about the process of collecting oral histories. The hope is that these histories will become a permanent part of the CHS collection with others being added as time and money permit. The final product, a DVD or video, should help, once again, to fund other community projects.

## **Cavendish Historical Society**

Margo Caulfield, coordinator  
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The Cavendish Historical Society has been gearing up its activities during the past year with the hiring of Margo Caulfield as the new coordinator. Archives, budget, building, membership/fundraising, and programs committees have been created in an effort to add new layers of organization to the Society.

The Society presented a Life Time Achievement Award to Carmine Guica on January 30. Guica, a former president of the Society, has used his passion for history and genealogy to greatly further the understanding of Cavendish and the people who have lived there. Whether it was using a metal detector to explore abandoned cellar holes, spending hours in Montpelier researching family lines (the results of which can be seen in the series, "Families of Cavendish Vol. I-III"), or learning about those buried in the Revolutionary Cemetery on the Crown Point Road, Cavendish is a richer community thanks to Carmine. CHS presented Carmine with a framed Winston Churchill photograph along with a picture of the Tarbell Hill School, where Carmine was a student.

The Cavendish Historical Society and Concerned Citizens for Cavendish are planning a series of economic workshops to emphasize local achievements, constructive actions, relationships, and visions within our community, which we can then build on, ultimately contributing to a sustainable development and a secure future for Cavendish. The first workshop will take place on **May 17** at 6:30 p.m. at the Cavendish Elementary School, with follow-up sessions taking place throughout the summer and early fall.

On **May 26 and 27**, the Society will be participating in the Fiber Arts Festival, held in conjunction with the statewide Open Studio program, on the Proctorsville's Green. Please stop by and see us.

The Society's museum will open for the season on **June 3**. Hours are every Sunday afternoon from 2-4 p.m.

There will be a two-part fundraiser on **June 23**, beginning with a dinner at the Golden Stage Inn at 5:30 p.m., and including a barn dance after the dinner. Cost is \$60. Yankee Chank, the hot Cajun/Zydeco



dance band, featuring Bob Naess on fiddle, will play for the barn dance at the Cavendish Inn Barn. The dance starts at 7:30, with the barn opening at 7:00. Dance instruction is provided. Tickets for the dance only are \$20 and includes snacks.

While the 4th of July Flea Market and Plant Sale has been a tradition in Cavendish for many years, the Society has decided to go back even further by restarting "Cavendish Old Home Day" on the Saturday before the 4th (**June 30**). Visitors will be able to purchase plants and have a tour of the museum, and there will also be new daylong activities with many town groups participating.

### **Charlotte Historical Society**

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Last year the Charlotte Historical Society hosted two programs at different venues. First, Professor Doyle showed "Life in Lamoille" at the Senior Center. At the second program, we were co-hosts with the Chittenden County Historical Society of a lecture by Peter Grenfell, grandson of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, at the Charlotte UCC church. The destruction of the Dog Team Tavern by fire the week before made a change of venue necessary. (Sir Wilfred had started the first tavern when he retired to Charlotte in the 1930s.) Other activities took place during the year at the museum.

This season we will see "Life in Franklin" on **May 3** at the Senior Center. Come summer we will have professional help inventorying the contents of our museum. We hope a donated laptop will end up "knowing" all our artifacts, in proper form.

### **Chester Historical Society**

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The 11th annual Civil War Expo created by the Eighteenth Vermont Regiment will be held Saturday, **September 29**, on the grounds of the Chester Historical Society. We will also use the town green for exhibits as well as the Masonic lodge. The day will consist of reenactments of several regiments, guest speakers, and artillery units with

numerous individuals acting out living history events. The highlight will be a torchlight parade through Main Street at dusk, with all regiments participating. The Green Mountain Railroad will offer excursions on the Green Mountain Flyer from Bellows Falls to Chester. A dinner will be held at the elementary school sponsored by the Rotary club. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has designated the Civil War Expo as one of the top ten fall events in the state. (Civil War Expo 2005 was named the Reenactment of the Year by the Civil War Preservation Trust.) The businesses here in town have enthusiastically donated funds to help sponsor this great event.

### **Chittenden County Historical Society**

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During the month of March 2007, the Society's History Expo 2006 exhibit, "The Women of Chittenden County," was on loan at the Brownell Library in Essex Junction in commemoration of Vermont Women's History Month. A program, co-sponsored by the CCHS and the library, was held on March 7. Cable TV station RETN (Channel 16) recorded the program, which was broadcast on Tuesday, April 24, at 8:00 pm. The program stars several CCHS members and friends from the community and other historical societies telling about the extraordinary women featured in the award-winning exhibit.

Other events for 2007:

**March 18:** Speaker Jim Flint presented "Chittenden County's Community Gardens – a History and Slide Show" from 2-4 p.m. at the Fletcher Free Library Community Room in Burlington. Refreshments followed.

**March 27:** Speakers Nancy Gallagher and Judy Dow presented "A Research in Progress Seminar" from 7:30-9 p.m. at the UVM Memorial Lounge in the Waterman Building in Burlington. The event was co-sponsored by the UVM Center for Research on Vermont. Refreshments followed.

**May 6:** Speaker Muriel More will present "The Development of Burlington Parks" from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Gallery on Burlington's Church Street. The event is co-sponsored by the Burlington Parks & Recreation Department. Refreshments will follow.

**May 19:** Speaker Richard Allen will present "Williston's Historic District" from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Dorothy Alling Library. The event is co-sponsored by the Williston Historical Society. It will be followed by a walking tour, led by Ginger Isham, and lunch at the Old Brick Café.

In keeping with this year's Vermont History Expo theme of "Travel and Transportation: How Vermonters Got There From Here," CCHS' exhibit at the event on June 23-24 will be "Bicycling: Then and Now."

**July 22:** Our annual meeting will take place from 2-4 p.m. at the Huntington Community Library. Duncan Keir will speak on the "History of the Huntington Community Library."

The library has two painted theater curtains on view. The event is co-sponsored by the Huntington Historical Society, and will conclude with an ice cream social.

### **Dorset Historical Society**

Beth Meachem, board of directors  
PO Box 52, Dorset VT 05251  
802-867-0331  
dorsethist@vermontel.net  
www.dorsethistory.com

The Dorset Historical Society has been more active in our efforts to develop new and different ways to engage our community in our past and celebrate the future. We are trying to get away from formal lectures and move towards greater community engagement.

On February 10, 2007 we tried a new program: a community poetry read around one of our local icons, Walter Hard. We invited his descendant, Dee Bort, to join us. We had an incredible turn out. We printed up selected poems and passed them around, encouraging people to read aloud. Others who came brought their own favorites. Over the course of the afternoon we brought Walter Hard's poetry alive and chuckled together about his dry wit. People recalled events, which led to particular poems being read. Our local cable access station filmed the event, and it has been broadcasting on our local cable access station. People were so excited that they want to do something similar later in the year.

Building off of our successful Walking and Driving Tour publication of Dorset, we will be implementing a walking tour of our town beginning Memorial Day Weekend.



On **June 21** we will host our annual ice cream social event, which always draws a crowd. We will include in this event some of the home industries in our community such as spinning, weaving, and ceramics, and give the public an opportunity to try out these activities.

We are happy to be back in our newly renovated building and getting our exhibits out of hiding. We currently have a wonderful exhibit of stencil ware by Jessica Bond who lived here in Dorset. Our permanent marble quarry exhibit is being worked on. We hope to work with local school children in the writing of a local history around the quarries. In our continued effort to collaborate with our local school, we are going to mount a special exhibit of student journals in April that will be on display for the month.

We are pleased to receive back our collection of Civil War memorabilia and will be continuing to bring out more of what we have in our archives so that people can see the collection.

The new building has definitely energized us and we look forward to sharing it with others in the state as well as with visitors from beyond our borders.

### **Dummerston Historical Society**

Jody Normandeau, president  
PO Box 8064  
North Brattleboro VT 05304  
802-254-9037

The Dummerston Historical Society hosted a program on April 19, 2007 featuring high school teacher Bill Holiday, who spoke about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Holiday was named National Teacher of the Year in 1999 by the J.F.K. Lancer Organization for his research into Kennedy's assassination in 1963. The program was held at the Grange Hall in Dummerston Center at 7:30 p.m.

The Society features ongoing rotating exhibits at its museum. Visitors may contact Jody Normandeau for more information about hours of operation and the subjects of the changing exhibits.

### **Georgia Historical Society**

Peter Mallett, president  
PO Box 2072, Georgia VT 05468  
802-524-4539

The 2006 news from the Georgia Historical Society is both very good and so-so. The good part lies in the fact that our town library has provided a space for our historical society. This space has room for

nine files and three large map chests. In addition, there is a work table and a computer. This gives us the opportunity to share our holdings with the public six days a week when it is open for 38 hours. The room is well lit, comfortable, heated, and cheerful. We are very grateful for this opportunity to safely house our historical, genealogical, and broadside files. Our photo files are also available. In contrast, our one-room brick school museum is open only in summer for a total of 48 hours.

The so-so news is that we continue to struggle with raising money, adding membership, and sorting other artifacts. We are constantly watching for ideas that would help us with these chronic problems.

We commend the Vermont Historical Society in its effort to provide opportunities for struggling societies to exchange ideas that might aid us with our frustrating situations. We urge you to broaden these opportunities!

### **Grafton Historical Society**

Eli Prouty, curator  
802-843-1010  
Lynn Morgan, registrar  
802-843-2584  
PO Box 202, Grafton VT 05146  
grafhist@vermontel.net  
www.graftonhistory.org

The Grafton Historical Society's History Museum is open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday between Memorial Day weekend and Columbus Day weekend from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and every day during foliage season from September 1 – October 8. We are located on Main Street (Route 121) just east of the Old Tavern in the middle of Grafton, 12 miles west of Bellows Falls and I-91. Schedule of 2007 events:

**May 26:** Museum open house with free lemonade and cookies

**August 2:** Summer program and annual meeting (program speaker TBA; check the website in July).

**September 1:** Labor Day bake sale  
Annual winter program and dinner: Check the website in the fall for program details.

### **Grand Isle Historical Society**

Jan DeSarno, president  
PO Box 23, Grand Isle VT 05458  
802-372-4058  
jandesarno@aol.com

The Society was formed by a small group of five in 2000 and has grown to about 90 members from several towns and states,

including Hyde descendants. The mission of the Society is to disseminate information of historical nature and to preserve historical artifacts and buildings in Grand Isle. In the fall of 2003, the Society moved and restored the historic one-room Corners Schoolhouse #4. Officers are: Jan DeSarno, president; Maggie Lawliss, vice-president; Janet Wert, secretary; and Sharon Croteau, treasurer.

The Schoolhouse (also known as the "Block Schoolhouse") was built in 1814 of squared-off, or blocked, cedar logs. The Hyde Log Cabin, circa 1784, is the oldest in New England, with furniture, clothing, and artifacts attractively arranged as a home setting. There are two glass display cases to view small items and books. This is a great place to bring your out-of-town guests to enjoy this special treasure of the Islands. The Cabin and Schoolhouse are on Route 2, adjacent to the Grand Isle Elementary School, and are open to visitors every day (except Tuesday and Wednesday) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Memorial Day until Columbus Day. Admission is \$2.00 for adults; children under age 14 are free. Docent Charlene Southwick is in attendance to welcome visitors.

The public is invited to attend free programs that often include music or slides on topics relevant to Island and Vermont history at the Schoolhouse on the following dates: **Monday, May 7; Monday, September 10; and Monday, November 5.** All programs are at 7:00 p.m. and will be announced in the "Islander."

The annual pot-luck picnic for members will be on the Hyde Log Cabin/Schoolhouse grounds on Monday, **July 9th**, at 6 p.m.

The annual "Old Tyme Crafts Day" will be on Saturday, **September 1**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Log Cabin/Schoolhouse grounds. There will be an 18th century Abenaki encampment with Native American lifestyle demonstrations, as well as fireplace cooking in the Cabin with free samples of switchel, biscuits, chicken, etc.; and demonstrations of quilting, weaving, basket making, rug hooking, butter churning, hand-cranked ice cream, chair caning, penny rugs, blacksmithing, and more. Handmade crafts and some antiques will be for sale.

The events are sponsored by the Grand Isle Historical Society, are free and open to the public, handicap accessible, and refreshments will be served. New members are warmly welcome to this small, active group – please join us! Membership is \$5.00 and may be mailed to the address above.



## Greensboro Historical Society

Jenny Stoner, president  
PO Box 151, Greensboro VT 05841  
802-586-6913  
jennystoner@gmail.com

Spring & Summer 2007:

**March 4:** 2:00 p.m. Program: "Shaping Lives – the Role of the Grange and 4H Clubs" – a panel discussion and sharing of stories about the vital roles of these organizations. Fellowship Hall, Greensboro United Church.

**Summer exhibit:** "Shaping Lives: the Grange, 4H Clubs and More." Exhibit of 100 years of the Greensboro Grange, boys' and girls' 4H Clubs, and other volunteer groups that played important roles in village life.

**July 9:** 7:30 p.m. Summer program at Fellowship Hall, Greensboro United Church. Topic TBA.

**August 6:** 7:30 p.m. Summer program at Fellowship Hall, Greensboro United Church. Topic TBA.

## Groton Historical Society

Richard Brooks, president  
PO Box 89, Groton VT 05046  
802-584-3417  
www.grotonvt.com

The Groton Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of each month from March to November, at the Peter Paul House on 1203 Scott Highway. The house, built in 1840 by early settler Peter Paul, has been used by the Society since 1989 to display and store historical records and artifacts.

The Society has an active genealogy research focus. With the addition of new information submitted for three additional local families in 2006, there are now 38,005 names listed in the Groton Historical Society Family Records computer file.

## Guilford Historical Society

Adelaide Minott, president  
236 School Road, Guilford VT 05301  
802-254-5910  
pulpitfm@verizon.net

**March 24:** 7:30 p.m. Celtic/Irish Variety Show, a benefit for Guilford Historical Society. Community Church. Adults \$5.00, Children thru grade 12 \$2.50.

**April 23:** 7:30 p.m. Quarterly meeting at Guilford Central School. Marty Cain speaks

on Vermont historical documentaries and shows some of his work.

**May 17:** 9:00 a.m. Cleaning of museum, meeting house, school house. Help is needed. Bring own materials.

**June 2:** 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. Museum open for summer. Every Tues and Sat.

**June 23/24:** Vermont History Expo. Worlds Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont.

**July 4:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Museum and meeting house open. 4:00 p.m. Annual parade and picnic: Grange Hall.

**July 15:** 2:00 p.m. Quarterly meeting: Center Meeting House. Vermont History Expo exhibit and talk.

**August 12:** 2:00 p.m. Ice cream social and music at Mineral Springs Farm, Guilford Center.

**Sept. 2/3:** 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Annual Guilford Labor Day Fair.

**Date TBA:** Welcome Center Annual Coffee Hour Fund Raiser.

**October 13:** 2:00 p.m. Close museum for season.

**October 20:** 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. Annual roast pork supper at the Guilford Community Church.

**October 29:** 7:30 p.m. Annual meeting at Broad Brook Grange. History of the local Grange, and raffle draw.

For information or questions on any these events, contact Addie Minott at 254-5910 or Fred Humphrey at 257-7306.

## Hardwick Historical Society

Mary Brochu, president  
PO Box 177, Hardwick VT 05843  
802-472-8555  
hardwickhistoricalsociety@verizon.net

**March 17:** Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and Dance to benefit the depot restoration project. Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dance 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, North Main Street. Donations \$10.

## Hubbardton Historical Society

Grace Calvin, president  
PO Box 383, Castleton VT 05735  
802-273-3901  
history@hubbardton.net  
www.hubbardton.net

As we look forward to 2007 with renewed energy, we reflect on how far we have come as a historical society. In November of 1999, several Hubbardton



*Addie Minott of the Guilford Historical Society receives recognition from VHS director Kevin Graffagnino last fall at the League of Local Historical Societies annual meeting.*

residents met at the Hubbardton town hall with members of the Pittsford Historical Society. After an entertaining afternoon it was decided by the group for form a historical society in Hubbardton. More people came to the following local meetings and we formally organized in 2000 by filing with the Secretary of State.

**February 17:** Center Grange #290 of Hubbardton hosted a community potluck dinner and variety show at 5:00 p.m.

**March 31:** Hubbardton Town Hall was the location for Tavern Night. The fun started at 7:00 p.m. There was food and drink served by voluptuous serving wenches, bar keeps to keep the peace, and of course, all the neighbors. Paul Loding, the British Brigadier, and Jim Dassatti, representing the Americans, turned back time to what life was like in 1777.

**June 23-24:** This year our Vermont History Expo exhibit will tell the story of John Selleck, Jr., a British sympathizer who fled to Connecticut to escape the war. He purchased a farm in Hubbardton for his family. The farm became the site of the Battle of Hubbardton. Our story will also tell how Mrs. Boardman and her two children survived the Battle of Hubbardton by hiding under a bed in the vacant Selleck cabin.

**July 7-8:** This year is the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Hubbardton. We expect that several hundred people will visit Hubbardton for the anniversary. To symbolize the sending of the battle news from Hubbardton to Windsor, there will be a relay using many modes of transportation that will begin after the battle reenactment. Plans are still being developed, but it is expected that in a little



ceremony at Hubbardton, a reenactor will be sent out on foot down Monument Hill Road with the news, and head toward Windsor on the Connecticut River.

### **Island Pond Historical Society**

John Carbonneau, president emeritus  
PO Box 408, Island Pond VT 05846  
802-251-2686  
ecarb@verizon.net

**August 5:** The Island Pond Historical Society, Inc. will hold its 40th annual meeting on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at the American Legion Hall in Island Pond. Social hour begins at 12:30 p.m., meeting at 1:00 p.m. Featured presentation: "For the Delights of Discovery: History of the Northeast Kingdom," by historian Charles T. Morrissey, former director of Vermont Historical Society. All are cordially invited to attend.

### **Londonderry Historical Society**

Sally Ogden, vice president  
PO Box 114, South Londonderry VT 05155  
802-824-3850  
vtstone@sover.net  
www.londonderryvt.org/LHS.html

The Londonderry Historical Society is housed in an 18th century cape that belonged to Bernadine Custer Sharp and her husband, Jimmy Sharp. They were both respected artists. We have an extensive collection of her art as well as an interesting collection of artifacts from the Londonderry area.

We start the summer season with our annual Children's Art Show. Drawing from our local elementary schools (Flood Brook, Jamaica, and Windham) we exhibit the work of our youngest artists. The show runs for two weekends, the last weekend of May and the first weekend of June. There will be an opening reception on **May 25** from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. with refreshments and music. Then, on Saturday and Sunday (**May 26th and 27th**), as well as June 2nd and 3rd, we will be open for viewing.

At the Vermont History Expo on **June 23rd and 24th** our exhibit will show Londonderry as a "destination resort" of 100 years ago. There were many fine hotels and summer camps and easy access on the railroad from the big cities. After Expo we will move the exhibit to the Custer Sharp House for the month of July.

We will hold our annual business meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. on **June 27th** at the South Londonderry Town Hall on Middletown Road. It will be immediately followed by a talk by Christine Hasdel of the

Vermont Painted Theater Curtains Project. We have several noteworthy curtains, including the large stage curtain painted by the Huiest Studio of Troy, New York, titled "View of the Rhine." We are very excited to hear what she has to say about our treasures. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.

On Saturday, **July 21**, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. the tenth annual Secret Garden Tour will be held. This is a co-operative effort between the Mountain Valley Garden Club and our historical society. This tour features some of the most interesting gardens in the area.

The August exhibit will feature artwork from our collection and further information can be obtained by contacting the LHS.

The Custer Sharp House will be open from 10:00 a.m. - noon on Saturdays in July and August. It is on the Middletown Road just up from Route 11. It is a short walk from the Londonderry Farmer's Market; plan to visit us when you are there.

### **Middlesex Historical Society**

Patricia Wiley, president  
c/o 307 Culver Hill Road  
Middlesex VT 05602  
802-229-0499  
pwiley3@verizon.net  
www.middlesex-vt.org

The Middlesex Historical Society experienced a momentous year. In March 2006, after thirteen years of work, the Society finally published the first complete history of the town of Middlesex, *Middlesex in the Making: History and Memories of a Small Vermont Town*, by Sarah Seidman and Patricia Wiley. This lively and readable history of the first town settled in Washington County includes stories about "Crazy" Chase, the musician who could play any tune by ear and enjoyed performing in women's clothing; the Balancing Rock, a boulder so carefully balanced that it could be see-sawed on its perch; and the CCC workers who came in the 1930s to build a flood control dam in the tiny hamlet of Wrightsville following the Great Flood of 1927. The 264-page book contains oral histories collected from 82 longtime residents and over 200 photos, including rare shots of the hermits who used to populate Bear Swamp and the abandoned "Notch" area between Middlesex and Waterbury.

The book is already in its second edition, the entire first print-run of 500



copies having completely sold out after three months. Before printing the second edition, the authors took the opportunity to make corrections and add additional photographs and oral history interviews that had come to light after the first edition was published.

The Middlesex Historical Society has very few active members, and is always looking for ways to increase membership. The Society has no home for its collections at present, and is hoping to obtain space from the Town of Middlesex after a proposed new town hall is completed in the future.

### **Milton Historical Society**

Bill Kaigle, president  
PO Box 2, Milton VT 05468  
802-893-1604  
miltonhistorical@yahoo.com

Are you interested in Milton's history? It has changed during the past fifty years from a rural farming community of 2,000 people with 125 small operating farms to a bedroom community of over 10,000 people and less than ten large operating farms. The Milton Historical Society was organized in 1978 to collect, preserve, promote, and document two hundred years of this important history. Generations ago family and town histories were shared orally and a town district reflected its past culture and activities. With a mobile population and the fast changing landscape of today, it is important that people have a knowledge of their town's past, which gives them a greater appreciation, a sense of pride, and an interest in their town's future. We encourage you to visit the Milton Museum, which opened in



2001 in the historic former Trinity Episcopal Church at 13 School Street, and enjoy the interesting exhibits that include a pictorial timeline of major events (1763-2000), a map of early Milton Farms (1940-1950), and a photograph collection of early local photographer J.K. Smith (1870-1918).

During 2006 we participated in many activities involving the community, the Vermont Historical Society, and most importantly, we have worked with students from the Milton schools. The 24th annual Fourth Grade History Contest, focusing on the importance and history of Vermont's changing landscape and natural resources, was held in April. Over 150 parents and students enjoyed a live impersonation of an early logger by Peggy Pearl, a Fairbanks Museum curator and educator on May 3rd at Herrick Avenue School. Forty students were awarded history books and all students received certificates acknowledging their participation. During June, several classes scheduled field trips to the museum.

During September and October, fifteen 7th and 8th grade students from the I-leap language arts class with their teacher had several work meetings at the museum. They wanted to learn about Milton's history, especially during the 1930s-1940s. Many residents and veterans of World War II were interviewed about the impact of the war on the community and the memories of the veterans on and off the battlefield. Each student compiled an audio-visual presentation, which they shared with their parents and Society members at the November meeting.

On March 26th, the Society and the Grange sponsored a sugar-on-snow party at the Grange Hall. About 100 people enjoyed one of our rural traditions with sugar on snow, homemade donuts, and a variety of maple desserts.

Many people visited the museum during the Poetry Hop, one of the activities held during the Milton Community Peace Event in April. The Milton Artists' Guild conducted a workshop supplying materials, ideas, and palettes. The participants created original decorated pieces of art, which were displayed throughout the community.

An exhibit of early farm implements and a video of early Milton farms were displayed at an open house at the Grange Hall. A raffle of a hand-painted Adirondack chair and sap bucket was held to help fund some of our projects.

For the Vermont History Expo, we joined the collaborative exhibit with the unifying theme titled "Vermont Women in History." Our exhibit reflected on the

noteworthy life of the Rev. Ruth Powell (1921-2000). A "Crusader for the Role of Women in the Church," she served the Milton United Church from 1976-1983. The information, photographs, and interviews gathered for this project were videotaped for the VHS educational web site.

The Society received an Award of Merit at the Annual Meeting of Local Historical Societies in October. We were recognized for our newsletter and the 2006 calendar interpreting Milton's healthcare history, which featured photographs of persons, places, and practices involved with our medical history.

In November, we were hosts for one of the five informational meetings held throughout the state to discuss the 8th annual Vermont History Expo to be held on June 23rd and 24th, 2007 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds.

We held two open houses in 2006. On Memorial Day a new flag was dedicated honoring the late Lyndon Sheldon and the American Legion Auxiliary #57, promoters of patriotism and community service. A well attended Christmas open house was held on December 10th, which included traditional music played by three members of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, Toy Man Stan Henry with his homemade wooden toys, a beautiful Christmas tree, and a festive food table of sandwiches, desserts, popcorn balls, and fudge.

Programs at our monthly meetings included "Vermont Then & Now: A Photograph Tour" by UVM Geology professor Paul Bierman; Adam Boyce's "History of Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing"; Ken Peck's video "The Old Intervale and the New Intervale"; and Adam Kane's "Life Onboard: Studying Lake Champlain's Sunken Canal Boats," documenting the research of five canal boats discovered in the Pine Street Barge Canal in the late 1900s.

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the museum. Watch the local newspaper for special events or any changes. Museum hours are the first and third weekend from April through October (Hours: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.); during November-March, call 893-2340 for an appointment.

Also, our historic 2007 calendar, "History of Milton's Schools," is now available at the Milton Town Clerk's office or by calling 893-7387; a great collector's item! A number of early 2007 programs have been planned. On Wed. February 1, Gary Furlong presented "History Online – Using Technology to Discover our Past."

On Wed. March 2, Jane Williamson presented "The Evolution of an Underground Railroad Historic Site" – the story of Ferrisburgh's Rokeby Museum and its famous Robinson family. In late March, we again hosted our "Maple Sugar-Off" at the Milton Grange Hall. Sugar on snow, maple donuts and baked goods, music & fun! On Wed. April 5, a discussion on "The History and Future of Milton Cemeteries" preceded our annual meeting.

## **North Bennington Museum and Historical Society**

John Huling, coordinator  
Larry Powers, coordinator  
PO Box 460  
North Bennington VT 05257  
802-442-9193  
info@northbenningtonhistoricalsociety.org  
www.northbenningtonhistoricalsociety.org  
www.northbenningtonmuseum.org

The North Bennington Museum and Historical Society is the state of Vermont's newest local historical society, having been formed in late 2006 by a number of residents who wish to preserve the stories and buildings of the village of North Bennington. The Society plans to be in full operation by June 1, 2007. Its mission is to record, collect, and archive historical information exclusive to the village of North Bennington. The Society's first project was creating a website, which features current and historic photographs of North Bennington, as well as an oral history interview with Larry Powers, who recounts memories of his father, Michael Powers, and the history of the Powers Market in North Bennington.

## **Northfield Historical Society**

Mary Comiskey, secretary  
PO Box 422  
Northfield VT 05663  
802-485-4792  
cpainehouse@trans-video.net

The Northfield Historical Society's summer exhibit, "Trains and Transportation," opens in mid-June. Our museum is open from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. Upcoming event: appraisal fair in the fall – date TBA.

We have been organizing our collections. Our curator, Kelly Nolin, has created a professional and workable museum environment for the collection. The project will be complete by the end of the summer. After that time, our records will be accessible to the public for research.



## **Norwich Historical Society**

Nancy Osgood, president  
PO Box 1680, Norwich VT 05055  
802-649-0124  
nhs@tpk.net  
nancy.p.osgood@valley.net  
www.norwich.vt.us

Calendar of events for Norwich Historical Society through June 2007 (all events are free and open to the public):

**April 5:** 7:00 p.m., Union Village. The Thetford and Norwich Historical Societies co-sponsored a talk by author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin, who spoke about the Battle of Cedar Creek and the Shenandoah Campaign. The event took place at the Village School House on Main Street.

**May 16:** 7:00 p.m. The Norwich Historical Society and the Norwich Women's Club are co-sponsoring a talk by Dartmouth professor Annelise Orleck entitled "What if Poor Women Ran the World?: Some Lessons from Las Vegas," at the Norwich Public Library.

**June 5:** 7:00 p.m. Jane Williamson of the Rokeby Museum will speak on "Abolition and the Underground Railroad" at Tracy Hall.

## **Orleans County Historical Society**

Peggy Day Gibson, museum director  
Old Stone House Museum  
109 Old Stone House Road  
Brownington VT 05860  
802-754-2022  
information@oldstonehousemuseum.org  
www.oldstonehousemuseum.org

The Orleans County Historical Society has embarked upon a new project, the purchase and restoration of the Samuel Read Hall House on the corner of the Hinman Road. Samuel Read Hall was the first teacher educator in the United State, founding the first Normal School in Concord, Vermont in 1823. He wrote *Lessons in School Keeping*, which went through ten printings, and is still relevant today. The museum plans to use the house to expand the education program, with traditional craft classes, teacher workshops, and space for events.

The Old Stone House Museum is open from May 15 through October 15, Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Events for 2007:

**February 18:** Collector's Fair at Orleans Elementary School

**March 21:** Northeast Kingdom History Fair at IROC for grades 6-12

**March 31 – April 21:** Spring workshops. Registration required. Call for details.

**April 28:** Spring work bee

**May 15 & 22:** Spring Field Days for grades 3-6

**May 29:** Volunteer tea.

**June 16-17:** Antique gas and steam engine show

**July 7:** Big band benefit dance at Irasburg town hall

**July 10:** OCHS annual meeting

**July 9-14:** Heritage crafts workshops. Registration required. Call for details.

**July 23-27:** Time Traveler's Day Camp for ages 8-12. Registration required. Call for details.

**August 12:** Old Stone House Day

**Sept. 25:** Fall Harvest Day for grades 3-6. Registration required. Call for details.

**Late September:** Fall craft classes. Registration required. Call for details.

## **Pawlett Historical Society**

Steve Williams, president  
PO Box 113, Pawlett VT 05761  
802-645-9529  
voorburg@sover.net

**May 5:** Opening of the Purple Fox Gallery and its Pawlett Historical Society Room and exhibits. At the Purple Fox Gallery in Pawlett Village Square, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**August 24:** "Oh Victoria": a one-woman mini-musical written and performed by Sarah L. Payne on the subject of Victoria Woodhull, who ran for U.S. president in 1872. She was also an advocate of free love, the world's first female stockbroker, and a scandal-mongering newspaper editor! Event sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. At the Pawlett Community Church on Route 133 in Pawlett Village. 6:30 p.m. potluck supper and annual general meeting; 7:30 program.

**September 16:** "Pawlett Olden Days": a celebration of Pawlett's history. Attend ghost walks at the cemetery, tour an historic one-room schoolhouse (the

Braintree School, opened in 1852) and participate in school day activities of the period, enjoy a pig roast, craft vendors, craft demonstrations, Victorian games, maple sugar house, and more! At the Pawlett Cemetery and Braintree School on Route 153, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## **Peacham Historical Association**

Mary Ellen Reis, president  
PO Box 101, Peacham VT 05862  
802-592-3208  
info@peacham.net  
www.peacham.net

**April 7:** Sugar on Snow Ski-In. Cross-country skiing with sugar on snow. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**June 23:** "Forging Ahead" celebration at the Ashbel Goodenough blacksmith shop. This is a fundraising event to raise money to pay for the preservation of the roof of the blacksmith shop (about \$1,200). Blacksmith demonstrations by Joe Miller. Open grill to cook lunch/hot dogs, etc. Raffle item TBD.

**July 4 – October 7:** Historic House open, Sundays 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**July 4:** Peacham July 4th celebration. Historic House open, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Theme and events TBA.

**July 4:** Tenth Anniversary Ghost Walk. 2:00 p.m., Peacham Cemetery. (In case of rain, meet at the Peacham Congregational Church.)

**July 21 or 28** (to coincide with Library Antiques Show): Self-guided garden tours. 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. \$5.00 per person.

**Month of July:** Artists at the Historic House. Artist: Cecelia Garvin, botanical artist. Opening reception, Sunday, July 8, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m..

**Month of August:** Artists at the Historic House. Artist: Rodney Reis. Rodney will display oil landscape paintings and also his restoration of antique gold leaf frames and the process involved.

**August 7:** Annual meeting. Peacham Congregational Church. 6:00 p.m. dessert and conversation, 7:00 p.m. meeting begins, 7:30 keynote speaker: Dr. Alan Searls.

**Month of September:** Artists at the Historic House. Artist: Alex Garvin. Alex is a landscape painter in oil.

**October 4:** Fall foliage celebration. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Historic House and blacksmith shop open. Theme TBD.

**October 4:** Tenth Anniversary Ghost Walk. 2:00 p.m., Peacham Cemetery. (In case of rain, meet at the Peacham Congregational Church.)



## Historical Society of Peru

Karen Utiger, president  
PO Box 325, Peru VT 05152  
802-824-6583  
dkutiger@vermontel.net

We began our 2006 season with an art show in the first floor of the Cheese Factory in June during Studio Week. Natalee Everett and Karen Utiger did a wonderful job of displaying paintings of Peru. It was well attended by both area residents and visitors. We also sponsored our annual Flea Market, held on the Town Green on September 30.

The big event of the year was the unveiling of the Town Quilt on October 14 at the Cheese Factory. The first one, done in 1976, currently hangs in the Town Center. Now, thirty years later, sixty property owners stitched, drew, painted, and pasted with great imagination and ingenuity their 10 ½ inch squares of cloth, depicting family-related subjects. Karen Utiger and her crew stitched them all together and the result was fabulous. Thank you, Karen, for all your work. They will sew on the backing and do the quilting during the winter, and decide on a permanent place for the new Town Quilt.

Thanks to the talents of Glen Frank of South Londonderry and a grant from the Stratton Foundation for \$1000 and \$500 from the Ladies Aid Society, we have a refurbished library in the entrance to the Cheese Factory. New bookshelves and newly painted walls and ceiling make this a great place to browse through our donated books. The policy is take a book or books, and, if possible, replace them.

Our donations this year included photos of Bromley from Stewart Beattie, and of the Beard family from Priscilla Ochocki. Kermit Reilly brought in a letter to Mabel Brown Williams from her father, a House representative. Dave Farum stopped by with a program of the town celebrating receiving electric service on December 12, 1939. Many thanks to everyone who has added to our collection of Peru artifacts.

Our final event of 2006 was a festive holiday celebration at the Cheese Factory on December 10, which included singing around our antique organ and enjoying samplings of wine and cheese.

## Pittsford Historical Society, Inc.

Peggy Armitage, president.  
PO Box 423, Pittsford, VT 05763  
802-483-2040  
peggy.armitage@gmail.com  
www.pittsfordhistorical.com

Eaton Hall Office & Museum  
3399 US Rte. 7, Pittsford

The Society welcomed nine new members in 2006, making a total of 175 including 24 life members. At the October annual meeting, Otter Valley UHS English teacher Michael Dwyer described Irish, French Canadian, and Polish families who immigrated to Pittsford between the 1840s and early 1900s. Several descendants of those immigrants were in the audience.

2007 board members: Peggy Armitage, president; Anne Pelkey, vice president; Rebecca Davenport, recording secretary; Jane Welch, corresponding secretary; Barbara Poljacik, treasurer. Trustees: Betty Atwood, Ernie Brod, Joe Flory, and past president Len Lumsden. We honored retiring treasurer Jean Harvie Beatty with a framed certificate of appreciation for 25 years of faithful service.

Highlights: The Society's exhibit of Pittsford photographers Mary (Randall) and Leslie Allen, May Manley, and Dr. H. H. Swift received many compliments at the Vermont History Expo 2006. On July 2 we participated in the second highly successful Pittsford Day at the Recreation Area.

When the planning commission solicited suggestions for the revised Town Plan, we urged more attention to maintaining the character of our three historic districts and curbing excess noise and speed on our streets. We taught 40 Lothrop School students studying town and state history how to research our documents and collections, as well as hosting dozens of visitors from April through November. We attended a joint meeting with Pittsfield and Chittenden Historical Societies in the fall.

Our \$50,000 investment fund at the Vermont Community Foundation earned over \$2,000 for the Society, and life member Mary (Phillips) Smith's family made a very gracious gift in her memory. Pittsford voters supported our work with a \$5,200 appropriation. The November open house and silent auction netted over \$450. We ended a productive year as guests at the St. Alphonsus Church holiday fair with items from the museum shop.

Among this year's many gifts are Don Carrigan's American flag from his U.S. Government office and fur-trimmed slippers made by Elvira Harris. John Rouleau's son gave a framed panoramic photo of Pittsford ca. 1930 and a U.S. fish hatchery glass spawning jar. Katherine (Rantanen) and Robert Wyman gave a 1920 U.S. Census report for Pittsford. Christopher Belcher sent color photos of Hilda Belcher's

paintings of kittens to print on postcards and notepaper.

We are cataloging about 45 letters written in the 1860s to A. M. Caverly in reply to his request for family records and town events. Dr. Caverly was writing his "History of Pittsford," published in 1872. Our scheduled events for 2007 are as follows (unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at Pittsford Congregational Church on Route 7):

**March 4:** Potluck dessert 1:30 p.m..  
Program: "Climate Change in Vermont,"  
Dr. Alan Betts

**May 20:** Potluck supper, 5:30 p.m.

**May 28:** Memorial Day ceremonies.  
Parade at 12:30 p.m. to museum.

**June 23:** Tag and bake sale, Eaton Hall.  
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**July 1:** Booth at Pittsford Day, Rec.  
Area. 12:00-6:00 p.m.

**September 16:** Potluck supper,  
5:30 p.m.

**October 21:** Potluck supper & annual  
meeting, 5:30.

**November 18:** Open House,  
2:00-4:00 p.m., Eaton Hall.

## Poultney Historical Society

Gail Vreeland  
PO Box 21, Poultney VT 05764  
802-287-2330  
vreelandvt@verizon.net

**August 11:** Poultney Historical Society's  
72nd annual East Poultney Day. 9:00 a.m. –  
4:00 p.m. East Poultney Village Green on  
Vermont Route 140 East. Vendors, music,  
dancing, raffle, museums, demonstrations.  
As part of the celebration, J. Kevin  
Graffagnino, director of the Vermont  
Historical Society, will give a talk entitled  
"A Hard Founding Father to Love: Ira Allen  
of Vermont." For more info call 287-2330.

## Pownal Historical Society

Ken Held, president  
PO Box 313, Pownal VT 05261  
pownal@comcast.net  
http://pownal.pbwiki.com

The Pownal Historical Society had an active year in 2006. One successful goal was increased community involvement, evidenced by the Society's work with the Pownal Elementary School's fourth grade. With the Society's help, the students created a book on the "ABCs of Pownal." Working with the children and talking about different places,



people, and things of yesteryear brought the history of Pownal alive for the students. The children were excited to learn about their town and worked hard to put together a very informative book. In December, the Society presented each of the children in grades 3-6 with a dictionary. The dictionaries were obtained through The Dictionary Project, a national group dedicated to putting a dictionary into the hands of every student.

On **January 15**, 2007, Ursula Smith and Linda Peavy alternated their voices in recreating the lives of women who followed their husbands and sons west out of Vermont. Their January 14, 2007 presentation at the Pownal Historical Society, supported by a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council, grew from research into the letters that women sent back home to families and friends, as well as other written documents.

**February 11:** Joe Hall of the Bennington Historical Society talked at 2:00 p.m. about the trolleys from Pittsfield and North Adams through Pownal and Bennington and on to Hoosic Falls.

**March 9:** Steve Perkins, director of the Bennington Museum, gave a presentation on historic postcards at 2:00 p.m. at the Pownal Public Library. Perkins used examples from the Bennington Museum collection and from the broader Bennington area.

**April 15:** Annual meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Pownal Public Library.

**April 15:** Joe Manning described his searches to discover what happened to the children who worked in the area's cotton mills. Joe discovered what happened to Addie Card, the 12-year old North Pownal mill girl whose photograph, taken by Lewis Hine in 1910, has now become famous, and whose story was the basis for Elizabeth Winthrop's book, *Counting on Grace*. His website, [www.morningsonmaplestreet.com/addiesearch1.html](http://www.morningsonmaplestreet.com/addiesearch1.html), summarizes his work as an historian of North Adams, Massachusetts and the region.

**May 19:** The Bennington Museum will host the statewide opening event for the Vermont Reads program, with a variety of events related to Elizabeth Winthrop's book, *Counting on Grace*. Call the museum at 802-447-1571 for the schedule.

**June 23-24:** The Vermont History Expo will take place at the Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds on June 23-24. The Pownal Historical Society will be joining the Bennington Historical Society and the Shaftsbury Historical Society in developing an exhibit around the trolleys that once ran through our town into Bennington, North Adams, and Pittsfield.

## Shoreham Historical Society

Dale Birdsall, president  
91 Dolittle Road, Shoreham VT 05770  
802-897-2572  
gdbirdsall@yahoo.com  
[www.steve-world.com/ShorehamHS/SHShome.htm](http://www.steve-world.com/ShorehamHS/SHShome.htm)

**March 7:** Dinner at the Inn. Planning meeting & election of officers.

**April 4:** Rose Paul – Director of Science & Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy of Vermont. This presentation introduced our native spring wildflowers and identified the habitats that each prefer. Rose also reviewed the tools of identification that help the beginner identify flowers.

**May 2:** Burt Porter – The British ballad tradition in New England.

**June 6:** David Perrin – Coin silver and Vermont silver makers.

**July 4:** Gravestone transcribing at Lakeview Cemetery. Party & fireworks afterwards.

**August 1:** Jim Peden – Nineteenth century firearms.

**Sept. 5:** Vince Feeney – The Allen brothers, original Vermont developers.

**Oct. 3:** Elsa Gilbertson – David Rusco: A Revolutionary War soldier and his Mount Independence powder horn.

**Nov. 7:** Sue MacIntire – A PowerPoint show of people, places, and industry in nineteenth century Shoreham.

**Dec. 5:** Christmas dinner at the Shoreham Inn (pot luck).

## Shrewsbury Historical Society

Marguerite Ponton, president  
Ruth Winkler, secretary  
5410 Route 103, Cuttingsville VT 05738  
802-492-2175  
ruthcon1@vermontel.net

The Shrewsbury Historical Society museum officially opens the first weekend in July on Sundays only from 1 to 3 p.m., through October. Appointments can be made by calling 492-3324.

Fundraising activities will consist of a plant and bake sale in May and in the fall, the annual Fall Food Fest, which are two popular events. In 2006, the fundraising committee presented for sale a *Memories 2007 Calendar*, which was very well received.

The Society presented an exhibit at the 2006 Vermont History Expo in

Tunbridge entitled "Til the Cows Come Home," highlighting the Smith/Sharrow dairy farm in Shrewsbury for nine generations.

This exhibit is now in the museum.

In late summer, the Society was involved in a town-wide celebration of our neighbors, Senator Jim Jeffords and his wife, Liz, upon the senator's retirement from Congress. The planning for the event began the year before. The Society prepared five large boards filled with many photographs of the Jeffords, spanning the years from Jim's birth to the present, and the Society also videotaped the short formal presentation and many comments from friends and neighbors. The videotape is being added to the archives in the museum.

In the fall, a special program was presented by life members Barbara and Barry Griffith about the Crown Point Road as it passes through Shrewsbury.

The inside of the museum was repainted this past winter and new tin tiles added to match the ceiling in the vestibule.

The Society continues to receive many genealogical questions via e-mail, plus requests for our town's history book, *Shrewsbury, Vermont – Our Town As It Was*.

## Stowe Historical Society

Babara Baraw, president  
PO Box 730, Stowe VT 05672  
802-253-8428  
stowehistoric@pshift.com

2006 was an important year for the Stowe Historical Society. We have begun an enormous project to move the historic West Branch Schoolhouse, a one-room school that was donated to us and is currently patiently sitting on cribbing and wheels awaiting its trip to the village and its new home on the corner of Pond and School Streets, next to the Bloody Brook School. The site plan, elevations, and interior design have been planned for us by a local architect. Once our permit has been issued by the Design Review Board, working drawings can be completed. With those in hand, we can then obtain the various contractors and proceed with the move.

As this is being done, we will be working on the major part of our building fund campaign. To date, we have received several substantial gifts that demonstrate support for the project. We will need many more gifts, large and small, from every part of the town and the community in order for the project to be completed.

After the schoolhouse is moved, we will have three historic schoolhouse buildings set close together. We hope to create a "cultural



*L to R, Stowe Historical Society President Barbara Baraw, Wendy Parrish, and Ed Rhodes at last fall's League of Local Historical Societies meeting.*

campus," including the creation of new headquarters for our Society, as well as a museum for our artifacts.

**March 20:** Working meeting, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Bloody Brook School.

**April 16:** Program: "Moscow," 7:00 p.m. Moscow is an old mill village on the south end of town. John Johnson will be the guest speaker and he will report fascinating information he has put together as a result of researching for an application nominating the historic village for the National Historic Register. The event will be held at the Grace Bible Church in Moscow.

**May 15:** Working meeting. 7:00 p.m., Memorial Room.

**June 23 & 24:** Vermont History Expo, Tunbridge Fairgrounds. We will have a collaborative double booth with Waterbury about the Mt. Mansfield Electric Railway that once ran between the two towns. This is in direct correlation with Waterbury's recent renovation of its historic train depot.

**August:** Annual meeting. Place, date, and time TBA. Will hopefully include an ice cream social.

## **Strafford Historical Society**

Stefanie Johnston, curator  
PO Box 100, Strafford VT 05072  
Steffiebob@aol.com

A popular exhibit in fall 2006 at the Strafford Historical Society in the Brick Store, Strafford, showed old postcards of our town, many from local collectors. A subsequent display of old maps of Strafford inspired a local equestrienne to use a map of early roads, and add discontinued roads that she has discovered, to map an extensive network of riding trails in Strafford.

Our December exhibit of local traditional handcrafts has led to an offer by

fabled basket-maker, Jeffery Gale, to make a split-ash market basket, using pioneer methods, for us to raffle at the Vermont History Expo and at our July 4th celebration in town.

March 2007 begins our fifth Family History Exhibit, to feature eight generations of the David Brown family in Strafford. This will begin the season of regular open hours: Saturday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-12:00; after the winter hours (open by appointment only) observed during January and February.

Planned for the summer is an enactment in Old City Cemetery of the lives of notable people buried there over the past two centuries. It will be performed by Strafford's drama group, Thistle, in collaboration with the Historical Society. During the fall, we hope to have the video of the history of the Elizabeth Copper Mine completed, and start work on possible informational sites in the vicinity of the mine.

## **Thetford Historical Society**

Charles Latham, president  
PO Box 33, Thetford, VT 05074  
802-785-2068  
info@thetfordhistoricalsociety.org  
www.thetfordhistoricalsociety.org

Last fall we had a gallery exhibit of the Thetford photographs of Clara Sipprell (1885-1915), who had a studio in Thetford in the 1920s and 1930s. We also had a well-attended talk by Peter Fox Smith, who worked with Sipprell in her last years.

In our library, we are processing six large boxes of property research left by longtime Thetford lister, Arthur Bacon.

This year's town report carried an historical article about Dwight Goddard (1861-1939), a successful engineer who became a Buddhist monk and published a series of volumes on Zen Buddhism from his home in Thetford.

On **April 5**, we joined the Norwich Historical Society in hosting a talk in the Union Village Church Hall by Civil War historian Howard Coffin. On **May 12**, we will have a potluck supper in the North Thetford Church to hear a talk by Bill Gove about log drives on the nearby Connecticut River.

We plan to have an exhibit at the Vermont History Expo in June about the Union Village flood control dam. The exhibit will include photographs of the great 1927 and 1936 floods, which resulted in planning for the dam; the actual construction of the dam after World War II; and of houses,

bridges and factories in the dam area that have disappeared.

## **Waitsfield Historical Society**

Juddy Dodds, curator  
PO Box 816, Waitsfield VT 05673  
802-496-2027  
judyb@wcv.com  
www.waitsfieldhistoricalsociety.com

Our historical society is located at the Wait House in Waitsfield. This house was originally the home of General George Wait and was moved to its present location in 1830. It was renovated in 1997 with help from the Waitsfield Historical Society. We have offices upstairs and maintain historical exhibits in the downstairs room. The exhibits are changed periodically and are open to the public when the Wait House is open. We have the book *History of Waitsfield*, and the DVDs *The Way We Were* and *The Heart of Hooking* for sale at the Wait House.

This year one of our members, Judy Dodds, was awarded the Vermont Historical Society Local Societies Achievement Award in the category of Publication/Oral History. The award was for "the initiation and completion of a project to record, edit, and publish recollections relating to a specific aspect of a community." Judy is the curator of the WHS and has been instrumental in setting up many exhibits at the Wait House and at the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge. She and her husband, Jim Dodds, spent two years on this project, interviewing and videotaping rug hookers from Waitsfield and around Vermont. The award was presented on October 13, 2006 at the Vermont State House. The proceeds from the sale of *The Heart of Hooking* will benefit the barn project.

The Society is in the early stages of renovating the carriage barn at the Wait House. In August 2006 we held a barn party and visitors were able to view the barn's interior and see the work that needs to be done to make the barn a center for Society events and exhibits. Members of the Society worked very hard cleaning the interior of the barn. We hope to start a fundraising campaign in the near future.

Thanks to members Shirley Viens, Ilene Joslin, and Ray Joslin, our historical society won first prize for the second year in the "Festival of the Lights" Christmas decoration contest in Waitsfield. Their amazing creation was featured on the porch of the Wait House and included an antique sleigh with Santa Claus peeking through the window and "snow" falling.



Our annual dinner was held on October 25, 2006. A slide show entitled "As We Were" was shown, which featured photographs of the Mad River Valley from 1870-1915. These were pictures created from our collection of over 800 glass slides. Judy Dodds, Jim Dodds, and Jack Smith produced the slide show. This show is also available on a DVD.

Other projects for the year 2006 included financing the cleaning of the three war memorials in Waitsfield. An exhibit of oral history done by the students at the Waitsfield Elementary School was put up in the Wait House. Society members were among the residents of the community interviewed by the students.

The year 2007 promises to be a busy one for the Society. We will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Wait House and plan to have a big party. We hope to make further progress on renovating the carriage barn at the Wait House.

### Waterbury Historical Society

Brian Lindner, president  
PO Box 708, Waterbury VT 05676  
waterburyhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com  
www.rootsweb.com/~vtwhs/

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Waterbury Historical Society, with the first meeting having been held in April 1957. We are pleased that Marion Moulton, who was one of our charter members, has been a member for the entire fifty years. The April 25, 2007 meeting was our official anniversary celebration. Regular meetings are held on the last Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. The quarterly 12-page newsletter is mailed just before the meetings. Other regularly scheduled events are a baked bean & ham supper the Saturday of Presidents' weekend in February, and a Meal of Remembrance the first Saturday in November. This year's Meal of Remembrance will be "Class of 1957," presented by Brian Lindner.

In 2006 the Society published two books. *The Best of the Waterbury Newsletter, Volume 1* is a compilation of articles concerning Waterbury history from our newsletter submitters. The twenty stories contained in the forty-one page book are about the old movie theater, a favorite school teacher, a disastrous fire, and more. *Civil War Volunteers from Waterbury, Vermont & Duxbury* is a 148-page book dealing with the volunteers from the two neighboring towns. Information was gathered from

letters, diaries, Sloan Hospital bed cards, GAR records, cemetery records, and more.

### Williston Historical Society

Ginger Isham, secretary  
PO Box 995, Williston VT 05495  
802-878-3872

The Williston Historical Society's collection is housed in the Vermont Room in the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library.

**May 19:** Speaker Richard Allen will present "Williston's Historic District" from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Dorothy Alling Library. The event is co-sponsored by the Williston Historical Society. It will be followed by a walking tour, led by Ginger Isham, and lunch at the Old Brick Café.

**May 24:** The Society will host its own version of public television's "Antiques Road Show" at the Old Brick Church. In preparation, the students of Phoenix House at Williston Central School visited the Vermont Room in January for a second time to review artifacts they are studying. Time TBA.

**June 23-24:** The Society will have a booth at this year's Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge, where the theme will be "Transportation: How Vermonters Got from Here to There."

**July 3:** Each year the Society holds its ice cream social as part of Williston's annual 4th of July celebration. It is an accompaniment to the band concert on the Green and net proceeds (donations only) go to a local charity.

### Worcester Historical Society

David Book, president  
PO Box 329, Worcester VT 05682  
802-223-5625  
dbcabot@aol.com

The Worcester Historical Society had a very busy and productive year in 2006. Four major projects to renovate our headquarters building, the 1892 Village School, had been completed by year's end. The highlight of the year was the repair and reconstruction of the bell and bell tower. There was a landmark celebration when the bell sounded for the first time in many, many years at our annual meeting and potluck supper on September 21.

The next projects to be accomplished were the exterior painting, the new standing seam roof, and the beginning of the electrical upgrade of our building.

The Society received a \$25,000 grant from the Freeman Foundation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the funds are being used for the exterior painting and the new roof. A Cultural Facilities grant in the amount of \$1,400 (matching funds) was used for the start of the electrical upgrade. The Town of Worcester also appropriated \$2,000 for renovations at the 2006 Town Meeting.

The Society was involved in numerous events during 2006: serving Town Meeting dinner, a sugar-on-snow party with guest speakers Burr and Elliot Morse (Morse Farm), organizing the 4th of July celebration, a window restoration workshop, annual meeting and program (history of the bell and bell tower by Jerry Nelson), our 2007 Calendar, Fall Dinner and Vermont Fiddle Orchestra Concert, and the first annual Love Light Tree celebration.

In 2007, renovation projects continue to be the top priorities, such as the restoration of the windows, chimney repair, ongoing restoration projects, and a membership drive. A Society-sponsored Contra Dance was held on Jan. 27, 2007 (proceeds went toward renovations). We will participate in the Vermont History Expo with an exhibit of kitchen gadgets of the past.

Officers for 2007 are: David Book, president; Mary Ann Powers, vice president; Judy Knapp, treasurer; Dell Waterhouse, secretary; and Elizabeth Schwartz, Cathy Hull, Audrey Richardson, Gordon Cole, and Vivienne Adair, directors.

Please order your 2007 Calendar (Worcester's Sawmills - \$13 including S&H) now: call Judy at 223-8635 or mail a check made payable to WHS to the address above.



## All Aboard for History Expo in June!

The Vermont History Expo is creating a buzz with the theme developed for this year.

**Travel and Transportation: How Vermonters got There from Here** has inspired over half of the participating local historical societies to call upon their memories and collections to come up with some really fun exhibits. For example, Bethel will highlight a valiant and often de-railed railroad, Richmond has found lots of information on one of the first Vermont auto dealers, and Waterbury and Stowe are teaming up to present an electric trolley that ran between the two towns. Other exhibits will feature roads and turnpikes now past, bridges, bicycles, and more.

We'll be treated to winter in June in Dashing Through the Snow, history buff Brooke Paige's latest project featuring multiple modes of 19<sup>th</sup>-century winter transport. We've engaged lots of antique and interesting vehicles to grace the fairgrounds plus a wonderful garden railroad display to admire and another one to build! A VIC Tent (Very Important Car) will showcase some of the premier autos that folks drive to Tunbridge.

Not all of Expo is related to the transportation theme – we'll still have our Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactors, History Quest, the ever-popular Clara's Games, heirloom animals, music and performances, the author's tent, the live country auction, genealogy searches, great food, and parades – one on each day! There will be lots of fresh and interesting exhibits and events for the first-timer as well as the seasoned Expo visitor.

Support for this 8<sup>th</sup> Vermont History Expo has been wonderful. The Expo has earned another designation from the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce as a Top Ten Event for the summer of 2007. We've also received grants from the Vermont Humanities Council and a brand-new program through the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing. The latter grant allows us to focus advertising out of state to attract tourists to Expo. We've decided to reach out to the Albany and Boston areas to promote travel for a day or two in Vermont.

We'd like to note some changes that have been made to our admission prices: entrance to Expo will still cost \$8 for general admission, \$4 for students up to 18 years old, and children under 5 are admitted for free. What's new is that these prices are good for both days, so if you want to return on Sunday because you had so much fun on Saturday, just let us know and we'll issue

# Vermont History EXPO 2007

History's Country Fair



Photo by Nancy Cassidy

you a Sunday ticket! Plus, we've added a Weekend Family Pass for \$20. As always, visitors in period dress are encouraged with half-price admission.

**NEW FOR MEMBERS!** To show our thanks for your pledge to become a member of the Vermont Historical Society, we are offering a 25% discount on the above prices for all Expo tickets purchased in advance of the event. Please contact: Rilla Brown at 802-479-8500.

We look forward to seeing you at **The Vermont History Expo!** For more details, visit [www.vermonthistory.org/expo](http://www.vermonthistory.org/expo) or call 802-479-8500 for a program in advance. 📍

## Ben Lane Award Given

Every couple of years the Publications and Research Committee of the VHS bestows the Ben Lane Award, a \$250 prize for the best article published in *Vermont History*. The current winner, for articles published in volumes 72 and 73, is Keith Ereksen, "The Joseph Smith Memorial Monument and Royalton's 'Mormon Affair': Religion, Community, Memory, and Politics in Progressive Vermont," which appeared in the Summer/Fall 2005 issue.

## New Prints of Vermont Scenes Acquired

Our winter programs give Vermonters the opportunity to explore specific aspects of Vermont's history – such as women in government, Vermonters' participation in the civil rights movement or the changing role of media in our state.

Many thanks to our sponsors for making these programs possible!

- Barry T. Chouinard, Inc.
- Bates & Murray, Inc.
- Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.
- Cargill Animal Nutrition
- Chittenden Bank Community Fund
- Denis, Ricker & Brown, Inc.
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- Benson D. Scotch
- TD Banknorth
- The World Publication, Inc.
- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
- Wisdom Connection



*One of the Society's winter programs includes the Legislative Reception held in January. This year's speaker was the Honorable Madeleine Kunin who spoke about the importance of women in politics both in the national and statewide political scene. She shared many personal stories to a crowd of over 100 legislators and friends of the VHS. Pictured above is VHS Trustee Peter Mallary giving thanks to Governor Kunin for her participation.*

## Keep Vermont's heritage alive!

Members help bring Vermont's rich history to children and adults throughout the state. Members also get discounts on books and events, free admission to the library and museum, and subscriptions to the *History Connections* newsletter and *Vermont History* journal. **Please join – we need your support!**

- \$35 Institutional (libraries, historical societies, schools)
- \$40 Individual (benefits for one adult)
- \$35 Senior Individual (age 65+)
- \$50 Household (benefits for two adults & children under 18)
- \$100 Associate
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Please mail to: Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St., Barre, VT 05641 or join at [www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org)  
Please call 802-479-8503 with questions.

Poster artwork by Ginny Joyner

# Vermont History EXPO 2007

History's Country Fair

**Join us on June 23 and 24, 2007  
Vermont History Expo 2007!**

8<sup>th</sup> annual History Expo –  
***Travel and Transportation: How  
Vermonters got There from Here***

Tunbridge World Fairgrounds,  
Tunbridge, VT

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day,  
Admission.

[www.vermonthistory.org/expo](http://www.vermonthistory.org/expo)



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