



FOUNDED 1974

Williston Historical Society Bulletin

Carol Stewart, Editor

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"Every individual is an historical figure."

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REMINDER

It's time to pay dues for the year 2008. See form on outside of newsletter. Your membership card is your passport for entry into many attractions in the state.

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUPPER

The 2008 Annual Membership Meeting was held January 29th at the newly reopened Old Brick Church. As always, the Potluck Supper was a big hit. Close to fifty were in the audience when John Kane, marine archaeologist at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, spoke about "Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain". His presentation was well illustrated with actual photos of the wrecks, as well as historic maps and drawings from the periods discussed. Many children from the community were in the audience and were obviously enthralled with the presentation. In addition, John brought copies of the brochure "The Grand Canal Journey: A Voyage through New York's Canal System with the *Lois McClure* 2007" which added to our knowledge of our lake heritage. Following the presentation the business meeting was conducted with fifteen members in attendance. The following slate of officers was presented and voted in for the coming year:

President: Terry Macaig <macaig@msn.com>
Vice President: Chris Stewart
<maplewoodbox@verizon.net>
Treasurer: Jon Stokes <jastokes123@aol.com>
Ginger Isham <lshVrg@aol.com>
Bob Bradish <robertdonab@verizon.net>
Bill Skiff <vtcowcal@aol.com>
Carol Stewart <carols.business@verizon.net>

ARCHIVES CORNER - Steve Robinson

- I have been working with the Brownell Family folder, which has a number of fairly old and significant papers. I have been scanning them (as well as getting shots with a digital camera for the papers too large for the scanner). I've nearly completed that and will put them on CD to be shared with the library and Vermont Room/DAML patrons, as well as keeping a master copy for safe keeping and one for the vault. I'm trying to do the same with a very brittle Alling family scrapbook.
- HERB GOODRICH, Jr. has provided an autographed copy of his autobiography, As I Recall. It covers his life from 1929 - Present.
- We've also received 4th of July pictures that had been taken by Robert Deal. In case members would like to know (or already know), Bob, his wife Bea, and his mom (known as Grandma Deal) lived at the corner of the Williston Central School drive across from the armory (Library Lane). Bob and Bea owned and operated a plumbing and heating business during the fifties and sixties which branched into a hardware

store. They built the wood frame addition on the east side of the house to accommodate the hardware. The business slogan was "Deal with Deal." Today that can be equated with "But Locally."

Further elaboration on the Deals from Ginger Isham: "The Deal house is the brick one with wood addition on east side of Library Lane with wooden fence that lines up with Library Lane and the drive behind Old Brick Church, between the Old Brick Church and the DAML. Bea Deal was town clerk when we [Ginger and David] got our marriage license. The town clerk's office was in the wooden addition. I remember when she was killed in a car accident at Taft Corners. A few months later we were alerted that our marriage was never recorded--we thought her records were not up to date".

- I've also received several hat display photos from Ginger Isham and a copper plate originally used in the Bradish tea house and made by Jack. No real value says the antiques estimator, but of interest to those who remember the family. Son, Bob is on the WHS Board.

Dear readers,

Thanks to all of our Lifetime members and to those who have paid dues for the coming year! We'd really like to hear your ideas about making the WHS a thing of value for you and for our community Please be sure to fill in the attached form to update us—or use the contacts as they are noted on the first page. Soon we hope to have a membership e-mail list which should increase our ability to communicate.

At our website <<http://www.whsvt.org>> you will find many interesting photos and information about the organization. We often need help in a variety of ways and encourage you to get involved.

This newsletter is in transition as I learn a new computer and new software. Your ideas, contributions, and offers of help would really be appreciated!

Carol Stewart, Editor

Coming Attractions

••**Vermont Historical Society's Expo 2008** at the Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday, June 21st & 22nd, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.. The theme this year is Industry and Innovation: Vermont Ingenuity. On Sunday, History Expo will be highlighting the Civil War and its impact on Vermont's home front, featuring presentations, activities, and exhibits. This is in conjunction with the Vermont Humanities Council's Civil War initiative.

Williston's booth entitled "Industry and Innovation: the I's have it" will be orchestrated by Chris Stewart and Bill Skiff. It features interactive exhibits for adults and children. Volunteers to host the exhibits in two hour shifts are urgently needed. Free admission for those who do! Otherwise, admission: (good for both days): Adults \$8; Students up to 18, \$4; Kids under 5, free. Weekend family pass \$20.00; Half-price admission for visitors in period dress! New this year: Civil War Sunday.

• **Williston Historical Society's Annual Ice Cream Social**, Thursday night, July 3rd at the Town Bandstand, next to the Library. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Town Band. Ginger Isham and Jon Stokes have attended some meetings with Band members as they prepare for the event. Howard Carpenter has donated a collection of notes and photos which eventually will be available in the Vermont Room at DAML. An "official" recognition will take place at this year's Ice Cream Social.. Graphic presentations of the band's history will be on display. been invited!

•Sept. 16 - **General Membership Meeting**, at the Isham Farm, details to be announced.

From our collection: The following is taken from Laura Meredith's "Childhood Memories of Maplehill", available in the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library-Vermont Room (home of the Williston Historical Society's collection).

"There was the day to day housework to be done. On Mondays the platform for two large washtubs, separated by a roller ringer, was dragged in through the pantry from the woodshed. (These tubs became bath tubs on Saturday nights.) A large heavy duty washboard was placed in one of the tubs with lots of hot soapy water. After much scrubbing, the clothes that had been soaking there for a while were passed through the roller into the hot rinsing water. Not only was the reservoir at one end of the stove filled with hot water, but a large tin boiler on top of the stove also. Only the heaviest, dirtiest farm clothes were boiled there. I can see the heavy stick used to lift them out for their turn in the rinsing water. Or did they go into the first tub for an extra wash, then finally into the rinsing water? Anyway, basket after basket, stretched between four posts in the back yard—if the weather was warm enough. In winter they froze solid on the eastern porch.

On Tuesdays the big table next to the sink was covered by an equally big ironing board. There the long table cloth, the sheets, the pillow cases and the napkins were ironed. At a smaller board propped from the top of a chair to the end of the dining room table were things that needed special care, like sleeves, skirts, and blouses. The flat irons were heated on the top of the iron range."

(... and we think laundry is a nuisance! -Ed.)