



Founded 1974

Williston Historical Society Bulletin

Carol Stewart, Editor

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“Every individual is an historical figure.”

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT — ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us at the Old Brick Church on Williston Road, Monday, January 18, 2010. Members and guests are welcome.

Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 PM

Please bring a main dish, salad, or other accompaniment to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Entertainment to follow supper at 6:45 PM

A Vermont Music Sampler presented by Dr. William Tortolano
A slide presentation that includes listening to music on tape and commentary from a musician and scholar, Dr. Tortolano.

Business meeting and election of Officers at 7:45 .

Nominations will be welcomed from the membership
Payment of dues will be accepted

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

WE NEED YOU!!! Some of you may remember the posters of Uncle Sam with him pointing out at all who passed by, saying “I Want You!”. Well, WHS wants you! We need you to help us as Board of Directors members, Officers and as volunteers to assist with our quarterly member meetings, the EXPO 2010, scrapbook updates and the famous Ice Cream Social held the night before the July 4 celebrations.

Consider yourself invited to help us in any way you can. It only takes a small amount of time. We are in danger of not being able to continue to do the things you have been accustomed to seeing.

Contact WHS President Terry Macaig at 878-3872 to offer your help.

The Chittenden County Historical Society sponsored a "**History Mystery**" in August. This fun Quadracentennial event was free and open to Vermonters and visitors of all ages. The coordinator from CCHS, Ann Arms, adds "and, of course, Ginger Isham [Past president and current WHS Board Member] was the Co-coordinator of the "History Mystery"--for which I shall be eternally grateful." Brochures containing clues in riddle form were available to be picked up during August at selected places in each town. There were 18 riddles--one for each community in Chittenden County. "History Detectives" had to go to each town to find the answers. Those with all correct answers were entered in a drawing for one of 18 prizes. The drawing was held Sunday, September 27th at the Burlington Police Department.

History Mystery Prize Winner/s

- ❖ The very first person to submit a completed "History Mystery" riddle brochure with all correct answers was the winner of the Williston prize. She is Laura Kimball, who lives in Jericho and works in the South Burlington Town Offices. She was delighted to learn she had won the two Williston books.
- ❖ Chuck Conn who lives in Williston, won the 3 prizes from Underhill (the sweatshirt, the book written by Lorraine Dwyer, and the syrup from the Proctor Maple Research Lab.)
- ❖ Laurie Jordan who lives in Essex, won the Richmond note cards.
- ❖ Chris Newton (the gal who lives in Jericho and works Thursday afternoons at the Old Red Mill), won the Burlington prizes which were the box of Lake Champlain Chocolates and the book titled, Bygone Burlington by Peter Carlough, written for the Bi-centennial.
- ❖ Bette Workman who lives in Underhill, won the two Winooski books.
- ❖ Mary Alice Favro, who lives in St. George won the St. George Tote Bag.
- ❖ The Blake Family from Essex Junction won the Shelburne Country Store's gift certificate.
- ❖ Heidi Racht from Huntington won Richmond's note cards.

- ❖ Lyn Perrin delivered the Horsford perennials to the Jericho home of 13-year old Patrick Asselin who won the Charlotte prize.
- ❖ The Maklad family won the Huntington prize (Karen Maklad and daughters Alexandra (8) and Elizabeth (6-1/2) and their grandfather, Gary Farrell.)
- ❖ Doug Aitken of Williston related some of his experiences being a "History Detective."

The Channel 17 video was aired at least 10 times. If you missed it, you can watch it on your computer at: <http://www.cctv.org/node/82491>. It is 59 minutes long.

*Credit to Ann Arms who supplied this information.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNITION

All cities and towns in Chittenden County received an Award of Merit in the Educational Outreach category from the Vermont Historical Society at an awards ceremony on November 6, 2009. The ceremony took place at the 56th annual meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies, held in St. Albans. The awards were given for the towns' creation and organization of the Quadricentennial History Mystery that took place in August.

-Submitted by Terry Macaig

Attention All Members

Our membership is important to us! We need more support and activity and feed back. Please consider volunteering for just one event or happening in 2010. It can be big or small. We can only be a successful organization if we pull together and make things happen. We have much history in the Vermont Room that could be shared at a meeting or in our newsletter. Do you have something to share about local history that you could submit to a newsletter ?

All members attending the annual meeting in January are asked to invite a friend or neighbor. Let's make 2010 a spectacular year! Thanks!

Ginger Isham

Brownington's Museum

During our vacation this past summer my wife and I had the opportunity to explore the Orleans County Historical District in the Northeast Kingdom. While there we investigated many great attractions but one that really stood out was the Old Stone House in the town of Brownington. This remarkable stone structure was built in 1836 by headmaster Alexander Lucius Twilight as a dormitory for his school.

For twenty five years it housed children who were residential students. By 1918 it was in desperate need of repair and the Orleans County Historical Society came to its rescue. They were fortunate enough to become the new owners for \$500 and following the purchase work began to restore the building to its original splendor.

Today the building serves as a museum that features three floors packed with early American artifacts. Our enthusiastic tour guide gave us a three hour view through time while explaining details of each piece in which we showed interest. The museum features a separate area for each local Historical Society that wishes to design and install a display. Thus, artifacts in certain rooms are rotated to provide a chance for everyone to show off their collections. Unlike the Shelburne Museum, we were allowed to go into the rooms and closely examine the objects. For me it was a dream come true having such a close look at early 19th century life. If you get the chance I highly recommend that you go. Information about the Museum can be found at <http://oldstonehousemuseum.org/>

—Submitted by Chris Stewart

ABOUT THE CLOCK . . .

[excerpted from e-mail, Ginger Isham to the Board, dated June 24, 2009]]

First a little background: About 2 years ago, George Munson—who has no immediate family and had lived alone in a beautiful brick house on North Winooski Avenue—had a friend bring him to the DAML looking for someone in the Williston Historical Society. They called me and I talked with him from there on the phone. George said he wanted the society to have this old clock. He wanted to know if we were active and for how long and would we continue as a society in the future. I assured him all of these things were answered by yes.

I sent him a copy of the clock history in our town history book. I went to visit him at his home to see the clock. He did not allow me in as he was not feeling well at the time. I could see the clock in the background of the room from doorway, and that it was large and most likely the clock from our town history story.

He mentioned he had just sold his father's house next door so I came home and called the man whose name he mentioned. He put me in touch with a law firm handling his affairs. I told them we were interested in the clock and in the future—if something happened to George—to please contact us.

An appointment was made with the friend (who will ultimately have George's house) to go see the clock on the 15th [of June], which Terry [Macaig, WHS President] and I did. We asked Gil Myers to look into the paperwork and legal

business of our having the clock since the criteria for us to have the clock were:

1. the clock would be on loan to us
2. the clock must be repaired by professionals
3. it must be insured
4. at the end of 7-8 years if George's funds ran out for his care at the Arbors the clock would be appraised and sold and we would have first option to buy.

My son-in-law, husband and nephew went into Burlington yesterday and removed the antique clock from George Munson's old home. It is now here in our unused room until future plans are made for it. The case is in need of repair -it is 8 feet tall. There are no nails in the case - all pieces glued together."

Steve Robinson, WHS archivist stated:

"By no means am I any kind of expert on clocks or antique clocks for that matter, however, I can see that the craftsmanship is good but not of extremely high quality. But if the history of the clock is correct, such as the information from The Williston Story by Moody and Putnam, as well as the photograph taken of the clock about a century ago, then I think we should seriously consider obtaining the clock as a part of Williston's rich heritage. It was built by Munson and even boasts Williston's name on the piece, which are important things to consider."

After much discussion by the Board and Gil Meyers' fine work at getting an assessment of the clock's value the Board, in its meeting November 17, 2009 approved the following motion:

"To authorize purchase of the clock, negotiate the purchase over time with no interest, price not to exceed \$18,000 subject to appraisal and payments not to be spent from the principal of the accounts."

More will be revealed at the Annual Membership Meeting on January 18th. Ed.

The ARCHIVES Corner - Steve Robinson

Recently I have been working on digitalizing the Forbes Album and I am in the process of cropping images and putting them on disk, which will be available at the library, as well as placed in storage.

Also, I have purchased a book called Nomenclature 3.0 for Museum Cataloguing to help update our cataloguing system, which at this time our Collection is on Excel. The book is on back order, but I believe it will help make access much better. There are more cataloguing systems available, such as computer programs, but as a small historical society they would probably not be necessary.

There is also a new folder in which incoming and outgoing emails are logged and can be found in the West Closet.

THE KORNER KWIK STOP - COUNTRY STORE

The little store at the intersection of North Williston Road, Oak Hill Road and Route 2 was built in 1913. It is a clapboard, gable-roofed, one and a half story building with four scrolled brackets under the eaves. It has a false front on the west side which covers the shed-roofed addition. It has an open stairway at the rear of the store that leads to a second story dwelling space, as seen from the North Williston Road side. There were once large store windows on the front. It is a good example of a small town general store. Today the description of small town does not fit, but it is in the small historic section of Williston Village.

You could buy numerous items in addition to food and staples, medicinal items, tools, mittens, clothes and outdoor wear, boots, fish line, harnesses and their parts for your horse, lanterns, candles and much more. You could get the town news and learn when the circus was coming to town.

In 1923 Kenneth Aseltine bought the store from John Forville. Ken ran a tight business and was a fair man. When he became associated with the IGA (Independent Grocer's Association) he sent a letter and price list to his customers. The following is the letter sent to one of his customers.

To Miss Sylvia A. Warren, Town

Dear Miss Warren,

After having been in the business of conducting a retail store here in Williston for a little more than sixteen years, I feel it only just and right that I should write my many friends and customers and thank you for the loyal support that you have given me during this somewhat long period of time.

It has been my honest endeavor all of these years to give good value for money received and to merit a large portion of the business from my home town people. You have patronized my store, and have done the job, so far as I am concerned, in a very fine way and I want you to know that I fully appreciate it.

I am now operating my store under the IGA plan, the whole purpose of which is to give my many customers better value for the money which they have to pay out.

We all appreciate that merchandise, food products especially, is sold today at very small margins of profit and, therefore, in order for us to stay in business, it became necessary some time ago that we increase our volume. We feel that the only way we could merit any increased volume is by giving our many customers lower prices or prices at least as low as

prices that are made by large organizations.

I am enclosing with this letter a list of our everyday low prices. These prices, of course, are subject to market changes because war conditions affect some things and it may be necessary to occasionally advance or lower the price of some individual article; but other than that, the list enclosed is our everyday low prices and you will find this merchandise in our store at these prices at all times.

This, however, is only a small portion of the items on which we are quoting everyday low prices. Everyone knows that it is necessary that we increase the volume of business in our stores. This we could not expect except that we lower prices and keep them there at all times. It is impossible for us to enumerate all the good values that we have and that we are going to have from now on, but we would appreciate it if you would come into our store, look some over, ask for prices on any item you wish, bring the enclosed list with you if you would like to do so, and if you help us it puts us in a position to help you.

Remember that my store is a home-owned, independent store. No one outside has any interest in same whatsoever. If I am able to make any profit by your patronage the money will be kept at home and paid out in the community in which it is made. I am sure you will agree with me that this is what makes a community a good place in which to live.

Again, I want to thank all of my friends for the very fine patronage that you have given me during the past sixteen years and assure you that it will be my earnest desire to merit same the coming year only by giving you low everyday prices on merchandise that you wish to buy.

Very sincerely yours,
Kenneth M. Aseltine

The store has had numerous owners since the Aseltines sold it in the early 1960's. It has been called the Larrow Store, the McGrath Store and today is the Korner Kwik Stop owned by Bernie Perreault. --Provided by Ginger Isham

Expo 2010

Save the date-June 26 & 27, 2010 for Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. The Expo returns after a year off with "Back To The Land, Again" Vermont Heritage Ways for Today



Passages: Richard Thomas, former Board Member and husband of Bev Thomas of Barre died in November.