



January 2005

"Every Individual is an Historical Figure"

Founded 1974

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Williston Historical

Society Bulletin

Officers

President: Ginger Isham

Vice President: Richard Thomas

Secretary: Terry Macaig

Treasurer: Dr. Jon Stokes

Board of Directors

Carol Dean

John Joachim

Ruth Painter

Membership Renewals

Happy New Year everyone. With the opening of the new year comes membership renewal time. Please see membership form on back of this issue of our newsletter.

Upcoming Williston Historical Society Events

2005 Hospitality Committee Members needed to see that the society has drinks and refreshments for our member meetings.

JANUARY 31, 2005 ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK SUPPER

(Bring salad, casserole or dessert to share)

And a neighbor or friend

Time: 6 PM

Recent Collection Arrivals

At the Old Brick Church

PROGRAM: Who Are You?—Member participation

Peg Keefe, Shirley Murray, Lucia Haynes, Cynthia Mungeon, Lucy Lapan, and Stuart Talcott have recently brought in many Talcott and Stewart family items for donation, which adds to various items we have from the Talcott family, such as George Talcott's diaries dating back to the WWI era. Some of what they have contributed to our collection are:

- Many pictures
- Talcott family pedigree book.
- Stewart family bible. Circa 1870's.
- Personal items: Hair brushes, glasses, notebook in chrome case
- Scrap books

We certainly appreciate all they have given. These family items contribute to the richness in Williston's historical heritage and we thank them.

Presidents Yearly Report

A summary of the society's events and accomplishments for 2004 were:

- Confirmed our participation in the 2-year Community History Project that began in the fall of 2003. The project is under the direction of the Vermont Historical Society. The society's volunteers and teachers from the Williston Central School have attended meetings in Barre at VHS every other month in 2004 in preparation for the project. The conclusion of the project will be a public presentation of play/plays in April.
- Purchased a scanner that has been a tremendous help to Steve in the Vermont Room.
- January annual meeting with speaker, David Pinkham speaking on the construction and activity at Mt. Independence.
- Steve Robinson, Carol Stewart and Dick Allen obtained more oral histories to add to our collection.
- Dick Thomas assumed title of "Registered Agent" with state of Vermont for our renewal status as a non-profit organization.
- We have over 100 regular, life and honorary members.
- We were able to add to our collections with the purchase of an old farm ledger, and gifts of photos, postcards, artifacts, etc., from the Goodrich family, McKay family, Forbes family and the Talcott family.
- We presented ourselves to the public with a table on voting day in March and November.
- Marybeth Fonda was recipient of our history scholarship for 2004—She was one of the pupils at WCS who built our time capsule in 2000.
- March meeting was Jenna Katz speaking on Native American Rights.
- We sold a few more Thomas Chittenden's Town books and donated some to senior centers.
- Provided copies of old Williston photos to a new local bank and hotel for use in establishment.
- Participated in Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge with exhibit on one-room schoolhouse.
- Annual July 3 Ice Cream Social profits were over \$900 for local emergency food shelf.
- Jenna Katz and Anna Penoyer represented the society in July 4 parade with our 30th year banner.
- September late summer member meeting was tour of Vermont History Center in Barre and the Vermont Historical Society museum in Montpelier.
- Society voted to give financial support to town's signs "Williston Historic District" to be placed at the east and west end of historic district to make travelers slow down and be aware of our village.
- Society replaced old sign at one-room schoolhouse with a new one for the town as our contribution to Williston In Bloom.

- Steve Robinson completed a computer and notebook file of the society's papers, photos and artifacts.
- We had exhibits in the library display cases at invitation of DAML.
- November 15 Fall member supper meeting with speaker, Jerry Fox, talking on history of Williston Creameries.
- We have hired Ben Crocker to build a web page for us and it is still in the works.

I want to thank everyone for their help this year. I want to especially thank those who arrived early for member meetings and took care of refreshments for all and saw that the heat was turned on so we would be warm. The society is fortunate to have caring members who give of their time to come to meetings and serve on committees. I urge more of you to get involved. It is so worth while and rewarding and you are needed. We are all talented in our own way and no matter how small the contribution, it is important to us.

~Ginger Isham

Board approval for the examination and treatment proposal for the Eagle Tavern sign has been given and I have been in contact with Valerie Reich Hunt of the Art Conservation Consultancy in Shelburne. We have arranged to have the sign transported to her facility in South Burlington where she can scan the board with infrared photography to determine if there is any shape to the letters barely visible on the hundred and fifty (plus) year old sign. The sign has an extremely weathered surface and the lettering is nearly completely gone with only traces remaining. It is possible the sign was painted and repainted numerous times. Once this is determined we can consider our possibilities to have it restored to near or possible original design.

~Steve Robinson

I have been told that there is much speculation about the story of the lost children and if this event occurred in Williston. And to answer this question Ginger Isham was able to find information about this in The Marvin Family Genealogy book here in the Vermont Room of the DAML. Laura Meredith (sister of Marion Parker Marvin) was said to have heard this story as a young girl. In fact, as a young girl, she remembered badgering her grandfather to tell and retell The Lost Children story that his grandmother, Betsy Taylor Munson told him about being lost with her older sister for two nights and three days in the woods near the "Roaring Branch" in Sunderland, Vermont. They were reportedly saved by Ethan Allen, their neighbor at the time. It was Allen who inspired the discouraged hunters to keep looking. He organized the hunters into more effective groups. The group, led by a half-breed Native, came upon the little girls, and found them just in time to save them from gathering wolves. The Native had led the men up the Roaring Branch River where no one had looked before. He stated that a lost animal always went up a stream, hoping to find its way better, and that a young child would have that same instinct. These two daughters of Eldad Taylor, Keziah (7), and Betsy (4) lived in Sunderland when this occurred on May 31st, 1780, but later moved to Williston and that is where we get this folklore.

The Williston Historical Society Founders—1974
Art work by Tereza Kulatá

Louisa (Judge) Matthews |

Rhoda Stultz



Still awaiting the final portrait
to arrive. Will post in next
newsletter.

Elaine Radcliffe |

Myrtle Lane

Tereza Kulatá resides in Šternberk, Czech Republic and she is my daughter's international pen pal. I asked her to do these drawings, which she did for a very reasonable price, because I thought she could do an outstanding job for the WHS. I have seen examples of her work and was impressed. And as you can see above, she has created images of the four founding individuals we will not soon forget.

--Steve Robinson--

There are many photos and post cards in our collection which have not yet been put on disk and I have been able to scan a great deal of them. Richard Allen has been able to take those which I have scanned and will put them on disk for us, time permitting. Previously, he has scanned an enormous amount from our collection and those disks are available in the Vermont Room. Thank you, Dick, for your help.

~Steve Robinson

The Community History Project has kicked off and many volunteers have been in the Vermont Room with WCS students for research and study of materials relating to the history of Williston. The end product will be a play/plays which will feature the ideas students and the volunteers have created. Stay tuned for a very exciting production.



INDIGENOUS

VERMONT IS WHERE MY HEART IS,
THE LAND WHERE I BELONG.
THE LAND OF MY BEGINNING,
MY LAND FROM GOING ON.

VERMONT IS WHERE MY HEART IS,
THE LAND WHERE I BELONG.
...OF SOIL, STONE, CELLULOSE;
PEOPLE WHO ARE STRONG.

VERMONTERS SIMPLY ARE NOT BORN HERE;
LIVING VERMONT'S WAY OF LIFE.
WE ALL BECOME VERMONTERS
AS WE RISE ABOVE; THROUGH STRIFE!

VERMONT IS WHERE MY HEART IS,
THE LAND WHERE I BELONG.
THE LAND OF MY BEGINNING,
A LAND FOR GROWING STRONG.

WE ARE VERMONT'S STRENGTHS AND PROBLEMS.
WE HAVE BEEN, ALL ALONG.
WE MUST ALL SING TOGETHER
THE IDEALS OF VERMONT'S SONG.

VERMONT...VERMONT...YOU ARE SPECIAL!
WE HAVE KNOWN IT, ALL ALONG.
HELP US SING YOUR PRAISES,
HELP US GROW TOGETHER; STRONG!

VERMONT IS WHERE MY HEART IS,
THE LAND WHERE I BELONG.
THIS INDEGENOUS STILL GROWS HERE.
FROM HERE ONLY, WILL I BE GONE.

~JIM McCULLOUGH~

