



MILTON

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 2

July 1984

Notes From The Editor...

The response to our first Newsletter was very positive, including a note of congratulations from the State Historical Society. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to contribute an article, sketch, or photograph please get in touch with me.

Bob Hooker, Editor



Monthly Activities of the Milton Historical Society...

APRIL

Fifteen members were present at the April meeting on the 4th to elect officers for the coming year. The officers chosen are as follows:

President - Robert Hooker
Vice President - John FitzGerald
Recording Secretary - Stanley Henry
Corresponding Secretary - Jeanne Henry
Treasurer - Edna Frye
Historian - Ruth Ryan
Director - Arthur Mayville

Committees reporting were the Cemetery Committee, which had received a complaint about the condition of the West Milton Cemetery; the Budget and Finance Committee reporting on various fundraisers, and the History Contest Committee which reported to be coming along well.

The guest speaker for April was Mrs. Pauline Nye on enamelware. Ruth Ryan reports on this on page 2.

Other April Events;

A fundraiser in April profited us \$209.00. This was the first of this years fund raising events and was very successful. A big thanks to Wendell and Mary Noble for the donation of Maple Syrup for this event.

MAY

The monthly meeting was held May 2nd, 1984 with 16 members and many guests present for the presentation of awards in the school history contest. Prize winners were:

Listed Alphabetically;

4th Grade

Melissa Burnett
Rosie Cadreact
Debbie Clark
Tracy Evans
Neal Hornyak
Suzanne Kingry
Dianna Lafayette
Darcy Lamott

Moe Mulheron
Melissa-Kay Monro
Eric Pepin
Tracy Raymond
Liza Robie
Eric Waters

Honorable Mention

Jennifer Blanchard
Corey Desranleau
Vern Godin
Amy Kastrinos
Laurie Laird
Laurel Lareau
Jill Lawrence
Amy Rivero
Tammy Saltus

5th Grade

Holly Zeno

Honorable Mention

Gina Bluto
Tami Combs

After a presentation by guest speaker Cornelia Denker, the business meeting came to order at 9:15 pm. The officers reports were read and accepted. Other items of interest included...

The Cemetery Committee reported on the installation of a new driveway by the State Highway Dept. at the Checkerberry Cemetery. The committee is considering forming a Milton Historic Cemetery Commission.

John and Jane FitzGerald and Edna Frye had attended the Vermont Historical Society Workshop at the end of April and Mr. FitzGerald reported on this.

We had a request for people to help out at the museum on Saturdays. Anyone interested may contact Ruth Ryan.

Other May Events;

The first edition of this Newsletter was mailed out at the end of May.

A special ceremony was held at the Checkerberry Cemetery on Memorial Day. Thanks to all who made it a success, especially the American Legion who helped sponsor the event, Rainbow's Garden for contributing flowers, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who painted the fence and donated flowers, and Jeanette Magnussen who spoke as a delegate from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association.

Another thank you to the Milton P.T.O. for including an article for this Historical Society in their newsletter, "The Milton Herald".

JUNE

The June meeting was held on June 6th. As the first Wednesday in July is the 4th the next meeting was set for July 11 at the Mayville's camp.

Reports from committees included the Newsletter Committee reporting over 130 newsletters mailed and 65 distributed by hand. A letter from Weston Cate of the Vt. Historical Society complimenting our Newsletter was read.

President Robert Hooker reported that he had many favorable comments on the appearance of the Checkerberry Cemetery.

Ruth Ryan reported a continuing shortage of people to be in the museum Saturday afternoons. 58 people visited in May. Thanks go out to Jane FitzGerald, Edna Frye, Joyce Morse, and Iris Mayville who helped in May.

Jane FitzGerald thanked people who helped on the History Contest. Edith Holden, Edna Frye, Lorinda Henry, Stan Henry, and Ruth Ryan.

Fundraisers for the next three months were discussed.

There was no guest speaker in June.

Our contribution to the Milton Country Fair was discussed and planned.

Watch for posters announcing our fundraiser to be held on August 12 at the American Legion hall.

Other June Events;

The Milton Country Fair;

Jane FitzGerald's inspiration and tremendous energy in the creation of the Historical Society's float won us first prize this year. The theme of the parade, The Vermont Way, was beautifully illustrated by a tableau of an old time town meeting backed by a green and white banner proclaiming the theme, with the state map applied thereon. Our thanks to Jane for another really successful float!

Our exhibit at the Fair was highlighted by a group of antique gasoline engines and farm machinery owned by Gene Towne and Harold Littlefield, Jr. We appreciate the loan of this interesting exhibit which gave the people of Milton a chance to have a look back at how things used to be on the farm.

Our thanks also go to the following local merchants for the donation of prizes, totaling over \$350.00, to our June/July fundraiser.

Green Mountain Petroleum

Franklin Lamaille Bank

Bank Of Vermont

Jim Rowley Fuels

Zachary's Pizza House

Historian's Report:

Speaker for April;

Pauline Nye of Georgia spoke on enamelware, which she said came into existence in 1876, continuing until 1930 when steel and aluminum took over. She noted that enamelware, also known as agateware or graniteware, had steel as its base. The enamel was applied in layers to resemble agate. Colors included gray, blue and white, deep purplish blue, green, and brown. The rarest colors are the purplish blue, green, and brown. This ware chipped easily which caused the decline in its popularity.

Speaker for May;

Cornelia Denker, consultant from the Vermont Historical Society, editor of the Green Mountaineer, and Curator of the Kent Museum spoke to our May gathering of members and guests. Due to the History Contest Awards presentation there was a total of over 70 people on hand.

Ms. Denker noted that history is not a dull subject at all. She illustrated her observation by showing several articles from the Kent Museum collection. Included were a cover for a wagon wheel to protect a lady's shoes and skirt from mud and dust; a sausage stuffer; a pie lifter; and an Abnakai stone used for heating water. She asked us to imagine our ancestors actually using these items and in this way we can add life to our study of history.

Also displayed and discussed were items from the Victorian era (1860 - 1910) such as bric-a-brac from the homes of that period and a lapel pin made from human hair.

Speaker for June;

The program hour at the June meeting was used for an extra long business session. Items discussed and acted upon included; sponsoring a booth at the June Fair, a possible float for the parade, plans for a July Band Concert and Flea Market, and other matters of interest.

Ruth Ryan, Historian

BAND CONCERT



WITH
The Fairfax-Westford Band
1:00 P.M. SUNDAY, JULY 15
IN THE PARK BY THE RIVER

ALSO A
LAWN SALE
BEGINNING AT 10:30

Special Note;

Lawn Sale;

Don't forget to look through your attic, cellar, back room, or under the beds for that stuff you haven't used in years! We are now taking in things for the lawn sale to be held the day of the Band Concert, July 15th. You can bring your donations to our house any day before the sale (call first). Absolutely anything you can get here we will try to sell! We have an experienced Lawn Sale expert to price the items, and the leftovers will be disposed of at the discretion of the Finance Committee.

Bob Hooker/Lorinda Henry
893-7036

Special Note:

The Program Committee has completed their planning for the 1984-1985 season. A copy of the complete year's events and speakers can be had by writing or calling John FitzGerald at RFD # 2, North Rd.

Bicentennial Quilt;

The quilt marking the 200 th anniversary of the settling of Milton is on permanent display in our museum. It has 28 squares depicting the early pioneer years of the town. The following description is the 2nd in our series.



Sewn by Gertrude Manley

This square shows Noah Smith who is said to be Milton's first attorney. He was born in Suffield, Conn. in 1756 and was graduated from Yale in the class of 1778 with a law degree. Soon after his graduation Noah moved to Bennington, Vt. where he resided for 22 years.

Noah Smith became interested in the town of Milton and was moderator at one of the first proprietor's meetings held in Manchester, Vt. in 1788. It was common in those days for proprietors to own land in sparsely settled towns for a number of years before moving to the area.

He speculated in land almost as soon as he came to Vermont. The land records of Milton show that the third deed issued was to Mr. Smith in transferring six original rights of land to his ownership.

Smith and his wife Chloe and their five children came to Milton in 1800. At one time he owned nearly all of the land in the Village, purchasing some of it from Ira and Heman Allen of Colchester.

Besides giving the land for the East and West street through the Village (presently Main Street), Noah also gave the land for a cemetery and a church (also on Main Street). He also built a church on the site of the present ambulance building in 1806 - 1807, with his own money.

He overextended his interests in real estate and became involved with the Vermont Land Bank shortly after this. About 1808 that institution foreclosed and jailed him for bad debts and he was sent to the Burlington jail.

Noah Smith was also the first Grand Master of the Masons in Vermont. His wife died in Burlington in 1810, and he followed her two years later on Christmas day of 1812. He is buried in the Milton Village Cemetery on Main Street on a hill in the upper section.

In 1835 Joseph Clark bought the former home and mill property of Noah Smith and added a large wing to the house. The building now serves as the Town Office Building and is known as the Clark Memorial Building, with no note of the once famous Noah Smith.



Special Note:

Membership;

This year has been another typically busy and involved one for our group. However, to date we have received only 20 members dues for 1984 - 1985! We have also seen fewer members out to support some of our special projects and fundraisers. The absence of dues is usually caused by just not getting around to it in our busy lives, but this year the grace period has been limited to 3 months instead of 6 and will run out as of the July meeting. Please get your dues in the mail today to Mrs. Edna Frye at RFD #2, North Rd., Milton.

Membership...

Individual -- \$5.00

Family ----- \$7.50

Student ----- \$1.00

(under 18 yrs.)

Mail dues to ...

Treasurer, Mrs. Edna Frye

RFD # 2, North Rd.

Renewed each April

Meetings...

The Milton Historical Society meets monthly on the first Wed. at the American Legion Hall on Rt. 7 at 7:30 pm.

Museum Hours...

Our Museum is located in the Clark Memorial Building on Main Street. It is open from 1:00 to 5:00 pm Saturdays.

Newsletter Staff...

Editor, Bob Hooker; Artwork, Lorinda Henry;

Contributors, Stan Henry, Ruth Ryan, Jane FitzGerald

Milton Historical Society
RFD # 4, Milton, Vt.
05468

1984

Mr. & Mrs. John FitzGerald
RFD # 2
Milton, Vt.
05468

Programs And Events...

- July: 11th - Monthly meeting, at Mayville's camp, come early and bring a picnic, the speaker is Robert Weir Oral Historian, informal talk on oral history.
15th - Band Concert in the Village Park on River St. at 1:00 pm, Fairfax & Westford Band, refreshments at old-fashioned prices, also a Lawn Sale beginning at 10:30 am, prize drawing for June/July fundraiser.
- August: 1st - Monthly meeting, speaker is author/actor Mary Okin presenting "The Family Tree" a skit about famous Vermont women.
12th- Fundraiser at the American Legion Hall, watch for posters.
- September: 5th - Monthly meeting, come early for pot luck Harvest Supper, speaker will talk on the Underwater Archeology of Lake Champlain.
16th - Tentative date for fundraiser at American Legion Hall.