



# MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

VOL 2, NUMBER 2, April, 1986

**NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:** A few words about our mailing list...If your address is not correct on this issue, please call or drop me a note to update it. If you are not a member and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, send the enclosed coupon in the return envelope. Also, if you have a friend or relative who would like to receive our newsletter, send along their address.

**DUES ARE DUE APRIL 1st:** Please help us reach our goal of having all dues paid by the end of May this year. Membership fees are listed on the last page. We have 44 members from 1985 and we would like to see that number top 50 for 1986. Even if you are not able to attend our monthly meetings, your financial support is appreciated. To make it easier, we have enclosed a return envelope to get your dues directly to the treasurer. Please drop it in the mail today while it's fresh in your mind.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:** Let me take a minute to thank our sponsors for their generous support during the past year. Without their financial help we would not be able to send this newsletter to the hundreds of people that we do. Last year we distributed 700 newsletters and we hope to top that number this year. When you do business with any of our sponsors please take a minute to say, "I saw your ad in the Historical Society newsletter." Likewise if you own a business or provide a service in the Milton area, Your message can be included on our "Sponsor's Page" for a tax deductible \$20.00 per year. Pick up the phone, give us a call - 893-7036.

**CEMETERY NEWS:** A renewed interest in cemetery restoration is afoot in Milton with the efforts of the Milton Boy Scouts, Troop #1. They have taken on the challenge of the Old West Milton Graveyard on the Rowley Farm as part of their Eagle Scout program. As their work began last summer they approached us for advice and support. We were pleased to contribute \$50.00 toward their goal and share with them some of our experience from our project at the Checkerberry Cemetery. We wish them success and thank them for their concern for a neglected area of public responsibility.

**HISTORIC HOMES TOUR:** Another successful tour was sponsored last fall with some very interesting homes in the earliest part of town, West Milton. We thank the committee for their excellent work in organizing the event and researching the history of the homes, and Lorinda Henry for designing the program cover and map. A special thanks to the owners of these fine homes (Ron & Jane Morgan, Wesley & Faith Valyou, Jeff & Karolyn Towne, Gordon & Harriet Thom) for sharing them with us. They will each receive an "Historic Home" plaque to display on their homes. The committee voted last fall to discontinue offering special rates for members or other groups who take the tour.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** In a letter from the Chair of the Board of Library Trustees, we have been asked to help research and write a history of the Milton Library. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ruth Ryan or Robin Brisson.



### HARDSCRABBLE HILL SCHOOLHOUSE:

Mrs. June Hayes LeClair has offered to donate the old schoolhouse to our Society. The only requirement we must meet is to remove it from her property. Upon inspection it is reported to have some rotten beams, no windows or doors & one end of the building has been completely removed to allow the loading and unloading of hay. Although it appears to be in very rough shape, it does have a good roof and a local contractor offered the opinion that it may well survive being moved.

Since nothing physical can be done until better weather, we are considering such things as financing the move, a place to put the building in or near the village, restoration, possible use for it in relation to our goals, and how to afford to maintain it after restoration. Anyone with any ideas, expertise, or financing is urged to step forward at this time. This is the type of project that could benefit from a bequest or trust fund.

## HELP WANTED

Time marches on and waits for no man. As time goes on we are losing more of Milton's history. In the last few years we have lost much information on what Milton was like in the past, because the people who knew this information have died. We have made an effort for several years to record and preserve this knowledge, but what we have is only a drop in the bucket.

I am making an appeal to everyone to join the Milton Historical Society and help us with this preservation process. We need more members because the membership fee helps to provide the supplies to record and preserve this information. We need members to help make our efforts and projects a success and to make us feel that we have accomplished something.

Members can help in so many ways; research, oral history, gathering together materials for exhibits, writing, talking with people and asking questions. The attendance at meetings and special events is the gauge we use to measure our success.

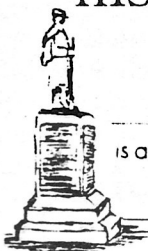
We have some very interesting and informative programs, but they do not do much good if only a few people attend. Membership and interest goes in cycles and ours has been waning for a few years; won't you please help us reverse this trend by taking an active part in our organization? If you can be an active member, great!; if not maybe you could attend some of our meetings, and if not at least please join us as a member.

Your President, John W. FitzGerald

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## MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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\_\_\_\_\_ is a member for the year expiring April, 19 \_\_\_\_

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Treasurer

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This is a sample of our new membership card which was designed by Lorinda Henry. - This card will be issued when you renew your membership.

**HISTORICAL CALENDAR:** A 1986 calendar featuring 365 Vermont historic facts is available for \$5.00 (plus \$1.00 for mailing) by contacting Lorinda Henry, RD#4, Milton (893-7036). Part of the proceeds will benefit the Milton Historical Society.

**1986 HISTORICAL INTEREST MAP:** The Chittenden County Historical Society has asked us to submit a list of buildings, cemeteries, bridges, or areas of our town that we consider historically significant. They are updating their map of historical sites that is provided to tourist centers in the area.

Please support our upcoming Fund Raiser  
**\*\*FOOD, DRINK, AND PENNY BINGO\*\***  
May 14th, 7:00 p.m., at the Legion Hall



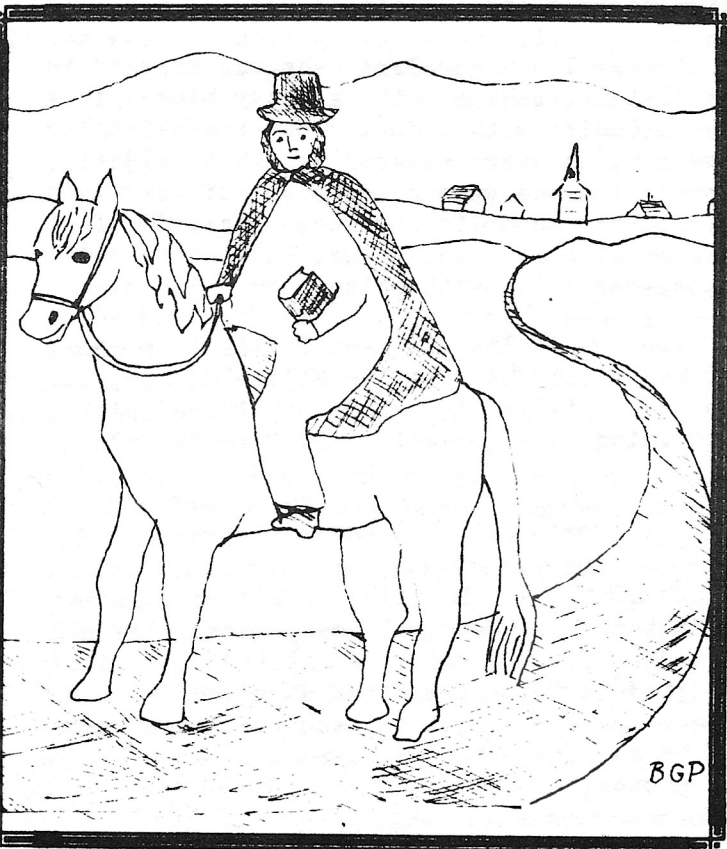
Portrait of Lorenzo Dow from p.5 of Successful Vermonters by Wm. H. Jeffrey, pub. 1907. Copy of portrait courtesy of Stan Henry.

Here is a little insight to Lorenzo Dow's associations in Milton. In his journal for September, 1799, Reverend Dow wrote:

"I preached in Highgate, Swanton, and St. Albans, for the last time (he was preparing to travel to Ireland); in Georgia and in Milton likewise; in the latter, I once made a covenant, which they broke, and afterwards they hated me so, that they could not bear to see me." (p.35, Lorenzo Dow's Complete Works)

Contributed by Lorinda Henry

**BICENTENNIAL QUILT SQUARE:** A sketch of one of the squares of the Bicentennial Quilt made by members and friends of our Society in 1982 to commemorate the 200th year of the settling of Milton is presented in each newsletter. The square highlighted in this issue is an illustration of Lorenzo Dow, circuit rider, the first preacher to minister to the people of Milton (late 1700s). The following article by Ruth Ryan is an overview of his life as it touched our town, and is from Ruth's file of many years of research. Two other members of our group have stepped forward to share reference books covering Mr. Dow from their collections. One of these books is entitled The Complete Works of Lorenzo Dow dated 1849. The complete quilt is on permanent display at the museum. The square shown here was stitched by Barbara Pfeiffer.



**MILTON'S PIONEER PREACHER:** Methodism appears to have been the first form of organized Christianity known to the early settlers of Milton. The world renowned preacher, Lorenzo Dow, considered by most to be an eccentric, began serving the Northwest part of town in 1798. Born in Coventry, Conn., in 1777, Dow was a circuit preacher and is said to have possessed talents of a high order, together with wit and a marvelous memory. His circuit first extended into New Hampshire, mostly wilderness at the time, and was later enlarged into Vermont. He preached in log churches or held meetings in someone's cabin or barn. It is said that wherever he preached souls were converted.

His first wife, Peggy Hoahum of Granville, Mass., was for many years his constant traveling companion; even her costume was the same as her husband's. Considered by all to be an amiable Christian woman, she died in Hebron, Conn., in 1820. His second wife, Lucy Dolbear, was said to have been "a perfect Amazon, who ruled him with an iron rod."

During his lifetime he traveled through every state and territory in the United States and throughout the British Dominion. He also traveled across the ocean 14 times although he never possessed the money or other necessities for an ocean voyage. His needs were always furnished by friends.

Once, telling of his ride to Brattleboro, he mentioned setting out in a hard snowstorm; the snow was knee deep making the mountains nearly impassable. On another occasion, Lorenzo is said to have lost both his shoes while fording "Little River" on his way to Stowe in 1799.

Dow never took a collection for preaching but sometimes received gifts from individuals. Revivals followed revivals all over the territory where he preached and it is said that he had the power to hypnotize an audience.

He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity and took all the degrees then known in this country.

Lorenzo Dow died in 1834 and is reportedly buried in Montpelier, Vermont.



**ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting of our Society was held on Wed., April 2, 1986, at the Legion Hall. At that meeting the following positions were filled for the coming year: President, John FitzGerald; Vice-President, Jane FitzGerald; Secretary, Stanley Henry; Treasurer, Edna Frye; and Director for three years, Velma Powers.

**Congratulations to Peter Quick of Milton who received the high honor of Eagle Scout at the United Church on April 26, 1986.** His Eagle Service Project was the planning and executing of the cemetery restoration mentioned on the cover page. The ceremony of Eagle Court of Honor was attended by many local dignitaries, including our President and Vice-President. He and his parents can be very proud of the list of accomplishments resulting from his nine years of scouting.

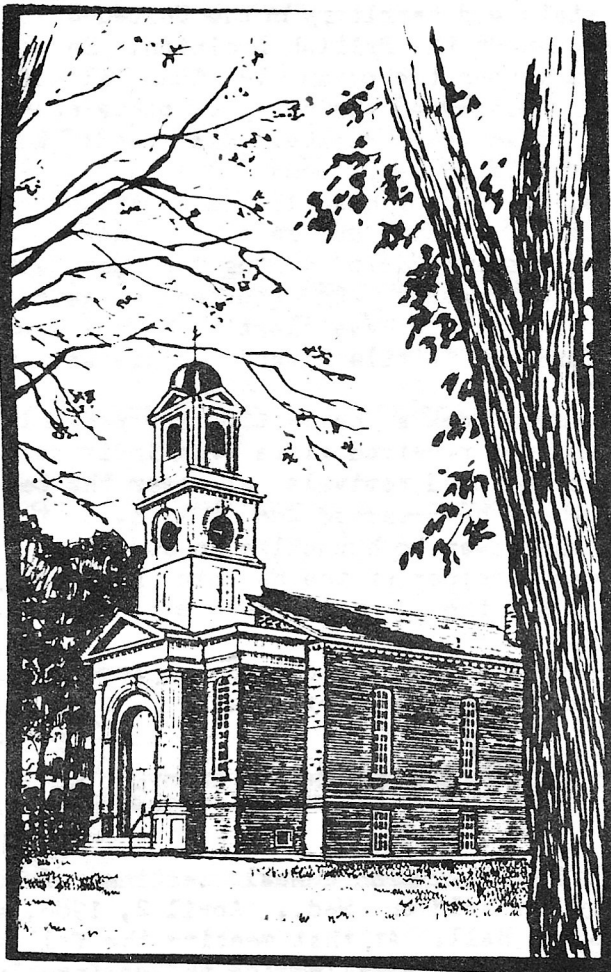
**MUSEUM NEWS:** Emile Racine has successfully produced a few prints from the collection of old glass negatives donated by Shirley Michaud in 1984. They will be added to the collection of prints on display in our museum. Shirley donated the collection of approximately 100 glass negatives in memory of her grandfather, Photographer J.K. Smith, who had a studio at his home on school street at the turn of the century.

Ruth received a thank you note from Terri Mahoney for giving her 3rd grade class a tour of the museum.

D. Portius Krieger, of Minnesota, has accumulated an extensive collection of Milton (& Colchester) memorabilia. He is a native of the area and told us of his collection while on the Historic Homes Tour last fall.

The Folk Art Exhibit was a real hit last fall and Ruth wishes to thank all those who contributed pieces.

Our records show that 393 people visited the museum during 1985.



MILTON'S UNITED CHURCH ON MAIN STREET.  
Can you guess the year?

## FEMININE PULCHRITUDE

There is a fascinating lady that resides in Milton that I'm sure many of you would like to meet. - Her name is Tillie. Her last name? I forgot to ask and it is really not that important anyway. However, if it is important to you, perhaps she would tell you.

She is at least six ft. tall and possesses a striking figure with her slim waist, well turned ankles, and delicate hands. She has blue eyes and reddish brown hair which reflects the sunlight and turns to a gorgeous copper color. Her complexion is incomparable and a question relating to her age only brings a hint of a smile to her well formed lips. She prefers not to discuss her age and no amount of coaxing will induce her to divulge this information.

On the day I saw her last she was dressed in the latest fashion with a navy blue long sleeve bodice with a dotted net overskirt. Her lovely hands were encased by white kidskin gloves and she wore a chapeau of navy and purple which complimented her dress. Her feet were encased in light blue, high heel satin pumps, decorated with rhinestone buckles.

If you would like to meet Tillie in person, you may visit her at the Milton Museum. --- You see, Tillie is mannequin-in-residence. A charming lady indeed! (By Stan Henry)



**MUSEUM DONATIONS:** Donations of items relating to Milton's past are welcomed, especially old photographs, and will be listed/described/credited in this newsletter as space permits. Museum space is limited so some large items may be declined but we have plenty of room for photos.

Lean items are accepted for temporary display and do not have to be directly related to Milton's History. Please contact Ruth Ryan (893-4488), or Iris Mayville (893-7959).



The following people were appointed to the Program Committee: Jane FitsGerald, Ruth Ryan, Iris Mayville, Joyce Morse, Thelma Dimick, and Hazel Siegriest.