

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL #, VOL 3, NUMBER 1, MAY 1988

FROM THE EDITOR:

With each issue of this newsletter we find the need to update some addresses and add new names to the list. If there has been a change in your mailing address please use the enclosed address coupon to let me know. If you have friends or relatives who have moved away but would like to hear about our activities we would be glad to add their names to the list.

With the next issue I would like to reach some of the Milton people who have moved to retirement or nursing homes. Please help me collect names and addresses for this list, either in Vermont or out of state.

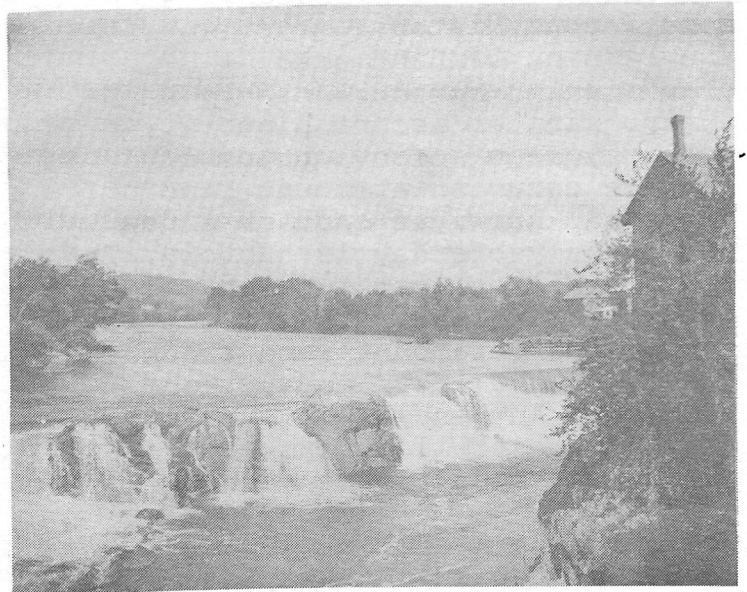
Happy Birthday Lake Arrowhead...

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the building of the dam that forms lake Arrowhead. It was built at a point in the Lamoille river where a natural falls occurs. Throughout Milton's inhabited history this section of the river has been used as a power source for various mills (photos of some are found in the museum). Evidence of this remains today, with the large mill stone displayed outside the town office building on main street.

To make room for the lake it was necessary to relocate part of U.S. route 7 to higher ground. Several homes and farms were also in the flood plain. The present home of Tom and Mary Curran was moved to it's present location at that time, but most of the others were dismantled. During periodic maintainance work on the dam the water is lowered enough to expose some of the cellar holes and a good deal of the old road.

Several photos of the construction project were donated to the museum by the Central Vermont Public Service Corp., owners of the dam. We hope to find someone who has the time to contact CVPS and write up a complete account of the project.

Shown here is a pleasant country scene of the falls before the dam was built.



Geneology Requests...

Periodically we receive letters asking for help tracing someone's family tree. These requests usually come from out of state, where people find it difficult to come here personally to look through town records.

We need help following through on these requests, so if anyone out there has the time to spend on this project it would be very much appreciated by the people on the other end of these letters. Our president, Jane FitzGerald has the info to get you started.

Recent History...

Where Were You In 1960 ???

A Milton resident, Judy Stewart by name, is working on a research paper for her history course at Trinity College. Her topic is the change that has occurred in our town since 1960. She has spent many long hours poring over the records in the town offices and other places to collect data to use in analysing where we were and where we seem to be now.

Although this isn't along the lines of the "very old" type research we normally think of in our group, it could turn out to be a very interesting perspective on recent events. She has consented to donate a copy of her report to our collection at the museum.

More Recent History...

The Passing Of Landmarks:

Speaking of recent history, does anyone have any photos of the now defunct Catamount Stadium? As we all know, as soon as a new day dawns yesterday is history. The town of Milton lost two long time landmarks in 1987 with the demolition of the Catamount race track and the IGA store. Here today, gone tomorrow! Any and all photos of these two establishments would be great additions to the museum.

Society Wins Award:

Our Historical Society was presented with a Certificate Of Participation For Community Service, by the Milton American Legion Auxiliary on March 20th. We will proudly display it in the museum.

Museum Hours...

The museum is open Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00, or by appointment with Ruth Ryan.

It is located on the third floor of the town office building on main street. There is an elevator for easier access.

Noteworthy...

Epitaph found in old graveyard in Dummerston Vermont;

Gone Home

Adin N. French
Died July 19, 1855
AE 29 Yrs. 9 mnths

The deceased came to his death by the explosion of the engine "John Smith" on the Vermont & Canada Railroad in Milton Vt. A husband kind, a father dear, a friend in need lies buried here.

DUES ARE DUE:

Our membership year begins in April so it's time to get those checks in the mail! Use the handy address/membership coupon and return envelope to send in your dues today!

If you find it impractical to be an active member your check is even MORE IMPORTANT. It takes about \$1000 a year to support our projects and programs and you can take an active part in that with your dues. If the spirit moves you, feel free to send donations above and beyond regular dues, we can always put it to a good use! As a tax exempt group we qualify for the "matching grants" program at IBM, where they will match your donation with a grant of twice the amount, tripling the value of your gift!

Museum Donations:

Some interesting artifacts were donated to the museum this past year. They include...

- *** A cannon ball from the war of 1812, found on the Vermont side of the lake.
- *** An old-time apple peeler
- *** 2 vintage women's garments
- *** An old-time Steel Yard (weighing device)

Ruth Ryan is in charge of museum donations.

The current display in the museum is an old-time school house.

President's Report:

It was ten years ago that the Milton Historical Society was chartered and incorporated. We have grown to a membership of 50 supporters, and a nucleus of about 14 enthusiastic hard workers. It is important to have a large membership for the moral support given to the more active members and the interest shown in our projects.

The Milton Museum is proof-positive of the hard work that has been put into the first ten years of our society. Much of our local history has been lost over the years but it is rewarding to see how much has been preserved in our collection at the Clark building. It is exciting and rewarding to compare the photos taken over 100 years ago with the Milton of today.

Some of the areas that need more attention in the future are our oral history, foxfire, and geneology collections. Three years ago when I became president I had my own objective of a complete history of our town. Much of the material is available but it has still not been compiled.

I would like to pledge my support to the new president and ask you all to join with me and help make the next ten years' accomplishments 100% larger than the first!

In closing I would like to give my thanks to all our members and to the community for their help and support over the last three years.

John FitzGerald

Annual Meeting...

The annual meeting was held the first Wednesday in April for the annual reports of the officers and the election of officers for 1988.

Condensed versions of the secretary's and president's reports are printed later in this issue.

Officers for 1988 are as follows:

President	Jane FitzGerald
Vice President	Lorinda Henry
Recording Secretary	Stan Henry
Corresponding Secretary ..	Stan Henry
Treasurer	Bob Hooker
Historian	Ruth Ryan
Director	Gert Manley

Secretary,s Report...

The following is a condensed version of the secretary's annual report of our activities.

The 1987 spring meeting of the finance committy yeilded the proposed budget for speakers and projects totaling about \$1000. This did not include the newsletter, which is self-supporting.

New fundraising plans were made this past year due to slipping attendance at the old stand-by's. The summer band concert and the fall historic homes tour were replaced with a fall flea market & craft sale in the park by the river. It also included a bake sale, fresh vegetable table, and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. it turned out to be both popular and successful, in spite of threatening skies for the day.

We participated in the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the Clark building in May. The Milton Country Fair parade in June (taking 2nd prize!), and the Milton Fire Department's 50th anniversary parade in July (also winning 2nd place!).

In October the topic turned to the deplorable conditions in the old cemeteries of Milton. A message was sent to the town manager of our concerns.

Our November meeting included the annual pie night (always popular), and in December we exchanged small hand-made gifts.

We co-sponsored a Christmas Carol Tour in mid-December with the three churches. Everyone had a good time singing, walking between the churches, and enjoying hot cocoa and a visit to the museum at the Clark building.

Stan Henry



History In The Making....

Please help me welcome to the pages of Milton's history, the new town newspaper "The Milton Paper". And what a pleasure is to see such support for the great things going on in our town!

MILTON POST OFFICES

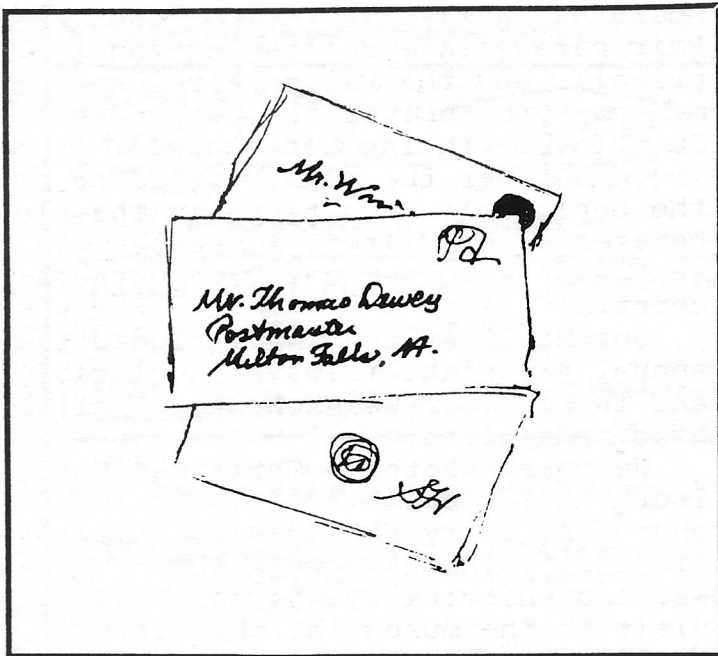
BICENTENNIAL QUILT SQUARE:

In each issue we present the history behind one of the squares that make up the bicentennial quilt that hangs in the museum. It was made in the winter of 1982 by our members to commemorate the settling of our town in the winter of 1782.

The square illustrated below in a sketch by Lorinda Henry was designed and sewn by her father Stan Henry. The theme is "early postal service to Milton".

Stan served as rural carrier for the Milton post office for 23 years before his retirement in 1985.

SQUARE #15, "THE FIRST POST OFFICE"



The following information was taken from Stan's research on Milton postal history.

The act of 1792 established a postal route from Rutland to Highgate, which went through Milton. The mail left Rutland on Monday by stage-coach and reached Highgate on Thursday. The return trip left on Thursday reaching Rutland on Saturday.

The first post office in Milton was established in 1808 with Thomas

Dewey as postmaster. It was probably located in the Dewey home, as was the case with many new post offices in the early days, and can still be found to be true of fourth class offices today.

In the 1850's as the statewide railroad system was completed the mail was delivered by rail. Today Vermont uses trucks for transporting instate mail.

Until 1901 it was necessary for people to go to the post office to get their mail in Milton. At that time the Rural Free Delivery system was brought to town. This was a popular innovation since it made it possible for postal customers to get their mail, and other postal services, delivered to their door.

Today it is unusual for any but the largest cities to have more than one post office, but in 1834 a second office was opened in West Milton with Calvin Deming appointed postmaster. Although our list of postmasters extends only until 1886, we suspect the West Milton office was closed when RFD was established in 1901. Since the RFD agent was authorized to sell stamps, and even hand cancel mail in some cases, many small post offices were closed in the first years of RFD service.

The following lists of postmasters is taken from a book called "History of Chittenden County Vermont" edited by W.S. Rann, published by D. Mason & Co. in 1886 at Syracuse N.Y., and also from current postal publications at Milton.

The relative short terms listed beside their names is accounted for by the fact that the position was considered an honor bestowed upon a noteworthy citizen of the correct political persuasions. As each new political administration came into power they would promptly remove the postmaster and appoint someone of their own party. These political games were halted in the early part of this century as the Civil Service Administration began controlling the postal system.

Postmasters for Milton Falls
(Milton Village)

Thomas Dewey	(1808 - 1813)
Jesse P. Carpenter	(???? - ????)
Joseph Prentiss	(???? - ????)
Stephen Hoxie	(???? - 1828)
Lyman Burgess	(1828 - 1840)
Samual M. St. Johns	(1840 - 1842)
George Ayres	(1842 - 1845)
Hiram Smith	(1845 - 1850)
George Ayres (again)	(1850 - 1854)
Hiram Smith (again)	(1854 - 1861)
E. L. Whitney	(1861 - 1863)
Jed P. Clark	(1863 - 1869)
H. G. Boardman	(1869 - 1877)
E. L. Whitney (again)	(1877 - 1884)
Eli Barnum	(1884 - 1885)
O. E. Coon	(1885 - ????)
Homer E. Powell	(???? - ????)
Arron B. Storey	(???? - ????)
David L. Field	(???? - ????)
Alton B. Ashley	(???? - ????)
Emerson M. Kennedy	(???? - ????)
Herbert H. Beeman	(???? - ????)
George H. Wood	(???? - ????)
Alice Barrett	(???? - ????)
Charles A. Robinson	(???? - ????)
Charles J. King	(???? - ????)
Lawrence W. Barrett	(???? - ????)
Irene M. Barrett	(???? - ????)
Donald DeVarney	(1965 - 1987)
William T. Cannon	(1987 - today)

Postmasters For West Milton

Calvin Deming	(1834 - 1837)
Abram B. Olin	(1837 - 1838)
A. G. Whittemore	(1838 - 1844)
C. L. Drake	(1844 - 1850)
R. Sanderson	(1850 - 1855)
Hector Adams	(1855 - 1856)
C. L. Drake (again)	(1856 - 1863)
Ell Barnum	(1863 - 1865)
M. D. Herrick	(1865 - 1879)
H. F. Lyon	(1879 - 1880)
C. P. Sanderson	(1880 - 1882)
W. L. Sanderson	(1882 - 1883)
James D. Cotie	(1883 - 1885)
D. L. Fields	(1885 - 1886)
George Granger	(1886 - ????)

Meeting Calander:

May 4 --- Junior Historian night;
presentation of the awards
for participation in the
local & state history con-
test at the 4th grade level.

speaker: Elise Guyette of
the Shelburne Museum, author
of "Vermont A Partchwork".

June 1 --- Rebecca Bennett, Artist

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the
first Wednesday of the month at the
American Legion hall unless other-
wise noted.

Harvest Fair & Flea Market...

With the excell^Eent results from
last year's event, we are planning a
bigger and better fair and flea
market for 1988. We have decided to
relocate to the American Legion hall
on route 7 in order to offer better
facilities.

We will offer both indoor and out-
door set-ups and have set the date to
the first week of August. We will be
contacting people for donations to
the bake sale and the harvest table
(fresh vegetables from your garden).
We also will be distributing regis-
tration forms to area dealers at var-
ious flea markets during the summer.
Watch the Milton Paper for details!

Membership...

Membership rates are as follows...

Junior / student	\$1.00
Individual	\$5.00
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If you have a business in town and would like to show your active community support, please call me at 893-7036. The cost is a low \$20 per year and is tax deductible with our non-profit status.

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