



MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, TO THE
REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS...

When Vermont became the 14th state, those 200 years ago, there were about fifty households in Milton, which then had a population of 283 people. Interestingly enough, this year it took the efforts of about fifty people and almost as many organizations to put together the grand celebrations of our State's Bicentennial for the 8405 people who call Milton "HOME".



Our prize-winning float

ONE NATION UNDER GOD...

The summons to celebrate rang forth at noon, March 4, 1991, Vermont's birthday, as church bells pealed throughout the village beginning with the oldest Milton congregation, the United Church on Main street. Within moments, the bell at Saint Ann's rang the centuries old "Angelus". Then, the bells of Trinity Episcopal Church on School street joined in the chorus of grateful joy!

And then - spreading the invitation, as though to the ends of the earth, came the response of the siren, sounded by volunteers of the Milton Fire Department from the fire-trucks stationed for the occasion on route 7 by the park and by the shopping center.



Rev. FitzGerald and the Henry-Hooker's preparing for the start of the parade

INDIVISIBLE...

Thanks to the perseverance of Jane Fitzgerald, and the months of minutes, notices, etc. handled by Wanda Viau, a Bicentennial Steering Committee was formed in March of 1990. Thanks to the efforts of so many people, the three day Welcome Home weekend was a huge success! The cost for the entire celebration, including the bands for the parade, was about \$5,000. Mike Adams and Don Turner were the first to contribute when the plans were only a vague dream. Then followed beautiful, unsolicited, gifts from: the Town of Milton, Milton Rental, Village of Milton, Milton Education Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Milton Fair Committee, Milton Women's Club, and the Eagles Club. These donations together totaled just about half of the cost. The remaining half came from the hundreds of people of all ages who simply donated loose change or a couple of dollars, or bought State Bicentennial License Plates, pins, buttons, mugs, keychains and calendars, and Milton T-Shirts and Certificates that were sold for months on end. Many thanks to the Girl Scouts, Senior Citizens, Bicentennial Steering Committee, PTA, etc., etc. who set up shop at the shopping center on weekends, at the summer fair, the holiday Craft Fair, at whatever elections were taking place, etc., etc. So many people working together, getting ready to celebrate!

Celebration! What a wonderful way for people of every flavor to come together, sharing their time, their joys, their talents... all their gifts. And, especially, to realize how easily we can share... how easily we can care for one another! It surely helps to build the true common bond of all of humanity.

In Milton's history, it was the feast of Saint Ann (July 26) that would draw people in from the fields and from their homes in the village, and for miles around, to a summer gathering. In 1991, the weekend of July 26-27-28 would be Milton's gathering in just such a tradition to celebrate all that the 200 years of Vermont's statehood has meant.

And gather we did!

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL...

At the Family Community Center's Friday brunch marking the 125th birthday of the old "Austin Hotel" where it is housed... at Saint Ann's Church where once more the Mass of the Feast of Saint Ann drew people from miles around... at the street dance sponsored by the Rescue Squad at their new station on Bom-

bardier Rd. where hundreds of people of all ages danced and chatted, ate and laughed, renewing friendships and acquaintances, and meeting new folks. Then at sundown, the flame of the bonfire, ignited by members of the Milton Business Association and the Fire Department, drew a new crowd of on-lookers and invited those at the dance to wander across the field to mill around the fire for a while. The Knights of Columbus and the Fire Fighters helped the Police Department to direct parking, and the drizzle of the day stopped just in time for all to enjoy the evening.

Saturday morning, bright and early, the months of preparation by the members of the Fire Department, especially Randy Cary and Eldon Elwood, began to pay off as one after another the hundred or so floats and contingents arrived to line up for THE PARADE. And what a PARADE it was! There were more people in the parade than lived in Milton when Vermont became a state! There were thousands and thousands of people lined along the Route 7 parade route. Political dignitaries had called to ASK if they could be part of Milton's parade. To everyone, Milton said "Welcome Home"... especially to the service personnel who were home now that peace had been declared in the War in the Gulf. Jim McMullen stood right there with top-hat and smile to greet each parading unite as it arrived at the Herrick Avenue School destination. School Principal Larry Messier was there all day to help.

There were T-shirts (by All Star Sports) and banners (by Claudia Moeykens) and programs (by A-1 Printing) and Certificates (by Joe Martin) all over town, carrying Milton's own logo for the occasion designed by Michael Pukownik of Milton High School. Michael's design was selected from 15 student submissions in a competition arranged through the efforts of Dick Page. Each entrant was given a state Bicentennial pin in recognition of participation.

By special invitation, those wonderful people of Milton who have celebrated the greatest number of years as citizens of the state of Vermont, were honored guests, riding in the Vermont Transit old fashioned trolley bus provided through the efforts of John Sharrow.

Then, at noon at the Herrick Avenue School, through the efforts of Dick Wells of the American Legion, the American Flag was raised and a ceremony of historic flags was presented by Air Force personnel. Rev. Jeffrey W. Cornwell of the United Church gave the invocation... Selectman L. Marty Branch read a Bicentennial Proclamation from President George Bush... Town Clerk John Cushing read from the plaque

hand written by Stan Henry and Lorinda Henry (at the suggestion of V. Michael Duffy and with research done by Carroll and Nina Town) the names of each of the people who has represented Milton in state government over the years. Eldon Elwood of the Fire Department paid tribute to those who had taken part in the Persian Gulf War, welcoming them home. John FitzGerald described the Milton Historical Society's restoration of the West Milton Cemetery. Rep. Marilyn Rivero described freedom in Vermont. Jack Campbell and Angela Barsalow welcomed everyone to the celebrations... Franklin and Odessa Cary awarded parade prizes.... AND THEN the games began...

Librarian Fran Ferro, Recreation Director Nancy Dunne, PTA leader Kathy Dulac, and lots of enthusiastic helpers provided all sorts of fun for kids of all ages... relay races... hoop rolling... pie eating... etc., etc., etc. An old fashioned, noncommercial, afternoon of games! In keeping with this, the sale of refreshments was for the benefit of the Rescue Squad.

And then 600 people enjoyed the chicken barbecue put on by the Masons and Eastern Star. This was followed by an old fashioned band concert by the Fairfax and Westford Band through the efforts of the Historical Society. The concert took place from a real gazebo, reminiscent of the one on the lawn of the historic Clark Memorial Building years ago. The gazebo was loaned for the event by Rainbow's Garden Florist, and was moved to the Hrrick Avenue School site by Don Turner Construction. Folks of all ages enjoyed the sounds of classic American tunes from blankets, chairs, and by just standing around.

On Sunday morning, members of the United Church experienced a special Bicentennial Liturgy which incorporated many elements of worship that were likely to have been in use 200 years ago. There was also an extensive display of historical items uncovered by Clara DeBoer, church archivist, which highlighted the time-line of the congregation's history in Milton.

At Saint Ann's Church and at Trinity Episcopal Church there were also displays of items from the past. People gathered on the lawns that join the Main street churches for a Bicentennial picnic and then walked around the corner to Trinity Church for a desert celebrating Trinity's 100th birthday.

The Vermont Transit Trolley was again in operation, this time giving people rides through the village to the premier showing of "Ethan!" on video at the Grange Hall, to the Main Street sidewalk show of paintings by the Milton Artists' Guild, to the Historical Society Museum, and just to see the village. Several homes offered hospitality to those

who were out for the day. On Main Street, the Workman home welcomed people to the room where the earliest Catholics in Milton first met to celebrate the Mass. The Crane family offered lemonade, cookies, and comfortable chairs on their front lawn. The Fahey family, although not completely moved in, put out the welcome mat for one and all. The Lemieux family on the corner of School Street and the Martin family on Cherry Street opened their doors with old-fashioned warmth and offered tours of their historic homes. Along the Village streets, houses that were previously shown on Historical Society tours were identified by numbers in front that corresponded with a brochure's brief description of some of their key architectural and historical features.

And then, at 5:00 pm, people came to the Clark Memorial Building (Town Hall) for the closing ceremonies. Carol Hildebeitel identified a multitude of items that were placed into a time capsule (appropriately enough, an old milk can from the Milton Coop Creamery was used) to be re-opened in 25 years. Everyone there met baby Harley Alger-Carl, who has agreed, with her parents help, to be present and preside over the opening ceremonies on July 28, 2016. Dick Wells, MC for the occasion, thanked Angela Barsalow, Co-Chair, who, in turn, thanked everyone who had taken part in the festivities. A special thanks went to those who had worked so hard throughout the prior 18 months in planning the Bicentennial Weekend. She spoke to and about everyone present describing some personal contribution each had made to the celebration. To the sounds of "Taps" the American flag was lowered, and to the Francis of Assisi Prayer for Peace, lead by Rev. Bernard Gaudreau of Saint Ann's Parish, all answered "Amen".

Past President's Annual Report

1991 was our society's thirteenth year and one of the most exciting with the celebration of the Vermont bicentennial. As out-going president for the 1990-1991 year I would like to reflect on some of our important accomplishments in that season. I feel that our increase in membership from 45 to 180 members is one of our best efforts. It is difficult to find people who have the extra time and energy to become active members but it is gratifying to have so many people willing to join with us and show their support with their annual dues. You know that they really appreciate what the society is doing. Wouldn't it be great if we could top the 200 mark in membership soon?

As your 1990-1991 president, I had a very busy year working and helping to organize the Town Bicentennial Committee which has received extensive coverage elsewhere in this newsletter. Our particular part in this celebration was the old fashioned band concert. At the turn of the century a band stand was situated on the lawn of the Clark Memorial Building and was the location of many social gatherings. We were very fortunate to have a large gazebo loaned to our town for this event by the Rainbow's Garden Florist shop in Georgia. Another big thank you to the Don Turner Construction company for arranging to move the gazebo, set it in place, and return it to Georgia after the weekend festivities. And, of course, we always enjoy hearing the Westford and Fairfax band perform.

There was also a special horticultural exhibit at the Milton Museum including many old-time gardening tools. Our collection of farm memorabilia is of special interest to us because of our strong link to our roots in farming. We would especially like to encourage anyone with old photos of farming activities and farming families to consider loaning them to our Museum so that we could have professional copies made for our permanent collection.

Another accomplishment of the 90-91 season has been the design and printing of a bicentennial brochure describing our society's goals and purposes. Many thanks to John DeBoer for his hard work on this project.

I would like to thank all the officers and committees who made the 90-91 season such a success. Our Historic Homes Tour along Lake Arrowhead was enjoyed in October. We were fortunate to have many pictures showing the building of the dam and the making of Lake Arrowhead in 1938. This was a project that brought about one of the most dramatic changes to Milton's physical appearance.

We also saw some good results from a lot of hard work on the restoration project at the West Milton Cemetery, with a new fence, and lots of improvements to the grounds in general. There is still much work to be done on resetting and repairing the many damaged grave stones.

Unfortunately, the Milton History Book project has been on hold while we concentrated our energies on the bicentennial bash, but we will get back to it now that the big party is over.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve you as president of this great organization.

Jane FitzGerald

Well, here it is at last! The winter issue of our newsletter. For those of you still wondering what happened to the summer issue.... well it never quite got off to the printers. So we have done some re-wording, some re-editing, and voila....instant winter issue. This, of course, allows us the unique opportunity to include possibly the single most important Milton history event of the 90's.... the celebration of Vermont's Bicentennial by the people of Milton. Many thanks to our good friend Angela Barsalow for her great article covering all the events and important people involved. You will find a small sampling of the many photos taken during the weekend later in this issue.

Since our newsletter is an appropriate place to blow our own horn let me here offer my congratulations to Jane FitzGerald, Lorinda Henry, and the rest of the float committee for that outstanding production "Welcome Home" that took FIRST PRIZE in the parade competition. And what a parade that was too... with over 100 units entered in the various categories! And before I leave the topic of the Bicentennial celebration, let me put in a plug here for our on-going, and on-growing collection of historic photos in the museum..... if you have extra copies of photos of the weekend's events please consider donating them to our collection. We have a professional quality fireproof storage cabinet for photos and we would love to have a large collection of Bicentennial photos to display at the Tricentennial celebration in 2091!

Again, thanks for your patience as our committee does it's best on the cutting edge of volunteerism... sometimes known as over-involvement, and once again comes through.... eventually.

Sincerely.... Bob Hooker

Cemetery Committee Report

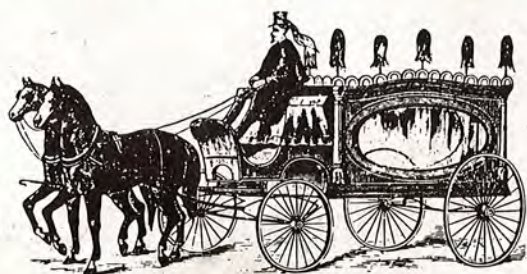
The cemetery committee has been very busy this past year with their work on the West Milton Cemetery. The project has been a sizable one and there remains a good deal of work yet to accomplish. But, to date, there has been major progress in the way of replacing the wrought iron fence at the front boundary of the graveyard and some general sprucing up of the property. The effort was focused on getting things in ship shape by the Bicentennial celebration in July and this paid off handsomely. The committee received estimates in the neighborhood of \$5,000 for repairing the old fence and reset-

A History Of Dairy Farming
In Milton Vermont
by Ben Barrows

ting it in place with a concrete base for each post. At the same time we were offered a new chain-link fence by the town fathers (and mother) at no charge, with installation included. There was a good deal of discussion about the focus of the Milton Historical Society and the idea of restoration of this historic fence. But, as often happens in these matters, we had to deal with the hard facts as well. Our organization would be hard pressed to raise that kind of money in any sort of timely manner, and there are other projects that are waiting in the wings as well. This led to the decision to accept the generous offer from the town, and the chain-link fence was installed in time for the big celebration. The historic fence has been put in storage in a local barn for possible action at some future date. There was a very generous donation of petunias for the project and we would like to thank our own Jane FitzGerald for single-handedly, planting some 500 individual petunias along the new fence. Now that's dedication! As most of you are aware, the FitzGerald's have been the inspiration and moving force behind many of our group projects and we are indebted to them for all their hard work and dedication.

But, we can't sit back and say "all is well", just yet. There is a great deal of work left to do at the West Milton cemetery, as well as the other grave yards in town, in the way of restoration of grave stones and annual sprucing up. Both from the effects of the elements and from periodic bouts with local vandalism, the stones have suffered a great deal over the past 100 + years. Some need only be stood back up and reset in their bases, but others have been cracked, broken, or even removed and dumped in the river. This will require an investment even harder to come by than large amounts of money... volunteers. So, if you feel concerned about the future of this, and other graveyards in our fair town, please contact the cemetery committee for our schedule of work projects for the coming year. And, thanks for your support!

Bob Hooker, Cemetery Committee.



This is the 200th birthday of the founding of the state of Vermont, and just think of it, Milton is 28 years older. Most people have heard the old adage, "history repeats itself." True or not, what I am going to write about proves it did this once.

The history of dairy farming in Milton, and Vermont in general, is a story that covers an era that is probably as fantastic as the industrial revolution itself.

It is very difficult to pinpoint the exact date when dairy farmers started living entirely from the sale of milk. My best guess is around the turn of the century. We do know that prior to the prevalence of dairy farms (about 1840) the town and state had sheep herds as large as some of our dairy herds today.

Around the turn of the century small receiving stations sprung up; a couple in West Milton, as well as the Whiting Milk Company and the H. P. Hood & Sons receiving stations on the rail sidings of the Central Vermont Railway. Back in the 1930's, as sheep breeding became a thing of the past, there were two small milk dealers (raw milk only) who peddled milk by horse. Their names were William Lawrence and Delbert Lafayette, Sr.

In 1919 the Milton Coop Dairy Corporation was formed by local farmers and dairying really took off from there. Back in those days the average milk production per cow was in the neighborhood of 2,000 lbs. per year. By the year 1940 there were, off the top of my head, some sixty odd farms in the town of Milton. Back in those days they produced a tremendous surplus in the summer and a saw a shortage in the winter. This was caused by the fact that a cow produced milk after calving in the spring and would produce well until winter set in.

Another problem farmers had in trying to produce in the winter was the hay supply. Since haying was done by hand it involved a lot more work and was much more time consuming. They also used to do the haying late in the season which often produced a low quality hay. The net result of this method was that the cows had to be practically starving before they would eat it, which is not conducive to the best milk production.

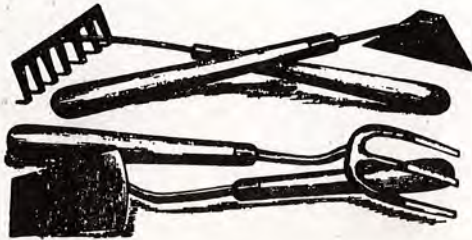
Technology started slowly working in the industry and farmers learned to test their cows monthly for butterfat content and weight. This allowed them to check their records at the end of each year and get rid of the boarders, raising replacements from the best producers. Farm-



ers also discovered that they could regulate their herd to have about half calving in the spring and the rest in the fall. This helped to keep the markets more even.

Some few years later technology discovered that cattle could be bred by artificial insemination, which meant farmers could raise calves from the best stock in the country. With all these improvements, production per cow today averages in the neighborhood of 14,000 lbs. of milk per year and the better ones over 20,000 lbs.

In the 1950's came bulk storage tanks (stainless Steel), and bulk pick up at the farm. From that day forward we have seen the steady decline of operating dairy farms. Right today I have a hard time counting a dozen dairy farms in Milton, and you do see a few sheep herds around and throughout the state. Who says history doesn't repeat itself?



Why Are We Still Vermonters ?

(Excerpted from address by Dr. Randy Roth, Department of History, Ohio State University, at annual meeting of Vermont Historical Society in Castleton, Vt. 8/90)

By John DeBoer

I'd like to tell a... story...of a movement in the 1830's and 1840's...to find a new identity for Vermont, a new rationale for its existence. ... Vermont no longer stood on the cutting edge of the world's democratic revolution or of America's territorial and economic expansion. So Vermonters

needed to find a new place in the world, new reasons for staying in Vermont.

I realize that...today few Vermonters... wonder who they are or why they live in Vermont. They may complain, as Vermonters always have, about winter, mud season, and the state's proximity to Massachusetts. But they're generally confident of their identity, their place in the world, and their reasons for living in Vermont....

But I think it's important to realize that Vermont did have identity problems in the late 1830's and 1840's--and that the identity fashioned by that generation's artists, scientists, and historians remains at the core of Vermonter's identity today.

Early Certainty: Samuel William's History of Vermont (1794)

Samuel Williams, pastor of the Congregational Church in Rutland, published the first full-scale history of Vermont in 1794. He celebrated Vermont's revolution, society, and economic progress, at a time Vermonters had faith in all three. Williams observed that on New England's revolutionary frontier, "industry and economy seem to produce the greatest effects, in the shortest period of time." He delighted that Vermont was "rapidly changing from a vast tract of uncultivated wilderness, to numerous and extensive settlements." (viii) Because every man had "the prospect and the hope of acquiring property," men were "active, enterprising, and economical." (322) They were also freedom-loving.... In Short, democratic civilization achieved perfection when people--freed from oppressive government, economic exploitation, slaveowners, and land speculators--settled a wilderness. Only one society fit that description in 1794: Vermont.

Williams also credited Vermont's democratic government for the state's happiness. Arguing, at some hazard to the truth, that all Vermonters had supported the struggle for independence from New York and New Hampshire, Williams proclaimed that they had erected a perfect government....In social and economic affairs, they established freedom; in political affairs, they established government by the people; in religious affairs, they established the equality of all Protestants, "not barely toleration...."

Williams' accomplishment is clear. He argued persuasively that Vermont was the only place on earth where the social, political, and economic theories of the Founding Fathers had been fully applied. Vermont's happiness (evident in its high rate of self-em-

ployment, literacy, church membership, patented inventions, etc.) proved those theories correct. And those theories proved Vermont's superiority to all other civilations, past and present. No wonder Vermonters liked Williams' book or that it encouraged settlement and investment in Vermont.

Passing Times: The Crisis of the
1830's and 1840's

A half century later, Williams' portrait of Vermont and its place in the world was no longer realistic. Vermont's democratic political institutions were no longer unique. Many states had disestablished religion, abolished slavery, enfranchised propertyless males, and expended legal rights for women. the nation's new "democratic" hero, Andrew Jackson, stood for causes even most Vermont Jacksonians hated: low tariffs, slavery, masonry, drinking, sabbath-breaking, dueling, Indian fighting, and Mexican-bashing. Politically and morally, most Vermonters felt themselves a besieged minority in a nation gone wrong.

Vermont no longer stood at the cutting edge of the nation's economy either. Vermonters received letters from relatives in Illinois or Michigan who claimed Vermont's soil was not one-tenth as good as theirs.

James Vaughn of Pomfret swore in 1845 that he would leave Vermont or die. "We will go somewhere else if it is even Hell or Texas. We will not stop where God has never ironed or even took his rolling pin across the mountains to smooth them." The world praised southern New England's burgeoning cities and factories. Mill girls returned from Lowell and Manchester with "tasteful city dresses, and more money ... than they had ever owned before." Vermonters couldn't find consolation in their egalitarian social order, for even that was eroding. Self-employment declined, as population, land prices, and capital costs increased.

Vermont's Response

What was the solution? How would Vermont recapture its power and moral authority in national affairs?... They didn't fully agree who they were or where they should go. Yet male or female, Whig or Democrat, captain of industry or yeoman farmer, sentimentalist or rough-and-ready patriot, all concurred with the message of Danial Thompson's heroic historical novel Green Mountain Boys (1839), that Vermont's greatest asset was the character of its people -- industrious, descent,

courageous, fiercely independent, enlightened--and that it was their duty to safeguard that character and fight for the values it represented. They might never achieve "a high degree of pecuniary prosperity, or political influence," as George Perkins Marsh, Vermont's most famous scientist, wrote in 1843, but they would never cease trying to enlighten the rest of humanity. "In every good and noble undertaking," proclaimed Marsh, Vermonters would bring "their influence for good" to bear "not only on the rest on the United States, but upon the world. "...Temperance, education, history, and a reasoned yet passionate form of Christianity would have to instill discipline, compassion, industry, and moral probity in future generations.

Those were the causes the incorporators of the Vermont Historical Society ... supported. They rejected the emotionalism and sectarianism that marked Vermont's great evangelical revivals of the 1830's, in favor of a genteel, sentimental Christianity, nurtured not by hell-fire sermons and born-again experiences, but by the careful cultivation of sensibilities and sensitivities, particularly on the issue of slavery.... The incorporators supported educational reform, including improved training and certification of teachers, which they hoped would give students the economic skills and industrial discipline needed to overcome Vermont's economic crisis. They supported temperance as a panacea to rid Vermont of the evils they associated with drink--crimes, domestic violence, poverty, indolence....

The founders of the VHS supported other measures to renew Vermont's economy and revive its sense of mission. They were thoroughgoing boosters, who backed most every railroad, canal, factory, or bank that came their way. They risked their capital for Vermont's sake. They supported tourism. They were the first generation to recognize the recreational possibilities of Vermont's mountains and streams.... Most important for the future of the nation and the world, they embraced the fight against slavery. They opposed slavery for reasons both moral and practical, because they feared their children would be reduced to poverty if they could not take up free land in free territories in the west. Through the antislavery movement, Vermonters recaptured their purpose, transcended their political differences and racial prejudices, and renewed their hopeful, nonpartisan, independent spirit....

The founders of the Vermont Historical Society faced considerable opposition in the late 1830's to their campaigns for temperance, abolition, educational reform, and historical revisionism. By the mid 1850's they had triumphed in Vermont and set the nation on a course toward civil war.... Dissenters had little choice but to leave Vermont... or suffer in isolation.... That only served, however, to make Vermonters more unified and distinctive.

Programs And Speakers

Our society meets at the American Legion Hall on US route 7, just south of the village. Unless otherwise noted we get together on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Through the efforts of our vice president we host a speaker or program of interest at every meeting. This is followed by a business meeting and there is often some committee work that gets done as well.

The following is a brief accounting of the speakers and programs that we have enjoyed during 1991 as recorded by our historian, Mrs. Ruth Ryan.

Native American History

By Mr. John Moody of Sharon, Vt.

Speaking informally at our January 1991 meeting, Mr. Moody discussed the history of various Indian tribes that lived in North America before the arrival of the white man. He noted that Vermont lies in the heart of Abenaki country, and in the years from 1700 to 1790 received French, Dutch, Scottish, and Irish settlers as well as the English.

There was actually a relatively large number of white, black, and red people living in this area before the first organized settlements were established. His research shows that in 1615 there was a large Indian village where Milton stands today. In the early 1800's Sopertown and Milton Boro were probably Indian towns and there was a Mississquoi village just north of here. He noted, further, that there is proof that Indian families called Vermont and New Hampshire home as far back as 10,000 B.C. and that there are many sacred burial grounds that should be protected.

We were particularly impressed with his display of books and historic maps of the area that were some of his research sources. These included "The Wind Eagle" (1985), and "The Faithful Hunter" (1988), both by Joseph Bruchac, of Native American ancestry.

Vermont in Pre-History and the Changing Environment

Our guest speaker at the February meeting, Mr. Peter Thomas, is with the Consulting Archeology Program, of the Department of Anthropology, of the University of Vermont.

Beginning his presentation with an overview of the North American continent at 30,000 years ago, he described how the Asian peoples arrived here by crossing the Bering Straights Land Bridge, at about the same time people were also arriving from Peru. Focusing more on the New England Area, he told of the huge glaciers that covered the area 18,000 years ago. In fact, where Milton stands today, was most likely covered by nearly 8,000 feet of ice! Most experts agree that the New England glaciers involved a layer one and a half miles thick. At about 11,000 years ago the ice began to recede to the north, leaving a lake that covered most of Vermont. The area that has been settled as Milton and the surrounding towns was a vast sandy delta in that lake. At that time the lake was connected to the ocean and is sometimes referred to by historians as the Champlain Sea, and Lake Champlain is the only remaining piece of the original glacier sea.

The Champlain Sea was used by the native peoples for hunting seals, whales, and porpoises; and fossils of these creatures have been found in the hills of the area. By 8,000 B.C. the forests were beginning to appear, with fir, spruce, and birch being the main trees. Also appearing were great quantities of mosses which attracted a large population of Caribou.

As the land was released from the tremendous pressure of the glaciers, it began to rise up and cut off the connection to the ocean. This formed Lake Champlain and the Champlain Valley at about 5,000 B.C. At that time, it is estimated that there were 250 frost free days per year as opposed to the 150 we experience today, on average.

Mr. Thomas cited evidence of human activity here in Vermont as far back as 10,000 years, but said that people resided here full time only as far back as 5,000 years ago.

(editor's note: I wonder if the tourist industry realizes how long the summer folks have really been coming up here?)

The Paleo Indian archeology sites in Highgate, Milton, Fairfax, and about 30 other places in the Champlain Valley, show evidence of trapping activities as far back as 12,000 years. These sites have revealed quartz and stone tools, scraping tools for processing hides, the remains of carcasses, and charcoal. Radio Carbon dating was used for identifying these artifacts.

He showed slides depicting the Indian villages of 3,000 B.C. including their hunting techniques and cooking utensils. In 900 B.C. ceramic cookware was in use in Vermont as evidenced by a large cooking pot found by a hunter recently in Bolton and traced to that period.

There is also evidence of much hostility between the Indians and the new settlers as far back as 1400 B.C. with the remains of fortified villages being dated to that time.

Mr. Thomas concluded his journey through the pre-history of our area with mention of the meeting of the local Indians with Samuel de Champlain in 1609. He also noted that the Winooski Intervale area is believed to be very rich in Indian lore and artifacts, waiting for future discoveries.

The Bayley - Hazen Singers
Mr. Larry Gordon, Conductor

The Bayley-Hazen Singers, composed of 10 members, entertained at the March meeting rendering songs of the early New England singing school tradition. Among the songs featured was one written and composed by Justin Morgan, of the Morgan Horse fame, who was also a music teacher. Also performed was "The Apple Tree" written by Jeremiah Ingalls, a Cooper Choir Master and publisher of music books. A modern songwriter, and farmer, Andy Christiansen of East Montpelier was represented by his 1977 composition "Vermont Summer". Other old-time songs by New Englanders included "Ocean and the Lily", by Supply Belcher of

Maine; "Gratitude", by Alex Gillette of Connecticut who moved to Vermont in 1790 as a preacher.

Some southern hymns from the "Kentucky Harmony Song Book" of 1817 were included in the program. The closing selection was written by the conductor, himself, Mr. Larry Gordon, and was called "Do Not Go Gentle".

Bicentennial Quilt

A slide show and narration of the Societies Bicentennial Quilt project was presented at our May meeting by Gwen Brown and Jane FitzGerald. The quilt was made by our own members in celebration of the 200th anniversary, in 1982, of the settling of our town. Each square was designed to depict a significant person, event, or quality of our fair town in it's first 50 years.

Included in the presentation were the first five settlers, the Old Stage Road, Long Pond and Round Pond in West Milton, the Rest Hotel now the Robert Poquette Family home, the chartering of the town in 1763, the settling in 1782, and the organization of the town government in 1788.

Also highlighted in quilt squares were Noah Smith the first attorney in town, Lorenzo Dow Milton's first itinerant preacher who arrived in 1798, early churches, Gideon Hoxie the first Town Clerk who held that post for nearly 40 years.

The tragedy of the 1813 epidemic, the cold year of 1816 where snow fell in every month of the year, the two lane covered bridge built in 1832 at Milton Falls, Tannery Hill named for the nearby tannery, and the 13 one room school houses. the presentation concluded with the quilt squares depicting the present day few surviving original farms referred to as our seventh generation farms, including the John Sanderson, John Mears, and John Jackson farms.

The slide show was, of course, interspersed with individual recollections of the project from the Quilt Committee members present.

Vermont's Bicentennial

Mr. William Mares, noted author, of Burlington, Vermont spoke at our June meeting on the event of our State's entering the Union on March 4, 1791. This

made us the first addition to the original group of 13 colonies that had become The United States of America a mere 15 years previous. A celebration was held 4 days later to mark the momentous occasion.

Briefly reviewing Vermont's early history, the speaker reminded us that both New York and New Hampshire claimed our turf in the early days. He spoke of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys and the parts they played in defending the state. He also noted the independent spirit of Vermonters throughout our history, and our recognition of broad rights for all citizens from our very beginning, being the first state in the Union to actually outlaw slavery in our State Constitution.

Mr. Mares cited some famous Vermonters such as; Calvin Coolidge 30th President of the United States, Ambassador Warren Austin, Senator George Aiken, and Joseph Smith and Brigham Young founders of the Mormon religion.

After describing some of the celebrations planned for around the state during 1991, he asked us to consider the question.... "what do you want to preserve for future generations of Vermonters?"

Mr. Mares spoke of the Vermont Legislature and noted that by 1890 the law makers showed a clear trend to redistribution of revenues. He described Vermont as egalitarian, in that the poor and the rich can live side by side. Besides being a hardy race, he said Vermonters are considered residents of one of the most conservative states.... and one of the most liberal.... being torn between no growth and full speed ahead.

In conclusion, he declared that we should remember that the individual communities are what make up our great state.

Traveling Vermont's Highways

Mr. Jack Brewster of Montpelier, former director of the 251 Club, and his wife Lilyan, presented a program showing many of the small towns they have traveled to over the years.

Membership in the 251 club is open to anyone interested in their goals but a "Plus Member" status is awarded those who have actually visited the 251 cities and towns that make up Vermont. The club was formed in 1955 by Dr. Arthur W. Peach of Northfield, Vermont and now has a membership of 2,000. The Brewsters have been members for 13 years.

The program included many color slides and commentary of their travels, including the Pavilion Office Building and the State House of Representatives in Montpelier, the birthplace of President Chester A. Arthur in Fairfield, Statue of the Green Mountain Boy Seth Warner in Bennington, the Wild Flower Farm in Charlotte, the Floating Bridge in Brookfield, the Quechee Bridge and hot air ballooning in Quechee, the Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge, and the Ticondaroga Ferry at the Shelburne Museum.

Also shown were the Alpine Slide at Bromley Mountain, the Old Stone Schoolhouse museum in Brownington, the Old Round Barn in Morristown, sheep in Grand Isle, Winter Carnival in Norwich, Camel's Hump mountain in Waterbury, spring sugaring in Cambridge, and a map showing over 100 covered bridges across the state.

Another member of the 251 club, Mr. Doug Lafayette, spoke of his travels including a visit to the town of Lewis, near Island Pond. He noted that Lewis is chartered but not organized and has a population of zero. In closing, he noted that some members, after completing the round of all 251 towns and cities, begin again just for the fun of it, which is, of course, the whole point!

Christmas 1991

The Christmas meeting was attended by a small, but dedicated, group of members that engaged in our tradition of exchanging hand made gifts. They also enjoyed refreshments including Hazel Siegriest's eggnog, and sang carols around the piano with Jane FitzGerald on the ivories.

PROGRAMS

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Americam Legion Hall on Route 7 south. The program starts at 7:30 and are followed by the business meeting, unless otherwise indicated. Everyone is welcomed to attend. The building is handicap accessible.

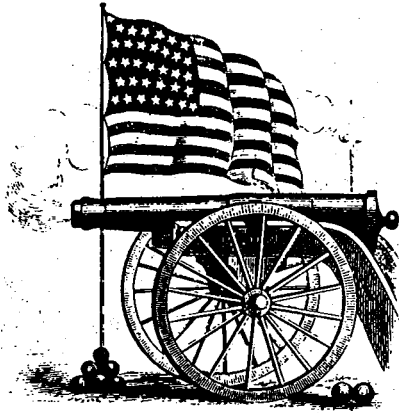
March 4... Milton's changing landscape, slide presentation by Ed Mayville.

April 1... Annual Meeting, reports and election of officers. Warren Tice, nationally known military button collector. Bring a button or a collection to share.

May 6... Junior Historian night. Presentation on early schools by Margaret Holmes and Gwendolyn Brown.

Museum

Located on the third floor of the Clark Building on Main Street, the Milton Museum is open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays from May through October, and at other times by appointment.

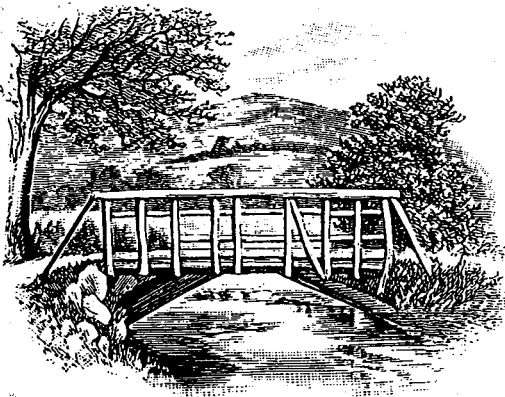


Museum Visitors

Attendance at the Milton Museum during the first half of 1991 totaled over 500 people! This included many students and their teachers from the Herrick Avenue Elementary School. Visitors from Florida, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Middlebury, Burlington, and Fairfax signed our guest book.

Museum Donations

Recent donations to the museum's permanent collection include an antique doll carriage, doll, and doll quilt from the William Mullen family; An antique photo enlarger from the Shirley Michaud family; and a picture of the West Milton Creamery, built in 1911, given by Ivan Sanderson, by way of Ben Barrows.



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William Brisson



The first of April is rapidly approaching. And that means we need to be getting that check in the mail! Our membership years runs from April to April and is tied to the annual election of officers at our meeting on the first Wednesday of April. As a reminder, the dues are still \$5.00 per year for individuals, and \$7.50 for families. These amounts have remained the same for years now. Although they do not even come close to covering the costs of all our projects, they do cover the expenses of providing this newsletter to our membership. We would encourage any of our members to feel free to send any additional amount they would like to as a show of support for our projects and goals.

Dues and contributions can be addressed to "Treasurer" and sent to us at P.O. Box 2, Milton, Vt. 05468.
Thanks!



Stanley & Lorinda Henry with their hand drawn plaque commemorating all the representatives to the state legislature for Milton over the last 200 years



The sealing of the time capsule; baby Harley Alger-Carl looks on. She will return in 25 years to preside over the reopening.



Jed Clampet and the family
join us for the big bash
here in Milton.

The Shrin ers never miss a
chance to strut their stuff.



And the rest of us
sat back and enjoyed
the show!

The famous pie eating contest featuring.... James Shnader, Nathan Steady, and Christian Kretzer.



Members of the Milton United Church following their Colonial Sabbath celebration.

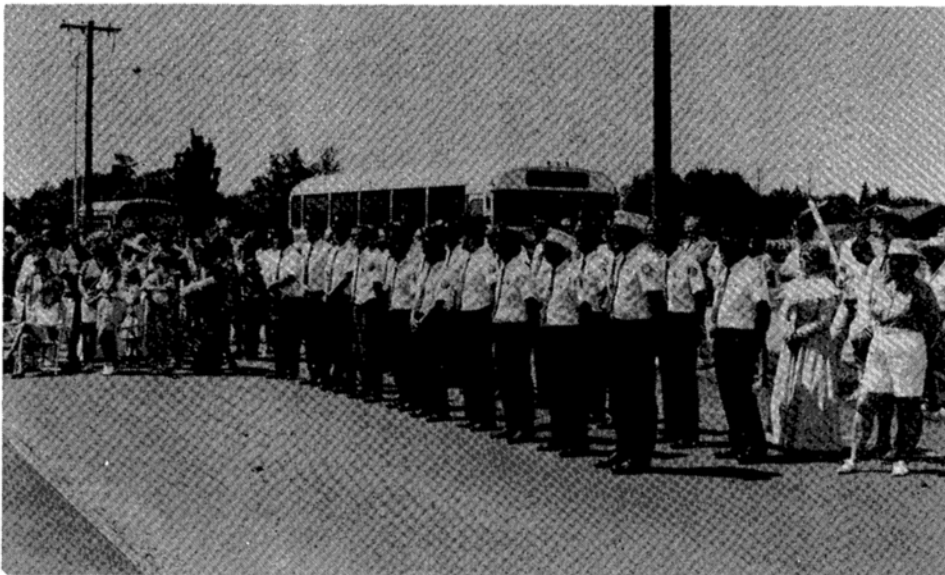
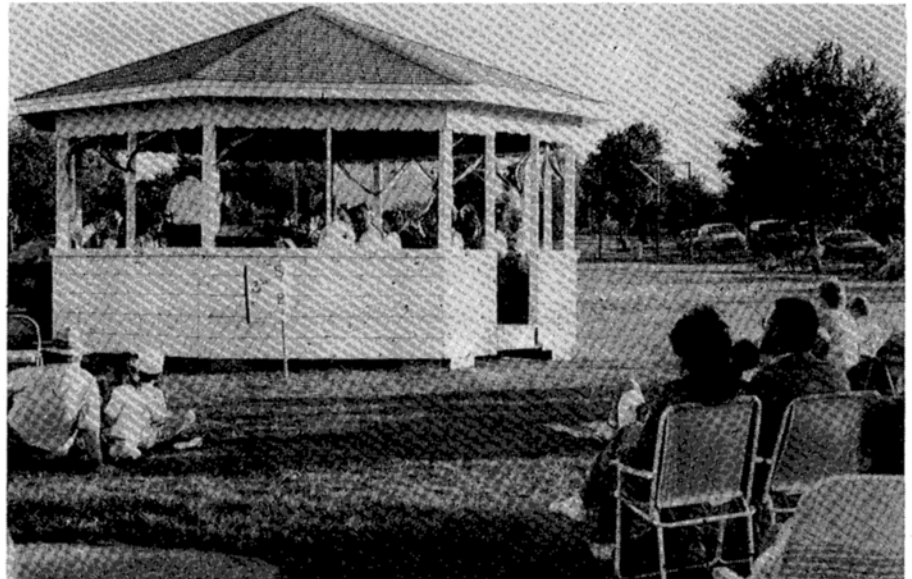
Members of the Masons and the Eastern Star fed 600 at their chicken barbecue.





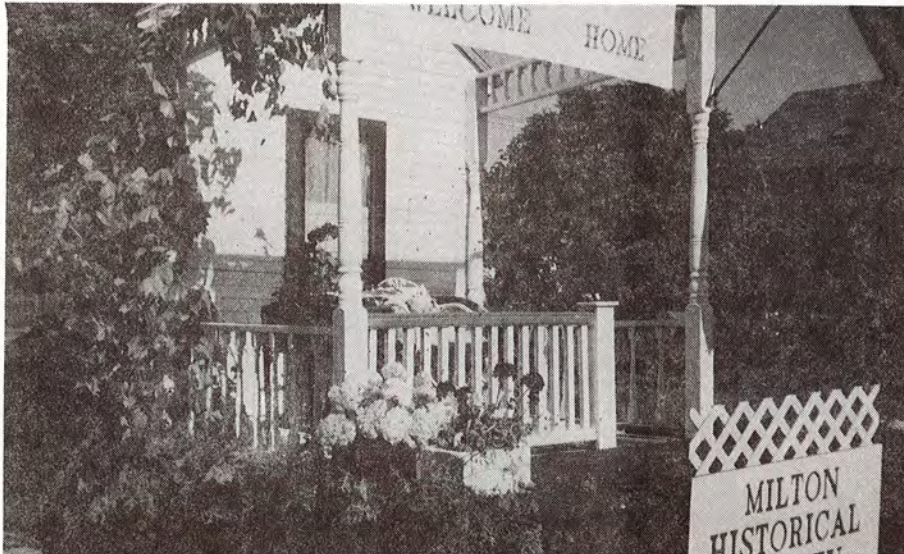
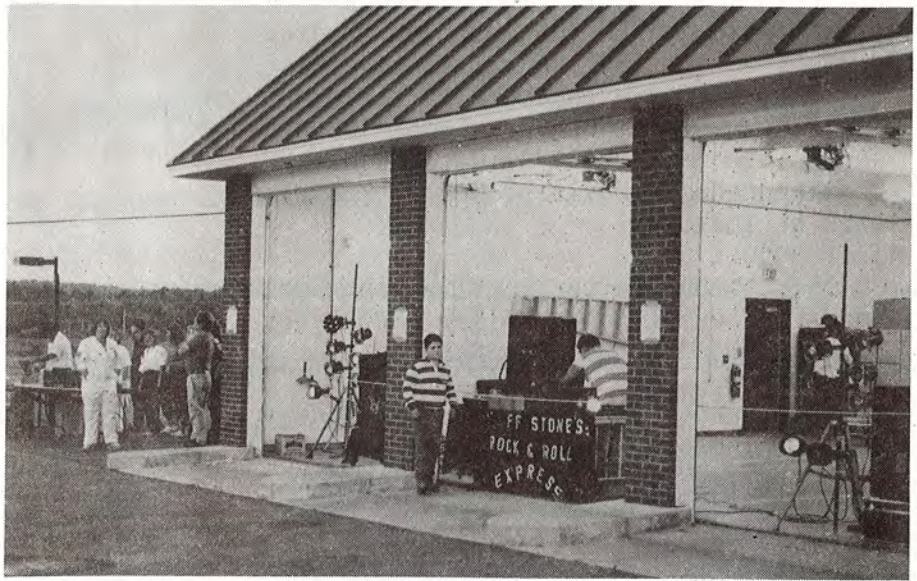
Wanda Vieu and company host the open house for the Milton Family and Community Center.

The band concert at the Herrick Ave. School, featuring the Westford and Fairfax band and the gazebo on loan from Rainbow's Garden Florist.



Milton Volunteer Fire Dept. at the flag raising ceremony.

Street dance at the Milton Rescue Squad Building.



Another view of our winning float, including a real cedar hedge, hydrangea bush, and wild grape vines.

The results of all the hard restoration work at the West Milton Cemetery.



Junior Historians Honored

At our May meeting we honored the 28 4th Graders who were judged the most outstanding participants in our 1991 annual Vermont history contest. Along with their families and friends, they were among the almost 100 people who joined us for the slide show of the Milton Bicentennial Quilt project. The winners were as follows;

First Honors....

Ryan Abell, Nathan Eastman, Elizabeth Edelman, Adam Findley, Lyndsey Fuller, Scott Gorman, Brook Papazoni, and John Schnaedter.

Second Honors....

Courtney DeVarney, Justin Frappier, Lindsey LaCroix, Lea Mossey, Jason Plantier, Kim St. Amour, and Chris Strong.

Honorable Mention....

Christina Anderson, Danny Berard, Nicole Cevero, Megan Delaney, Jason Doucette, D.J. Dutton, Nicole Forgan, Brian Kimball, Brad Lamarche, John Robert, Chris Snelling, Scott Trudell, and Jamie Williams.

Each of these winners was presented with a Vermont history book and each student that entered the contest was awarded a certificate of participation.

NEWSLETTER

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Number 1

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