



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

NEWSLETTER &
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2012-2013



The Familiar Roads of Milton

by James Ballard

Rick Stowell

Perhaps the most important gift our parents ever give us is our name.

When I was born I was named David with James as my middle name. My father wanted me to be named after his brother David who had died when he was a small child. My mother wanted me to be named after her father James. They were still trying to decide on my name, when I was born almost two months earlier than expected. It was decided that I would be named David, that is until my father left the hospital to go home. At that point my mother changed my name to James, with David as a middle name.

Some people are best known by their middle name, a nickname, a title relating to their profession, or even the town where they live or come from.

Identification for ourselves, our towns, and use of roads that get us there are often taken for granted. Yet they are vital aspects of an organized society. This begs the question: How did our town of Milton receive its name and how did our roads receive theirs?

New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted the Charter for the town of Milton on June 8, 1763. Many people over the years assumed that Milton was

named after the famous English poet John Milton, or because of the many mills that used to operate along the Lamoille River – “Mill-ton”. It is more likely that Milton was named after the very wealthy English statesman William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam 1748 – 1833 referred to as “Viscount Milton”. The Earl was a cousin of Governor Benning Wentworth.

It certainly makes sense that a blood relative with money and title would be the choice over the gifted poet John Milton, who had worked as a civil servant under the English military ruler Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell’s supporters in Parliament had beheaded King Charles II. It is important for us to remember that in 1763, we in the colonies were still under a monarchical system.

The next question we may ask is how the town’s many roads and neighborhoods received their names.

I asked Taylor Newton, the town’s new zoning administrator, “What is the process today for naming a road?” Mr. Newton explained that there may be special factors to consider, but usually the process is quite simple: A contractor will suggest names to him and he will then make sure the names are not already being used. It makes sense that the contractors have this original choice, since they have spent time and money to make the road possible.

We have private roads, public roads, and others that are not being used now, such as the Old County Road, which traversed from Sanderson Road to Lake Road, coming out near the old schoolhouse where Carroll and

Nina Towne live.

Presently there is discussion within the Historical Society and interested community members put together a booklet on the Families of Milton. The initial idea was to share a collection of family genealogies. Mary Ann Godin suggested the topic of a possible booklet could be the roads in Milton named after families or individuals. This certainly would be interesting to people who travel or live on such roads.

Looking at your family tree, you can see the branches that connect your family history together similar to a road map showing how roads connect to one another.

It would be interesting to have used an outline of a tree with its branches to map the family connections and roads of Milton.

The same principle is true for the State of Vermont – its roads connect our towns. There is a society called the “251 Club” whose members complete a quest of visiting all 251 towns and cities in Vermont. Members show, through photos or some means of documentation, that they actually did achieve this goal.



We in Milton could have a similar quest called the “250th Club” leading up to our 2013 250th Anniversary celebration. There are plenty of local landmarks past and present, natural or man-made that could be used to fulfill the requirements. The list of places to locate would go something like this: Checkerberry, Hardscrabble, The Old Jackson House, Milton Boro, Marrs Hollow, Cobble Hill, Arrowhead Mountain, Site of the First Roman Catholic Mass in



Rick Stowell

Road sign at the intersection with East Road.
Top – Upper Hardscrabble Road in autumn.

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National History Day at Milton High School by Gary Furlong

For the third year in a row, Milton High School students participated in the 2012 Vermont History Day program at Spaulding High School. Eight Milton students qualified to participate in the National History Day competition, which was held at the University of Maryland on June 10. This year both ninth and tenth grade students participated.

National History Day is a nationwide program in which students choose a topic related to a theme, conduct research using primary and secondary sources, and develop a thesis. Students present their findings in



Gary Furlong

Milton's group at Vermont History Day, at the statehouse in Montpelier. Below - Individual award winners.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Membership

Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are:

Individual \$10.00
 Family \$20.00

Honorary (age 80 & over) Free

Please send enclosed form & payment to:

Milton Historical Society
 13 School Street
 Milton, VT 05468

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original papers, websites, documentaries, exhibits or performances. This year's theme was *Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History*.

During the first phase students presented their work at the high school to panels of evaluators made up of community members, other teachers and school administrators. The Milton Historical Society was represented by Bill Kaigle, Jim Ballard, and John Lindsay. Students could then choose to attend the State History Day competition at Spaulding and over 40 students chose to do so.

At the State History Day competition the following students were award winners: Individual website category: Luke Jackson, First place and Qualified for Nationals (*The Berlin Airlift*), Mariah Ollive, Second Place and Qualified for Nationals (*Jose Rizal: The Spark of the Phillipine Revolution*), Laura Dickinson, Third Place (*Mormonism: The American Paradox*). In the Group website category the team of Casey Hurley, Morgan Hayden and Portia Smith took first place and qualified for Nationals with their project on *Title IX*. Second place in the group website category and qualification for Nationals went to Carly McNeil and Adrienne Hurst for their project on the *Soviet Invasion of*

Czechoslovakia. Third Place in the Group Website Category went to Will Jenkins and Landon Dusablton for their project on *Woodstock*. Milton also had some award winners in the Exhibit Category. Allison Erena took second place and qualified for Nationals with her exhibit of the *Aurora*. Josh Circe took third place in the individual exhibit category with an exhibit on *Shay's Rebellion*.

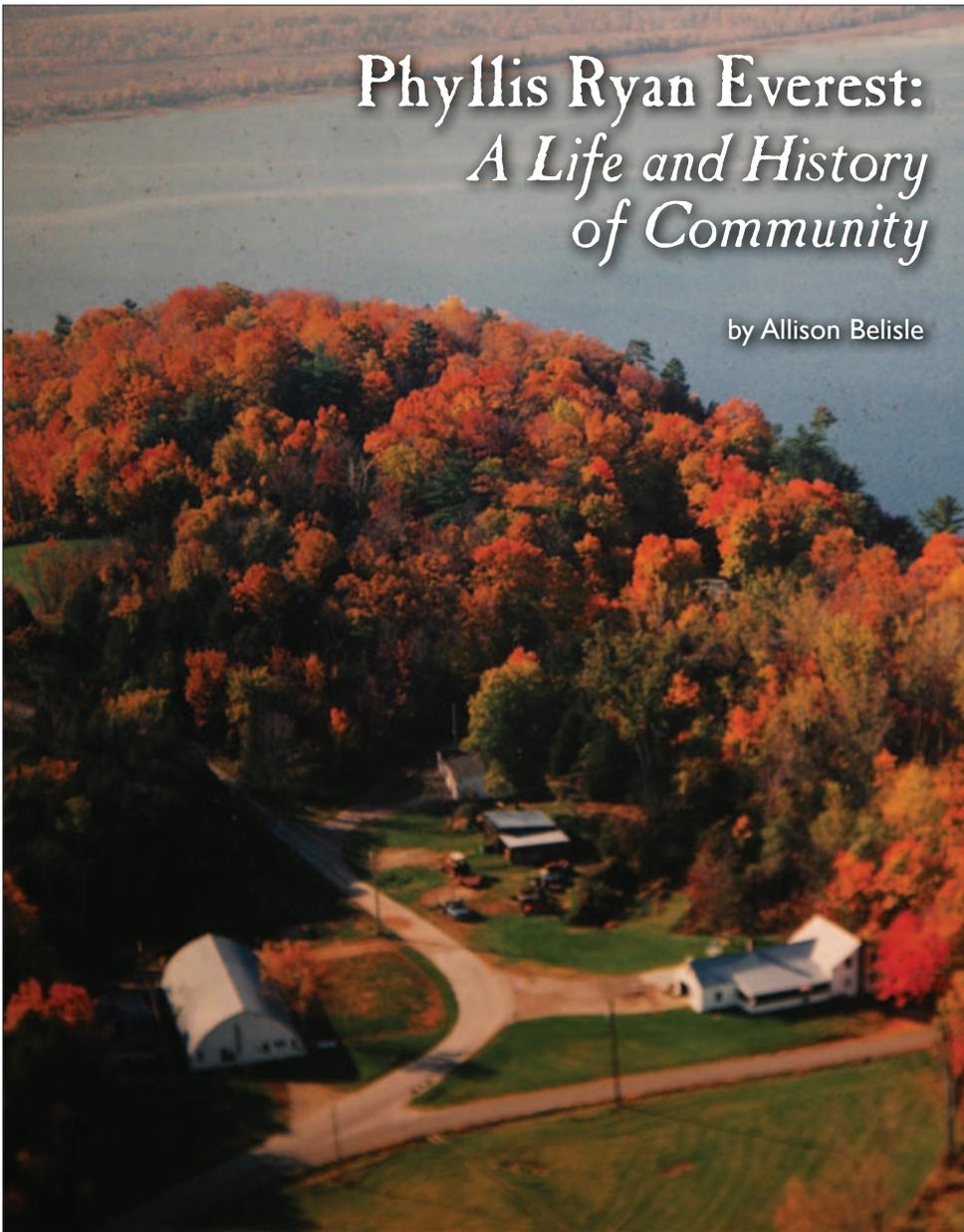
The students who qualified for Nationals worked to improve their projects and raised money for the trip to Maryland. Five of the award winners also did a great job presenting their projects at the May meeting of the Milton Historical Society.



Gary Furlong photos

Phyllis Ryan Everest: *A Life and History of Community*

by Allison Belisle



Everest family photo

A large part of Milton's history comes from the people that built the community. Through them we can learn the personal side of our town's history. This is the sixth article in a series of articles on long-time Milton residents.

Phyllis Ryan was born December 13, 1924 to Ralph and Ella (Shore) Ryan. Ralph Ryan was brought up in Georgia, Vermont and was the son of Bert and Cora (Boyden) Ryan. Ella was from North Fairfax and was a schoolteacher in Georgia, boarding at the Ryan's home. As if in a storybook romance, Ralph and Ella fell in love and married around the year 1917. After their marriage, Ella left her teaching position and they both began working at the Milton Cooperative Creamery on Railroad Street. After a number of years, they saw a great opportunity and built a grocery store across the street from the

creamery. Ryan's Market flourished, carrying a wide variety of items to meet the needs of all the local residents. The farmers bringing their milk to the creamery each day kept them particularly busy. The store was well known and one of its signature items was its cut meat. This was a tradition brought to Ralph by his father, who ran a mobile meat cart. Bert Ryan delivered his fresh cut meat from door to door throughout the area. Cob-

Phyllis sat for a chat with Allison Belisle at her home in February 2012.

Above – Aerial photo of the Everest home and farmstead on Everest Road in the early 1990s.



Rick Stowell

smoked meat was a specialty of Bert Ryan's, and one that Ralph also brought to his store.

In 1959, Phyllis' brother Duane bought the store from his parents. In 1963, Duane along with some long and loyal customers, created a float for the Milton bicentennial parade. They took first place with their celebration of Ryan's Market and their famous tradition of smoked meat. Duane continued to run the store until 1975. That year he closed the store and sold the building to the new owner who converted it to a television repair store. The once bustling section of town had become very quiet with the closure of the creamery in 1974. Grand Union came into town in the early 1970s, which also served to shift the public activity away from this section of town. Bob's Meat Market in St. Albans acquired the smoker from Duane, allowing the tradition of cob-smoked meat to continue a couple of towns away. According to Robert Provasi of Bob's Meat Market, former customers of Ryan's Market, and children of former customers, still come to him to purchase their meat.

Ella and Ralph settled into the house next to the grocery store. There they raised Phyllis and her older sister Alison, and younger siblings Mary and Duane. The children attended the school in town. Both the high school and elementary school were housed in the same building on School Street. Town children went to this school while children who lived in the rural areas of Milton attended one-room schoolhouses. However, some families that lived in the "country" would pay the extra tuition to send their children to the town school. When the school burned in February 1943, Phyllis had already graduated. However, her younger siblings and their classmates attended classes in private homes, such as the Branch's home at the bottom of Main Street, until the school was rebuilt.

When not going to school, the children were often found working in the store. Phyllis enjoyed many aspects of working in the store, but her favorite task was cutting meat. Outside of school and the store, the children still made time for play. They would sometimes play hide and seek in the creamery. Asked if they ever got in trouble for that, Phyllis was not sure if the creamery management even knew the children were there. If they did, they never said anything. The creamery also acted as a short cut for them on the way to school. Instead of walking down Main Street to get to school, the children enjoyed the more direct route "as the crow flies" through the creamery, through the sawmill and then through the cemetery to

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Wed. May 2, 2012 7:30pm

National History Day Presentations Special program of Milton High School students presenting their award-winning Vermont History Day website projects. Luke Jackson: *The Berlin Airlift*; Mariah Ollive: *Jose Rizal: The Spark of the Philippine Revolution*; Laura Dickinson: *Mormonism: The American Paradox*; Casey Hurley, Portia Smith, Morgan Hayden: *Title IX*; Adrienne Hurst, Carly McNeil: *The Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia*



Wed. June 6, 2012 7:30pm

George Houghton: Vermont's Civil War Photographer by Civil War historian Donald Wickman. Houghton was a true hidden treasure in Vermont history, capturing images of Vermont soldiers in the field, in camp and at home bringing the Civil War back to Vermont. *A Vermont Humanities Council event.*
Refreshments & Beverage: Refreshments: Jeanette Adams, Alice Buinicky



Wed. June 13, 2012 7:30pm

Business Meeting

Wed. July 11, 2012 7:30pm

Board Meeting

Wed. Aug. 1, 2012 7:30pm

An Evening with Steve Delaney Come meet a local author and veteran journalist. Hear about his fictional friends from his books *Kevin: The Story of The Last Invisible Vermonter* and *Cooney: The Making of a Country Cop*. Historical Society business meeting follows.
Refreshments: Nan Marotti, Beverly Quebec

Wed. Sept. 5, 2012
6:30 pm Car Viewing
7:30 pm Presentation

Automobile Travel in Vermont in the Early 1900's by Wendell Noble and Charlie Thompson, members of the Vermont Auto Enthusiasts. Look at roads, cars, and how drivers found their way around the state in the early 20th century. Mud season was not just limited, as it is today, to the few of us living on Vermont's dirt roads. Imagine a time when driving meant few road markings, before the GPS navigation of today. Antique cars will be on display before the meeting.
Be sure to come early to see some cool cars outside the museum prior to the start of the 7:30 presentation!
Refreshments: John & Phyllis Mayville, Doris Mears



Wed. Oct. 3, 2012 7:30pm

**Reading Places:
Art, Architecture, and Gravestones in Early Vermont**

by William Hosley. In developing their towns, early Vermont settlers created a wide range of things that spoke to their values, backgrounds, skills, and cultural attitudes. Their architecture, gravestones, furniture, ironwork, paintings, pottery, and textiles are evocative of specific people, places, and situations. Discover how art and artifacts can be used to understand historical experience while surveying the extraordinary visual allure of historic Vermont. *A Vermont Humanities Council event.*
Refreshments: Rosalie Larose & Pat Lindsay

Wed. Oct. 10, 2012 7:30pm

Board Meeting

Wed. Nov. 7, 2012 7:30pm

Winter Birds by Erin Talmage, Executive Director of the Birds of Vermont Museum. Vermont in Winter: cold, muddy, slushy, icy, snowy. But there are still birds! Which ones? How come? What do they eat? How do they shelter from the weather? And how can you get involved with birds, birding, and conservation? Come find out more about birding (whether you are a beginner or have decades of birdwatching experience), bird food, and citizen science, all in the company of friendly people.
Refreshments: Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin, Judy & Allen Beaupre



Wed. Dec. 5, 2012 7:30pm

Business Meeting / Decorating for Holiday Open House

Sun. Dec. 9, 2012 1-4pm

Holiday Open House Special live holiday music, holiday exhibits and treats!
Refreshments & Beverage: All members furnish

Wed. Jan. 9, 2013

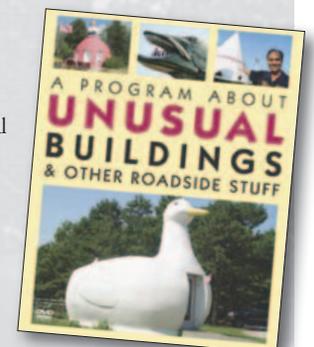
Board Meeting

Wed. Feb. 6, 2013 7:30pm

Business Meeting

March 6, 2013 6:00pm

**Dinner and a Movie:
"Unusual Buildings & Other Roadside Stuff"** Rick Sebak brings his trademark flair to a road trip in search of America's most interesting, wacky and goofy buildings, celebrating places such as the Big Duck on Long Island, the National Fresh Water Fishing National Hall of Fame (in the shape of a giant fish) in Heyward, Wisconsin, and the world's largest catsup bottle, built as a water tower in Collinsville, Illinois. *Please note: Dinner at 6:00pm followed by the movie.*
Refreshments & Beverage: All members furnish



Sun. March 24, 2013 1-4pm

Sugar-on-Snow Party at the Milton Grange Hall. Live music, outstanding maple treats, family activities.
Refreshments & Beverage: All members furnish

Wed. April 3, 2013 7:30pm **Annual Meeting**

Meetings are held at the Museum, 13 School Street, unless otherwise noted. Free refreshments are served after program meetings. Business meetings are for all members, and we encourage people to attend. Schedule subject to change. For further information call 363-2598 or email: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com



Burt E. Ryan and his meat wagon at homeplace opposite Perras Campground in 1910.



Photo courtesy of C. Ryan

Everest family photo

Phyllis is front and center in this photograph of the 1942 Milton girls' basketball team.

get to their destination on School Street.

Phyllis had a horse that her family kept in the barn behind the house. She also had a beloved bicycle that she rode to school, and on many further excursions such as round-trips past the Georgia High Bridge. One monumental trip took her as far as Burlington, with her good friend, Jane Mayville (Lafayette). Phyllis is not sure how long it took them to make the trip to the city, on what is now Route 7, but she does know that they did not return the same day; instead they spent the night at her Grandmother Ryan's house. Phyllis still has this bicycle in her garage, reminding her of the fun times she had with it in her youth. Now she enjoys her 1987 Honda four-wheeler. Despite her advanced macular degeneration, she frequently enjoys a jaunt to the lake on their private road.

As a teenager, Phyllis graduated from her bicycle to her first of two cars. Both cars were Model A Fords. Phyllis would often drive the car the short distance to school. Her mother told her that she knew when Phyllis was on the way home, because she would hear the car's tires crossing the train tracks on Main Street as it headed up the hill. Phyllis would often use the car to drive to St. Albans or Burlington for shopping and entertainment. She would also help out the family by making deliveries, in her car, to locations as far as Camp Rich at the end of Lake Road on the shore of Lake Champlain.

Phyllis enjoyed school, and played on the school basketball team. She remembers some of her friends that were teammates: Doris Lafayette (Mears) and Ruth Lombard

(Marcoux). Phyllis excelled in school, and had the great honor of participating in the first Vermont Girls' State in Montpelier in 1941. This was a very special honor for Phyllis. Girls' State is a program that continues today. It gives high school girls the opportunity to learn about government and civics in a weeklong program. Phyllis graduated in 1942, valedictorian of her class.

After her June 1944 marriage to Herb, Phyllis joined a long line of Everest family members to live in the family farmhouse.

Phyllis and Herb Everest became sweethearts when Phyllis was a sophomore in high school. Herb was a year older than Phyllis. He lived with his parents, Ira and Ethel (Wells) Everest in West Milton on a farm whose property abutted the shore of Lake Champlain. Ira and Ethel raised their 3 children, Betty, Herb and Robert, in the farmhouse that was, and continues to be, in the Everest family, since 1868. Zebediah Everest purchased the farmhouse and property from the Soper family, who had built the house in 1760. This area in West Milton had once been referred to as Sopertown, named after this same family.

Being on the shore of Lake Champlain, this property offered a unique opportunity for the family. In 1878, Zebidiah, along with a partner, A. W. Austin, opened a tourist camp

and named it Camp Everest. Generations of family members continued to run the camp including Zebediah's son, Jebediah and Herb's parents, Ira and Ethel. For a number of years, Ira and Ethel leased the camps and it was run as a Jewish girls' camp. The neighbors on Everest Beach Road, now called Beach Road, ran the Algonquin Inn and had a similar transformation around the same time period, into a Jewish boys' camp.

Phyllis and Herb were married in June of 1944 in St. Albans. After their marriage, Phyllis joined the long line of Everest family members to live in the family farmhouse.

Despite the proximity to the lake, Phyllis did not overly enjoy using it for recreation and was actually afraid of the water. When Herb did convince her to go for a ride in their boat, she constantly asked him to make sure the plug was still tight in the bottom of the boat. Growing up on the lake, Herb was very comfortable around it, and would use it for duck hunting and fishing, when he was able



Phyllis and Herb on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1994.

Everest family photo

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Thank You to this year's Society Sponsors:

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2011-12 Year in Review

The Milton Historical Museum had a good year in 2011 – nearly every open weekend it had more visitors than ever, plus it was great to host a packed house for several of our program meetings. We have hosted several groups of young people – Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and junior high students who walked over from Rebecca Lander Drive to get involved in Milton's history. We had several former Milton residents come, some bringing their offspring for a look at how the town has grown.

We participated in the Milton Community Youth Coalition's inaugural year of Community Service Day in April 2011 and we expect to participate each year.



Stephanie Landry and Krista Shover helped us out with museum projects at MCYC's first "Community Service Day", April 2011.

With the able input of Jim Ballard, we fielded an increasing number of genealogy requests from all over the country. People who ask for help are also very good at giving the museum copies of their own research pertinent to Milton's history. We have received family papers which are going to help round out our information. As you may know, there is a gap in town records because of fire and flood damage in the 19th century, so as a museum and as a town we are grateful for family bibles, papers, old deeds, or research that helps us fill in the missing years. Museum Director Lorinda Henry enjoyed spending time with a lady from the Chicago area who planned her vacation around a trip to Milton. She spent several hours at the town clerk's office and several more at our museum looking for more connections to her family.

We are planning a special exhibit for the summer of 2012 called *Women's Work*, acknowledging and celebrating the huge amount of work that women typically spent keeping their families clothed and in bedding. We intend to have our antique loom, donated last year by Stan Henry, up by the late summer as well. Milton's resident loom expert Dallan Baker is hard at work

bringing the loom back to useful life, which includes hand-making some of the necessary wooden parts. Special collections will include fiber-focused art pieces and a lace collection.

The community will be celebrating Milton's 250th birthday in 2013, and are working with the birthday committee. We encourage people to join us – to visit, to volunteer, to make copies of family research – in short, to come help tell our town's 250-year-old story. For more information on getting involved, contact John Lindsay at milton.250.birthday@gmail.com or 802-893-4077.

A beautiful commemorative Milton



This Memory Bench was produced and installed on the museum grounds in 2011 by Steve Plouff of Plouff's Monument Co. Thanks to the Milton Village Trust Fund for supporting this lasting homage to an important era of our town's history. Below, the "Old Soldier" stands alongside the new bench.

A Jim-Dandy Parade Float!

Thank you to Jim Manley, for pulling our July 4th parade float with his 1946 Farmall H tractor. In 2011 we featured "What's-Its"...those curious and practical items whose use is not always obvious at first glance.



Milton Grange Farmers' Market

Saturdays June 9 - October 6, 2012

9:30am-1:30pm

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by Lorinda Henry & Bill Kaigle

Village bench was installed on the museum lawn in 2011. Thank you to former village trustees for helping make it happen. Thank you also to Dustin Keely and the Town of Milton for helping keep the museum building open and available for visitors near and far, as well as to our amazing group of volunteers.

We sent \$100 to Preservation Trust of Vermont for Irene Relief and through our November membership drive appeal were able to send another \$150 from members.

In November, Rick and Peggy Stowell made an amazing "Snowflake Bentley" themed basket on behalf of the Society for the

library's basket raffle fundraiser. Filled with lots of goodies, it carried on the tradition of putting together a wonderful basket, started by Dee Dee Plouffe a few years ago.

Stay tuned to the Milton Independent and other local media, or join our mailing list at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com for upcoming program information and Society events.

Thank you as always to the Town of Milton for its care and maintenance of the museum building and grounds, and for selling historical calendars at the Town Clerk's office. We hope you have enjoyed our 2012 "J.K. Smith: The Village Photographer

Defines an Era" calendar. A very small supply are still available at the clerk's office.

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum, and everyone is invited to our programs. See page 4 for upcoming events, and watch *The Milton Independent* and other local media for special events or changes. Museum hours are the first full weekend and third weekend, April through October, from 1-4 p.m. During November through March, call 893-1604 to visit by appointment.

Portions of this article were published in the 2011 Milton Town Report.



Our December Holiday Open House is always a welcome respite from the shopping crowds. Shown here in 2011 (L-R), Volunteers decorate our Christmas tree in the museum's parlor area; Rick Stowell's antique Santa exhibit and Kimberley Arnold's live music added to a relaxing and festive afternoon.

Sponsorship Program by Allison Belisle

In 2012, the Society reached out to the Milton business community for our third annual sponsorship drive. We continue to be encouraged to have what we know reinforced: *Milton is a strong and supportive community.* We appreciate our sponsors and their belief in us to continue to keep history alive and fun in Milton.

As members, please be sure to show your appreciation to our loyal sponsors. If your business is interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com or by calling (802) 893-1604.

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Milton's History In Person:



Phyllis and her bike in 2010.

Everest family photo



Everest family photo

Phyllis Ryan's high school senior picture, 1942.

to take time away from farming.

Even prior to the marriage of their children, Herb's father Ira and Phyllis' father Ralph were friends. They would often go fishing together. Ralph leased property from Ira for a camp. This camp, now owned by Herb and Phyllis' daughter Amy, was originally a government owned World War II observation post that had been located in the Plains section of Milton, where the high school stands now. It had a hatch in the ceiling for the observer to watch for oncoming enemy aircraft with enough room to position a gun, in case defense was necessary. Ralph purchased this structure when the war ended and moved it to the lake for summer recreation.

Herb's father, Ira, had passed away in 1941 and Herb had taken on the responsibility of running the family farm. Herb and Phyllis raised two daughters, Amy and Laurie. Over the years, the family made a of couple moves, ending up back in the family farmhouse. In the 1950's, the family moved to a home on the corner of Beebe Hill Road and Everest Road, and in 1963 they moved back to the family farmhouse. During the interim period, with the help of Maurice LaRochelle, Herb was running two farms, the one near his Beebe Hill Road house as well as the family farm.

Both families embraced hard work, busy days and involvement in the community.

Ralph Ryan served in the state legislature, not once, but twice. Part of his legacy was his direct involvement in the naming of the new lake formed by the new dam on the Lamoille River, completed in 1937. A St. Albans Messenger article from February 1937 details the story of Representative Ryan in the middle of some legislative high-jinx, when fellow colleagues teased that they should name it "Ryan Lake." A creative legislator from Addison wrote the following to document the fun and the result:

*"His good friends and fellow members
All with one acclaim, approved.
"You're right," they shouted,
"Ryan Lake" shall be its name,
Then up rose the man from Milton.
With outstretched arm, he said:
"My friends, my modesty forbids.
We'll call it 'Arrow Head.'"*

Herb's mother Ethel was also a very busy woman. In addition to assisting with the family farm, she also was Milton's town clerk for 30 years. In the tradition of loyal and long faithful Milton public servants, her successor, our current town clerk, John Cushing, has been in this role since 1969. Ethel also was

responsible for running the family's rental camps, as well as, covering her duties as the treasurer of Milton's United Church.

Phyllis helped Herb with the farm work as much as she could. She enjoyed driving the farm truck to help with cutting and transporting the silage. Phyllis also continued to work at her family's store after her marriage. Her first job outside the family farm and the store was a very short stint at the railroad station in St. Albans. She had gotten word from Milton's stationmaster, John Jacobs that the St. Albans station needed some help. Despite the short stint, this job gave Phyllis the unique social security number reserved for railroad employees, which begins with the numbers 721. In July 1969, she went to work at the Milton post office with postmaster Donald Devarney. The post office was on Main Street when Phyllis started in her new job as a postal clerk. This put Phyllis back into the hustle and bustle of town life, a role she enjoyed and fell into easily, much like her many years spent at Ryan's Market. The post office moved after a few years to its present location on Route 7. As the center of activity moved, so did Phyllis. She worked there until her retirement in 1990.

What news Phyllis did not get from catching up with her customers came from The Suburban List out of Essex. This paper listed the comings and goings of people, events and happenings that fell outside the traditional news stories that were often found in *The Burlington Free Press* and the *St. Albans Messenger*. These papers were delivered by mail to homes. The newspapers kept the community closer by reporting on local news, happenings, comings and goings and current events. An event as seemingly mundane as someone's trip to Burlington was a story that would be reported in The Suburban List.

In the early 1970's, Herb and his friend Paul Robar invested in a racecar and became the sponsors for local legend Beaver Dragon. This endeavor provided great entertainment for Herb's and Paul's families. After loading

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Phyllis Ryan Everest *continued from page 3*

the car into the back of a converted school bus, they would all pile in, along with Beaver's family, and all the mechanics. They all travelled to racetracks across the area. In addition to our local Catamount Stadium on Wednesday nights, they would go to Barre's Thunder Road on Thursdays, to Plattsburgh's International Speedway on Saturdays and to Fair Haven's Devil's Speedbowl on Sundays. Occasionally, the group went to further venues in Connecticut, Maine and Canada. Herb and Paul's sponsorship of Beaver's car went on for about 5 years into the late 1970's. After that, Beaver went on to work with other sponsors. To learn more about Beaver Dragon and his racing stories, please come to the museum to peruse our copy of "To Beat

the Beaver" which is a biography on Harmon "Beaver" Dragon written by local author William Ladabouche.

Herb died in 1997 at the age of 73. He had reduced the farm work at this point to boarding heifers, sugaring and haying. On the day of his fatal stroke, he had been working in the sugarhouse and produced 97 gallons of syrup. Phyllis continues to live at the Everest family farmhouse. When she goes into town to shop or to eat out, she enjoys running into people she knows, but laments that she seems to know less and less people as the years go on. When asked what has changed the town most over the years, she replied that it was when IBM came to Vermont. To Phyllis, that event changed the

nature of Milton in a way that she could not describe. To conjecture on this connection, we can suspect that it has to do with the continued shifting of the center of activity away from her beloved town. The shift made it less personal and less familiar than it was when she was working with her family at the store, or working at the post office, in a town where everyone worked, shopped or just "hung out" to get caught up on the latest news. With the current "localvore" movement, ideas such as "buy local, eat local" and simply supporting the vendors in your own town, are once again popular. With this "new" movement, it seems we are headed back to the strong community that is a part of Phyllis' life and history.

Odessa Cary Leaves Lasting Legacy by Bill Kaigle

Odessa Cary passed away at her Lake Road home on April 28, 2011 at the age of 90. She was a Milton resident from the age of 14 and graduated from Milton High School in June, 1939.



Cary family photo

Odessa married Franklin Cary on Oct. 17,

1938, in Milton. Together, they moved to the Cary Farm on Lake Road. Odessa was very active within her community, including the Milton Historical Society. Many folks will remember the wonderful work that she and her late husband Franklin did on parade floats and exhibits for the Society. She also enjoyed researching family history and passing along stories, leaving her family with a great knowledge of their heritage. Among the family favorites, she recalled how she became (quite accidentally) the first resident of Milton to drive the town's first fire truck in 1937 - a tale which garnered hearty laughter

We would also like to publicly thank the following, who sent donations:

Betty Allen
James & Linda Ballard
Gwen Brown
Darla Cary Burgess
Elaine Campbell
Randy & Shirley Cary
Janon Douglas
John & Nancy Fieneman
Joe & Pam Heald
Robert & Mary Louise Lombard
Cynthia Cookie Major
Patricia & George McRae
Doris & Paul Mears
The Milton Grange
Bernadette Murray
Janet Neubauer
Wendell & Mary Noble
Ivan & Rose Pels
Tai R. Preston & family
Leslie Rowley
Linda & Dale Sanderson
United Church Women's Society
Marjorie Wood & Anthony Griffith

each time it was told!

We are forever grateful to Odessa Cary, who wished that upon her passing, donations be made to the Milton Historical Society in her memory.

Wish List

The Milton Historical Society is always in need of items we could use to support our mission, whether it's monetary or a volunteer of assistance. If you're able to help with anything listed here, we'd greatly appreciate it. Call 893-1604 or email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com to contribute, or with any questions. Thank you!

- 8' Step Ladder
- Someone to transcribe 31 cassettes of interviews with WWII veterans from Milton, made in the 1980s.
- Electric Steam Iron
- Staples Gift Card for Office Supplies
- Volunteer Museum Guides
- Claussen's or Mazza's Greenhouses Gift Certificate
- Copy of the Adjutant General's roster of Vermonters in WWI, Korea, and Vietnam for the museum. (Anyone cleaning their attic?)

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IBM Community Program Will Aid Cataloging by Bill Kaigle

The “IBM On Demand Community” program recognizes IBM employees who donate their time and talents within the non-profit organizations of their community. IBM grants were awarded in 2011 as a celebration of the company’s 100th anniversary, to organizations where IBM employees volunteer.



Thanks to the volunteer work of our resident technology advocate Rick Stowell, the Milton Historical Society is a very fortunate benefactor of this program, and for 2011-12 Rick applied for and received a \$1000 grant to purchase PastPerfect, the industry-standard museum-specific software for cataloging our collections and improving information referencing. Cataloging is a very long-term process, and Museum Director Lorinda Henry has been working with our volunteers to lay the groundwork by getting our collections organized within the



our collections organized within the

museum and on referenced index cards in preparation for this digital transition. The grant will also fund training so that the process goes as smoothly as possible. Any volunteers interested in helping with the ongoing cataloging of our collections or guiding visitors at the museum, please call 893-1604 or email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

Our technology advancements also took

a giant leap forward last year with the implementation of wireless internet. This will greatly help visitors expand their research while still within the museum walls.

The Society is very grateful to Rick Stowell and IBM’s On Demand Community program for their outstanding commitment to assisting volunteer community organizations.



2012 CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE!

In the nineteenth century, the village photographer was a fixture in capturing everyday life and special events in rural communities. Milton’s village photographer for almost 40 years was Joseph Kirk Smith. J.K. Smith, as he is known from the signatures on his varied photographs, has given us the ability to glimpse into life the way it was during his professional career in Milton, which spanned from the 1880s to 1918. We would not have as clear a picture of our history during this era without his input.

The 2012 Milton Historical Society Calendar features some wonderful chronicles of Milton life from Smith’s extensive body of work. A very limited supply of these keepsake calendars is still available for \$5.00 each and may be purchased at the Milton Town Clerk’s office, or by calling 893-1604.

All proceeds benefit the Milton Historical Museum.

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Rest Area Fundraiser is a Great Success by David VonHolden

It wasn’t just a regular Saturday. May 12, 2012 will be remembered by all who participated as a really fun Rest Stop Fundraiser for The Milton Historical Society.

Sandy and Stanley Richards did a fabulous job coordinating the entire event with historical society member volunteer crews, from 7am to 4pm, on both the North and South sides of I-89 in Williston.

Many society members and friends baked or donated yummy goodies, to raise funds for ongoing expenses. A total of \$580 was raised. Folks traveling the interstate were

happy to contribute to the worthy cause and enjoy a sweet treat for the trouble.

Although this is the second year the society has participated, newly added this year: hot dogs donated by McKenzie’s. Thanks to them, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for donating coffee and supplies, and Dan’s Chocolates for the chocolate truffle balls.

Hopefully, these positive feelings have motivated you to volunteer to join us next year at the 2013 Milton Historical Society Rest Stop Fundraiser. I know I’ll be there.



Dick and Nancy Bouffard help feed hungry I-89 travelers while raising money to support the historical society.

The Familiar Roads of Milton *continued from page 1*

Milton, Mears Road, Duffy Road, Sanderson Road, Beebe Hill, Gimlet Hill, Herrick Hill, Towne's Corners, site of the former Branch Brothers Store, Ryan's Market, Cadreact Road, Tannery Hill, each of the town cemeteries – where some of our predominant people are buried, the Clark House, Everest Road, Long Pond, Manley Road, Sand Bar, Poor Farm Road, Milton Falls, Camp Rich, Cold Spring Camps, the churches in town, the Grange, Wagner's Store, Jed Shepard's Barber Shop, the Historical Museum, the

Veterans' Hall, the schools of Milton new and old, The Flat Iron, Willy's Lanejust to name a few possible locations. It would be fun, educational and challenging. We would have to put up a temporary signs or markers. Certainly guidelines and precautions would be in place for safety and privacy reasons, but it would be very interesting how many of us of all ages that would enjoy this quest.

Over the years, families and roads have moved and in some cases names have changed due to a number of factors, such

as epidemics, natural disasters, war, E-911, commerce and adventure. It is important that Milton residents and its many visitors have some knowledge of where we have been and where we are before we take or give directions on any road or journey. Only in knowledge of our connections, our names, and our stories can we get *there* from here.

For more information or to help with the "250th Club" event planning, please contact Jim Ballard at 893-7734 or jamesbmilton@comcast.net.



Genealogy

A huge thank you goes out to Jim Ballard as our historian and genealogy group leader. Our genealogy resources are

constantly expanding, and the museum has hosted some classes, a continuing group, and a fall seminar on family research.

We are working on updating and expanding our system for handling genealogy requests. Contact the Society, or historian Jim Ballard at 893-7734 or jamesbmilton@comcast.net for information. We also ask anyone who has done a family history or genealogy of Milton descendants to consider donating a copy to the museum collections.

"Like" us on Facebook!

Take a minute to visit the Milton Historical Society's Facebook page, where we post our event information along with images and anecdotes of our town.

Artifact Donations & Loan

Do you have photographs or other items you'd like to contribute or loan to the Milton Historical Museum for exhibit? Contact museum director Lorinda Henry at 893-1604 or artistlh@aol.com. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank You...

...to Dustin Keely and the Town of Milton for everything they do to keep the museum building and grounds looking and working great.

...to our wonderful volunteers!

Monetary Donations

Your tax-deductible donations to benefit the Milton Historical Society & Museum are crucial to its ongoing success in serving our community. They may be sent to: Milton Historical Society, 13 School Street, Milton, VT 05468. Thank you!

Getting Involved

There are many ways that you can get involved to benefit you and YOUR Historical Society and Museum, and it's fun! There are current committee openings, email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com or call 893-1604 for details.

Programs

To suggest a historical program or topic that you'd like the Society to host, call Rick Stowell at 893-4546. And be sure to check out our great lineup of events for 2012-13, on page 4.

Keeping It Fresh

Our goal is to always have a changing exhibit on display, so that museum visitors get a new experience on future returns. Check out our back page article on this summer's special exhibit "Women's Work".



Old is New Again

Or is it the other way round? This photo of Milton's timeless L.D. Oliver Seed Co. was taken by Harjit Dhaliwal in 2012.

The Society's purpose is to preserve and tell the story of the town and people of Milton, Vermont from its incorporation to the present day.



MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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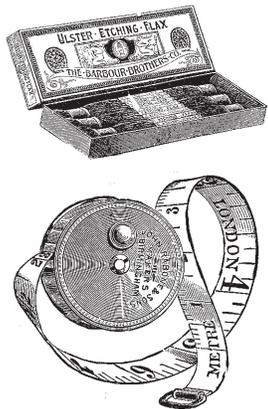
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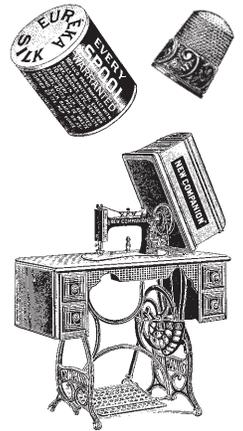
Our membership year begins in April,
 and you may join at any time.
 (This newsletter is really late this year)
 Renew or begin your membership **today!**
 We appreciate your support!



A Special Exhibit

Women's Work

"MAN WORKS FROM SUN TO SUN,
 BUT WOMEN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE."



by Lorinda Henry

Never done, indeed. That old saying was never more true than for far women in the 1800s. This summer the Milton Historical Museum is staging an exhibit to show the huge range of skills and the hours of drudgery that went into merely keeping one's family clothed and bedded. Jim and Linda Ballard, Nan Marotti, Lorinda Henry and others have lent items from their collections and we are bringing some beautiful needlework out of storage for this event. We will have our antique loom, donated by Stan Henry, on display as well.

And if it makes you tired just think of all that work, we have refurbished our summer camp exhibit. Stan has loaned his collection of decorative small canoes for the season to go along with that. *Plan a visit to the museum soon!*

