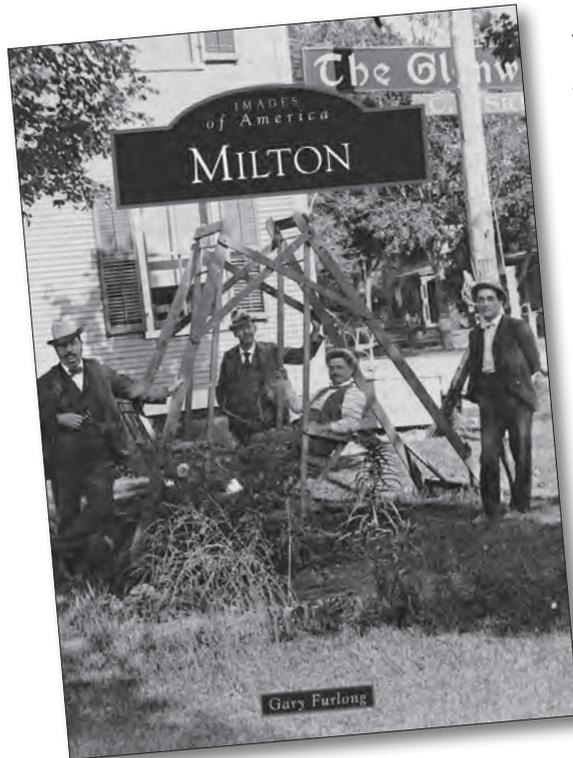




HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

NEWSLETTER &
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2013-2014



History of Milton Explored in New Book!

Local educator and author tells the story of the Milton area with stunning, vintage images

Released just in time for the celebration of Milton's 250th birthday, the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series is *Milton* from local author and Milton High School history teacher Gary Furlong. The book boasts more than 200 vintage images of our town. As part of Milton's 250, Gary welcomed the opportunity to compile and edit this photographic history of Milton on behalf of the Milton Historical Society.

Our town is located in the northwest corner of Vermont on the shores of Lake Champlain, covering some 67 square miles.

The area attracted settlers who found the pine forests ideal for lumbering and the land fertile enough to farm. One-room schoolhouses dotted the landscape and commerce grew in the Main and River Streets area. With the arrival of the railroad and the creation of summer camps and recreation areas, Milton quickly became an attractive destination for visitors from Boston, New York and beyond.

Rural, northern Vermont was not an easy place to make a living or create a community. The images in *Milton* show the triumphs and struggles of the town as it established a strong identity through the years. Photographs of businesses, farms, churches, organizations, schools and people at work and play demonstrate the progress that our town has made through the years.

Highlights of Milton include:

- Rarely seen photographs from private collections of Milton residents whose families have been in the area for over 100 years.
- Different views of life in Milton, from the area's farming heritage to the contributions of Milton's citizens to the Civil War.

- Challenges that Milton has faced, such as the flood of 1927 and the high school fire.

Milton is 128 pages long, softcover and available for \$21.99 at the Milton town clerk's office and the Milton Historical Museum. Books can also be purchased and mailed to you by contacting us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com or calling Allison Belisle at (802) 363-2598. All proceeds from purchases made at these locations go directly to support the Society. Books can also be purchased at independent and online retailers.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Their mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. Gary Furlong and the Milton Historical Society would like to publicly thank Arcadia for the opportunity to create such a lasting treasure celebrating our town.

Along with the members of the Milton Historical Society, Gary hopes that this work will help connect Milton residents and others interested in Milton to our history. He hopes that it generates memories and discussion of Milton's past as it prepares for the future. On the occasion of Milton's 250th anniversary it is a tribute to all those who brought Milton to where it is today.



Gary Furlong has been a teacher at Milton High School for over 23 years and a resident of Milton for over eight years. As a history teacher and board member of the Milton Historical Society, Gary and the members of the society are interested in preserving the history of Milton for future generations. We are very grateful that Gary is graciously donating his author's proceeds from the book to the Milton Historical Society.



Ten Milton High School Students Attend National History Day Competition

by Gary Furlong



Milton High School students and their accompanying teachers visited the Lincoln Memorial on their trip to the National History Day competition.

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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

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

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For the fourth year in a row Milton High School students participated in the Vermont History Day program at Spaulding High School. Ten Milton students qualified to participate in the National History Day competition which was held at the University of Maryland in early June.

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 original papers, websites, documentaries, exhibits or performances. This year's theme was *Turning Points in History*.

The program requires students to use a variety of academic and interpersonal skills. During the first phase, all 10th grade students and a number of 11th grade students created individual or group projects ranging from traditional research papers to documentary films. During the first phase students presented their work at the high school to panels of evaluators made up of community members including many members of the Historical Society, other teachers and school administrators. About 35 students then chose to attend the Vermont History Day competition at Spaulding High School in early April.

At the State History Day competition, ten Milton students qualified to attend the National History Day competition.

The following students qualified:

Individual website category: Luke Jackson, First place (*The Battle of El Alamein*), Portia Smith, Second Place (*Crick and Watson and the Discovery of DNA*); Group Website Category: Alicia Muir and Kristina Payne, 1st Place (*Leonardo DaVinci*), Casey Hurley and Hailey Flynn, Second Place (*Test Tube Babies*); Individual Documentary: Celeste Gander (*The Invention of the Barcode and the Revolution in Marketing*), Individual Performance: Jesse Agan, First Place (*Radar*); Individual Exhibit: Allison Erena, First Place (*The Battle*

of Britain), Christine Perry, Second Place (*Sigmund Freud*).

At the National Competition, Celeste Gander's documentary was a finalist (top 14) out of 91 entries and was awarded the prize for the best project from Vermont. *Congratulations Celeste!*

The benefits of participating in National History Day are many. Alicia Muir commented after returning from National History Day, "I enjoyed seeing all of our hard work pay off. We spent all year perfecting these projects, and we were now able to display them at a national level. I also enjoyed being in Washington, DC. The city gave us an opportunity to explore history in the Smithsonian museums and monuments."

Celeste Gander shared the excitement of learning that her project was a finalist: "Finding out that my documentary was selected in the grouping of national finalists was probably one of the most exciting things that's happened to me. I remember we were all sitting on the Capitol steps when I got the message and my mouth just dropped! Just being able to compete at the national level was overwhelmingly exciting, and then to be named a finalist was unbelievable to me."

Next year's theme is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. We hope many Historical Society members can join us in mid-March (date to be determined) to evaluate projects at the high school.



Milton students with other Vermonters before going into the National History Day awards ceremony, which they described as having the flavor of a political rally.

Hope Rowley: A Personal History & West Milton Retrospective

Written by Hope G. Rowley
Edited for publication by Allison Belisle

Rowley family photo

Hope Garrand Rowley and her husband Raymond raised their family on West Milton Road along the banks of the Lamoille River. After gathering stories from her husband and neighbors Kenneth Jackson and Harry Costello, in 1974 she wrote the following history. Also included is her personal story. Hope made some updates to the history in 1992 and 2008. We have this wonderful opportunity to share these edited writings with you, because her family donated her notebook of stories to the museum in the summer of 2012.

West Milton, December 7, 1974

As we delve into the past of Milton, we will find West Milton steeped in history with many firsts, as West Milton was Milton.

Milton was overabundant in all growth of pine and timber that the English wanted for their navy. Boardman and Clark (who came to the town, as they say, with only

an axe on his back and when he left town he was a wealthy man) were lumbermen who bought land and rights from the late John Jackson, who then owned practically all the land in West Milton. John Jackson was the grandfather of the now Katherine Jackson who lives in the old homestead in the Northwestern part of Milton on the lake road. (This homestead is now Milton's dog kennel '92, the current Deja Vu Kennels).

Clark and Boardman hired crews of men to cut lumber and to get out other forest products: namely lumber, pulpwood, cordwood and large timbers that were used in the British Navy. They were hauled from the now Milton Village to West Milton Valley and stored on the Raymond Rowley home (now owned by Peter Lavallee) and Fenton's home as well as the culvert. One can see timbers protruding from the bank south of the falls

where some of these docks were located in West Milton Valley.

The boats, the mast schooners, would come up the river and dock here. Forest products that were gotten out during the winter were loaded on the schooners. When the water was high enough in the spring, they would set sail down the river to their destination of Montreal, Canada and foreign markets. The late Harry C. Costello, who died several years ago at the age of ninety plus, saw five of these mast schooners at one time on the river. These boats used wind as power as it was their only means of transportation at that time.

In the early 1800's, a sawmill was located in the approximate vicinity of the new public electric power plant in West Milton. A brickyard was located on the left side of Checkerberry Hill between the foot of this hill and the present power plant. West Milton Valley also boasted of a floating saw mill located in back of the now Silvia Vance residence. (The Jeff Towne residence '92) Later on a portable sawmill was situated on the Raymond Rowley farm. (Raymond Rowley and James Rowley Farm '92) A Mr. Britton, a lumberman, operated this mill. In the later years Kenneth Jackson, (brother of Katherine Jackson, previously mentioned) had a sawmill located further south on the land now owned by Bernard Munson. (2002-now by Orr) Today no sawmills remain in West Milton Valley.

About 1830, Clark built his home in Milton Village, which is now known as the Clark Memorial building and housed Town Offices, Police Department, Library and club meetings upstairs. Clark left the Clark Memorial building to the town to be used for its town offices and when no longer used as such was to revert back to his relatives. (2002-was sold to Turners and was operated as a restaurant)

continued on page 5

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2012-13 Year in Review

by Bill Kaigle & Lorinda Henry

The Milton Historical Museum on School Street welcomed visitors from near and far again this year. The multi-year special exhibit *Women's Work* is still being tweaked. In addition to the beautiful and interesting pieces from the permanent collection, we have loans of antique lace and handkerchiefs from local collectors Nan Marotti and Lorinda Henry on display. Our antique loom, a gift to the museum from Stan Henry, is being refurbished by Dallan Baker and will be a key piece for years to come.

A small collection of souvenir canoes in glass, wood, and ceramic that was especially fun for the summer season has been loaned, and to complement that a huge amount of research on the camps of Milton was undertaken by Barbara Hutchins, who began attending camp here when she was a toddler and now lives here year around. Barbara has now donated her completed works, a comprehensive book of Milton's early twentieth century tourist camps. Many thanks go to her, to Jim Ballard, and to Gary Furlong, as well as others, for the vast number of hours spent in researching Milton's history over the past year. Jim continues to do an outstanding job fielding our genealogical information requests, and with Milton High School students' help Gary led the beautiful *Images of America: Milton* book project to publication. See the front page for information on how to get your copy.

In connection with Milton's 250th Birthday, the Society is working on some collaborative outreach projects, including temporary displays in the Community Room of the town offices, which were installed by tireless volunteer Allison Belisle. Thanks go also to Bill Kaigle for working with library staff choose and produce a collection of 18 photos reproduced from the archives, for display at the library. In April 2013, Bill also worked with the town to produce another 22 historic prints for the halls of the municipal building.

We were also able to do a one-day display of a very large and very fragile old flag made by women of Milton in the 1890s. The Fire Department made room for the viewing of this flag at the kickoff

birthday festivities after the Boy Scouts' Salute to Veterans parade in November. The Society's vibrant full-color 2013 historical calendar also features the beautiful quilt made by members in 1981-82 to commemorate Milton's first fifty years. Calendars are still

available at the Town Clerk's office and the museum, where the quilt is on display.

For acquisitions, an Atwater radio was donated to the museum in July 2012, and we are thankful for Evelyn Bissonnette's fabric stretcher, donated in December. Exciting news...In August 2012, Wendell and Mary Noble donated a fantastic Milton artifact, a copy of *The Milton Herald*, the town's first newspaper – it appears it only ran one year, 1844. It came in needing a lot of work, but Nan Marotti has been excited to work on it and now has it de-acidified and stabilized.

Thank you 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 for all you do.

The Milton Historical Museum and its volunteers are always ready to welcome people to the building and grounds, but it is also wonderful to have these opportunities for showing the wider community that we are always living in the midst of history, and that our past is never far behind us. We are so grateful for every volunteer, every shared photo, every shred of information and insight into our collective past.

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 and the new *Milton* books at the Town 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 6 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, email museum director Lorinda Henry at artistlh@aol.com or call 893-1604 to visit by appointment. Join our mailing list on Facebook and at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com for more great information and announcements.

Portions of this article were published in the 2012 Milton Town Report.



In 2012 we joined forces with Milton Girl Scouts for our July 4th parade float, in the year of Girl Scouts national centennial celebration. Our riders shown here, L-R, were Bill Kaigle, Evan Kaigle, Ally Kinaman, Ana Dykeman, Emily Battistoni and Captain Anna Kaigle. Thank you as always to Jim Manley for loaning us his hay wagon and pulling our float with his 1946 Farmall H tractor.



We had a full house (and museum lawn) in September 2012, for the very entertaining Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts' program, "Early 20th Century Transportation in Vermont".



Rick Stowell put together a beautiful gift basket from the Society for the Milton Public Library's annual November basket raffle.

Hope Rowley: A Personal History & West Milton Retrospective *continued from page 3*

Boardman, his partner, built his home in West Milton. This place was known as the Harry Costello residence until it was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Clivio of New York City. Dr. John was a chiropractor and Mrs. Clivio was a Social Worker in New York City. (2002-both deceased) Here Mr. Costello rented boats to fisherman far and near, as the Lamoille River in this area was a haven for fishermen. We have counted eighty-five boats on the river, as we stood on the bridge. (A new bridge was built and in use in 2001.) This was apt to be on May 1, the first day of fishing. Many older folks might remember the huge tent that was pitched on the riverbank near the Costello and Rowley residences during the fishing season. Here Slim Braxton, a Negro cook from Henry's Diner in Burlington, served the most delicious fish chowder to many people.

Since the Legislature passed a law stating that Lake Champlain was listed as ending near the West Milton Bridge, it changes the aspects of fishing privileges, as you could fish for anything in the river as you could in the Lake Champlain. The Legislature thought it would help the fishing in the river; but it seemed to have done more damage. (Richard Branch, our representation from Milton sponsored this law.) This became a pleasant memory of the past before this law and the dam was built in West Milton. Before the dam was built salmon came up the river and spawned. Many kinds of fish were caught and speared. One of the largest was the sturgeon; but not now, as I understand it is against the law to catch sturgeons.

Besides the store located on the Costello property a second one was situated on the site of the now Raymond Rowley residence. (Peter Lavallee '92). The first store burned down and the Grangers built the second store about 1900. This store was owned and operated by the George Granger family. It housed two families besides the store.

The store became the focal point of the community, as the stagecoach would come down across the wooden bridge from other parts of the town (and from St. Albans area) for supplies, etc. The stagecoach road went up the hill by Morgan's new house built in 1991 and later came out along the road by the Rowley duplexes. This area is known as the Flat Iron piece.

The Raymond Rowleys later purchased this George Granger house and store. It was first a store then a dance hall and then partitioned into rooms. Water came down from the spring on the hill into two tanks

...the Lamoille River in this area was a haven for fishermen. We have counted eighty-five boats on the river, as we stood on the bridge.

- Hope Rowley

near the house. The Grangers used one tank and the second tank was where the fresh fish (for the market) was kept for the Grangers' customers.

Electricity wasn't brought to the valley until five years later. Lanterns and daylight lamps were used. Washing machines were operated by gasoline engines. All of West Milton was occupied by farms, and milking was done by hand. This was all farmland, as lumber was cut off and the land cleared for farming.

A creamery was located on the property of the John Coleman residence where the Raymond Rowleys lived a couple years before they purchased the Granger store and home. Later Gene Towne purchased the Coleman residence. ('92 The Gordon Thom family now owns it)

West Milton had a large community church situated at the top of the hill located near the Paul Morgan residence. Going across the bridge and up the hill was the community church; and incidentally this hill was named "Community Hill" or "Meeting House Hill." Here at the community

church the services were held. Harley Perry, a local carpenter, tore down this church in the 1940's.

The Paul Morgan, Sr. house was the former two-story West Milton School over twenty years ago; now converted into a home. This was built on the Clark and Boardman farm. John Rowley Sr. now owns this farm.

One of the oldest houses in Milton burned down in early spring of 1974. This place was the tenement house on the Raymond Rowley farm and was formerly a log cabin with cold storage in the cellar. This building has been replaced by James Rowley as a duplex.

Hope Garrand Rowley

Hope Garrand was born on January 16, 1917, the second daughter of Lawrence and Emma Regina Garrand of Grand Isle.

Lawrence Loren Garrand, the last son of Adolph and Delia P. Garrand was born in Mooers, New York. He married Emma R. Dubuque of Grand Isle, Vermont and lived in Grand Isle for couple years before moving to Mooers, New York. The family moved back to Grand Isle after couple years in New York. Lawrence worked at the Grand Isle Creamery. He was offered the position of manager at the Grand Isle Creamery but he refused as Hoag, the former manager, had tampered with the books causing shortage.

Lawrence Garrand went to UVM, matriculated in the Milk Industry: Lab Work and Butter Making. Lawrence and Emma moved to Milton with their five children: Joyce, Hope, Max, Rene and Barbara.

Lawrence worked at the (Milton) Creamery making butter and cheese and working in the lab. One day when Gene

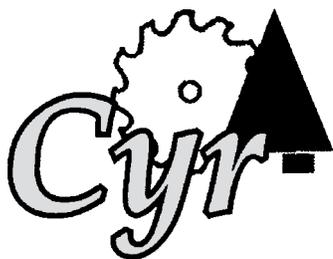
continued on page 8



Hope and her husband Raymond.

Rowley family photo

We are proud to have raised our children here.



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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 you are encouraged to attend. There is no regular monthly meeting on July 3, 2013 or January 1, 2014. Schedule subject to change. For further information call 363-2598 or email: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

- Wed. May 1, 2013 7:30pm **History of the Vermont State Police** which was formed in 1947 as rural constabulary for the State of Vermont. Lt. Mark Lauer discusses the first Commissioner, Major General Merritt A. Edson USMC Retired, a native Vermonter and Medal of Honor recipient. Come see photos of the Motor Vehicle Department's Motorcycle Patrol in the 1920s-30s as well as some early equipment and stories.
Refreshments & Beverage: Wendell & Mary Noble and Sandy & Stanley Richards
- Wed. June 5, 2013 7:30pm **Images of America: Milton Book Signing & Discussion** In celebration of Milton's 250th Anniversary, Society board member and Milton High School history teacher Gary Furlong, has spent the past year compiling the pictorial history of Milton's history, *Images of America: Milton*. With student and Society assistance, Gary worked with Arcadia Publishing to develop this book of over 200 images from our collections. Learn about the making of *Milton*, and be one of the first to purchase your own copy, signed by Gary.
Refreshments & Beverage: Allen & Judy Beaupre and Amy Morway
- Sat. June 8, 2013 9-11:30am **Milton Turns 250!** Charter Signing Re-enactment, Time Capsule Presentation, Town Photo, Milton History display and more at Milton High School
- Wed. June 12, 2013 7:30pm **Business Meeting**
- Thurs. July 4, 2013 2-6 pm **Find us at the Milton 250 Independence Day Celebration!** at Bombardier Park
- Wed. July 10, 2013 7:30 pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Aug. 7, 2013 7:30pm **Pills & Potions, Liquors and Laudanum: Medicine in the Civil War Era** by Charlotte historian Dan Cole. Includes vivid images of medical treatments available to soldiers of the Civil War era. Dan's discussion is based on letters written between Vermont soldiers and their families.
Refreshments: Alice Buinicky and Nan Marotti
- Wed. Sept. 4, 2013 7:30 pm **The History Behind Heron Island** R.A. Herold's first historical mystery novel, *Heron Island*, is set on a Lake Champlain island near the mouth of Keeler Bay, and local color abounds as Fishbladder Island, Savage Island and Grand Isle provide the backdrop for murder. The cast of characters includes paper tycoon Warren Dodge, Teddy Roosevelt, and the Webbs of Shelburne Farms. Ms. Herold, who lives in Montpelier, points to where fact and fiction meet, and provides an exciting portrayal of Gilded Age Lake Champlain, including rare photos, drawings and maps gathered during her research.
Refreshments: Doris & Paul Mears and John & Phyllis Mayville
- Wed. Sept. 11, 2013 7:30 pm **Business Meeting**
- Wed. Oct. 2, 2013 7:30pm **Spooky Tales with Thea Lewis** Queen City Ghostwalk creator, author and tour guide Thea Lewis has interpreted local history for Vermonters and visitors for more than a decade. In the spirit of the season, she'll discuss her adventures as well as her books *Haunted Burlington: Spirits of Vermont's Queen City* (2009), *There's a Witch in My Sock Drawer! - A Book for Children* (2011) and *Ghosts and Legends of Lake Champlain* (August 2012).
Refreshments: Rosalie Larose & Pat Lindsay
- Wed. Oct. 9, 2013 7:30pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Nov. 6, 2013 7:30pm **A Musical Evening with Robert Resnick & Marty Morrissey** These veteran Vermont folk musicians have been playing music together throughout the Northeast for almost 30 years. As members of the Highland Weavers and The Tin Pan Valentinos, they have also released a pair of critically-acclaimed CDs of Vermont songs. They'll present us with a selection of old favorites and new tunes by regional songsmiths, played on more than a dozen musical instruments, in celebration of the history and lore of Lake Champlain!
Refreshments: Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin and Jeanette Adams
- Wed. Dec. 4, 2013 7:30pm **Come & Help Us Decorate for the Holiday Open House!**
- Sun. Dec. 8, 2013 1-4pm **Holiday Open House** Special live holiday music, holiday exhibits and treats!
Refreshments & Beverage: All members furnish
- Wed. Jan. 8, 2014 7 pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Feb. 5, 2014 7 pm **Business Meeting**
- March 5, 2014 7 pm **Burr Morse** The author, sugarmaker and Vermont icon reads from his works and muses on life in the Green Mountains.
- Sun. March 23, 2014 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 2, 2014 7 pm **Annual Meeting**

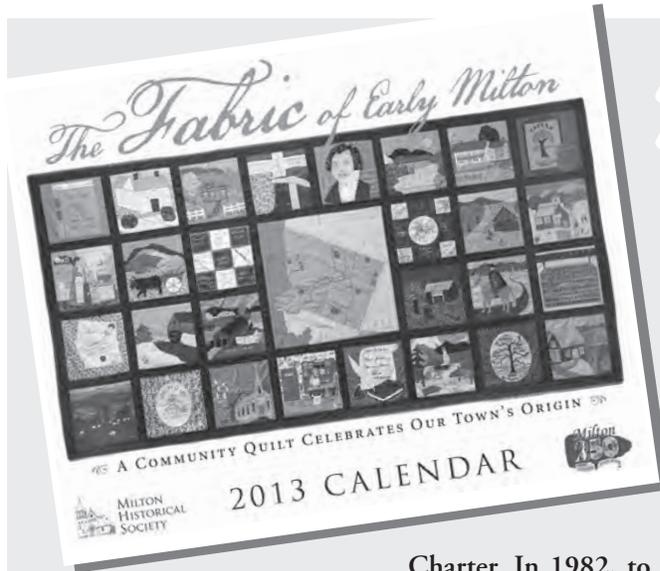
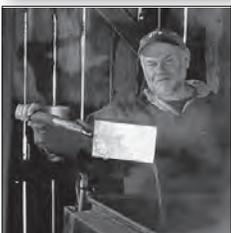


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2013 CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE!

In 2013, Milton celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Town Charter. In 1982, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the first five settlers in Milton, members of the Milton Historical Society created a bicentennial quilt. This wall hanging consists of twenty-nine squares and currently graces the wall in the meeting room at the Milton Historical Museum. The full-color Milton Historical Society 2013 Calendar highlights this beautiful quilt, focusing on its squares and their stories. Enjoy the year of history and our local folk art.

A limited supply of these keepsake calendars is still available for \$5.00 each and may be purchased at the museum, the Milton Town Clerk's office, or by calling 893-1604. *All proceeds benefit the Milton Historical Museum.*



The Bicentennial Quilt in Process

This photo was taken in Lorraine Manley's living room in January 1982, when she used to live on Lake Road. About her cat, Lorraine says, "I couldn't keep her off the quilt!"

Hope Rowley: A Personal History & West Milton Retrospective *continued from page 5*

Rowley family photo



The Rowley family, circa 1962. (L-R) Back row: Raymond, Joan, James. Front row: Raymond, Judy, Hope.

Young, working upstairs, was ill and stayed home while Lawrence that could do anything in a creamery went upstairs and filled in. Incidentally, the day before Gene Young repaired an engine (wrong). So when Lawrence took over the engine, faulty repaired, tipped over and hit Lawrence on the left side so he was out for two days. From thence on he had a bad heart and suffered day and night. He never worked again, but at the time of his accident war was threatening, so Lawrence G., that couldn't sleep in bed nights, would sit outside and watch the skies for foreign planes. The only way he could get relief was to sit straddle on a chair.

One day when Lawrence and Emma and all the children were at work, the barn burned down. We had no fire department at the time. People would carry mattresses downstairs and throw the old-fashioned bowl and pitcher out the window; put cooked potatoes from the refrigerator into a basket of soiled clothes: and this is the essence of the first big fire in town. Now, George Allen said, "This is ridiculous, we need a Fire Department." This was

the origin of such. Lawrence Garrand went to all merchants for donations for an inhalator. One merchant refused. He was the first one that the inhalator was used as he was having a spell at the ball field. Incidentally, Lawrence Garrand collected enough money from the merchants to purchase cots and blankets plus the inhalator for the future fire station. They also held many bingo parties for the fire station.

Hope attended schools in Grand Isle until the first half of fourth grade. When the family moved to Milton, Hope attended the Plains School. She matriculated and was graduated from Milton High School as an honor student. She attended Johnson Normal School as her tuition was paid by being an honor student. She became Secretary to the Dean of Women (Mrs. Wilbur) doing typing, mimeographing, and registry and other business Mrs. Wilbur wanted done. This job helped to pay her room and books, etc.

After graduation, Hope taught at the Towne's Corners School. There were nine schools besides the Village School, namely: Arrowhead, Towne's Corners, Soper Town, Milton Boro, West Milton, Checkerberry, Plains, Brush and lastly Hard Scrabble which was closed as they only had one pupil left (Thelma Colt) that was transported to the Village School.

After teaching five years at Towne's Corners School, Hope Rowley married Raymond G. Rowley. They lived in the Granger house for a couple of years with no electricity so they had a gasoline washing machine and daylight lamps. They had a pump to bring water into the house. It was a couple years before electricity came into the

valley. They had four children, namely: Ray, James, Joan and Judy.

Raymond G. Rowley was the second son of Thomas and Mary (Hanley) Rowley of Milton, born October 19, 1904. He attended Milton High School up to and including his third year. After spending a year in Florida as a merchant selling fruit he returned to Milton and bought the former Beauvais farm in West Milton from the bank in 1925. At that time West Milton Valley was comprised solely of farms, namely the Fresns, Costello, Rowley and Jackson farms. The Desranleaus owned the farm before the Beauvais family.

Later on he held offices in Milton as fence viewer, School Director of nine schools with his wife keeping the books and also Selectman. He became one of the directors of Milton Cooperative Creamery with over fifty people employed.

In 1973, he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He was on many agriculture committees, serving as Chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service of the State of Vermont and the Better Business Bureau of Washington, DC. Raymond G. Rowley, Sr. incidentally was involved in all phases of agriculture as he was one of the three that made the decisions for the State of Vermont. The other two were Ray Collins of Colchester and Robert Carlson of UVM. In 1963, he was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Vermont. He was stationed in Montpelier where you will see his picture in the Agriculture building. He was Commissioner of Agriculture for five years when he resigned refusing Gov. Hoff an edict that he was, Raymond, to issue against the farmers. At this Raymond refused and resigned.

Many changes have taken place in the valley – some good; but all have pleasant memories when one strolls down peaceful West Milton Valley on a sunny warm day.

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Long May It Wave by Lorinda Henry

A friend and her great-granddaughter were helping at the museum this summer, and we uncovered a very large flag, dating back to the late 1800s. To give you an idea, it is over 20 feet long and correspondingly wide. It was made in Milton by the women of town, who came together and donated time and fabric for the project. The cloth has both faded and darkened over time, so it is more like tan, rust, and slate than red, white, and blue, but you can imagine how it must have looked when it was fresh and new. It is fragile – in places the blue field is almost transparent. It was carefully mended more than once. The header from which it was supported is made of heavy linen or cotton material from a grain or flour sack, with the manufacturer's name still visible.

The stars kind of stagger around the field a bit, but after several attempts to count them, it appears that there 44 of them. They are applied with small stitches on one side,

and after that the blue was undercut on the other so that you can see the stars from both sides, as you would want to if it was hung over the street. When it is totally unfolded, one sees two lithographic portraits on cotton percale that were sewn on to the lower striped section. The faces are those of Benjamin Harrison, the twenty-third president of the United States, and Levi P. Morton. Levi Morton was born in Shoreham, Vermont, in 1824; he was later a governor of New York and an ambassador to France, and served as well as a Congressman from New York. He capped his career by becoming Harrison's vice president in 1888.

It seems evident that the flag was used as a campaign banner. I imagine a vigorous whistle-stop campaign, which was all the more exciting since a native son was involved. Although there was an almost constant emigration from Vermont for a century, she has always been willing to claim her own, and it may have been this connection that brought them here. In addition, the number of stars shows that this was their second

campaign, in 1892, because when Harrison took office in 1889, there were only 38 stars. (During his administration, North and South Dakota, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana became states and added six stars to the total).

Therefore he already was president when he campaigned in 1892. It is probable that it is the only time that a sitting president has ever come to Milton – although later Theodore Roosevelt campaigned here when he ran as a Bull Moose. Entertaining the president, no matter how briefly, would be why such care was taken to construct such a very large flag, and why it was preserved for future generations. Like us.

This article was originally published in the Milton Independent in October 2012. It has been updated for this publication.

Wish List

WANTED:

Catamount Stadium memorabilia, specifically race programs, for a future History of Auto Racing in Milton exhibit

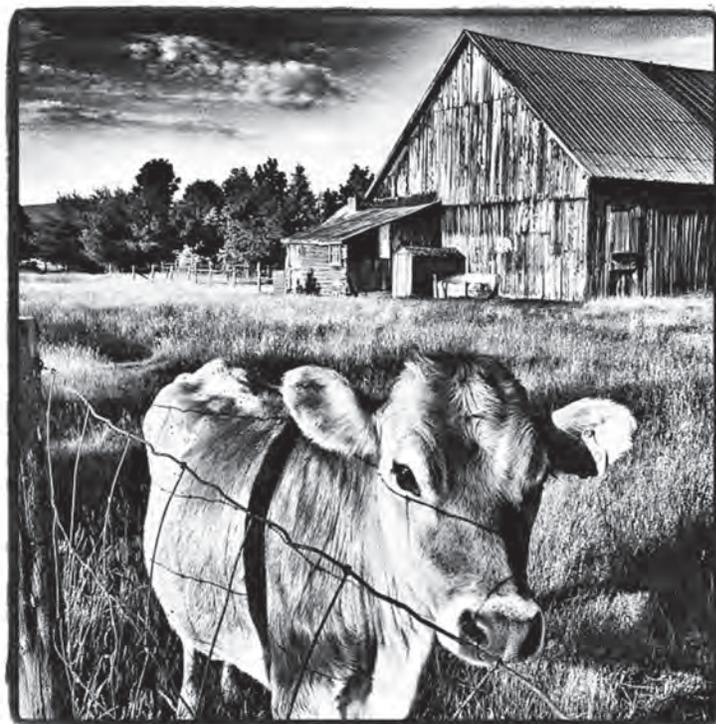


If you came to the Milton 250 celebration kickoff last November 3rd, hopefully you visited the firehouse, where, with infinite care, the flag was displayed for that one day. It is too weak to hang, and too big to spread out in the museum, so it may have been the only chance to check it out. It's old, and it's had some hard times, but, like our veterans, it is part of what makes us Milton.



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Bombardier Bovine Greetings

Many of us have enjoyed seeing Bert and Ruth Bombardier's animals grazing in the farm pasture at the intersection of Bombardier and Middle Road. Bert passed away earlier this year, but his kind spirit lives on in this June 2013 photograph by Harjit Dhaliwal.

The Society Technical Update

by Allison Belisle

This year, our board member, IBM employee and our new Technology Committee Chairman, Rick Stowell, has worked closely again with IBM to secure the largest grant we have received to date.

With their amazingly generous "IBM on Demand Community" program, Rick secured \$3,000 which we have used to purchase a new

laptop, printer and portable scanner. This new equipment is vital to our goal of computerizing our archives. With the new equipment and the Past Perfect software purchased with the \$1,000 grant received last year under this program, we are on our way to meeting that goal. Our newly formed Technology Committee will start to meet toward the end

of summer to lay out the game plan.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee, in any capacity, is welcome. Please contact Rick Stowell at 893-4546 or email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com. Thank you to Rick and IBM for their continued generosity and community support. We are all very excited about this latest venture!

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Genealogy

A huge thank you goes out to Jim Ballard as our historian and genealogy group leader. 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. We can also make recommendations of other genealogy services if we are not able to assist you directly.

"Like" us on Facebook!

Take a minute to visit the Milton Historical Society's Facebook page, where we post our event information along with wonderful historic images, trivia 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 artistlh@aol.com or 893-1604. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank You...

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

...to our wonderful volunteers!

...to Spencer Group Inc. for donating a large portion of printing costs for this newsletter.

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

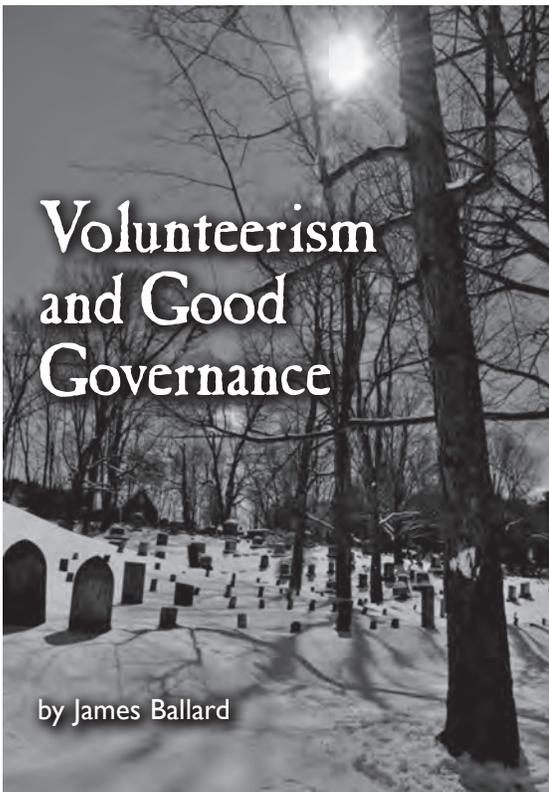
There are many ways that you can get involved to benefit you and YOUR Historical Society and Museum, and it's fun! There are current committee openings, email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com or call 893-1604 for details.

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.

Karen Barry

Volunteerism and Good Governance

by James Ballard



Despite the partisan bickering in Washington, DC, Vermonters - particularly Miltonians - have maintained a good level of confidence and participation in local government. Our town government and schools have an excellent record of honesty and service to its citizens and students.

Sure, our hard working road crew may take out a mail box or two during a snow storm. We all occasionally complain about having to pay taxes, which is a very American trait. We may wish that our small police force could catch every law breaker, but is that realistic? And we all want zoning regulations until we're the ones who want to build.

We'd like every student to become all that they can be, so that they too can give of their time and talents and volunteer to serve the community. They can do this by obtaining a college degree or by joining the Vermont National Guard, learning a trade, and learning about agriculture so we can continue to grow more of our food locally.

Ideals and reality are always present in our lives, but many people will agree with Benjamin Franklin, who wrote to a friend in France expressing cautious confidence in the newly ratified U.S. Constitution in 1789, "Everything appears to promise that it will last; but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."

In order for our community to function and for our freedom to be maintained it is

essential that we do more than just pay our taxes. It is our duty to give back. For 250 years, being appointed or chosen through the elective process, the citizens of Milton have and still are using their time and talent for the common good of the community. Times have changed and so have the demands of our local government and schools. Gone are the one-room school houses with several grades in one room heated by a wood stove, with the rest room an unheated outhouse nearby. Students went to school only after farm chores and family needs allowed them to attend.

In his 1905 annual report, Milton Schools Superintendent Rogene E. Herrick asked for better cooperation from parents to allow for more regular student attendance because the average student missed 29 days a year. Students moved through the grades rather quickly, sometimes due to their individual talent, but more often because teachers found it better to combine students into fewer grades to better utilize limited time

and resources. In his 1916 letter to the town, Superintendent Charles Turner said that he was going to enforce the new state-mandated card system for student admission, promotion and discharge...what we now call "report cards". Mr. Turner made it clear the cards were to be used. "No child can go from the fourth grade to the seventh grade of another school as was done last year in our schools."

Town government positions have changed and in some cases disappeared. Gone are the days when every town had a Poor Farm, where individuals or families due to age, illness, loss of a spouse or employment would be forced to live by receiving help from the local churches and local government. The need for local Poor Farms or houses has been replaced by the social welfare system.

The people selected an individual to become a Hayward, who had the duty to chase and hopefully catch pigs that had gone wild. Perhaps today we should restore the Hayward positions in an effort to aid the police when a few people who ride the "hogs" or motorcycles that sometimes speed by us in the breakdown lane.

The office of fence viewer was to help decide land boundary disputes. How many would like to do that job?

Then there were Petit Jurors and Grand Jurors, positions carried over from England which have become part of our present trial and jury system.

A leather inspector, weights and measures, weighing of coal, and lumber inspecting were all needed to ensure use and quality. Road Surveyors were responsible for road care. The town was divided into road districts and surveyors for each district had the power to order everyone in their district to work on their own town road. Imagine how we would react today if we all had to maintain the road along our individual property.

Certainly some people will say some of our modern boards and commissions make as much sense as some of these past town offices. Perhaps if we took the time to visit present town or school board meetings most of us would understand their purpose better and appreciate the members for their time and hard work.

Regarding death, if I were to put on my clergyman's hat or collar I could turn this into a homily, but as a Historian for our Milton Historical Society I will focus on the importance and care of our cemeteries, in particular the Village Cemetery.

The Village Cemetery, like all our cemeteries, is first sacred, for there we honor the remains of friends and loved ones. The Town is doing a good job maintaining our small cemeteries. St. Ann's, which is maintained by its own association, has done great work in maintaining and expanding its very beautiful cemetery.

The Village Cemetery by its size, history and location on our main street is well cared for in spite of its size and particular needs. It contains a vault which holds the remains during the months when weather does not permit a burial. Also due to its age as a cemetery, it has many large trees, despite their beauty, do present a number of challenges and add to the cost of maintenance.

This is our time to serve our community to honor our heritage to maintain our museum and history. It also means taking the time and resources to honor those who have gone before us. We can honor them through our memories and prayers and by maintaining these hallowed grounds. For some who have gone on before, they have fought on battlefields close to home and abroad. Those who have gone before us have worked hard, struggled against the elements, disease and at times injustice. By their past deeds combined with present day efforts has put Milton on the verge of becoming one of the leading and most powerful towns in our state. This is our time to serve our community and to honor our past, for "as sure as death and taxes" if we do not honor our past then who will?



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Remember...

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

Milton, Tell Us Your Story!

by Allison Belisle

“Good thing I wrote that down because now I would not remember it. Some of it even surprises me.”

These are the words that Hope Rowley said to me after I read to her from the notebook of writings she had done nearly 40 years earlier. Hope listened wide-eyed like a child listening to a fairy tale as I read to her in her room at the senior living center where she now spends her days. It was the day after her 96th birthday. With the balloons from the previous day’s celebration decorating the room, reading Hope’s story to her brought her back many decades to her West Milton Valley home, where she and her husband Raymond raised their four children.

Hope’s family donated her writings to the museum this past summer, and Hope agreed to let us use them in this

year’s newsletter.

Hope’s name is appropriate to this article as we “hope” that her writings will provide inspiration for others to tell their stories. Everyone has a story and no one is a better storyteller of their own memories than the person who experienced them. At the museum, we recognize that people’s stories and memories are our town’s history and when the people are gone, so are their stories.

So, our mission for you, our readers and supporters, is to

communicate your stories. If not just for yourself, do it for your family, do it for the town and do it for history. Consider writing down your own stories, or sitting with your parents and writing down their memories. Grandchildren, take advantage of the time you have with your grandparents and talk with them and consider recording their stories.

Short stories or lengthy prose, we need and want them all. You can email yours to us, you can drop it in the mail, or you can even drop it in the box outside the museum door. Consider stopping by and visiting us at the museum this season, and tell us your stories then, or catch us at a local Milton 250 event at our “Milton Tell us Your Story” booth and get your story digitally recorded. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your memories. As William Hosley said this past fall during his presentation at the museum, “Historic resources and cultural treasures only go one way. We either save what we’ve got or we lose them.” *Your* stories are those treasures.

