



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

NEWSLETTER &
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2014-2015

The Stories are Everywhere! by Allison Belisle

This past year, our town celebrated its 250th anniversary. During the year I spoke to many people and collected many stories. I spoke to some at their homes and others out and about at various community events. It continues to prove the point that everyone has a story.

In the Community

The people I spoke to at community events included some long time Milton residents and many people in town visiting. I spoke to Irene (Tracy) Beaudoin who grew up in Milton and still lives on the land her father farmed. Irene's roots go deep into Milton's past. She told one story about her grandfather, "Grandfather Estus," who farmed where Lake Arrowhead is now. The house still exists but the barn was washed away when the lake was flooded. The story passed through the generations is that the house was tied to a tree to keep it from washing away.

At the Sugar on Snow Party, I spoke to Sue Mullen, whose family has been in Vermont since the 1700s. Her great-great-grandfather on one side and great-great

grandfather on the other side of her family both fought in the Revolutionary War.

The proof of our rural farming heritage was presented over and over again. Many people mentioned that their parents and grandparents were farmers. Many people I spoke to have a common bond, myself included, because their ancestors were Canadian immigrants. One man visiting from South Hero could not pin-point a hometown for his father since the man's grandfather had been a travelling Episcopal minister in Vermont and did not put down roots in any one town as a result. This visitor from South Hero said that his father also followed in those footsteps as an Episcopal minister, but that he, himself, pursued a different altruistic career, as a teacher.

The stories I collected also spoke to the strength of the human spirit to persevere. One woman I spoke to who grew up in St. Albans had very few memories of childhood other than taking care of her younger brothers and sisters after her mother died. Her best memory of childhood was how her father did everything he could to keep them all together. This spirit can be seen in the two stories on which I spent the most time this past year...the stories of Laura and Arnold...

Laura Towne Parsons Stanley

Laura celebrated her 101st birthday on January 19, 2014. I visited her in June 2013 living at her daughter's home in Essex. Laura is the daughter of John and Pearl (Marvin) Towne from Milton, VT. She is the second of John's eleven children. The family lived in the Towne family farm on Lake Road in what is referred to as Towne's Corners, where Everest Road meets Lake Road. Laura's youngest sister born of Pearl, was initially named Regina but was renamed Pearl when her mother died within months of giving birth to her. Laura was 8 years old when her mother died. The strongest memory Laura has of that time was of her holding the baby in the parlor, as her mother was laid out for the viewing. Neighbors who were expressing their condolences commented on the beautiful baby girl. I asked Laura if she remembers how she, her siblings and her father felt then. She replied, "Not really. We never much talked about it." They just carried on.

Pearl was adopted by her mother's brother and Laura's father left the farm to work around the area doing electrical work. Her father's sister and husband, Susan and

continued on page 4



Milton High School Class of 1929, Laura is the first on the left and brother Bob is second from right.



Laura Towne Stanley with her cat Oscar in January 2014.

Photos courtesy of Martha Haggerty

MILTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TREASURING OUR HERITAGE SINCE 1978

Lorinda Henry *Museum Director* 893-7036
Jim Ballard *Historian* 893-7734

Officers

Allison Belisle *President* 363-2598
Bill Kaigle *Vice President* 893-7387
Sandy Richards *Secretary* 893-4418
Peggy Stowell *Treasurer* 893-4546

Directors

Terry Richards *3 years* 893-6791
Gary Furlong *3 years* 893-7504
Rick Stowell *2 years* 893-4546
Beverly Quebec *2 years* 782-7139
Scott Murphy *2 years* 893-4644
Peter Lavallee *1 year* 893-7926

Membership

Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are:

Individual \$10.00
Family \$20.00
Honorary Free (age 80+)

Please send enclosed form & payment to:
Milton Historical Society
13 School Street
Milton, VT 05468

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING
VOLUME 14 2014-2015

Editor / Design Bill Kaigle

Newsletter Committee Allison Belisle
Bill Kaigle
Terry Richards

Advertising Allison Belisle

Historically Speaking is a communication instrument of the Milton Historical Society and is published annually. Reader articles and letters are encouraged. Send items for publication to the Milton Historical Society, 13 School Street, Milton, VT 05468. Due to space considerations, the Milton Historical Society reserves the right to edit supplied content.

National History Day at Milton High School

by Gary Furlong

Milton High School students participated for the fifth year in a row in the 2014 National History Day program. The Vermont portion, Vermont History Day, was held at Spaulding High School on April 5. Students began creating projects on this year's theme, *Rights and Responsibility in History*, in December. After presenting their projects to community members and teachers in school during March, about 35 students chose to present their projects at the Vermont History Day statewide competition. Eighteen students qualified for the National History Day competition in June at the University of Maryland.

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.

Lili Anemikos and Jenna Taylor created the winning entry in the website category on the Tinker vs. Des Moines case. Lili commented that although she was nervous before presenting at Spaulding, she felt very prepared for her judging interview. Sabrina Dhaliwal and her partner Abby Talcott received second-place honors in the group website category for their website on the case of Lee vs. Weissman. Sabrina said that being able to interview the actual plaintiff in the case "supported and reinforced information from other sources". Sabrina also said she enjoyed becoming an "expert on the topic" since it is rare that students can study a subject in such depth. Liz Bashaw, who won first-place honors in

the individual documentary category for her documentary movie on the denial of rights to women in China under the One-Child Policy, said that although the project was hard work, "I am proud of the product".

At the State History Day competition the following students qualified for the National Competition: *Individual website category*: Abbey Snow, First Place; Alyssa Dickinson, Second Place. *Group Website Category*: Jenna Taylor and Lili Anemikos, First Place; Sabrina Dhaliwal and Abby Talcott, Second Place. *Individual Exhibit*: Jordan Lehneman, First Place. *Group Exhibit*: Nate Cary, Tatiana Garrow, Katie Rayner, Caitlyn Dabagian, First Place; Michaela Clark, Skyler Woodworth, Second Place. *Individual Documentary*: Elizabeth Bashaw, First Place; Matt Outama, Second Place. *Group Documentary*: Katherine Manley, Jessica Attig, Cassandra Desranleau, First Place.

This will be the largest group of Milton students ever to attend the national competition! Some of the winning projects were presented as the May program of the Milton Historical Society.

One of the strengths of Milton's program is the presentations that students make to members of the Milton Historical Society, community members and teachers in preparation for attending Vermont History Day. Students often use the feedback from these local presentations to improve their projects for the competition in Barre. Feel free to contact me at 893-7504 if you'd like to be contacted for judging next year's students.



Milton High School students competing in Vermont History Day on April 5th also visited the State House in Montpelier.

Gary Furlong

Joseph L. Rutherford, MSPT
Physical Therapist

Kim Cross, ATC, LAT
Certified Athletic Trainer



Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy

414 Route 7 South, Unit 102
Milton, VT 05468
802-893-1413

789 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-264-1052

812 Exchange Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-3991

61 Huntington Rd. Unit 1A
Richmond, VT 05477
802-434-8495

Mordecai Soper and Sopertown by Ginger Peace Phelps

The part of Milton known as Sopertown is located in the area near the corner of Beebe Hill Road and Everest Road down to the lake. It got its name from Mordecai Soper and his sons who lived in this area from the late 1780s to early 1840s.

Mordecai Soper and his wife were early settlers of Milton, Vermont. Naomi Owen Soper was the niece of a first Milton settler Leonard Owen. She and Mordecai were married Apr 4th 1770 in Salisbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut. Their first children Elizabeth and Elijah were born in Connecticut in 1770 and 1773.

The family moved to Poultney, Vermont and son William was born there in 1775. An interesting fact is that Naomi's sister Sarah was married to Ethan Allen's brother Heber Allen and they were living in Poultney at the same time. They were in Poultney during the American Revolution and Mordecai fought with local militia in some battles. During that time the women and children were sent back to their previous homes in southern New England for safety. This exodus is described in the Abby Hemingway Vermont Historical Gazetteer. Sons Joseph and Erastis were also born in Poultney in the early 1780s after the family reunited following the Revolution.

By 1787, their family had moved north to Milton, Vermont where Naomi's father and brother were located. Mordecai took the Freeman's Oath at Milton, May 3rd 1787. He purchased land in Milton from 1787 to 1795. He and his family are listed on the first federal census taken in 1791. Old town records show that Mordecai was active in the formation of the town. He attended town meetings and was elected to a number of positions such as lister and he was a school

trustee. He owned some land in the town at the falls named Soper Falls. He sold this to Ethan and Ira Allen in 1791.

Four more children were born to Mordecai and Naomi in Milton – Charity (1789), Electa (1792), Remember Elijah (1794) and Phebe (1796). Sons Elijah, 19, and William, 17, may have died in a canoeing accident in 1792. There is no further record of them. The following newspaper article published in Poultney may answer that question:

“By Post from the Onion River we are informed that the following melancholy accident lately happened at Milton on the River La Molle. Seven young men attempting to cross the river in a canoe, were by some accident overset and four of them, viz. two by the name of Soper, one Owen and one Irish, were unfortunately drowned.”

Vermont Gazette, December 7, 1792

Sons Joseph, Erastus and Remember married and first farmed in the Sopertown area of Milton but later moved west to New York, Illinois and beyond. Many descendants of these men still research their early years in Milton. Remember stayed in Vermont longest, moving to Illinois in the 1840's but returning to Vermont two years before he died in 1872. He and his wife are buried in the Miltonboro Cemetery with his mother and some other Soper descendants including Orange Phelps with his wife and mother.

Soper daughter Elizabeth's son Orange Phelps was raised and lived his whole 92 years in Milton and still has many descendants in Vermont. Soper daughters Charity, Electa

and Phebe married in Milton. Electa and Amasa Mansfield moved west but Charity Soper Martin and Phebe Soper Bean also raised families in Milton with descendants in the area to this day. Descendents of Phebe and John Bean include the Sandersons and families.

Orange Phelps was born in 1793 and was the same age or older than some of his aunts and uncles. Orange Phelps and his uncles Joseph, Remember and Erastus Soper all fought during the War of 1812 from Milton. An article published in Montpelier following Orange's death in 1885 mentions that his support of the President's policy during the war of 1812 was demonstrated by doing good service in the army, being prominent and honorably mentioned in the battle of Plattsburgh.

Orange Phelps married Sarah Minor and raised 9 children in Milton. Sons George and Heman were lifelong residents in the Sopertown area raising large families. Heman's daughter Eva Phelps married Aldis Martin grandson of Charity Soper and husband Isaiah Martin. They ran Camp Martin near the lake which later became the Algonquin Inn. Orange's daughter Ida married Jedediah Everest and their descendants still live in Milton. Daughter Jennie married Hoyt Mears whose descendants include the current Mears, Manley and Fitzgerald families.

Son Avery Phelps was my husband's grandfather. He and his third wife Helen Perry were parents of Norman Perry Phelps who was born in Sopertown in 1911 in the white house on the corner of Beebe Hill and Everest Roads. Norman's parents and his Uncle Jed Phelps farmed in that area until about 1924. Norman continued to call that area of town Sopertown all his life.



Haying in Sopertown, Avery and Jed Phelps on right.



Norman, Avery and Helen Phelps with sheep in Sopertown.

The Stories Are Everywhere! *continued from page 1*

John Jackson moved in to run the farm and take care of the children. A year later her father returned to the farm with a new wife, Glee Carpenter Towne. Glee and John had 5 children together. John often referred to this as his "second litter."

Laura has fond memories of her elementary school which became known as Towne's Corners School. The schoolhouse was on the corner of what is now Hibbard Road and Lake Road. Laura's brother Carroll currently lives in that former school house. Laura remembers playing in the school yard with her friends and in particular a game where they captured "prisoners" and locked them up in the wood shed. Another memory involves "box parties." At home, the girls would decorate boxes with colored paper and ribbons and fill them with a special lunch. At school, the boys would bid on the boxes, not knowing who made the box, often paying as much as \$5 for the box. The hefty price not only purchased lunch but also the benefit of sharing it with the young lady who made the box.

Laura's father enjoyed taking advantage of the entertainment in the village, often bringing the kids to the movies. Laura also remembers the excitement when the Chautauqua came to town. A Chautauqua was a travelling show which brought lectures, music and other performers to towns around the country in the early part of the 1900's. Their heyday was during Laura's youth, losing popularity by the late 1930's. Their decline is often attributed by other forms of entertainment available, such as the radio.

Memories of living in the Towne family farmhouse included the pride in having an indoor toilet, due to her father's ingenuity. Despite it flushing into the meadow, they

had an indoor toilet. This was a luxury that not all houses had. Laura pointed out that neither the school house nor her grandfather had an indoor toilet. Her grandfather, Eugene "E.B." Towne, lived around the corner.

E.B. Towne's house was referred to as the "brick house." The house, current owned by Wendell and Mary Noble, is located down the road from the school house on what is now called Hibbard Road. The beautiful Georgian style house was built in the 1840's by the Jackson family with bricks made of clay from the property.

Laura's older brother, Bob, started school the same year as Laura. Likely assuming power in numbers, Laura's mother held Bob back a year and sent Laura a little early. The two progressed in school through the years at the same pace all the way through high school and college. High school was in the village. They would

take an old horse and buggy to school and park it at a neighboring house for the day. As Laura described it, "It was an old horse that did not amount to much, but we got there, finally."

Laura and Bob went to UVM. Laura went to school for education and Bob for agriculture. Laura's tuition was paid for through an agreement that she would teach in Vermont for 7 years after graduation. Bob's tuition was paid for with money earned from the family's maple sugaring proceeds.

Laura graduated in 1933. Laura noted that this was during the Depression, so work was not immediately available. She spent



Arnold Beaupre attended the Miltonboro School, shown here with the class in October 1919.

that summer teaching the art of canning. With the help of her stepmother, that fall she found a job teaching at Skunk Hollow School in Georgia, Vermont. Future teaching jobs moved her from school to school in Georgia. One teaching job was in the school housed in the back of the old town hall building in Georgia that burned in 1952. Rarely did these school houses have indoor toilets or even running water. "Back houses" were used for the toilets and water was carried over from neighbors' houses. Laura described how she provided hot lunch to her students at one school house. She asked her students to bring a glass canning jar to school with them. She would put their lunches in these glass jars and place them in a boiler on the wood stove to heat them up. Teaching required a tremendous amount of patience and ingenuity. When asked if she enjoyed teaching, she explained, "Well, I liked some of it." A fair statement for any teacher, of any era.

Arnold Beaupre

In early 2013, I listened to a recording done in 1997 by the Vermont Folklife Center. The recording was provided to me by Arnold's son, Allen. Arnold was 95 years old at the time and died 3 months later. I learned a lot about Arnold through this fortuitous recording as well as a follow up visit with Allen and Allen's wife, Judy.

Arnold's father, Henry, was a lumberjack when Arnold was very young. Arnold was an only child and the small family lived in the boarding houses owned by the lumber companies. Henry eventually had a falling out with his boss. The family put everything they owned on a train and moved to Miltonboro, where Henry was from. Miltonboro is the area of Milton located towards the end of Lake Road in Milton which includes Beebe

continued on page 8

"It was an old horse that did not amount to much, but we got there."

- Laura Towne Stanley

Sampler House

B E D & B R E A K F A S T

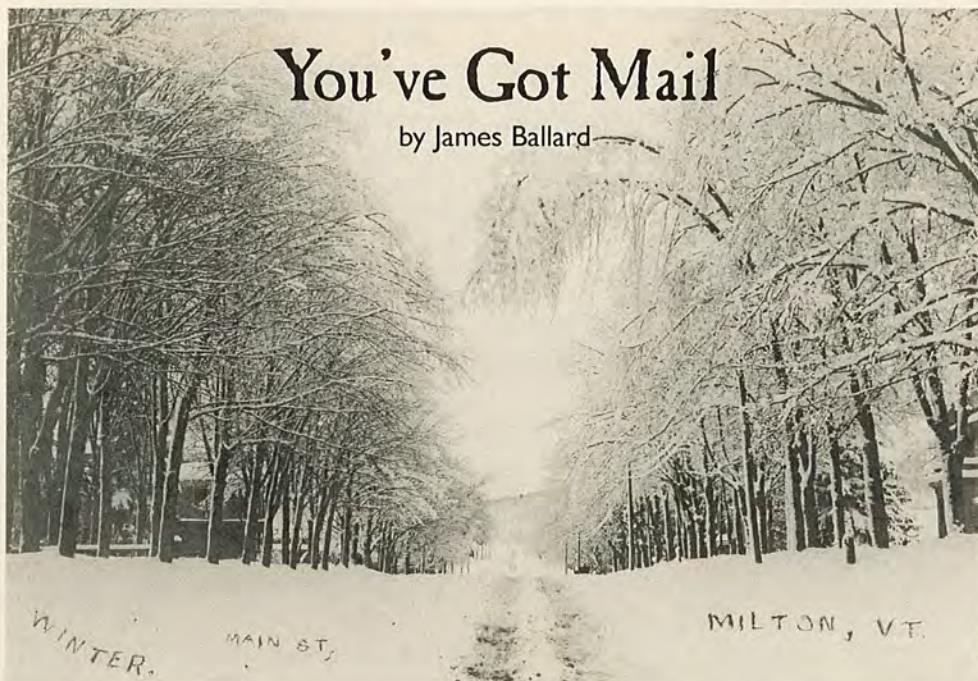
22 MAIN STREET • MILTON, VERMONT

Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin
deborah@samplerhouse.com

802-893-2724
www.samplerhouse.com

You've Got Mail

by James Ballard



Weatherwise, the winter of 2013-2014 has been long and difficult for many of us but has been especially grueling for mail carriers and those who transport products or people.

Our mail carrier Marcia (Lafayette) Duffy has faithfully delivered our mail through snow, ice and freezing rain. Marcia and others who deliver mail may appreciate – and at some level relate – to Luman Holcombe. Mr. Holcombe published some of his experiences as a mail carrier in *My Memoirs of Forty Years on the R.F.D. in Milton Vermont – 1919-1959*, with a brief sequel added in 1970.

For a number of years Mr. Holcombe delivered mail by horse, either pulling a mail cart or sleigh, then by automobile. Back in those days, carriers would deliver boxes of chicks and other poultry. He delivered bread, maple syrup, and even containers filled with small alligators from Florida. One patron received boxes of apples, containers of homogenized milk and canned rattlesnake meat. He often delivered airplane parts to Paul Schill's small airport, where Sears is today on Route 7. Even sealed beehives where the queen bee traveled at the same class as her subjects. Luman told stories about rowboat maker Harry Costello, who offered his boats for sale or rent. He and other fishermen would catch pike in the Lamoille River in the spring. Some even caught sturgeon and shipped them to New York City to sell for dollar a pound.

Luman Holcombe served under seven different post masters: May Kennedy, Charlie Robinson, Mildred Mayville, Charlie King, Lawrence Barrett, and Irene Barrett. He served

with other carriers: Rufus Robinson, Noah Phelps, Ernest Gomo, Cassius Shonion, Ed Shepard, Jess White and Orlow Sanderson. Luman told how one winter Orlow had the front tires of his Ford Automobile taken off, and substituted them with skis, thereby making a snowmobile. Luman witnessed the death and destruction caused by the 1927 flood, which haunted him for the rest of his life.

The mail business did have its lighter moments however. There was the time an unmarried woman – dubbed “the old maid” by some – called the Milton Post Office asking why she had not received her *Country Gentleman* (publication) that week. The response was that they didn't know she had a boyfriend. She was not amused with the remark. Another story came after the 1936 election, where every state except Vermont and Maine voted Democratic. Luman delivered a letter to a person in Milton, where the sender had added on the envelope after Vermont “once part of the United States.”

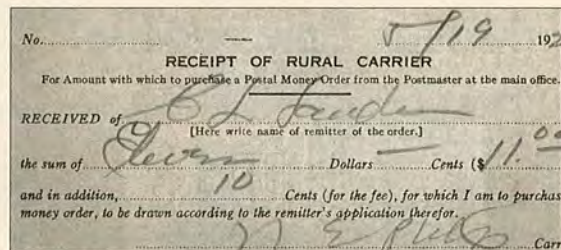
Luman shared how in 1937 his father L.C. Holcombe, M.D. was instrumental in having Arrowhead Mountain named. With the help of town representative Ralph C. Ryan, he also led the charge to name the newly formed Arrowhead Mountain Lake. To this day, people often call it Lake Arrowhead, which is not correct nor the full name.

When you live in a community for a time, you often remember a location or a building by associating it with the people who had lived there once upon a time. As

time passes, those recollections mean less and less to later generations. Names of locations, roads or the contributions of past citizens may be forgotten, which in a real sense, can lead to our local history becoming disconnected and lost. If you have these connections in your life, do what you can to keep them alive!

When we read old town reports we often fail to realize the contributions that so many people have made to our community. Many of us have old photos of people from the past without names on the back and we don't know who they are or how they are connected. In effect, a story is lost. The Society wants to hear your individual and family stories – from new residents and those who have been here for generations. We plan to start a few booklets on families this year.

Simple acts of public service can and do connect us with the past, present and future. I will end with such a story that moved me greatly. Last fall while doing some research at the Milton Town Clerk's Office, I turned to a page listing new voters who had taken the oath. For a few seconds I thought nothing of it because throughout town records this is a common occurrence. Then by chance I noticed something was different and started to read the list. Lucia Powell, Bertha Prentiss, Addie Landon, Lucia Phelps, Eleanor Holcombe, Cora Rogers, and as the list grew longer, Minnie Melaven, Ella Kennedy, Jennie Mears, Elizabeth Ryan, Lydia Sanderson, Lena Sweeney to name a few, were some of the first women to be given the right to vote in Town Meetings. The date they took the oath was April 17, 1917. Women got universal suffrage in 1920. Vermont was the first to give the vote to women in local elections on March 30, 1917. Town Clerk Leon Latham, who administered



Rural Mail Carrier receipt, 1920's.

the oath, had each woman recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States. Mr. Latham wrote after each group of new women voters, that they had appeared in person before him and had taken the Freeman's Oath, but he made a correction to Free Woman's Oath. It was a simple act and a footnote that changed our history forever.



Wed. May 7, 2014 7pm

National History Day Presentations A special program of Milton High School students presenting their Vermont History Day projects. Join us to support the students and learn about their fascinating topics.
Refreshments: Wendell & Mary Noble, John & Phyllis Mayville



Wed. June 4, 2014 7pm

The Shelburne Museum and its Civil War Connections
The Shelburne Museum means many things to many people: French Impressionism; a landlocked side-wheeler; exhibits of traveling contemporary art and sculpture; or maybe the ultimate Antiques Road Show. Few would see the museum as a Civil War site. Join Charlotte Historical Society President Dan Cole, who is Shelburne Museum's Supervisor of Protection Services, for a unique look at the Shelburne Museum and its Civil War connections.
Refreshments: Allen & Judy Beaupre, Amy Morway



Wed. June 11, 2014 7pm

Business Meeting

Sat./Sun. June 21-22, 2014
10am-5pm

Vermont History Expo Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont
Visit the Milton Historical Society's exhibit as part of this year's theme, *Artists and Artisans: Vermont's Creative Heritage*.

Wed. July 9, 2014 7pm

Board Meeting

Wed. Aug. 6, 2014 7pm
Rain date August 13

An Evening by the Fire with Kurt Valenta Join us for an outdoor "hands on" evening designed for our younger members and for those young at heart. Naturalist Kurt Valenta will regale us with folk tales and stories of our natural history, outside on the museum lawn. Come enjoy some s'mores, stories and fun for all ages.
Refreshments: Nan Marotti, Alice Buinicky



Wed. Sept. 3, 2014 7pm

The Battle of Lake Champlain As we near the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Champlain, join us as Colonel David Fitz-Enz (retired) shares the story of this battle from the War of 1812. *A Vermont Humanities Council sponsored event.*
Refreshments: Paul & Doris Mears, Jim & Linda Ballard

Wed. Sept. 10, 2014 7pm

Business Meeting

Thank You to this year's Society Sponsors...

Tim Brisson/Northeast Planning Associates • Long Trail Physical Therapy
Mansfield Heliflight • Milton Diner • Pratt Contracting • Gill & Joan Rugg • Sampler House B & B

Society Support through Sponsorship

The excitement continues about the support we get from the business community through our sponsorship program. Since 2010 we have reached out each year to various businesses and organizations and have heard back from them with strong support for what we do.

The financial support offered through these sponsorships allows us to bring varied and interesting lectures and programs to the museum. The programs are held in the evenings on most first Wednesdays of the month throughout the museum's open season.

Check out our current list of sponsors above, please support those businesses that support us and consider becoming a sponsor yourself. For more information, contact us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com or by calling Allison Belisle at 363-2598.

Society Tech Update

Last year we reported that through the "IBM on Demand Community" program, board member and IBM employee Rick Stowell secured \$4,000 in grant money over a two-year period. We used these funds to purchase a new laptop, printer, portable scanner and Past Perfect, a museum collections archiving program. Over the summer, volunteers helped to identify and tag items in our collection. Starting in

October 2013, two faithful members of the Technology Committee, Karen Brigham and Pam Heald, have come into the museum every week to document these objects in the Past Perfect program. By the beginning of April, they had recorded over 500 items. We are so grateful to these ladies and to everyone who has pitched in to help with this effort. We still have a long way to go, and many things to do on this project. There are more objects to identify, we need to photograph the objects already identified, and organize the collection. If anyone is interested in assisting with any of these tasks, we welcome your help. Please contact Rick Stowell at 893-4546 or email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com. Thank you to Rick and to IBM for their continued generosity and community support. We are all very excited about this ongoing project.

Meetings are held at the Museum, 13 School Street, unless otherwise noted. Monthly meetings now begin at 7 pm. Free refreshments are served after program meetings. Business meetings are for all members, and all are encouraged to attend. There is no regular monthly meeting on July 2, 2014. For further information call 363-2598 or email: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

Wed. Oct. 1, 2014 7pm

Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense Film expert Rick Winston will discuss the evolution of Hitchcock's 40 years of filmmaking. Looking at Hollywood classics such as *Notorious* and *Rear Window*, Winston will illuminate the arc of Hitchcock's brilliant career. *A Vermont Humanities Council sponsored event.*
Refreshments: Pat & Jack Lindsay, Rosalie Larose



Wed. Oct. 8, 2014 7pm

Board Meeting

Wed. Nov. 5, 2014 7pm

A History of 19th Century Photography Vermont artist Robert Waldo Brunelle, Jr. will present a brief history of 19th century photography, from its invention by Daguerre through the Brownie Box Camera of the 1920's. Examples of several types of 19th century photography will be on display. We will learn how to tell the difference between daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, glass plate negatives, paper photos, and magic lantern slides.
Refreshments: Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin, Jeanette Adams



Wed. Dec. 3, 2014 7pm

Come & Help Us Decorate for the Holiday Open House!

Sun. Dec. 7, 2014 11am-2pm

Holiday Open House Luncheon With a new time this year, come join us for the usual holiday treats and music, but this year, come have lunch with us to celebrate the season.
Refreshments: All members furnish

Wed. Jan. 7, 2015 7pm

Board Meeting

Wed. Feb. 4, 2015 7pm

Business Meeting

March 4, 2015 6pm

Dinner and a Movie: Shore Things Come and get out of the cold and join us for a reminder of all things warm. Summer seems so far away but not with our beach-themed evening. With a summer time foods pot luck and the movie *Shore Things*, our goal is to warm you up. **The dinner bell rings at 6pm.**
Refreshments: All members furnish



Sun. March 22, 2015 1-4pm

Sugar-on-Snow Party at the Milton Grange Hall. Live music!
Refreshments: All members furnish

Wed. April 1, 2015 7pm

Annual Meeting

...and Program Series Sponsors:

Arrowhead Eagles #4218 • Building Home Center • R.R. Charlebois Inc.
L.D. Oliver Seed Co. • Don Turner & The Hometown Team/Century 21 Jack Associates



New History Article Series Begins

In the April 18, 2014 *Burlington Free Press*, the Milton Historical Society began participating in the new History Space article series, with our historian Jim Ballard's article "Postcards from Milton". Jim showed in words and photo postcards how Milton has worn many faces through the years, and continues to evolve today. The series rotates throughout all of the Chittenden County towns, and Jim's already started on the next entry...Stay tuned!



The Stories are Everywhere! *continued from page 4*

Hill Road and the Miltonboro cemetery where 3 generations of the Beupres are buried. The family settled in and built a house. Sadly, within just a few years Henry died of tuberculosis, leaving Annie alone, to raise her 10 year old son Arnold. In Arnold's own words, "I had some wonderful times and some awful bad ones." In the summers, Arnold's mother would work at the Rich camps down the road, on Lake Champlain. Popular tourist camps like Camp Rich, dotted the Milton shoreline and were an industry for the town, providing revenue and jobs for many of the locals.

Winter was the season that Arnold seemed to live for. He spoke of ice fishing on the lake fondly and wistfully. He took his fishing very seriously and was selling his fish commercially before age 10 with the help of a neighbor. Arnold would catch perch, smelt and "white fish." The white fish were very popular in New York City and in Boston, particularly with the Jewish communities. Arnold would sell his fish to a wholesaler in St Albans that would ship the fish by train to the cities. Although he was not sure why, Arnold pointed out that the white fish is not a fish that is easily found in Lake Champlain any longer. After doing some research, I learned that the fish is more formally called a Lake Herring and were found in large numbers throughout the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain but their numbers have significantly declined in the 20th century. The declining numbers



Arnold Beupre is shown here ice fishing on his beloved Wright's Bay in the Miltonboro section of Lake Champlain.

are attributed to the increase of non-native fish such as alewives and sea lamprey. Arnold describes an exodus he watched one day. He was looking through his hole in the ice and saw a solid sheet of white passing quickly past his lure. The school did not pay any attention to his lure and continued for a startlingly long period of time. Arnold had no idea where they were headed, but that was the defining moment when Arnold noticed the steep decline in the white fish that he was able to catch after that day.

When Arnold was young he would sell fish door to door in Miltonboro on Friday afternoons. At lunch time, he would run home down the road from the Miltonboro school house, on Lake Road and bring some fish back to the school house. He would hide the fish under some snow and set out at the end of the school day.

With the money he earned, he was able to help his mother with the household finances, often being able to buy his own clothes.

When Arnold became an adult, he took a job as a carpenter in Winooski. He would wake at 2 am and walk the 8 miles along Lake Road, into Milton village to catch a ride to Winooski. Then, upon returning from work in the evening, he would repeat the trip back to his home. As Arnold said, I am not a boaster, but it would take a mighty good man to keep up with me."

"I am not a boaster, but it would take a mighty good man to keep up with me."

- Arnold Beupre

Arnold moved his own family into the village when his son Allen was 8 years old. Listening to Arnold speak of ice fishing, Lake Champlain and Miltonboro, you can hear the fondness he has in his heart for these places. As he said, "Miltonboro is always home." Arnold died in July 1997 and is buried in Miltonboro cemetery with his wife,

parents, uncles and grandparents.

Oh, the stories are everywhere. If you'd like to share your story, or a story of a family member, visit us at the museum this season, "Like" us on Facebook or contact us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.



DON'T BLINK

Life is moving faster than ever before. In what feels like the blink of an eye those tiny hands that once gripped yours have grown, with a whole new generation in their place. There is no time like the present to make sure you are planning for your retirement and your family's financial future. We have the experience you need to create a plan that will see you through the years, no matter how fast they go by.

DON'T LET TIME PASS YOU BY.



Timothy J. Brisson
CAS, CRS, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF
Financial Planner

Contact Tim Brisson at
(802) 893-2836
to set up your free financial
consultation today!

www.limbrisson.com



Northeast Planning
Associates, Inc.

Financial planning offered through Northeast Planning Associates, Inc. (NPA), a registered investment adviser. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment adviser and member FINRA/SIPC. NPA and LPL Financial are not affiliated. 407 Sanderson Road, Milton, VT 05498. 13-309

**MILTON
DINER**

**514 Route 7 South
Milton, Vermont**

**Open 7 Days a Week
6am to 9pm**

Proudly Serving the Community for 30 Years

That House, That Sacred Ground

by Terry Richards

An embarrassing eyesore is one of our first sights upon entering the Town of Milton from the South on Route 7. Chimney Corners, VTrans, Charlebois Trucks, Gardener's Supply, "Yuck, what is that?"

"That", the decaying old home on the left in front of Gardener's Supply Distribution Center, is what remains of the farm and living space of the man "who, at Gettysburg, may well have changed the course of world history when he ordered his 2nd Vermont Brigade to attack the right flank of Pickett's Charge." General George Stannard, born in Georgia, Vermont, was this man. His biographer, George Maharay, wrote "Had Pickett's Charge succeeded and the war ended, North and South might have become two nations. That didn't happen and the Union was preserved." If "Gettysburg provides the climax of the war, then the climax of the climax, the central moment of our history, must be Pickett's Charge."

General George Stannard lived and worked here. *Here.* He bought the home and the land. He built barns and sheds for the farm. But he had lost his right arm in the Battle of Fort Harrison in 1864. He built a farm that could be run by a one-armed man. He built, lived and worked here.

After a couple of years, the General moved to Burlington. He had some business reversals. The farm was sold and changed hands. The Raymond Sanderson family owned and farmed the land until 1989. The Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation bought the land for further development. The barns were burned as a training exercise for the Milton Fire Department. Various ideas for use of the home were floated. They included full restoration for historical education and honors, new site of the Milton Historical Museum, or razing the structure to build new businesses. The State of Vermont had designated the site as on the State Historical Register in April 1980. Nothing could be changed without numerous proper permits and State approval.

Still, local interest continued. Two different appraisals for restoration costs were done, at ten year intervals. They ranged from \$200,000 to \$500,000, depending on degrees of restoration. At our Civil War Soldiers' Monument Rededication in 2004, historian and noted author Howard Coffin emphasized the home's historical significance and said, "It should be saved." In a 2013 email, Mr. Coffin said, "I will do everything I can. The house needs to be saved. A monument would be without any value, [there's] already a big one in Georgia." Three local schoolgirls took action in 2005-2006

for assistance, The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTVT) has been of great help and inspiration. Field Representative Ann Cousins joined committee members, which includes some Society members, last December on an inspection of the Stannard House. She offered great advice, possibilities, requirements and suggestions for consideration. Ann noted the most historically valued parts were already lost in the missing barns and sheds. She also stated her belief that the foundation, most walls, hardware in the cellar, the roofing and, especially the storm windows were original. Some elements are extremely rare.

The next step is an accurate assessment of the condition of the house by a PTVT-approved contractor, which has been scheduled at publication time of this newsletter. Our community needs to decide just what can and should be done with the General George Stannard Historical Site. In addition to previously listed ideas for its use and recognition, one seductive one was voiced at different times and different ways in the past year. Milton Select Board Chairman Darren Adams suggested renaming that portion of Route 7 *The General George Stannard Highway*. Senator James Jeffords has in the past suggested a History



Select Board Chair Darren Adams discusses the house with owner Bobby Miller on an August 20, 2013 tour.

Lorraine Manley

to "fix-it-up." August Cyr, Alison Joseph and Mae Kemsley patched, painted, and fundraised to save the house. The hurdles of cost, permits and, especially the presence of lead paints stopped the projects. Industrial zoning is also an issue.

More local attention came to General Stannard's home and farm in the summer of 2013. Members of the Milton Select Board noted its decay and the impression it made on visitors' entrance to the Town of Milton. Thus began renewed interest from our community, our Planning Commission and our new Improvements Committee, which was formed in early 2014 to beautify Milton and its gateway, the General Stannard House and the Route 7 corridor among them. The Planning Commission and others ensure consistency and appropriateness.

In response to the committee's request

Corridor, with consistent historical signage running through the Champlain Valley. Howard Coffin has authored highly praised guidebooks on Champlain Valley military history, driving tours and the recent *Something Abides*. Can these dreams be combined and have their focal point be the Stannard House?

We, the community of Milton, have the opportunity to do something very important, something crucial to the future of our Town. It is always easy to say something cannot be done. It is always hard to actually pursue change in difficult times. But please ask yourselves the simple questions: "If not us, who?" and "If not now, when?"

Positions are still available and participation at all levels is encouraged on the Milton Improvements Committee, and we are gathering names of people interested in this cause on your enclosed Society membership form. *Thank you!*

Supporting our Community

MANSFIELD HELIFLIGHT

159 Catamount Drive, Milton, VT 05468
802-893-1003

Pratt Contracting
Custom Homes - Additions - Siding - Decks - Remodeling - All Phases - Framing to Finish
350 Dozer - Small Backhoe - Fully Insured
"No job too small"

Peter Pratt
Roger Pratt

Ph: (802) 893-4737
Fax: (802) 893-4737



Sweet Borders

Where the end of Sweeney Drive in Colchester becomes the old Petty Brook Road in Milton, sits this classic barn owned by Travis and Kathy Campbell. Harjit Dhaliwal took this photo during the 2014 maple sugaring season.



Requests for Information

A huge thank you goes out to Jim Ballard as our town historian who fields the many requests for information that come in over email and Facebook. Jim does a great job responding to each of them, often starting on going conversations that sometimes provide as much information to us as he is providing to them. We appreciate all the

information we get through these contacts. If your family has done any research or a genealogy of Milton descendants, please 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 wonderful historic images, trivia and anecdotes of our town. You can also share pictures of your own!

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 artisth@aol.com or 893-1604. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank You...

...to Dustin Keelty and the Town of Milton for everything they do to keep the museum building and grounds looking and working great.
...to our amazing volunteers for everything you do!

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 363-2598 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.

Looking Back at 2013-14

by Lorinda Henry & Allison Belisle

The Milton Historical Museum was a busy place this year, with numerous well-attended events as well as special activities for Milton's 250th Birthday. Several Milton school groups made the museum a destination, including one class who came twice -- once to learn about the history and artifacts and a second time to show their guests from South Hero around. Scouting groups have also made good use of our facilities for their learning projects. We enjoy these young historians very much -- they are very engaging and are always ready to get down on the floor and play tiddly winks and other totally non-electronic games. One sweet little miss informed us that she

for magazines, maps, and much more. Our loom has been restored and we are working on expanding our display area into part of the basement, separate from the excellent storage area, with the loom as a center of attraction. Due to the yearlong celebration of our 250th Anniversary, the Society was particularly busy with many events, which brought the town community together. In addition to attending the 250th birthday party and the 4th of July parade and celebration, the Society brought speakers to the museum on fascinating topics such as the history of the VT State Police and medicine during the Civil War. We hosted musical events and we saw record numbers of people at our

mission. This will enable all volunteers to have access to information when a question comes up, and will also allow us to plan better for special exhibits.

Gary Furlong, along with help from students, completed work on *Images of America: Milton*, which was published in April 2013 by Arcadia Publishing. The 128-page volume with over 200 rarely seen photos and images came primarily from the museum's collection. We are so thankful to Gary and his students for all his hard work, providing us a lasting keepsake and particularly for generously donating all proceeds of the book to the Society.

Society Vice President Bill Kaigle worked



Lt. Mark Lauer presents the History of the Vermont State Police in May 2013.



On our 2013 July 4th parade float, we joined in honoring Milton's 250th birthday, and celebrated the Milton Historical Society's 35th as well!

understood why "you are so old -- Because you have to know so much!" Well, yes, that does make sense.

We have had genealogy inquiries and visitors who brought us copies of their own research for our records, including a letter written back to Milton in the first part of the 19th century, and information about an early Milton physician, for whom we had only a name before. A pair of cousins -- one from California and one from the east coast visited us one beautiful fall day -- we were able to find information they needed and later a trip up to the Village Cemetery was a success when we found the gravestones of their ancestors.

We have been the recipients of a number of artifacts this year that will strengthen our ability to illustrate the stories of Milton in times past -- how people lived, worked, and played. We have received shelving and storage

Sugar on Snow event held at the Grange hall. As part of the 250th celebration, the Select Board held its June 3rd meeting at the museum and we hope we can make this an annual event.

A Technology Committee was formed this year with the purpose of digitally archiving the museum collection. Thanks to IBM and its generous "IBM on Demand Community" program over the years, we have been able to purchase the tools needed to achieve this goal. With the new laptop, scanner, camera and Past Perfect software program, we can now record all of the amazing donations we have collected over the years that currently reside in our space. Many thanks to the Committee for their efforts in researching, locating, tagging, and photographing. Particular thanks to members Karen Brigham and Pam Heald for their weekly visits to the museum to get us closer to achieving this

with Lou Mossey, Brian Palaia and other members of the Select Board to choose 22 historic image prints from the Collection to hand on the walls of the municipal building. Thank you to Dustin Keelty and the Town of Milton for helping us keep the museum open and able to host visitors and events, year round. Thanks to Town Historian Jim Ballard for all his work on fielding genealogy questions and all his work toward the 250th events. We are grateful to the entire town for its support of our endeavors.

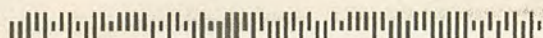
We wish to thank all the donors, volunteers, researchers, visitors, members, families, and guests for making the museum a lively place full of stories and information. Please feel welcome to any of our programs or to volunteer in any capacity. Stay tuned to the local media, or join our mailing list on Facebook or at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com, for news and updates on our ongoing events.



MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13 SCHOOL STREET
MILTON, VERMONT 05468

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT
Permit No. 478

Address Service Requested



*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 05468 1 2

Bill & Jennifer Kaigle
30 Railroad St
Milton VT 05468-3081



Remember...

Our membership year begins in April,
and you may join at any time.
Renew or begin your membership **today!**
We appreciate your support!

History of Milton Book a Great Success!

Released in April 2013, *Images of America: Milton* was an immediate success. Written by local author, Milton High School history teacher and our very own board member Gary Furlong, *Milton's* release was timed just right for the town's 250th birthday celebration. Hundreds of copies have been sold and enjoyed by readers young and old alike. Those more familiar with the subjects of a number of the photos are enjoying the book equally as many Milton Elementary students, who are using it as a part of their class materials on local history. The book boasts more than 200 vintage images of our town. As part of Milton's 250th, Gary welcomed the opportunity to compile and edit this photographic history of Milton on behalf of the Milton Historical Society. We are very grateful to Gary for donating all of the proceeds from the books sales to the Society.

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

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.

The book was published by Arcadia Publishing, 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.

