

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

NEWSLETTER &
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2015-2016

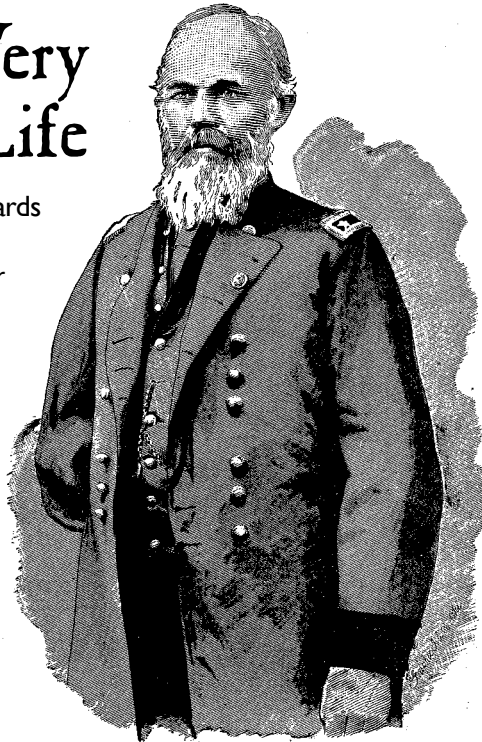
A Very Important Life

by Terry Richards

*The life stories of many of our
heroes start big and get
smaller over the years.*

*Some others' stories start
more modestly and grow
with time and examination.*

*General George Jerrison
Stannard's life is one story that
grows larger with closer study.*



George Stannard attended local schools, as well as two terms in the Georgia and Bakersfield academies. From age 15 to 20 he worked on the family farm in Georgia in the summer and taught school in the winter. At age 25 he began work as a clerk at the St. Albans Foundry Company. The owners found him to excel in his duties and placed him in charge of the business until 1860. He then formed a partnership with Edward Smith of St. Albans, and leased the foundry.

In his youth, George participated in various local militias. He was promoted to sergeant in 1837, then second lieutenant. He was active in other local militias, until he assisted in forming the St. Albans Ransom Guards in 1856. When the Fourth Regiment of the Vermont Volunteer Militia was organized in 1858, he became a colonel, ranking second in command in the state of Vermont. He was recorded as the *first* Vermonter to volunteer (to the Governor) for service in the War for the Union, joining April 14, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Stannard distinguished himself at various early battles, culminating in his valiant but futile contribution at Harper's Ferry, VA in 1862. When all around him were surrendering, Stannard's Brigade held out and refused to retreat. He was finally ordered to surrender, under vigorous protest.

March 1863 saw Stannard promoted to Brigadier General, in command of the Second Vermont Brigade. The circumstances are of some interest...

On March 8th, Brigadier General Edwin Stoughton was captured from his bed in Fairfax Courthouse, VA by Confederate Ranger Major John Mosby. Mosby also captured 20 men and 55 horses. President Lincoln was said to have remarked that while he could make more generals with the use of his pen, good horses cost \$100 each. Four months later, General George Stannard was ordered to Gettysburg.

General Stannard marched his troops an average of 18 miles per day for 7 days in 90 degree heat to reach Gettysburg the

continued on page 10

George Stannard was born October 20, 1820 in Georgia, Vermont. A large monument on the side of Vermont Route 7, just north of Georgia Center, remains on the site of the family home and farm. It is now on private property, so be respectful if you visit. Stannard went from farming in his youth, to teaching, to running a brick foundry, to joining the Vermont Volunteers, to being recorded as the first Vermonter to volunteer for

service in the Union Army, April 14th, 1861. He left behind his wife Emily (Clark, 5/12/28-6/20/1902) and children Ettie (1854-1925), Jennison (1857-1883), Charles (1858-1900), and Hattie Jane (1860-?), and went to war.

The short story of his life can be told in the form of a State Historical Marker. The marker should be erected in front of his post-war home on Route 7 South in Milton.

"This is the site of the house and farm of Civil War hero George J. Stannard. Born in Georgia, VT, Stannard was responsible for flanking Pickett's Charge, ensuring a Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863. The defeat of Pickett's Charge is widely regarded as the turning point of the American Civil War. Upon his retirement from active military service, General Stannard lived and farmed here, from 1866 to 1872. The farm included barns and sheds built to accommodate a one-armed man, since Stannard lost his right arm while capturing and holding Fort Harrison, VA in 1864. The barns burned in 1989."



Photo postcard of the monument at Stannard's birthplace in Georgia, VT. Erected in 1908.

Hepburn Honiger photo, courtesy of Georgia Historical Society

National History Day at Milton High School by Gary Furlong

For the sixth year in a row, Milton High School students participated in the National History Day program. National History Day is a nation-wide 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 **Leadership and Legacy in History**. The program is challenging for

students, as it demands that they utilize a variety of skills to develop a project from an idea to completion of a final product. This year's theme also presented the challenge for students of going beyond biographical information to explore the impact of people and events on history.

All tenth grade students and some ninth grade students presented projects at Milton High School to teachers, community members (including Milton Historical Society members) and college students in mid-February. About 30 Milton students chose to enter their projects in the Vermont portion of National History Day that was held at U-32 High School on March 28. At the state competition students can qualify for the National History Day competition if they place first or second in their category and receive a rating of

superior or excellent.

Milton had a number of award winners at the State Competition. In the individual documentary category **Alaina Carstensen** placed second and qualified for the national completion. **Jordan Chapman** placed second in the individual website category and qualified for nationals with his project on leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Jordan also won an award from the National Archives for his use of primary sources. **Shyanna Abell** placed second and qualified for nationals with her exhibit about Elizabeth Blackwell, a pioneering woman in the field of medicine. In the group project categories **Carolynne Fagan** and **Emily Hemsted** placed second and qualified for the national competition with their exhibit on Nellie Bly. Other Milton award winners were **Sierra Boutin**, 3rd place in individual performance portraying Harriet Tubman; **Emma Preiss**, 3rd place in individual exhibits with her project on J.D. Salinger; and the group of **Trent Cross, Emily Pallas, Brooke Caragher, Haley Raftery** and **Kayleigh Goulette** with their exhibit on Willem Kolff, a leader in the field of artificial organs.

In the fall students will begin preparing projects for the 2016 competition. Next year's theme is **Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History**.



Some of the winning projects were presented at the May meeting of the Milton Historical Society. Emily Hemsted is shown here discussing Nellie Bly's place in history.

Rick Stowell

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Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are:

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Please send enclosed form & payment to:

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 Milton, VT 05468

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Editor / Design Bill Kaigle

Newsletter Committee Allison Belisle
 Bill Kaigle
 Terry Richards

Advertising Allison Belisle

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Haley Raftery and Trent Cross discuss Willem Kolff's leadership and legacy in the field of artificial organs.

Rick Stowell



Sierra Boutin gave a spirited living history portrayal of Harriet Tubman.

Rick Stowell

The General Stannard House Restoration Committee

by Terry Richards

*Anything worth doing is worth doing well.
If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
Okay, let's try this.*

That boarded-up house with the “Help Save My House!” sign, in front of Gardener’s Supply at Milton’s southern Route 7 gateway, is the site of the home and farm of General George Jerrison Stannard. He lived and farmed there from 1866 to 1872, running a property modified so that a one-armed man could manage it. The community of Milton, Vermont has come together before in efforts to preserve the memory of Vermont’s greatest Civil War General. Those past efforts did not succeed for a variety of reasons. The property has gone through a few different owners in the last 143 years. Mr. Robert Miller of Miller Realty Group is the current owner. He has offered to donate it to the Town of Milton and a group fighting to restore and preserve it, in honor of the contributions of General Stannard to Vermont and these United States.

The General Stannard House Restoration Committee was formed in July 2014 as a public community-based group, sponsored by the Milton Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Our mission is to stabilize and rehabilitate the General Stannard House, with the vision of repurposing it to honor Stannard’s crucial contribution to the Union victory at Gettysburg and preservation of the American United States.

The Milton Select Board and former town manager Brian Palaia approached the Milton Historical Society in June of 2013 stating that they wanted something done with the house to improve the town’s gateway. Interested citizens from within and outside

the Society became activated and motivated, knowing that this is likely the last opportunity to do the right thing. The project will honor our past and benefit Milton’s future.

The Milton Historical Society’s Board of Directors discussed “going it alone” and voted against the possibility of owning the building outright due to their commitment of service and resources with operation of the Milton Historical Museum on School Street. Instead, the Committee was formed with the Historical Society as its fiscal sponsor, thus maintaining non-profit status.

The first meeting of the General Stannard House Restoration Committee was held July 29, 2014. A slate of officers was chosen: Co-Chairpersons Bill Kaigle and Kate Cadreact, Volunteer Coordinator August Cyr, Secretary Charlie Farrell, Corresponding

Secretary Karen Brigham and Treasurer Amy Joseph. Discussion points included drafting a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with the Milton Historical Society, Act 250 and VT Division of Historic Preservation updates and approvals, constructing a web site and Facebook page, attendance at a Preservation Trust of Vermont instructional retreat, the erection of a sign on site at the house to draw attention to our cause, and notes on possible zoning issues.

Meetings were held on a weekly basis until November. We then moved to meetings every two weeks. A consistent attendance of 6-10 people has been maintained ever since, and we welcome new members. A growing mailing list of over 500 names is maintained. The web site, GeneralStannardHouse.org and Facebook page are maintained and continually updated with the latest news about the project, and they provide easy opportunities to donate.

Fundraising is always critical in projects like ours. We have exceeded our expectations thus far, and continue vigorous pursuit of contributions as well as applications for various grants. We have had two large donors, with reasonable expectations of more to follow. Pending subdivision approval, we are in a position to complete installation of our desperately needed new roof this year. The total best estimate of cost for stabilization, restoration and repurposing the site is \$280,000, which includes a contingency fund of 20%. The timeline for start to completion of the project is three to five years.

The Committee’s three phase approach was recommended in a Conditions Assessment performed by preservation consultant Scott Newman of 106 Associates of Burlington, in cooperation with the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The first phase includes the **Stabilization** of the building, protecting the roof, foundation and limiting interior loss and damage. This will preserve what remains and allows time for fundraising and clarifying end uses. The second phase is **Rehabilitation**, allowing for construction and adaptation of the site as needed to reach what is needed for final use decisions. The third phase is **Utilization/Vision**, with detailed construction and rehabilitation completed and agreed upon uses determined.

The Vision possibilities for end use include it serving as a small Civil War Historic Site, highlighting General Stannard’s contributions for maintaining the United States and his connections to Milton. The site may become a part of a larger suggested *Vermont Civil War Heritage Trail*. This would

continued on page 8



The Committee’s Burlington Free Press “History Space” article on May 8, 2015 has been very helpful in generating awareness of both the restoration project and Stannard’s importance.

Burlington Free Press

2014-15 Year in Review by Allison Belisle & Lorinda Henry

In the past year, the Milton Historical Museum continued to be a center for the community, with many events, including a couple of standing-room-only programs. The museum's open season between April and October was staffed by our volunteers. We held our first annual volunteer guide orientation in April. During the open weekends, we saw people from Milton, as well as many other areas in Vermont such as Waterbury and Newport. We also had visitors from all over the U.S., including Virginia, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, the Bronx and Michigan.

Genealogy and informational inquiries came to us through the mail, email and on our Facebook page. Our town historian James Ballard diligently keeps up with the inquiries, which often turn into a conversation where the person doing the inquiring shares important stories of the town's history with us. We appreciate all the stories, as they build on our collection and allow us to share the information with others.

We received many donations for our collection from local townspeople. Among the donations of photos, books and ephemera, there were many yearbooks and annual town reports. These helped us fill in gaps in our collection for years we were missing. The St. Albans Historical Society donated a number of items while paring down their collection of items unrelated to St Albans. Two items of note are original photos taken in 1879 by J.K. Smith showing campers at Camp Rich in Milton and a beautiful glass and wood sign for B.D. Martin Undertaker and Funeral Director. His office was originally on upper Main Street. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donors.

By sharing their treasures with us, it allows us to share with others and spread the word of our town's history.

Our programs continue to make the museum central to bringing the community

fire with the added excitement of s'mores.

We continued to spread the word about our wonderful town and all it has to offer through our annual newsletter, our 2015 calendar *History from Above: Aerial Photos of Milton*, and through a set of four Burlington Free Press articles. The Free Press articles are part of their popular History Space series, and we expect to continue with them this year.

In November we installed a display in the town office Community Room named *Milton's Artistic Heritage*, highlighting items from our collection to make visitors aware of our presence, encouraging them to visit the museum.

Starting in 2014, we have a new intern helping us with guiding visitors and organizing and displaying the collection. Sage Maynard is a student at Milton Elementary School. It is a great pleasure to work with her and we enjoy getting a youthful perspective to how we tell Milton's story.

Thank you to Dustin Keelty, former town manager Brian Palaia, Roger Hunt, 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 the Free Press articles and fielding informational and genealogy questions. 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 at 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.

Portions of this article were published in the 2014 Milton Town Report.



At our 2014 Holiday Open House, vintage Santas look on as Carol Ann Jones performs holiday music and children make ornaments.

David Von Holden



This artifact of Milton's upper Main Street business district was donated by the St. Albans Historical Society in September 2014.

Allison Belisle

together as well as introducing Milton to many newcomers. Our programs included talks such as our November event on the history of 19th century photography. Our May event brought in Milton High School students who presented their National History Day projects. During the summer we had our first ever outdoor evening event geared toward younger historians. The event included natural history-based stories by

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March Winds and April Showers

Bring Forth May Flowers

by James Ballard

Spring may be the most anticipated and fleeting of our seasons in Vermont. For some of us, waiting for spring can be an obsession with the arrival of each seed catalog. We compare weather statistics with the predictions found in the Old Farmer's Almanac. We fall victim to the media hype on February 2nd, when the nation is fixated on a skittish groundhog that is often afraid of its own shadow.

In Milton along the shore of Lake Champlain, a more reliable way to predict spring is whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb. As time goes by, the signs of spring quicken like the rushing waters of nearby streams and the creaking of ice jams on our rivers. We see clouds of smoke rising like incense from the sugarhouses. The Historical Society offers its annual Sugar on Snow Party in 2016, to be held at the Arrowhead Senior Center. Large flocks of geese returning

north, and ducks seen swimming in our icy waters, are sure signs of spring. Today we can once again see the osprey and bald eagles flying over the Lamoille and along Lake Champlain. The flashy cardinals are becoming more common, while the numbers of our traditional song birds have fallen dramatically. There is little doubt that spring is almost here when our friends and loved ones commonly referred to as 'snow birds' return north. Another harbinger of spring is the start of fishing season, which reminds us of Harry Costello, who lived in the beautiful 1830 brick house on the Lamoille River. Harry rented boats, served as a river guide and loved to share fishing stories. In the winter months when we are surrounded by a sea of white, some house cats will refuse to venture outside. In March, as we begin to see dry land, we may use our cats, like Noah

in the Biblical story used doves, to test for dry land. The advent of spring produces an endless rotation of wild flowers, including the rare Vermont Orchid called lady slippers that were found in "the birches" on what is now McMullen Road and out on Herrick Hill Road. The beautiful imports like Easter lilies and tulips enlighten churches and homes that coincide with memories of the locally cured smoked ham and bacon from Ryan's Market located across from the Milton Creamery. Branch Brothers IGA on Route 7 was known for barbecued chicken, while Al's Upstairs customers could purchase summer items. It is a fact that the Milton Post Office was located in part of the Branch store building. Spring is the time when farmers walk the bounds of their pastures mending many types of fence, such as stump, stone, wooden, electric, barbed wire, and occasionally finding a stretch of fence once used for keeping sheep. Sheep

were found in large numbers in Vermont from 1811 until the 1840s. Some people do not walk the pastures fixing fence, they simply put their livestock out to pasture and let them find where the fence is weak or broken.

Spring is a time for cleaning cemeteries and fixing cemetery fences. The humorous reason why a cemetery has a fence is to keep its residents in. In reality a fence is a symbol, a sign of respect and honor. On May 5, 1868 General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day, May 30th, as a time to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. On Memorial Day the local American Legion places new flags by the stones of veterans. This spring the Milton Village Cemetery Association – Rod Brigham, Bob Lombard and Carroll Towne – began the process of transferring care of the Village Cemetery to the Town of Milton. Cemetery Association member George Nelson died on December 21, 2014 and will be forever remembered for his dedication to the maintenance of the Village Cemetery.

Like all of our seasons, spring is when we celebrate a time of renewal of mending fences and memories. A time when we truly notice the diversity of nature, while observing particular customs, traditions, and rituals that flow together, all of which create memories that transcend place and weave the strands of time.

On Decoration Day my grandmother Annis and I spent hours walking the Village Cemetery honoring friends and relatives, many that I never knew. We would clean around each stone and leave a few white lilacs. Then for a moment she would put her hand on my shoulder and we would walk to another gravesite. I know it's spring when I see the re-emergence of her Rose of Sharon by our house. As long as I can, I will make the pilgrimage around the Village Cemetery, remembering those she honored and stopping at her grave. I will remember her warm smile, her hand on my shoulder and the smell of lilacs, because for me, that is the best sign of spring.

Elisabeth Finsad

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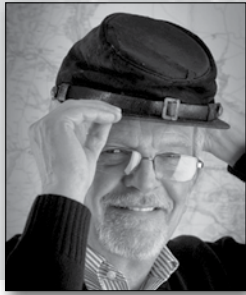
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Meetings are held at the Museum, 13 School Street, unless otherwise noted. Monthly meetings begin at 7 pm. Free refreshments are served after program meetings. Business meetings are for all members, and everyone is encouraged to attend. There is no regular monthly meeting on July 1, 2015. For further information call 363-2598 or email: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

- Wed. May 6, 2015 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 work on this year's theme, "Leadership and Legacy in History".
Refreshments: Mary & Wendell Noble, Evelyn & Ron Bissonnette
- Wed. June 3, 2015 7pm **Howard Coffin's Vermont in the Civil War** Vermont's iconic Civil War expert, Howard Coffin, visits us to talk about the state's role in the Great Conflict. Mr. Coffin will also discuss Milton's contribution. *A Vermont Humanities Council event.*
Refreshments: Linda & Jim Ballard, Nancy & Dick Bouffard
- Wed. June 10, 2015 7pm **Business Meeting**
- Wed. July 8, 2015 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Aug. 5, 2015 7pm **An Evening by the Fire with Kurt Valenta** Join us for this encore event with "Mr. K". This outdoor hands-on evening is designed for our younger members as well as the young at heart. Naturalist Kurt Valenta will regale us with fireside folk tales and stories of our natural history, outside on the museum lawn. Come enjoy s'mores, stories, and fun for all ages. In case of rain, please join our party inside the museum.
Refreshments: Nan Marotti & Alice Buinicky
- Wed. Sept. 2, 2015 7pm **Whiskey on the Lake** During the Prohibition years, many professional smugglers and others avoided lawmen by using the open waters of Lake Champlain. Learn how these outlaws smuggled alcohol into the United States from Canada and how the U.S. Customs officers tried their best to stop the seemingly never-ending flow of booze between 1920 and 1933. Join us for this exciting talk by Dr. Scott McLaughlin.
Refreshments: Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin, Jeanette Adams
- Wed. Sept. 9 2015 7pm **Business Meeting**
- Wed. Oct. 7, 2015 7pm **The Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums** During the mid to late 1800's, the Eddy Family of Chittenden, Vermont became world-renowned as spirit mediums with the alleged ability of generating full-bodied spirit manifestations or "materializations" of the departed. Come learn the fascinating story of this family and the attempts to debunk them with history buff and Eddy family expert Jason Smiley.
Refreshments: Rosalie Larose & Pat Lindsay
- Wed. Oct. 14, 2015 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Nov. 4, 2015 7pm **Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont** Moses Robinson was a leader of the revolt against New York, the architect of Vermont's legal system, and a Vermont governor and senator. Author and Vermont Superior Court Judge Robert Mello joins us to discuss his Robinson biography and teach us about "the most important founding father of Vermont you never heard of."
Refreshments: Sandy & Stanley Richards, Phyllis & John Mayville
- Wed. Dec. 2, 2015 7pm **Come & Help Us Decorate for the Holiday Open House!**
- Sun. Dec. 6, 2015 11am-2pm **Holiday Open House Luncheon** Join us for a holiday lunch, festive treats and sounds of the season. Bring the whole family; with activities for the kids and vintage toys, there is something for everyone.
- Wed. Jan. 6, 2016 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Feb. 3, 2016 7pm **Business Meeting**
- March 2, 2016 6pm **Dinner and a Movie: A Green Mountain Journey** Join us for a summertime-themed pot luck dinner followed by the movie *A Green Mountain Journey* to remind us of those summer road trips and picnics that seem so far away during this cold weather. The dinner bell rings at 6pm.
- Sat. March 19, 2016 1-4pm **Sugar-on-Snow Party** at Milton's Arrowhead Senior Center. A new day and new location, with the same old-fashioned fun: Live music, maple treats and of course, Sugar on Snow!
- Wed. April 6, 2016 7pm **Annual Meeting**

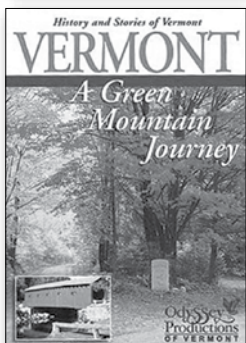
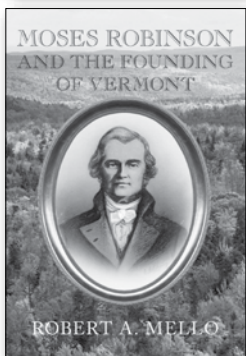


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2015 CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE!

For its 2015 calendar, the Milton Historical Society delivers a *History from Above* tour of Milton with aerial photos from a range of eras and from many different special places in our town. A limited supply of these bird's eye view 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 History Continues

Milton photographer Ethan Rogati captured this image of the Manley Farm on a June 2015 hot air balloon ride.

The General Stannard House Committee *continued from page 3*

be a simple and economical project involving signage and cooperative promotion of the existing institutions: Vergennes connections to Abolitionist John Brown, the Rokeby Museum, Shelburne Civil War Hospital/ Burlington Civil War Hospital, the Lakeview Cemetery, Colchester and Col. Lonergan, Milton and Stannard, Georgia as the birthplace and hometown of Stannard, St. Albans and Stannard's brick foundry, the St. Albans Raid and the escape route of the Raiders through Sheldon, and more. These are attractive

possibilities, best proposed by Vermont historian Howard Coffin and his former boss, the late Sen. James Jeffords. Howard has visited with the Committee to discuss this possibility, and details for serious proposal of the Trail are being developed at this time. Other possible uses might be municipal office space, an information area/rest stop on the Lake Champlain Byway, and an educational asset for local schools. The General Stannard House Committee has accomplished much thus far. We have achieved needed approvals

for many State and local requirements regarding zoning and multiple regulations. Where needs still exist, we are optimistic about accommodations and proper variances being accepted. We continue to change and adjust to needs as they occur. Successful fundraising continues. We have gotten excellent support and cooperation from many, many local organizations and important individuals. Publicity and education concerning General Stannard's historic contributions are increasing. We submitted detailed plans, opportunities, solutions and solid positive results for consideration by the Milton Select Board in town ownership and our stewardship of the site. On April 6, the Board approved our



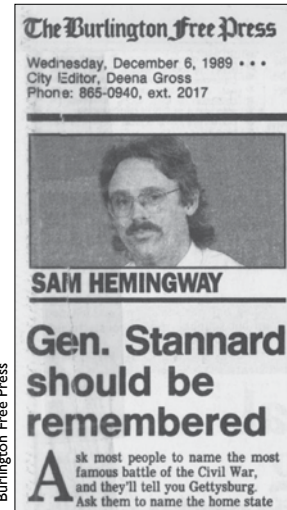
Vermont Division of Historic Preservation

The General Stannard House and barns in December 1988. The barns were outfitted with horse stalls built to accommodate a one-armed man. The barns burned in 1989, but their story can be told inside the restored house.



Courtesy, Landin / Milton Independent

Civil War author and historian Howard Coffin joined us on our first visit inside the house in August 2013, with current owner Bob Miller at left. We're currently working with Howard on a "Vermont Civil War Heritage Trail" concept, on which the General Stannard House will be a key site.



Burlington Free Press

This December 6, 1989 Burlington Free Press article stressed the importance of saving Stannard's house not long after GBIC took ownership of it. But it proved too difficult to put necessary pieces together at that time. Today's Committee is determined to see the project to fruition.

motion to accept Mr. Miller's donation of the house and small lot, and the subdivision planning and application process has been ongoing ever since. Once the subdivision is finalized, stabilization work can begin.

Past efforts have never progressed as far as we have by now. The Committee is a determined and talented group, with much demonstrated success. This is our last, best chance to provide a dramatically enhanced gateway and introduction to Milton, Vermont. Our results will be of great benefit to our community, and we appreciate your help, dedication and understanding in our Vision. We welcome questions and feedback at any time – call 802-734-0758, email generalstannardhouse@gmail.com or visit GeneralStannardHouse.org. And please remember, *new members are always welcome!*

Make a tax-deductible gift to the General Stannard House Fund today!

To give online or for a printable gift reply form, please visit:

GeneralStannardHouse.org/donate

Checks payable to General Stannard House Fund may be mailed to: General Stannard House Committee, c/o Milton Historical Society, 13 School Street, Milton, VT 05468.

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Building Memories

by Paula Bushey Kaiman

Paul Winston Bushey was a homebody in every sense of the word.

Native as the sugar maple and just as firmly rooted, he was a man of earth, a man of wood. His crown reached high, his rings spread wide and deep. The life force that flowed through his cells was abundant and sweet. Quiet and unassuming, his favorite place on earth was in his own backyard – including the greater backyard of Milton. Where better to build upon a foundation and set out slender trees? Where better to grow a garden and a family?

A lifelong resident of Milton, Paul built upon many foundations for more than half a century. Along with his father, Perley, he constructed homes and businesses all throughout Chittenden County and beyond. He built his own on Rugg Avenue just two blocks away from where he grew up on Cherry Street. When not on the job, Paul could be found at home – happily immersed in his large garden, chopping mounds of maple wood and building fieldstone planters – or hunting and fishing in the further reaches of Milton.

Before he was even conceived, his story began with wood and stone.

Raised on a Hardscrabble farm, Paul's father, Perley, had worked like a man since boyhood. He had the hands to show it. Unusually large and strong, they'd developed immensely as the result of milking. By his early twenties, he'd grown tired of life on

the farm and decided to strike a new path. That was when a neighbor asked him and his brother to construct a barn. Having no experience in carpentry, the two young men declined. But the fellow was not to be swayed. He firmly believed that they could do it, and insisted it be so. Somehow, through faith or fate, they successfully followed through. And so the first foundation was laid – upon which new lives, new stories, and new memories stood poised to be built. One of those stories was Paul's.

Beginning in early childhood, inspired by watching his father, carpentry became Paul's passion and life dream. Right from the start, he wanted to build...to *create* things. He pleaded with his parents to teach him. His first lesson began at age seven and, bit by bit, he learned. As a Saturday apprentice, he was given the task of gopher and hauler of light supplies. He cried in frustration when he couldn't hit nails square on the head or make a clean, swift cut. His dad reassured him that, in time, his day would come. Those Saturdays were long ones for such a little boy. By afternoon, he often wished he'd stayed at home to play outdoors with his siblings. Yet, something called from within. He continued to follow his father...and his calling. He knew just what he wanted. And so he persevered.

Somewhere in his teens, Paul blossomed into a builder, working for Perley when school was out and then in full partnership following graduation. Over the years, he came to be known as a master craftsman. Hardworking, but never in a hurry, he progressed at a calm, measured pace. Patience, along with a mind for geometry, was the key to solving architectural puzzles.

Paul loved his profession all the days of his life. Even in his late eighties, after having sustained an injury, he would peruse his tools, turning them over and reminiscing. They remained an intrinsic part of his being, an extension of his hands. More than simply what he did, carpentry embodied who he *was*. He was a "Home" body.

Paul was my father and I loved him dearly. He possessed a gentle spirit. For most of his life, he smelled of maple and pine. Warm, earthy, woody. I get a whiff of him now and then at construction sites or when

walking in the forest. Following his death in 2014, I wanted to secure a memento that would fully capture his essence. I was looking for that "special something" in which I might feel his presence. Something more than a fleeting fragrance; an object I could hold onto. I searched at length, but nothing seemed to do.

And then one day, with the help of my mother, I found it! A fragile, 1946 edition of Audels Carpenters and Builders Guide, filled with drawings of tools and techniques. Holding the book feels like holding his hand. Like holding the tools of his trade and the breadth of his skill in my own. The foreword consists of the following quote:

"When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, "See! This our fathers did for us."

- JOHN RUSKIN

Perhaps Paul is best found in the homes he built. His own mirrored himself. Sturdy and true, over the years, it acquired the marks of age. Now that he's gone, the family's attention has turned to routine repairs. We tend to them carefully, like tending the one we loved. This is the house that Paul built,

continued on page 11



Bushey family photo

Paul in grade school on School Street.



Bushey family photo

Paul during the 1950's building boom.



Bushey family photo

Paul building his home on Rugg Avenue in 1958 with Paula "helping."

The Society Technical Update by Allison Belisle

Although it's made up of a very small number of active members, the technology committee has been going strong over the past year. They've been busy recording museum objects into Past Perfect, the museum collections archiving software that the Society purchased in 2013 with funds from an IBM grant secured by board member and IBM employee Rick Stowell.

Our two diligent and loyal committee members, Karen Brigham and Pam Heald, come in one day each week to continue to chip away at recording the significant

number of items in our collection. Last year at this time, they had recorded approximately 500 items. This year they are at 1,800 items. We are very grateful for their amazing work and the time they have committed to this project. It is very important to our future, as having the items documented enables volunteers to have access to information when a question comes up, and assists with planning special exhibits.

The message from Pam and Karen is: "We have found when recording the items, that there are many duplicate items and

items that really do not pertain to Milton or to Vermont. Eventually, sorting of the collection must be done. More volunteers are needed to first identify and tag items that will be entered into Past Perfect. There is still a lot of work to do on this project – a lifetime commitment."

If anyone is interested in assisting with any of these tasks, we welcome the help. Please contact Allison Belisle at 363-2598 or email miltonhistorical@yahoo.com. We are very excited about this project and are grateful for any and all help we can get!

A Very Important Life: General George Jerrison Stannard continued from page 1

evening of July 1st, 1863. Their moment of ultimate glory came the afternoon of July 3rd. In what has been described as "the greatest artillery battle in the history of the Western hemisphere", lasting two solid hours, the course of the American Civil War was changed. While the reported 13,000 Confederate troops in Pickett's Charge approached Union lines, they did so silently, forbidden to use their "Rebel Yell" until they were on top of the Union Army. The Second Vermont was given the order by General Stannard to shift and flank the mass of troops known as Pickett's Charge. They decimated the Rebels. There are reports of as many as 7,000 dead. The flanking of Pickett's Charge is widely regarded (including by Gen. Robert E. Lee) as the turning point of the Battle of Gettysburg. Gettysburg is almost universally called the turning point of the Civil War. General Stannard's biographer, 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 Stannard was badly wounded in the leg, but stayed on the battlefield at Gettysburg for an hour, insisting he would not leave until victory was certain. After a period of recovery, Stannard returned to active duty in 1864.

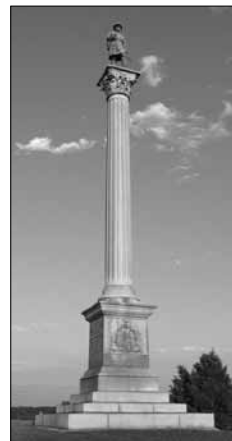
Stannard and his troops were ordered to attack Fort Harrison, VA in September 1864. It was a huge earthen citadel, surrounded by much open space. Responding to Stannard's protests of a frontal attack across the space, General U.S. Grant said "General Stannard,

we must carry Fort Harrison and I know you will do it." He did. The next day Gen. Lee himself led three assaults of 7,000 men against what was by then Stannard's fortress. Lee lost. At one point a Confederate Colonel, when captured, told Stannard "Well, you better get out of this for General Lee is over there and he says he will retake these works if it takes half his army." Stannard replied that he would be "happy to see General Lee whenever he chose to call." Fort Harrison was the closest Confederate Fort to Richmond, the Rebel capitol. In the battle, Stannard received a ball shot that shattered his right arm. The arm was amputated. Upon recovery, he was sent to command the defense of the Canadian Border, following the St. Albans Raid.

General George Stannard was mustered out of service June 27, 1866. Stannard returned to Vermont and bought a farm in the Petty Brook area of Milton. He had barns built that could be run by a one-armed man. Along the way, he acquired many business interests, including two other farms (Cobble Hill and the Gale Farm), four brickyards, and shares in The Burlington Daily Free Press, the Burlington Silver Mining Company, and the Vermont Horse Stock Company. In 1873 he won the position of Customs Collector in Burlington, and moved there. In a scandalous move by the Grant Administration, he was found to have a shortage of \$35,000 in his accounts. He was never charged or accused of any wrongdoing, but resigned to save his subordinates. The Free Press noted that his replacement was on his way from Washington, DC before Stannard ever resigned. This replacement was the last patronage appointment for

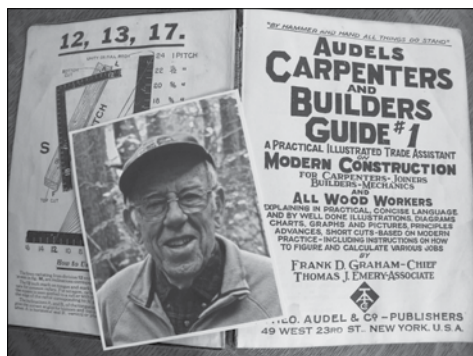
the Grant Administration before the Civil Service/merit appointments began. Four consecutive days of news and announcements, when it was physically impossible for those communications and actions to have taken place without Washington's pre-planning, seemed increasingly incredible. George Stannard liquidated his extensive holdings to satisfy the "debt."

General Stannard finished out his days in Washington, DC as the assistant Congressional Door Keeper. General George Jerrison Stannard died of pneumonia at age 65 on June 1, 1886. His body was returned to Vermont, and he and his family are buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Burlington. Included in that cemetery are fellow Vermont heroes Gen. William Wells and General Otis Howard. Stannard's family plot is the only one in Lakeview Cemetery that has a statue. *His*. We must also note that the Vermont statue at Gettysburg stands 55 feet high, with General George Stannard at the top.



L - Stannard stands atop the 55-foot tall Vermont Memorial at Gettysburg National battlefield;
R - Stannard's monument at Burlington's Lakeside Cemetery.

Milton's History in Person: Paul Bushey ~ Building Memories *continued from page 9*



Paula Kaiman (portrait by Randy Beaulieu)

The elder Paul with his copy of Audele's Carpenters and Builders Guide.

where stories course like maple sap and memories sift through trees; where a faint aroma of sawdust seems to linger beneath the eaves. A place where stones are sacred because his hands have touched them. An echo of our time together.

This, our father did for us.

As I reflect on the life of this man of Milton, I'm reminded of how much our father, Paul, has done for us – as have all of our fathers and mothers in communities throughout Vermont and beyond. Some visibly, some subtly. Most quietly, some not.

Through the touch of their hands and the hope in their hearts, they have made sacred the things of everyday life, the rhythm of whose pulsebeat drums out:

"Home...Home...Home."

Author's Note: The Milton Historical Society also builds memories – telling the stories of fathers and mothers that echo our time together. I encourage you to plan a visit to the Milton Historical Museum!

The Memory Bench

The cross-sectional maple Memory Bench, located on the front lawn of the Milton Historical Museum, was handcrafted by Al Kaiman (right) of Middlesex, Vermont in loving remembrance of his father-in-law, Paul W. Bushey – a lifelong resident of Milton from 1924 to 2014.

Paul grew up just around the corner on Cherry Street, attended public school on School Street, and was a parishioner of St. Ann Church on Main. After marrying, he built a home for his family – just around the other corner – on Rugg Avenue, where he continued to reside until the time of his passing. Along with his father Perley, he constructed many homes, additions, and other buildings all throughout Milton, Chittenden County and beyond.

Paul's passion for wood was evidenced not only through his profession as a carpenter and master craftsman, but also as an outdoor enthusiast, whose avocations included hunting and harvesting in local woodland settings and, in his latter years, abundant wood cutting in his own back yard.



Bill Kagle

Native as the sugar maple, and just as deeply rooted, the rings of his life within this community grew to almost ninety. A natural historian, he often shared stories of the "old folks" and former days in town. Paul was a man of the earth and a true son of Milton. This heartwood bench sits centered within the circle of his memories.

Sponsorship Program by Allison Belisle

In 2015, the Society celebrates the sixth successful year of its sponsorship program, through which we reach out to the Milton business community for support. The program pays for the community programs we offer throughout the year. We are grateful for the strong and loyal support of our sponsors, many who have been with us since the first year. We appreciate their help to allow us to continue to keep history alive and fun in Milton.

As members, please be sure to show your appreciation to our sponsors.

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Why I Volunteer at the Milton Historical Society

by Sage Maynard, age 11

Why I volunteer is because I love history and helping out with finding out about the past and what your family went through. Something that blew my mind was a yearbook that I found at the museum from Milton High School that was from 1945, which had Helen Laughlin (my grandma). I found three pictures of her and found out that my grandma was in basketball and glee club. She was a hyper high schooler. She was not in Milton High School her whole high school years and she still remembers the people.

The best part was *her* seeing the pictures; she was amazed with what she saw. She thought all of the pictures were gone and not there anymore. I love the Milton Historical Society. They help you find yearbooks and pictures to help discover your family or to see what life was like 50-100 years ago. They are super helpful.

Last year, I had an amazing time and I hope to have many more fun summers helping out at the Milton Historical Society.



Maynard family photo

I also hope many more people will have an amazing experience like I have. I am proud to help out the historical society. Most people my age are not interested in history but I love it and I could not be more proud to help out.

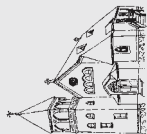
I also love to look at what the historical places look like now, like the Catamount

Stadium: the lines from the race track are still there. Also, Main Street – wow – there is A LOT of history there, including the house of Dr. Holcombe, who made an incubator for his premature baby. Also, the movie theater with a hotel above, the old fire department, where the old statue was, and of course the Milton Historical Museum.

One more cool thing is seeing the School Street School that my grandma went to, that is now apartments, and also General Stannard's house. That is a really cool house to think about and to look at.

I love volunteering at the historical museum. Thanks so much to the Milton Historical Society; you give great support for Milton, Vermont. It is great to know so much about your town and the history.

Sage Maynard is 11 years old and attends Milton Elementary School. Sage began as a junior intern in 2014, volunteering her time at the museum as a guide and helping with the collection. We look forward to another fun summer with her!



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Please return completed form to: Milton Historical Society, 13 School Street, Milton, VT 05468