



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

NEWSLETTER &
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2016-2017



Two Hundred Years Ago, Vermonters Survived *The Hunger Year*

by Lee Conrad Kemsley

In April 1815, the deadliest of all natural forces began to occur, the devastating results of which would not reach New England until the following year...

...but once it occurred, the eruption of Mt. Tambora, on the Island of Sumbawa (near Krakatoa), would be remembered for the next two hundred years all over the world. In Vermont it is still known as 'the year without a summer,' or '1800-and-froze-to-death!'

To give you an idea of how deadly this volcano was – think Mt. St. Helens, only one hundred times more powerful. The famous eruption of Krakatoa? Ten times more catastrophic than that.

The immensity of Tambora's blast forced an estimated 55 million tons of sulfur dioxide gas and ash into the atmosphere which blocked the sun and wreaked havoc on the world's growing food crops. Scientists today believe it was the cause of the greatest famine of the nineteenth century.

In our part of the world it was the following year of 1816 that Canada's eastern townships, down through Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts, would be hit the hardest. Parts of Vermont saw a snowfall of more than two feet in June of that year.

The isolated farmers of New England, who had already had a desperate year due to the September Gale of 1815; now faced a killing frost every month of the summer of 1816. A Bennington farmer wrote in his journal that by June his corn was "badly killed and was difficult to see."

The corn and potato crops had died, with second and third plantings failing as

well. The sheep in Vermont had already been sheared by the time the freakish spring cold hit, and many herds did not survive.

One family, a local journal reported, lost their five year-old boy in the June snowstorm only to find his body more than two weeks later amidst a dying crop of corn. Many believed it was "the end of days."

New Englanders, of course, did not know the reason for the disastrous swings in weather, or, that much of Europe was dealing with the same failing crops and frightening hunger and cold. Europeans called it 'the year of the beggar.'

My book *The Hunger Year* tells the fictional story of young Vermonter Magen Creed during that fateful year and the hardscrabble farmers in her life who turned out to be heroes.

Records show that in order to survive, large fishing seines were kept in rivers like the Missisquoi. Seed corn became precious. Oats and oatmeal became the dietary staple with fear growing in direct proportion to the dwindling amounts of this commodity.

Vermonters began to make potash again to barter for food and goods with other areas not as hard hit. The potash trade had been common enough generations earlier, but when it was discovered that sodium could be used instead of lye to make soap, the potash works had dried up only to be revived again in this dire time. It was neighbor helping neighbor that got those tough New

Englanders through this horrendous time.

The fall and early winter of 1816 brought drought, which, in turn, caused forest fires throughout the region. Ash rained down once again from the skies, until eventually and at long last the forest fires were doused by late November rains.

Reports of the end of the world and God's wrath were heard less and less and the rains did much to boost the sagging hopes of the ragged people. While the harvest was all but nonexistent in many parts of the northeast, early December saw somewhat milder temperatures. And this gave people what they needed more than anything else—hope.



Rick Stowell

The idea for my novel *The Hunger Year* came from one of the squares included in Milton's town history quilt which hangs on the History Museum's wall. The stitching sewn by Iris Mayville, depicted simply the "War of 1812, the epidemic of 1813, and the Cold Year of 1816." Being a transplant to Vermont I was still trying to get used to New England winters. So I was fascinated to learn what it would take to single out one year in Vermont's history as the 'Cold Year.'

Also, the cover art for my book is the work of Lorraine Manley, longtime member of Milton's Historical Society.

Lee Conrad Kemsley will come to the museum for a book discussion as part of our program series on November 2nd where she will have copies of the book available for sale. It can also be purchased on her website at www.LeeConradKemsley.com.

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Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are:

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Honoring Historical Contributions

On October 30, 2015 our own town historian Jim Ballard was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vermont Historical Society at their annual meeting held in Burlington. The award was presented by interim VHS president and former governor, James Douglas (below).

This is a much deserved award for Jim, in recognition of all that he does for us and our town, helping us on our mission of preserving and sharing Milton's history. Congrats and thanks Jim!

Throughout 2015 and into 2016, Jim has also continued his series of articles in the Burlington Free Press segment called *The History Space*, which began in 2014. The articles cover varied topics of Milton's history such as the town's late 19th/early 20th century status as a lakeside vacation destination spot, Milton's medical history, as well as the history of our post offices and churches. Jim has written 9 articles to date, with the most recent one published on Sunday, May 1. There is a complete set of his articles available for perusing at the museum, or they can all be accessed on the Free Press web site www.burlingtonfreepress.com.



Allison Belisle

A Great Discovery



Bill Kaigle

Ken and Rachel Mahl discovered this George Ashley store sign in a dark corner of their barn when they moved into their Cherry Street home on 2012. George Ashley operated his store on Main Street in the building he constructed in 1850. It later become Wagner's Hardware, shown here.



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School Days by James Ballard

One important feature of the Milton Historical Calendars produced by the Society is that they are timeless, collectible and a great resource for historical information. As I was attempting to organize my history room (some may remember it is also called "The Bermuda Triangle"), I came across the 2007 calendar with the theme *The History of Milton's Schools*. My generation just missed attending the one-room schools by a few years. We missed the school environment that blended grades together. My generation attended the new 1954 elementary school on Herrick Avenue. The school had grades 1-6, with each grade having two classrooms. I remember most during our grade school years that learning and play took place within an atmosphere of order. Contrary to popular myth, order was not really achieved and maintained by the threat or use of physical force. In reality overall order was the result of a collective strategy of containment called the single file method. Students arrived at school at different times, so we played games until the appointed time when our teachers would blow their whistles for us to line up in single file by individual class and then led us to our classrooms. The single file method was used for movement within the school to the cafeteria, gym, and from classrooms, where we sat in single file lines. We played games like Simon Says where players would be in a line and a leader would issue a command with Simon Says being the required beginning. If a command was issued without it and you did the command, you were out of the game. We lined up for fairness to use the swings and teeter totters, both of which were located in single formation. We lined up to play hop scotch and or any game. Grades 1-4 stayed on one side of the playground while grades 5 and 6 stayed on the other side.

The Cold War was a hot topic in the news and with the adults in our lives. The threat of nuclear war seemed to be a real possibility during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We practiced getting under our desks for protection in case of a possible attack. We were timed on how fast we could get into a single line formation, board the bus and be seated. Principal Edith Holden said firmly that "we had a half an hour to get aboard the buses and then get home." I wanted to say that I lived close enough that I could run home in less than 10 minutes,

but wisely kept my mouth shut. We all remember the days of watching the events of the assassination of President Kennedy. We remember the arrival of the British rock band the Beatles followed by similar groups. I remember when Principal Bennett came into Miss Smith's math class and confronted David Turner, who was the first boy in school to wear his hair on the long side. Dave did not back down and before long most of us no longer greased our hair back and started to let our hair grow longer. The girls let their hair grow long and straight and started to wear pants. The Ricky Nelson and Doris Day styles of dress, music and hairdos were disappearing. We could even wear jeans to school, as well as turtle necks and bell bottoms, and in many high school classes we often sat in circular formation. Sometimes the teachers had longer hair than we did and had us read books such as *The Catcher*



Milton High School Class of 1913.

in the Rye and others filled with topics and language that would have been censored just a few years before.

One thing that did not change was that older students acted as unofficial mentors to the lower level students. Sure, there was a bully or two, but we still had a few teachers who had taught in the one-room schools and some older students who had been influenced to help the younger grades. It was a time when older pupils were expected to help the younger students with their lessons. A good example of multi-graded cooperation was the early soft covered Blue and Gold booklets. They were a combination of today's yearbook and a newsletter. The Blue and Gold was usually published in the Fall, at Christmas and in the Spring, and each class from grade school to high school had reporters to share what their class was learning. Older students would share stories,

poetry and sports, along with a Gossip section and a fun section filled with Alumni News.

Here are a few quotes from the early Blue and Gold booklets taken from the gossip or alumni news sections. In 1944, "Doris Lafayette has a private chauffeur service this year. That black Ford belongs to Paul Mears. Mary Ryan is working at her father's store, but expects to go to college in January. Ruth Thompson married Eldon Barrows." Neil Towne, Reid Brigham, and Thomas Leggett wrote about sports, along with some poetry or stories. Phyllis Barrett, from the Class of '49 reporting for 7th grade, told how the class wrote about Miles Standish and gave these updates: "John Sumner and Elsie Lafayette from the Class of '43 were married and Elsie was working as a secretary at UVM while John was a foreman building the West Milton dam. John Mears (Jack) is working at the Kidder Machine shop in Burlington. Phyllis Ryan and Herbert Everest are married and living in Milton. Dorothy Martell is in the WACS and is stationed in Augusta, Georgia. Ted Mayville married Virginia Watson and he was driving an oil truck for Russell Sweeney. Kenneth Mayville was working at Colonial Airlines in Rutland, Vermont, Eugene Bluto and Harold Cadreact Jr. were attending UVM. Class of '48 Henry Marcoux married Ruth Lombard. Joan Cadreact attended nursing school. Fay Patno class of '50 wrote a great story

on ice fishing. Barbara Holden class of '46 wrote an excellent article, *Travels of an Unwanted Text Book of English Prose and Poetry of America*, which came to Milton as a gift after the school fire in 1943. Loren Sanderson and Donovan Towne were farming in Milton, Edward Gardener and Norman Lawrence were working on farms in Colchester. Doug Lafayette was working at Phelps Store." The jokes by Duane Ryan were funny.

I invite everyone to come and read the yearbooks when the museum is open and enjoy in more detail the many wonderful stories.

So after a lifetime I finally want to thank Debbie Brown, Chris Towne, and Jeff Towne who during study hall, treated me with respect. In an advanced social studies class Guy Paradee and Rex Dennis became excellent mentors. Certainly we live in a different time, but the idea of older students mentoring younger ones is a positive tradition.

2015-16 Year in Review by Allison Belisle & Lorinda Henry

The Milton Historical Museum and its regular programs kept the community engaged culturally in 2015. The events included a number of standing room only programs including a spooky October event put on by Milton resident Jason Smiley. The museum was continuously open during the season between April and October, staffed by our volunteers. During the open weekends, we drew in Milton residents, people from other towns as well as tourists visiting the area.

Our town historian, James Ballard, continued his loyal and diligent work responding to inquiries sent to us for local historical information as well as the many genealogical requests that come to us via email and social media. James also continued his series of Burlington Free Press History Space articles that began in 2014 throughout 2015, using research from the museum archives and bolstered with pictures from the museum's collection. These articles show the vibrant face and the long and storied history of Milton. We are proud of his achievements and they were honored in a Vermont Historical Society ceremony in October. There he was awarded a lifetime achievement award for all of his work supporting and spreading the word of Milton's history.

We received many donations to add to our collection from society members, local residents and neighboring historical societies. Through these generous donations of photos and artifacts we are able to expand our ability to tell Milton's story. These donations included old postcards, photos, dresses and other family heirlooms. When two donations did not fit within the museum's objectives, with the approval of the donors, we were able to share these donations with the library. These donations of a Little Tykes computer play station and a handmade, oversized wooden block are happily situated and used by children in the children's area of

the library.

The Technology Committee continued into its third year with the continued weekly visits to the museum by Karen Brigham and Pam Heald. Together they diligently work to digitally record the details and photographs of our collection. Organization of the collection has been bolstered by the volunteer work of member, documents and archivist expert, Nan Marotti.

In 2015, we continued to make the museum central to bringing the community together as well as engaging our youth. Our second annual outdoor event in August brought a large crowd of young people engaging them and their parents with a hands on storytelling program about natural history. Our 11 year old intern, Sage Maynard, worked with us through the season as a junior docent as well as assisting, and sometimes

directing, changes to our museum displays. A number of elementary school groups visited the museum for an interactive field trip to learn about Milton's history. Our May event brought in Milton High School students who presented their National History Day project, which some members got a sneak preview of these presentations by volunteering as judges for the students at the high school. Lorinda led a group of kids organized by the library on a cemetery tour as part of a local heroes themed event.

We also continue to partner with other community groups by providing the museum as regular meeting space for the General Stannard House Committee and through a combined event during the holidays with the community band. Outreach within and outside the community continued in 2015 through our annual print newsletter, monthly email newsletters, Burlington Free Press articles and our 2016 calendar Milton Reflections: Then and Now.

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 Sheryl Prince, Celeste Lang, Loretta Devino, Paulette LaFond and Jennifer Willingham for helping us sell the books and calendars through the town office. We wish to deeply thank all of our board members and our loyal volunteers for everything they do. It is purely a team effort that allows us to accomplish everything that we are so successful with. Thanks to 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 come to any of our programs or to volunteer in any capacity, and stay tuned for news and upcoming events!

Portions of this article were published in the 2015 Milton Town Report.



Judge Robert Mello talks about Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont in November 2015.

Rick Stowell



Author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin takes questions before his June 2015 presentation.

Rick Stowell

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So Close! Notes from the General Stannard House Committee

by Terry Richards

Wow, who knew how much there was to do in order for us to:

- Cover the roof
- Get “the real roof” started
- Solidify the structure
- Check for asbestos
- Get a driveway plan
- Plan for water and sewerage
- RAISE MONEY
- Line up contractors
- Obtain Town of Milton ownership from Miller Realty Group
- Keep the State of Vermont happy
- Keep the Town of Milton happy
- Work with three different Town Managers in Milton
- Continue pursuit of Act 250 compliance
- Zoning, yes, variances needed
- Development Review Board requirements and meetings and documentation
- Figure out which grants for which to apply
- Apply for those grants
- Get what history we could about physical past of The House
- Develop a practical layout and use for the property

- Decide upon possible future uses for the property
- “Big Picture” use for House as focal point of a “Vermont In The Civil War” Heritage Trail
- Come up with appropriate list of member possibilities for that Trail – Remember, not too many, not too few, need just right number and must be relevant and along Vermont Route 7 the length of the State
- Get those folks involved and believing in our idea
- Make various public presentations
- Send out comprehensive listing of proposed Trail List to participants

Smooth, wasn't it? But, wait, there's more. Good news included:

- Being privileged to accept the donation of the House to the Town of Milton from the very generous and concerned Bob Miller and REM Realty Group
- Being fortunate enough to be chosen to participate in UVM's Engineering Capstone Project, in which a renowned preservation and restoration expert joined two UVM faculty members

- and five senior student engineers in examining the Stannard House in great detail and proposing structural solutions.
- Raising over \$1,300 in raffling an antique rifle donated by collector John Schmoll and restored by Ron Morgan of Antiquities and Arms.
- Having our story published by the national Civil War News (from Tunbridge!).
- Having the wonderful assistance, attention to detail, and follow up of Roger Dickinson, of engineering firm Lamoureux and Dickinson to guide us through the Development Review Board, Act 250 and other permitting processes.
- Having Jake Hemmerick and three Town Managers (Brian Palaia, Paul Bohne and Donna Barlow Casey), the Selectboard, and Development Review Board be of so much help and value in our meeting local and state standards.
- Having the large and very successful roofing company A.C. Hathorne offer to donate an installed roof of our choice when the structure is ready!

continued on page 8



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2016-17 CALENDAR of EVENTS

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 6, 2016. For further information call 363-2598 or email: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

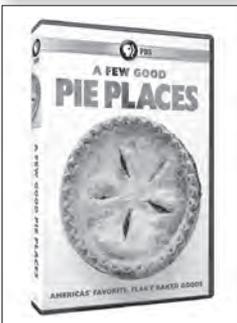
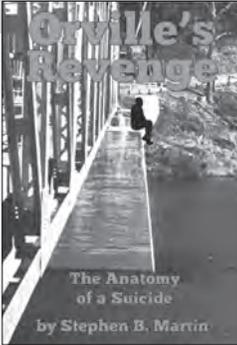
- Wed. May 4, 2016 7pm **National History Day Presentations** A special program of **Milton High School** students presenting their Vermont History Day projects. Join us to support the students and learn about their fascinating work on this year's theme, *Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History*.
Refreshments: Mary & Wendell Noble, Evelyn & Ron Bissonnette
- Wed. June 1, 2016 7pm **Fine Furniture Makers in Vermont** Milton resident **Duane Merrill** of Duane Merrill & Company Auctioneers & Appraisers will visit us and share with us the history of Vermont's fine furniture making, highlighting Milton's own Nathan Burnell (1790-1866).
Refreshments: Sandy & Stanley Richards, Nancy & Dick Bouffard
- Wed. June 8, 2016 7pm **Business Meeting**
- Wed. July 20, 2016 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Aug. 3, 2016 7pm **Gold Panning and Vermont's Gold Rush of 1855** *There's gold in them there hills?* Join us for this outdoor event, around the fire, as speaker **Randy Archer** regales us with the story of the Vermont Gold Rush of 1855 and teaches us how to pan for gold. A hands-on event with s'mores for all, geared toward the young and the young at heart.
Refreshments: Nan Marotti, Alice Buinicky
- Wed. Sept. 7, 2016 7pm **Archaeology in Vermont** Join us as **Brennan Gauthier** hosts a discussion on archaeological sites in Vermont with a spotlight on some in Milton. As the archaeologist with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Brennan and his team are called in to evaluate each new VTTrans project for impacts to cultural resources in the surrounding area.
Refreshments: Rita & Peter Lavallee, Jeanette Adams
- Wed. Sept. 14, 2016 7pm **Business Meeting**
- Wed. Oct. 5, 2016 7pm **Orville's Revenge: A Vermont Murder Mystery** **Stephen B. Martin**, author of *Orville's Revenge*, will join us to discuss his book about the story of Orville Gibson, a Newbury, Vermont farmer whose frozen body was found in the waters of the Connecticut River on March 26, 1958. Medical examiners deemed it a suicide, locals remain convinced it was murder. Come hear the story and decide for yourself.
Refreshments: Rosalie Larose, Pat Lindsay
- Wed. Oct. 19, 2016 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Nov. 2, 2016 7pm **The Hunger Year with Lee Conrad Kemsley** Recognizing the 200th anniversary of "the year without a summer", author **Lee Kemsley** discusses her book *The Hunger Year*. Kemsley's book is a fictional account of a young girl's experience as she travels and settles in Vermont during the year 1816, in which it snowed every month of the year, causing crop failures and the start of the worst famine of the 19th century.
Refreshments: Deborah Dolby & Peter Martin, Linda & Jim Ballard
- Wed. Dec. 7, 2016 7pm **Come & Help Us Decorate for the Holiday Open House!**
- Sun. Dec. 11, 2016
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. 4, 2017 7pm **Board Meeting**
- Wed. Feb. 1, 2017 7pm **Business Meeting**
- March 1, 2017 6pm **Dinner and a Movie: A Few Good Pie Places** Bring a dish to share and join us for a summertime-themed pot luck dinner followed by the movie *A Few Good Pie Places* by film maker **Ric Sebak**, who brought us past years' hits, *Shore Things* and *Great Old Amusement Parks*. We can dream of the summer season to come as we enjoy the food, the flick and maybe even some pie! **The dinner bell rings at 6pm.**
- Sat. March 18, 2017 1-4pm **Sugar-on-Snow Party**
Join us at the Arrowhead Senior Center, 46 Middle Road for some old-fashioned fun: Live music, maple treats and of course, sugar on snow!
- Wed. April 5, 2017 7pm **Annual Meeting**



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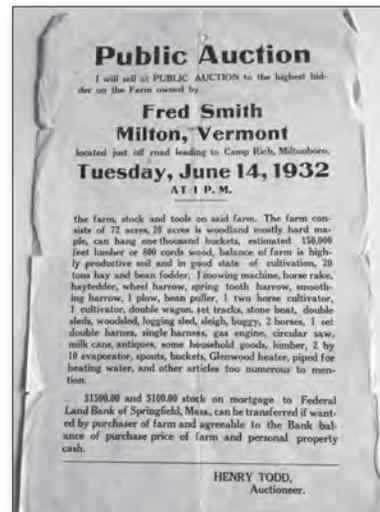


2016 CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE!

Our 2016 theme *Milton Reflections: Then and Now* was a lot of fun to put together and is even more fun to read. The calendars are practical, but also a great keepsake for those who enjoy a reminder of what things used to be like...or for newer members, enjoy a first-time look! The calendars can be purchased at the Milton Town Clerk's office or by emailing us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com. If you are interested in being part of the fun next year and joining the calendar committee, let us know! We would love to have you.

New Security and Sound Systems for the Museum

We are excited to announce the purchase of two new and important items for the museum: a security system and a sound system. Many thanks go out to board member Terry Richards for heading up the search, installation and training on the new security system, which will keep the museum collection safe. The sound system was purchased in memory of Doris Mears and Scott Richards. We lost Doris in 2013 and Scott just last year. Monies donated in their memories were used to purchase the system which will be of great benefit for our upcoming speaker series. Thanks to Jeff Wheel of Advance Music for the amazing service and support with the sale and installation. Thanks to board member Rick Stowell for heading up the project.



*Hear
Ye,
Hear
Ye!*

This public auction poster was recently donated by members and sponsors, Judy and Peter Pratt. It advertises a farm liquidation auction to be held in Miltonboro in 1932.

The General Stannard House Committee *continued from page 5*

- Having Start To Finish Construction, of Colchester, step up to help us in planning stabilization and more. They will be working with us as we begin serious stabilization this year.
- Getting a Stannard Float in our 4th of July Parade, and winning the Most Patriotic Display trophy!
- Get K&D Associates' report of no asbestos in House since construction probably pre-dated its use. We did find two small bags of Vermiculite to remediate.
- The continuing help on all levels from our inspiration, author and historian, Howard Coffin.
- The continuing help, guidance and



understanding of our fiscal sponsor, the Milton Historical Society. Thank you to all the officers and directors.

Finally, the opportunity to accomplish a number of wonderful things for our community:

- Dramatically enhancing the Southern gateway to Milton.
- Honoring the contributions of General George Jerrison Stannard to our town, our state, and these United States.
- Honoring (and exposing) the many little known important people and events involving Vermont in the Civil War. Please visit our web page to note our connections to Stephen Douglas (Brandon birthplace), William Lloyd Garrison starting publishing in Bennington, Vergennes' deep connections to Abolitionist John Brown, and many others. These sites will make up our proposed Vermont In The Civil War Heritage Trail.

As we move ahead, new challenges arise. We can always use new ideas, different points of view and perspectives. Our need for new and different talents grows as we progress. We always welcome new members to our committee. We look forward to all who wish to join us in our dream.

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.

Thank you for your support!



"Mr. K" Kurt Valenta telling a story and presenting a show-and-tell item.



Cooking s'mores at the evening's end.

At our second annual outdoor event on the museum lawn, Mr. K and Miss Virginia regaled us with stories and folk tales by the fire, about our natural world. Each story was followed with a show-and-tell (and touch!) of animal skulls, bones and pelts, and other curiosities of nature. The evening ended with all of us enjoying yummy s'mores. Join us this August for our next outdoor event to learn about the Vermont Gold Rush of 1855, and do some hands-on gold panning!

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by Terry Richards

So, what? Well, you have “history.” You have caused “history.” You are part of “history.”

“History,” that boring, old stuff shaped you, made you. You, like it or not, are now participating in “history.” Me, too. I guess that more of us might need to better understand and preserve “history”, if we’re all in it...

“History” sounds dull, doesn’t it? Ever tried to read Gibbon’s “Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire”? How about Shirer’s “Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”? Whoa, that’s enough.

But, how much do you know about Milton’s history?

- Did you know there are pictures of barns, houses, small creek bridges, all kinds of stuff now at the bottom of Arrowhead Lake? From before we made the lake, as a flood control and power source project? And some of “that old stuff” is still sitting down there?
- Did you know that President Theodore Roosevelt made a big speech here, at the Old Soldier’s original location at the intersection of Main Street and Route 7? August 30, 1912 saw over 2,000 people attend his Bull Moose Party Presidential Campaign speech.
- Did you know that what we know as “The General Stannard House” was built in 1839 as the home of Milton’s first medical doctor, Dr. Calvin Deming? That it was bought in 1866 by General Stannard, who later sold it, and it then became a Post Office?
- Did you know that Milton had a large tourist industry, along Lake Champlain, in the early 1900’s? Resort hotels, cottages, “camps” welcomed city folk up here for summer refreshment and escape from their hot, crowded cities.

Even my boring-to-most-of-the-world personal history has a few interesting surprises in it.

- My maternal grandfather came to America around 1900 from Denmark. He came over in “steerage” (the bottom of the boat). He was the personal valet of NY Governor Herbert

Lehman, who was also a founder of Lehman Brothers Investment Banking. While in the Army, he rode with the famous Gen. John “Blackjack” Pershing in pursuit of the Mexican bandit Pancho Villa. Later he went to WWI and fought in France. Gramp was a chauffeur for the Ward family of Bronxville, NY, founders of Ward Baking Company (nationwide in 20’s and 30’s). Boring.

- While at Syracuse University, I had the opportunity to attend an anti-Vietnam War speech delivered by Mr. Mark Rudd. I listened and watched as he harangued, for over an hour, a lecture room filled with students. The obscenity-laced rant seemed repetitive, but effective. At the end, as the crowd headed out to stop the war, I went to the men’s room. I got to share that men’s room with Mr. Mark Rudd for a few brief moments. All he did was nod. Mr. Rudd was involved with the group Students for a Democratic Society, SDS. The next week he became President of the “Weather Underground”, the group advocating violent demonstrations and the use of “any necessary force” to overthrow the government. He went into hiding for years. He was on the FBI’s Most Wanted List. He “went underground” following the “bomb factory” explosion in Manhattan’s East Village that killed three of his fellow

members. Boring.

- A family friend, in Vermont, took years to tell my wife and I that he had been in the Ohio National Guard in 1970. He was in grad school at Kent State University. He was on duty on May 4, 1970. He very reluctantly, with tears in his eyes, once started to talk about that. It lasted for about 5 seconds. He had discharged his rifle, as ordered. He did not know if he had hit anything. Or anyone. Boring.

In 1905 famous philosopher George Santayana wrote in *The Life of Reason – Reason In Common Sense*: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Note how this differs from the common misquoting as “history” not “the past”. Note the harsh word used: “condemned.” This must surely lead to a sense of the practical value of “History.”

What value is there to the knowledge or study of “History”? The greatest Crime Against Humanity must surely be the Nazi Holocaust. Six million exterminations at factories of Death. Untold millions displaced, refugees scattered around the world after being forced from their homes. World War Two, the Roman Empire, the Trojan Wars, the various Inquisitions, atomic bombs cannot compare with that Nazi obscenity. But...There are groups of people, around the world, who still deny The Holocaust. They write about it. They speak against it. They offer “proof” that it was and is a great conspiracy or hoax. What is left from only 75 years ago to preserve the full story and the truth about what happened? Two forces: 1) the survivors, who are fewer in number every day; and 2) the historians and their work.

It is often said that the more people, especially young people, know about where they live, the more pride and sense of ownership they have in their surroundings. The more familiar they are with the worth and value around them, the less disrespect, vandalism, sense of separation they have. Respect for others and their value and contributions make up what we call community.

That is the value of “History.”



In 1912 Theodore Roosevelt visited Milton during his campaign for President. Roosevelt had first become President in September 1901 when President McKinley was assassinated. He was elected in 1904, but he did not run for re-election in 1908. In 1912 he ran again under the Bull Moose Party and on August 30, 1912 he stopped in Milton on a campaign swing through New England. Despite his visit to Milton, Roosevelt failed to carry Vermont in the election.

National History Day at Milton High School by Gary Furlong

Milton High School students participated in the National History Day program again this year. This is the seventh year in a row MHS has participated. As part of the program students had an opportunity to take their projects to the Vermont History Day competition which was held this year on Saturday, April 2 at U-32 High School.

The entire 10th grade developed projects based on an annual theme. This year's theme was *Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange In History*. Students can choose any topic of interest related to the theme and can develop a website, produce a documentary video, create an exhibit, present a live performance or write a traditional research paper. In mid-November students began to explore possible topics and conducted preliminary research. By December students had decided on a topic and continued researching their topic with the goal of developing a thesis statement. In mid-January all students had a chance to visit the UVM library over a three day period. UVM research librarians helped students find primary and secondary sources, use online databases, and discussed with students the variety of research tools available at the UVM library. In mid-February students presented projects to teachers, alumni, and community



Milton High School's Vermont History Day participants took a break to visit the State House on April 2nd.

members including some members of the Milton Historical Society. Terry Richards, John and Phyllis Mayville, Bob McEwing, and Bev Hayden from the Historical Society evaluated projects. The evaluations allow students to refine and improve their projects before attending Vermont History Day.

At Vermont History Day, a number of student won awards and some qualified for the National History Day competition in June at the University of Maryland. In the group exhibit category the team of Emily Pallas, Amelia Boucher, Marisa Bonetti

and Hailey Moulton took first place and qualified for National History Day (NHD) for their exhibit on the Salem Witch Trials. Zach Popke and Sawyer McNaney took second place and qualified for NHD in the Group Exhibit category for their exhibit on the Peloponnesian War. In the group documentary category Adrienne Ollive and Katerina Desranleau took first place and qualified for NHD with the movie about Dr. Christiaan Barnard and the first Human Heart Transplant. In the group website category Jake McNeil and Mike Outama took second place for their website on the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

Some of the projects were presented at the May meeting of the Milton Historical Society.

In the fall students will begin preparing projects for the 2017 competition. Next year's theme is *Turning Points in History*.



Marisa Bonetti, Emily Pallas, Amelia Boucher and Hailey Moulton (L-R) took first place and qualified for National History Day for their group exhibit on the Salem Witch Trials.

Sampler House

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Sawyer McNaney and Zach Popke (L-R) took second place and qualified for National History Day for their group exhibit on the Peloponnesian War.

Bylaws Change

At the next annual meeting to be held on April 5, 2017 we will be making some slight changes to the bylaws. The change is intended to give us more flexibility for keeping current officers of the Society but also leaving the opportunity to request a change annually. The current bylaws limit the term of the officers and board members. The proposed change will remove the term limits but call for an election each year. The officers are made up of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and up to 15 board members. We currently have 5 board members. If anyone is interested becoming an officer or joining the board please email us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to become more involved? We are looking for volunteers in any capacity. Some specific tasks for which we need help are listed below. If interested, please contact us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

Spring Cleaning

We are looking for someone to head up a committee to give the museum a thorough dusting and vacuuming.

Object Identification

We are looking for someone who has expertise in antiques and

historic objects that can work with the technology committee to identify some of the items in our collection so they can be properly recorded and documented.

Board Members

Are you interested in joining our Board of Directors? Or, do you know someone you would like to nominate? Board meetings take place four times per year. Board members are important advisors to us on our mission of preserving and sharing Milton's history. Our bylaws allow for up to 15 board members, so we have plenty of opportunities and welcome any member to apply.



Genealogy

A huge thank you goes out to Jim Ballard as our historian and genealogy group leader. We are working on updating and expanding our system for handling genealogy requests. Contact the

Society, or historian Jim Ballard at 893-7734 or jamesbmilton@comcast.net for information. We also ask anyone who has done a family history or genealogy of Milton descendants to consider donating a copy to the museum collections. We can also make recommendations of other genealogy services if we are not able to assist you directly.

Artifact Donations & Loan

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

Thank You...

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

...to our wonderful volunteers!

...to Dave Beckett for donating mailing services for this newsletter.

Monetary Gifts

Your tax-deductible donations to support 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!

New Scholarship Announced

In 2015, the Milton Historical Society announced the first, of what we expect will be an annual award, to honor a graduating high school senior with a \$500 scholarship. The newly formed committee will review applications from Milton High School students to select a recipient. The award will be based on merit as well as financial need. The award will be presented to the honoree at the awards ceremony held at the high school in June.

If you are interested in donating toward the scholarship fund, please find the space on the membership form for an additional donation to this cause. If you would like to join the committee, please email us at miltonhistorical@yahoo.com.

"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.



MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 13 SCHOOL STREET
 MILTON, VERMONT 05468

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Remember...

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

We appreciate your support!

Scouts at the Museum!

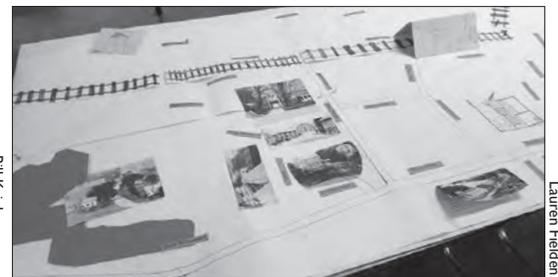


Milton's Cub Scout Pack 43 Wolf Den visited the museum in February to complete their local history requirement and afterward made a wonderful display of the Main Street historic district (right).



Bill Kaigle

Pack 43 Scouts Parker Keniston and Colin Metzger test out the antique desks and imagine being students of yesteryear in our school display area.



Lauren Fielden

Museum Hours

NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON! April - October, first and third weekend, 1-4 pm
 Year-round by appointment: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com / 802-363-2598