



MILTON

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 1

Aug. 1985

Note From The Editor...

At last summer has arrived and with it the summer issue of our newsletter. As we begin to thaw out from the long winter we can look forward to another season of activities to pique our interest in Milton's history. We also find ourselves preparing for the fundraisers necessary to support our activities and our museum.

A warm welcome to the new readers and the new sponsors for 1985. From our first issue just one year ago our circulation has grown from 100 to over 300. Please contact me if you have friends or relatives that have moved away and would enjoy our newsletter or a gift membership. (RFD #4, 893-7036)

Bob Hooker: Editor

Business Meetings In A Nutshell...

January -- A cash contribution from the "High-Hopes Home Dem Group" was greatly recognized. A special thanks went to Art Mayville for fixing the vandalized fence at the Checkerberry Cemetery.

February -- We re-evaluated our 1984 activities and fundraisers. The general feeling was that we were too ambitious with our plans considering the size of our active membership. It was suggested that we consider one large fundraiser each year instead of several small ones.

March -- The By-Laws were amended to allow the treasurer to sign checks for the society's business without the president's co-signature. A thank you went to the Milton Library for the donation of the old ceiling light that hung there for many years. A single fundraiser for the year was again discussed, with more specific suggestions than last month.

April -- This was our annual meeting which included the election of officers. The voting yielded the following officers...

President -- John FitzGerald	Vice-President -- Jane FitzGerald
Recording Sec. -- Stan Henry	Corresponding Sec. -- Jeanne Henry
Treasurer -- Edna Frye	Historian -- Ruth Ryan
Director (1yr.) -- Joyce Morse	Director (3yrs.) -- Bob Hooker

We also decided to conduct a survey of interest in our group at the April 9th School vote.

May -- Our annual junior historian night was well attended (see the History Contest article for details). Plans were made to present flowers at the Memorial Day services on May 27th at the Clark Building. John FitzGerald reported the results of the survey of the town. Plans were made for the Membership Night at the June 5th meeting.

Museum News...

The museum committee has been hard at work this spring establishing an official museum policy. As our collection has grown over the years it has become clear that we must have a written policy. This is intended to steer us in the direction indicated in our by-laws. With limited storage in our museum we must be selective in our acquisitions in order to focus on Milton's past. The committee also adopted forms for accepting loaned or donated items. The forms were developed by the Vermont State's Attorney's office at the request of the Vermont Historical Society. They outline the legal responsibilities of both parties for everyone's protection. Our thanks to John FitzGerald for acquiring these forms and to the museum committee for an important step in planning our future.

Curator Ruth Ryan reports 273 people visited our collection during 1984.

The museum committee is looking for people who are willing to lend items or whole collections for temporary displays. Exhibits will stay in the museum up to three months, depending on mutual agreement. Please call 893-7959 or 893-4488.

A copy of the new museum policy is available from Ruth Ryan.

Volunteers are always needed to host the museum on Saturday afternoons. It's a good opportunity to explore the collections yourself! Call Ruth Ryan.

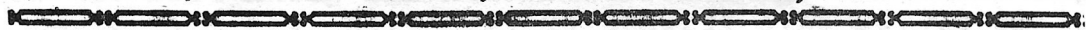
Donations of items relating to Milton's past are welcomed, especially photographs, and will be listed / described / credited in this newsletter as space permits.

History Contest...

A note of thanks to Edna Frye, Jane FitzGerald, Gwen Brown, and Edith Holden for another challenging set of questions, puzzles, and essay work for our fourth graders. The 5th annual Vermont History Contest was well received with over 150 students participating. From the first of April to the 19th the kids were busy in the library, the museum, and talking to grownups, looking for clues.

The awards and prizes were presented at our May 1st meeting, with over 100 members and guests on hand. Following the presentations, made by Vice-president Jane FitzGerald, we were treated to several old-time stories read by Edith Holden a retired Milton teacher. Miss Holden also related to us some of her experiences as a teacher in the one-room school that is now the American Legion hall. At the conclusion of the program huge amounts of cookies and milk disappeared from the refreshments table in an atmosphere of celebration.

In addition to the individual prizes awarded, a book was presented to the Milton Elementary School Library with the names of the 1985 winners inscribed inside the cover. The winners are as follows; 1st Honors- Nicole Bartlett, Valerie Lamphere, Carey Lombard, Tom Noble, Jenna Peltier, and Karen Pepin, 2nd Honors- Aaron Archambault, Tainia Blanchette, Alan Bluto, Sarah Clark, Jason Fagga, Lesley Heibert, Sean Kruger, Melody Munro, and Matt Steele, Honorable Mention- Darren Adams, Shelley Boucher, Amy Butler, Jeffrey Emerson, Earl Gow, Jason Gow, Eric Lussier, Jennifer Mahoney, Jason Mayo, Jason Paquette, Annika Preiss, Tim Pollock, Jason Sanders, Patrick Simons, and Sarah Tatro.



Report Of The Outgoing President (condensed)...

I am encouraged by the ways we have grown during my two years as president including; developing an annual budget plan, increased interest in the history contest, the newsletter, and various improvements at the museum.

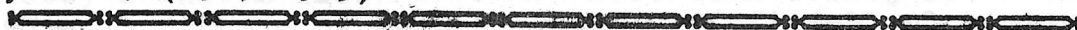
I think we could still improve in some areas, such as; stabilizing our income, increasing membership, improving our visibility in the community, and various cataloging projects at the museum.

Over the past two years I have participated in most of the events our group has sponsored. I have spoken in front of various groups including; the Vermont Geneology Society, the Milton Cub Scouts, the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, and the American Legion & it's Auxiliary. I have also represented our society to the other civic groups in town, to the Burlington Free Press, and to the IBM Corporation. I have enjoyed representing our group and have always tried to leave a positive impression.

This past year found us overextended by our activities and it became necessary to re-evaluate our plans. Comparing our projects to the goals set in our by-laws, we have decided to discontinue some projects and to plan future activities to allign more closely with our goals and present resources. I think this re-evaluation process could be useful every year or two in order to foster progress within our limitations.

I wish the new officers the best of luck, and would like to thank the society for their support, and for the personal growth opportunities over the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Hooker, Pres. (1983-1985)



Notes from the New President...

The Milton Historical Society began a new year in April. There is a need for new members to help share the workload and to see our projects through to completion. There are new projects that need to be started if we can find people who are interested in them.

Our June meeting was a concise history of Milton and was presented by several members in ten-minute segments. We hope that this awoke and increased interest in Milton's history and whetted appetites to learn mor about Milton's past.

We need new members since our largest revenue is from dues. For those of you who may not be able to work at this time, we also need moral support manifested by you becoming a dues paying member.

As the new president I invite you to attend any meeting - the first Wednesday of the month - at the American Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. Let's have a good turnout. If you like what you see and hear, then join us in discovering Milton's past!

John FitzGerald, President

Special Note...

Remember, dues are due the first Wednesday of April. The rates are shown on the outside of this newsletter. Please mail them to Edna Frye, RFD #2, or use the enclosed return envelope to the editor.

Newletter Staff...

Editor, Bob Hooker; Artwork, Lorinda Henry; Typist, Joyce Morse.
Contributors; Stan Henry, Ruth Ryan, Jane FitzGerald, John Fitzgerald.

History In The Making...

Saint Ann's Parish has welcomed in the new year with the dedication of their new building on the same site as the old church. The project was completed in time for Lenten observations and the celebration of Easter. In a gesture of community spirit, their building committee has generously donated several interesting pieces of the old church to our museum. Our thanks go out to them.

The Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation opened their new speculation building in February at the Catamount Industrial Park on Route 7.

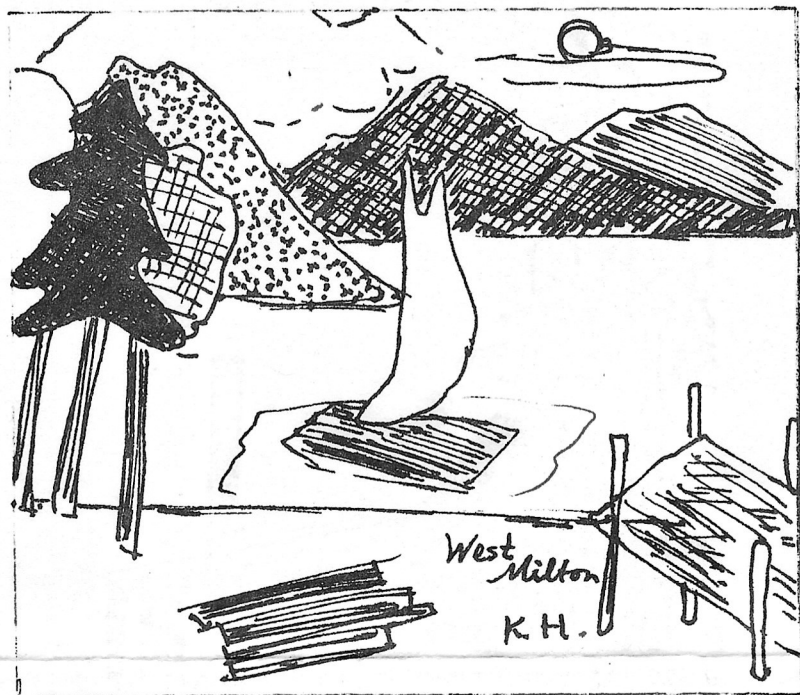
The Milton IGA has gone out of business and the building is for sale. What will become of the historic store with its beautiful pressed tin ceilings?

Genealogy...

A letter has been received from Mrs. John Korsedal asking about Mr. Orin Potter. Her research so far indicates that he entered the Militia at Milton in 1825 and was granted land in Wisconsin and Missouri upon his discharge. He was born about 1795. She is interested in finding his final resting place and in corresponding with any local relations. Her address is: Apt. B9, 14525 N. Holly Road, Holly, MI 48442.

Monthly Meeting Programs...

A new schedule of programs for the following year is almost completed and is very exciting. At the June meeting, members of our society presented a brief look at early Milton businesses, churches, schools, River Street, and Milton during the 1927 Flood. Arthur and Iris Mayville will host a picnic on July 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. at Camp Everest on Lake Champlain. Guests are asked to bring a dish to share. Beverages and desserts will be provided. August 7th will be Guest Night with neighboring societies. Richard Moulton of Keystone Productions and Champlain Maritime Society will present a slide show; "Early Boats on Lake Champlain" in pictures and words. William Mares, coauthor of "Real Vermonters Don't Milk Goats," will be the speaker at the October 5th meeting.



This square made by Mrs. Kathy Henry

Bicentennial Quilt...

The quilt marking the 200th anniversary of the settling of Milton is on permanent display in our museum. It has 28 squares depicting the early pioneer years of the town. The following description is the 3rd in our series.

West Milton was the first part of town to be settled. In the early 1800's H. G. Boardman and Joseph Clark bought land and rights from the late John Jackson, who owned practically all of the land in West Milton. Clark and Boardman hired crews to cut the virgin pine which was hauled from Milton village and stored on the river bank. The boats, mast schooners, would come up river and dock in West Milton and load the virgin pine for transport to England where they were used for the masts on ships in the royal navy.

In the early 1800's there was a sawmill on the river bank, a brickyard on Checkerberry Hill, and a floating sawmill across from the Rowley farm. Later there was a portable sawmill on the Rowley farm. About 1830 Boardman built his home in West Milton. This large brick house is presently owned by Mrs. Clivio.

The little-known cemetery on the Rowley farm is the oldest one in town. Among the monuments are those of Amos Mansfield and Absalom Taylor, original settlers of Milton. (The above excerpt is from "Milton's Story" published by the Milton Bicentennial Committee in 1976.)

Past Programs and Speakers...

January, 1985. Our guest speaker was Mr. James Murphy of St. Albans, a long-time railroad buff. His talk covered the history of the Central Vermont Railroad from its beginning in the early 1800's to the present. Mr. Murphy has a wealth of knowledge at his fingertips and speaks with true personal enthusiasm. He has been an employee of the CVRR for some years and also maintains a replica railroad station in the basement of his home.

He has offered a 2-day railroad history workshop to St. Albans high school students for several years and has spoken to several other area groups. His talk was well illustrated with slides of early railroad equipment, buildings, people and maps. Mr. Murphy is able to present an almost overwhelming amount of detail about his subject.

Past Programs and Speakers... (con't)

February, 1985. Mr. Mort Nash of Milton was featured in February with an illustrated talk on the people and traditions of Iceland. By way of collecting stamps from around the world, his interest in other cultures took him to Iceland to sample first-hand what he had seen illustrated. Having returned several times over recent years, he and his wife Regina have built an impressive collection of slides of the people and places that make up that culture. The similarities and differences between the two cultures were most interesting. We were introduced to a truly amazing people who can boast of 100% literacy, 0% unemployment, and a parliamentary form of government that is 1055 years old.

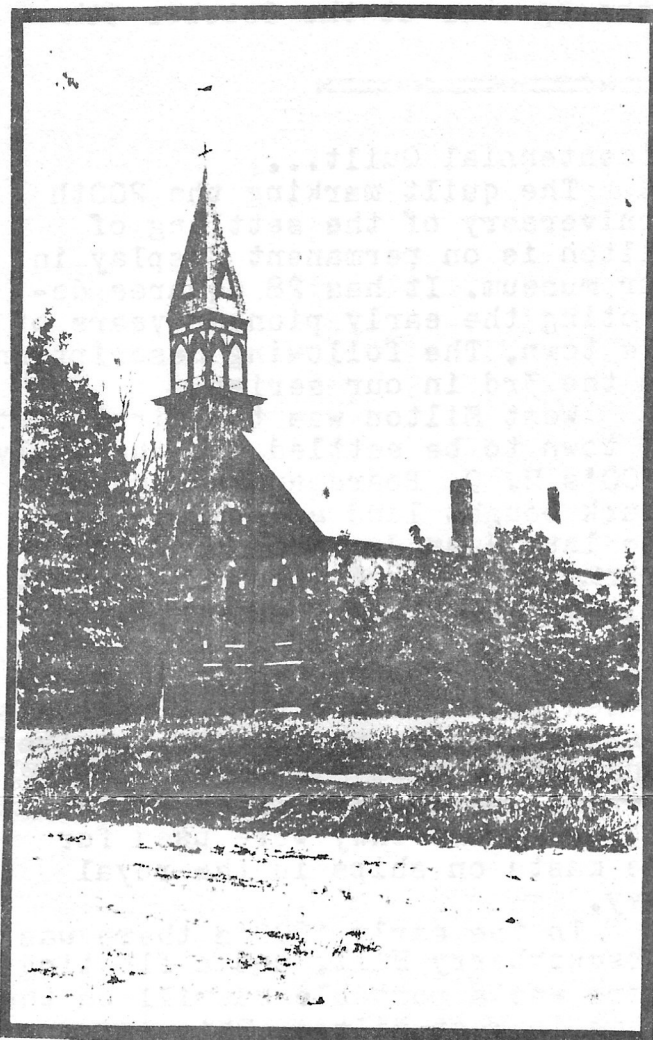
March, 1985. Dawn Andrews of the Morrisbown Historical Society spoke on the old-time Hill-Top Farm of the turn of the century. Her illustrated talk highlighted many early methods and situations of early Farming and included some of her own family history.

April, 1985. Following the annual election of officers, we shared the old scrapbooks of several of our members.

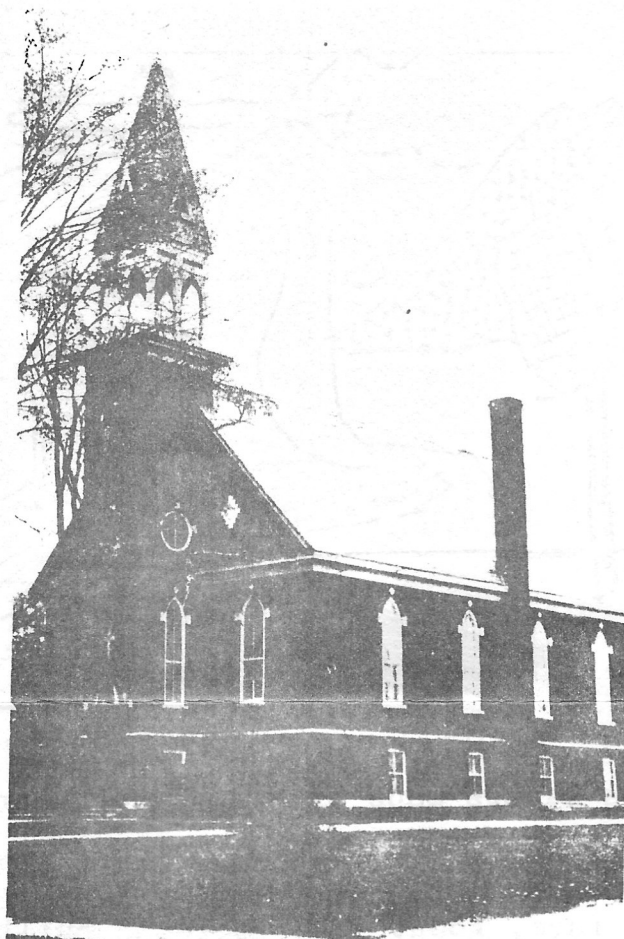
May, 1985. The presentation of the Grade School History Contest awards was followed by a brief program by Miss Edith Holden, a retired Milton teacher. She read old-time stories and then painted a verbal picture of what it was like to teach in and to attend a one-room school. Miss Holden holds the distinction of having taught in one of the last one-room schools in Milton (at Checkerberry) which now belongs to the American Legion.

Highlights from History...

Since this past year has been a time of major change for the Catholic Parish of Milton, we have decided to focus on the early days of that group in our community. Below are two early pictures of St. Anne's Church.



St. Anne's Church Milton, Vt.



The first Catholic Mass was offered in town in 1844 in a private home on Main Street. Until 1859, the Catholics of Milton were visited occasionally by the priests of Burlington, including Bishop DeGoesbriand. In 1859, Mr. Joseph Clark granted the use of the town hall for services but by the fall of 1859, a church was constructed. Mr. Clark contributed generously to this church as well as to the other churches in town.

In 1880, Bishop DeGoesbriand presented to the church a relic of St. Anne, which he brought back from Jerusalem. People from miles around came to attend annual pilgrimages on St. Anne's Day. The original church was destroyed by fire in January, 1894. By St. Anne's Day of the same year, a new church was blessed.

This building was razed, due to structural decline, in September, 1983. The present, modern church was open for services on Easter this year, 1985. (Portions of the above are excerpts from "Milton's Story" published by the Milton Bicentennial Committee in 1976.)

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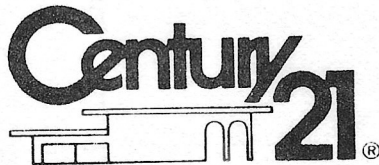
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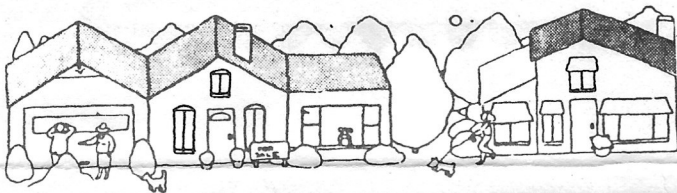


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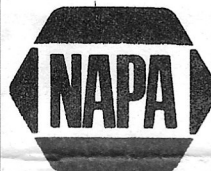
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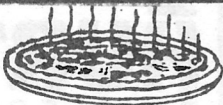


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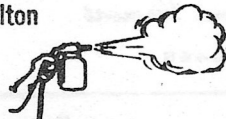
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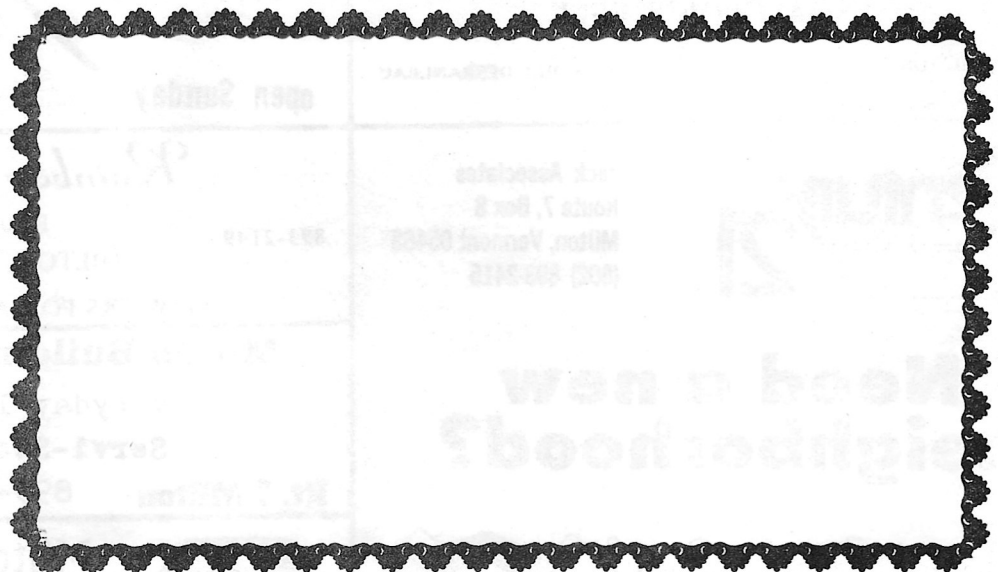
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1985

Milton Historical Society
Robert Hooker, Editor
RFD #4
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